



'Your very Local Council'

Locum Clerk to the Council/RFO: Shaun Jones
Chairman: Cllr Mrs. Sharon Lloyd

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 6:30 pm on **Wednesday 14th January 2026** in Piercy Hall, Marchwiel.

Present: Cllrs Davies (CD), (Vice-Chair); Downes (PD); Francis (CF); Grives (KG); Lydford (KL); Marriott (PM); Ogden (MO) & Rathbone (MR) via Zoom.

In attendance: Shaun Jones (SJ), Locum Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, thirteen Members of the Public & Cllr. John Pritchard WCBC (JP).

116.25/26 **COUNCILLOR VACANCY TO BE FILLED BY CO-OPTION** – Sontley Ward has each a vacant seat. To receive written applications for the office of Community Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill the seat – SJ advised **one received. Mrs Patricia Downes was duly co-opted to fill the Sontley Ward vacancy.**

117.25/26 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Sharon Lloyd – Family Commitment, Cllr Nigel Lloyd – Health Appointment and Cllr William Price – Work Commitment.

118.25/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None given.

119.25/26 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – 13 members of the public present. A resident set out why there are concerns with regard to a scheme to plant trees on a 2.12 acre site and a new pond with an area of 0.62 acre on a piece of land owned by Wrexham CBC behind Marcella Crescent. The residents believe they should not have been kept in the dark over the plans.

120.25/26 **MINUTES** – To approve for accuracy and sign the minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2025. - **Approved by all members present.**

121.25/26 **WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – WCBC Cllr. John Pritchard reported that :-

- Based on the two schemes, just raised by residents here present, to improve the overall tree canopy in Wrexham County JP understood from Jacinta Challinor then of WCBC that affected householders would be consulted with over the tree planting scheme. By the numbers present this evening it transpires only one householder is known to have had a conversation with Jacinta around November 2024 when the Phase 1 planting was underway.

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- Phase 2 commencing November 2025 JP explained that there has been no engagement over any elements, pond, footpaths or planting – nothing. He then explained that he was supportive of tree planting on these fields owned by WCBC to prevent any further housing development – seen as the least worst option. **JP along with your Community Council will endeavour to obtain a clear picture over the concerns expressed.**
- Pleased to advise that work on the fence along Station Rd and the football pitch has been renewed and a replacement gate near to the Changing Block installed. A lot tidier than before.
- Follow up on 2 highway street lights on the A525, by Red Lion and Penyllan Farm – both reported needing repair. **JP and SJ will keep in view.**
- Notice of a possible government grant scheme that MCC should look to apply for. Details will be made public soon.

JP left the meeting – 7:26pm.

122.25/26 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

– To consider the following applications;

1. SJ explained that P/2025/0911 should have been included last month. Works to Trees in Marchwiell Conservation Area – 5 Limes Trees - Saint Marcellus Church, Wrexham Road, Marchwiell.

– Decision – No Observations or Comments to be submitted.

123.25/26 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

– To note the following Planning Decisions:

1. **None to note.**

124.25/26

BUDGET REVIEW AND PRECEPT APPROVAL FOR 2026/27 – SJ walked members through the Cost Centre headings and noted actual expenditure to date against budget. Overall we had budgeted an estimated spend of £61,862 and the actual spend is £34,210.09 so far. Historic VAT to be claimed for 2024/25 forward, £3,668.07 - 1.75 years in all, will provide a decent catch up in funds.

MCC Budget	FY25/26	FY26/27	Budget Inc.
Administration	£4,343	£4,877	
Street Lighting	£12,870	£11,144	
Community Open Spaces	£3,465	£3,582	
Burial Ground Maintenance	£6,300	£6,800	
Rent, Rates & Utilities	£391	£411	
Staff Costs	£31,501	£33,051	
Training	£525	£550	
General Repairs & Maintenance	£630	£1,300	
Events	£52	£1,500	
Election	£1,785	£1,785	
Total Budgeted Expenditure	£61,862	£65,000	+5.07%
Precept	£52,500	£54,500	+3.8%
Income – Est.	£5,000	£5,500	
Reserves – Est.	£4,362	£5,000	

- An increase of 5.07% across all budget lines was thought prudent. During 2026/27 a refinement procedure to tune budgets to actual/forecast will be

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undertaken – known as virement. The overall budget is unchanged, just re-distributed.

- Income is out-looked at £5,500 for the Burial Ground and £5,000 drawn from Reserves. The precept request of the householders in Marchwiell is calculated at estimated spending of £65,000 less income and reserves drawing, £10,500 equals £54,500. For a Band D householder their annual contribution is £91.75 up by £3.96 (or £0.08 per week) to the MCC budget.

Members approved the final budget of £65,000 for FY2026/27 and the Precept request of £54,500 to underpin.

Also noting the Council Tax Base letter issued by WCBC Finance Dept.

125.25/26

FINANCE MATTERS – To determine the following:-

- SJ recently met with the Audit Wales person looking at all three Annual Reports presented, for 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25 financial periods. We met over zoom and the discussions lasted around 2 hours. Particularly the Full Audit – 2023/24 has four points for clarification. Firstly an invoice paid for works on the Nature Reserve and if alternative quotes were required or other matters in the Financial Regulations could be relied on. Point two is a query over four burials in the period and provision of supporting documents and images (if applicable) of the grave space. Point three is to provide a statement from AVOW showing the shortfall amount that was cleared by cheque. Point four is to draw a correlation between the amounts insured on our insurance schedule to the published fixed assets register.
- Present Monthly Bank Reconciliation – December 2025 reports and sign off. **Reviewed the Scribe summarised information page and signed off the Bank Reconciliation report.**
- Present Q3 [April - December 2025] Expenditure against Budget report and sign off. **Reviewed and approved.**
- Equals Pre-paid Creditcard account closed due to the introduction of a £25 monthly fee (previously fee free) and research on a replacement. **Noted & that an application to Barclaycard for a commercial credit card is in process.**

126.25/26

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2025 – To review recent events & plan for 2026:-

- 6th December – Welcome Garden – Christmas Lights switch-on by Mayor of Wrexham – Cllr. Tina Mannering and Visit by Father Christmas.
- 18th December – Christmas Decorations Competition update on the prize winners.
- 24th December – Given to Shine – Piercy Hall – Donated food offered to all to prevent it from going to land fill.
All members were pleased with all three events that this Council have organised or joined in with. SJ commented that set down of the Christmas Lights needs to be planned out for 12th night. A small team of willing souls will make the task quick and straight forward. Details of a donation towards the new plants added to the Welcome Garden were given and a letter(s) of thanks will be sent out. Members agreed that it is intended to repeat each year on the 1st Saturday of December – Lights Switch-on. SJ will make a FB post to give thanks for everyone that came and supported and add the 2026 date in your diary. KL explained that to prepare the baubles for their 2026 outing members were asked to

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look out for Christmas themed trinkets to refresh them. Another thought was a fill in art piece that baubles can be attached to – this is for the sparse section behind the Notice Board looking towards the Church. Could be a mock Christmas Tree or the likes. PD suggested a post on the Village FB Group to put these ideas out to our residents. Hand-made decorations are really rated. Members did think we should tap in to the crafters in the village. The electrical installation will be improved on – proper electric pick up at each of the three stand-alone trees that were illuminated. The Outdoor Christmas decorations competition in its second year was well received and the three prize winners got their money before the 25th. Maybe look at different categories to judge – would be a development – adult and children judged best display. Change each year. Equal prize money too. Finally the Given to Shine food saved from landfill Christmas Eve event was well attended and even relay deliveries to those unable to come along in person. Father Christmas attending was super, Hopefully all three events can run again this December.

127.25/26

LOCUM CLERK REPORT – INCLUDES CORRESPONDENCE –

- The Community Engagement Officer for the charity Tenovus got in touch making some suggestions on getting their work better understood in our community. **Members welcomed the idea and asked SJ to look into this.**
- The High Sheriff of Clwyd Communities Award. SJ and CD have successfully submitted a nomination – a very well thought of person in our community. Keeping our fingers crossed.
- There is a WCBC consultation on the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering Wrexham City Centre. Closes on the 18th January – members invited to take action.
- The monthly Police report for our area has been received. 6 crimes reported.
- One Voice Wales invite a nomination from us to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Members agreed on a deserving candidate and SJ will relay forward. All members of OVW participate so names out of a hat is how the list is passed forward. We were not successful last year, fingers crossed this time.
- Susan Osborne on behalf of Bruno Peek the Pageantmaster has written to invite us to join a Lamp Light of Peace on Armistice Day 11th November 2026. **Members agreed to participate – maybe invite the school to take part – KL to enquire.**
- Sarah Flaherty is one a phased return to work as our Community Agent. A short report has been received.
- One Voice Wales have their upcoming AGM online. PM and SJ will join the meeting.
- Welsh Government have a survey active on **Social Care Provision** – closing date 30th January 2026. Members have been forwarded the note.
- OVW forwarded a call out for the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch survey. Taking place 23rd to 25th of January. SJ has forwarded to all members. KL will certainly encourage her husband to participate and pass forward to the school.
- An offer from WCBC Play & Youth team to come and discuss their work with MCC. **Members agreed for SJ to invite the Play and Youth team rep to a future meeting.**
- SJ attended the December meeting of the Clwyd Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks hosted by Llangollen Town Council. Items discussed included the S. 6 Duty to report on Biodeversity, Annual budget and precept preparations & other topics brought up. Met at the Sun Trevor for a festive meal afterwards

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PAYMENTS – The following payments were approved:-

Payment Number	Method of Payment	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
BACS	Faster Pymt	AVOW	Salaries Account	1880.45	0.00	1880.45
BACS	Faster Pymt	Scribe Accounts	Subscription - January 2026	29.00	5.80	34.80
BACS	Faster Pymt	Leon Hughes	Burial Ground Maintenance	250.00	0.00	250.00
	D/D	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Fee - 1/26	6.00	0.00	6.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Rainbow Foundation	Room Hire - 12/25	10.00	0.00	10.00
	D/D	Ecotricity	December Unmetered Supply	203.98	10.20	214.18
BACS	Faster Pymt	Wrexham CBC	Play Area SLA - Oct '25 to Mar '26	1104.00	220.80	1324.80
BACS	Faster Pymt	S G Jones	Expenses Claim	203.74	40.74	244.48
BACS	Faster Pymt	Ms. Nicola Lovell	MCC Christmas Competition	100.00	0.00	100.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Mr. Peter Baldham	MCC Christmas Competition	60.00	0.00	60.00
BACS	Faster Pymt	Ms. Natalie Devenport	MCC Christmas Competition	40.00	0.00	40.00
	D/D	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Burial Ground - Water supply	38.00	0.00	38.00

TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE MEETING AGENDA (FULL COUNCIL OR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE) – Members are invited to propose.

- Outstanding from recent meetings: Village Signs & Burial Ground records to review.
- The WCBC Tree Planting programme – update.
- Playhouse graffiti – use nail varnish to repair.
- Look at improving the kerb appeal at the bottom of Station Road.
- Biodiversity Report 2023 – 2025.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.

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