

# ESCLUSHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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## Minutes: Council Meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Present: Cllrs N Cargius, J Droog, M Pickering, R Elias, M Pritchard, J Kelly, A Jenkins, S Love, J Perkins, G Blackmore, V Morgan, C Richards & L Williams

Apologies: Cllr A Richards

## PRELIMINARIES

### 1. Police Report.

Community Beat Manager, PC Lucia Pritchard was present and, firstly, she gave apologies that NWP traffic officer, Steve Richards, was unable to be at the meeting as planned due to his presence being required elsewhere - it is hopeful that he will be able to attend a meeting in Q1 2016.

Lucia then shared the crime figures with members:-

10 crimes reported in Wrexham 'town':-

- 1 assault
- 1 theft from motor vehicles
- 1 theft
- 5 criminal damage
- 1 drugs
- 1 anti social behaviour

Lucia went on give additional detail to the above figures and answered some questions on the individual headings.

Again, no 'rural' figures had been received.

Cllr Mark Pritchard mentioned the large number of syringes/needles that recently had to be cleared away from School Street and also the break-in to a school shed. Whilst the instances may well be linked, Lucia advised that, to her knowledge, there were no developments as yet but she would keep Cllr Pritchard and the Council informed of any change.

Further to recently expressed concerns, Cllr Pritchard stated that the matter of youths congregating at the football ground stand appears to have been sorted. Lucia confirmed that the area would still be subject to ad-hoc visits by officers. Cllr John Droog also added that, since the termination of any youth service provision within Esclusham, young people no longer have the option of a local focal point at which to gather.

Following a question by Cllr Nat Cargius, Lucia and Cllr Mark Pritchard briefly advised members of how the Welfare Centre on Brook Street was meant to work.

The Chair thanked Lucia for attending and she left the meeting. Cllr Pritchard placed on record his appreciation of the good working relationship he, as Local Member, had with the CBM.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair : Cllr R Elias

### Agenda Items

1. **Apologies** - Cllr A Richards
2. **Chair's announcements** - Cllr Elias wished to place on record his appreciation to all members and volunteers who helped make this year's Senior Citizens Christmas Party a great success.
3. **Declaration of interest** - None
4. **Ratification of minutes from the meetings of Monday 9th November 2015** - Unanimously ratified
5. **Members' Items** -

**a) ECC *draft*** Budget forecast for 2016/17. The Chair of Finance shared the draft budget forecast with members and explained the year-on-year variances, making comment where a +/- variance was shown:-

- i) 1.2 Power: minus £500 - reduced expectation
- ii) 1.3 Repairs: minus £2,500 - reduced expectation for repair costs to the Hall from ECC
- iii) 2.2 New build improvements: minus £1,000 - reduced expectation.
- iv) 3.1 Street light maintenance: minus £500 - reduced expectation
- v) 3.2 Street light power: minus £1,000 - reduced expectation (although to be re-visited)
- vi) 4.1 Street light capital: minus £8,000 - 1 year moratorium on upgrade works
- vii) 5.1 School crossing patrol - plus £300 - expected increase cost
- viii) 6.4 Subs & Insurance: minus £1,000 reduced premium/expectation
- ix) 9.1 Donations: minus £500 - reduced figure.
- x) 10.1 PWLB loan repayments: minus £200 - due to reducing balance

The above changes to the 2015/16 budget results in a draft budget figure of £88,250 for 2016/17. Members were reminded that this was a draft scenario only and that other adjustments will be required. Cllr John Droog reminded Cllr Elias and the Clerk that auto-enrolment pension set-up and, possibly, contribution costs will also need to be factored-in for 2016/17. Cllr Elias stated that there may also be other, unexpected, additional costs that come to light in Q1 2016. Members are aware of possible cost implications regarding the boundary wall between the Parish Hall and the bungalows, whereby proposed costs are expected to be known by the end of January.

The formal budget for 2016/17 will be presented to the Council for ratification in Q1 2016. Action - Clerk be on diary for a meeting with the Chair of Finance to present the formal budget for 2016/17 at the March meeting of the Community Council. Members were advised by the Chair of Finance that the formal budget figure must/will be in the region of the draft figure, if at all possible. Cllr Elias advised members that it was intended to avoid utilising any of the Council's reserves to finance capital works in 2016/17.

**b) Precept 2016/17.** Letter received from WCBC requesting that the Council set a precept for 2016/17 by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. *See correspondence item (e).* The tax base for 2016/17 is 1420.

For 2015/16 this was 1401 with a Band D charge of £58.60 resulting in a precept of £82,099. A percentage increase of 3.0% from the previous year's figure of £56.89 (£1.71 per band D charge).

Some possible scenarios for 2016/17 were considered as detailed in the box below, and members agreed that a further, small, increase would be applied.

% Increase	Band D Charge	Tax base	Precept
0.00%	£58.60	1420	£83,212 (figure differs to above as tax base up by 19)
1.00%	£59.19	1420	£84,050
2.00%	£59.77	1420	£84,873
3.00%	£60.36	1420	£85,711
4.00%	£60.94	1420	£86,535
5.00%	£61.53	1420	£87,373

Following discussion, where a 3% increase was once again considered for 2016/17, members felt that a slightly lower figure could be applied this year. Following a proposal by Cllr Richard Elias, seconded by Cllr Mark Pritchard, it was unanimously agreed that the precept for next year be set at £60.30 per band D charge being an increase of 2.9%. This equates to an annual increase of £1.70 per band D charge and gives a precept requirement of £85,626. **Action** - Clerk advise WCBC of the precept requirement for 2016/17 = £85,626.

## 6. Bank Transactions -

Current Account (04/11/2015 > 09/12/2015 - 3787 > 3797)

Current A/C	Date	Chq	Exp	Inc	Balance
Retrospective VAT charge on WCBC inv 6/7	30-Oct-15	3787	233.80		8,815.46
Dee Valley Water	5-Oct-15	D/D	54.49		8,760.97
Transfer to imprest	5-Oct-15	Auto tfr	199.36		8,561.61
Transfer to imprest	9-Oct-15	Auto tfr	30.00		8,531.61
Southern Electric (P Hall - 27/6 > 22/9)	12-Oct-15	D/D	185.30		8,346.31
Transfer to imprest	12-Oct-15	Auto tfr	668.16		7,678.15
Transfer to imprest	14-Oct-15	Auto tfr	660.00		7,018.15
BT Internet (1/10 > 31/12)	15-Oct-15	D/D	115.76		6,902.39
Southern Electric (street lighting)	19-Oct-15	D/D	385.21		6,517.18
Transfer to imprest	19-Oct-15	Auto tfr	199.36		6,317.82
Transfer to imprest	20-Oct-15	Auto tfr	70.00		6,247.82
Transfer to imprest	26-Oct-15	Auto tfr	199.36		6,048.46
Transfer to imprest	27-Oct-15	Auto tfr	446.67		5,601.79
Transfer to imprest	29-Oct-15	Auto tfr	83.40		5,518.39
Transfer to imprest	30-Oct-15	Auto tfr	21.00		5,497.39
Viking (stationery)	9-Nov-15	3788	43.13		5,454.26
WCBC (contribution towards Playscheme)	13-Nov-15	3789	4,700.00		754.26
Transfer from business savings	17-Nov-15			8,000.00	8,754.26
Cantab Electrical - upgrade lights in Hall	17-Nov-15	3790	598.80		8,155.46
WCBC (HY inst - Insp & maint of play areas)	18-Nov-15	3791	1,402.80		6,752.66
Bryn Jones (November salary)	23-Nov-15	3792	980.11		5,772.55
Viking (cleaning materials)	23-Nov-15	3793	49.75		5,722.80
Viking (new Canon colour printer)	23-Nov-15	3794	89.99		5,632.81
Beer & wine for S C party - from ECC Mem G	30-Nov-15	3795	77.48		5,555.33
WCBC (trade refuse charges - HY2)	30-Nov-15	3796	425.00		5,130.33
John Roberts (erecting 3 x noticeboards)	30-Nov-15	3797	270.00		4,860.33
Transfer from business savings	7-Dec-15			5,000.00	9,860.33
Transfer to imprest	2-Nov-15	Auto tfr	199.36		9,660.97
Dee Valley Water	5-Nov-15	D/D	54.49		9,606.48
BT telephones (bill dated 23/10)	6-Nov-15	D/D	190.92		9,415.56
Transfer to imprest	9-Nov-15	Auto tfr	199.36		9,216.20
Transfer to imprest	11-Dec-15	Auto tfr	535.17		8,681.03
Transfer to imprest	12-Dec-15	Auto tfr	56.76		8,624.27
Transfer to imprest	16-Dec-15	Auto tfr	199.36		8,424.91
Total Gas & Power (Parish Hall gas)	17-Dec-15	D/D	241.82		8,183.09
Southern Electric (street lighting)	20-Nov-15	D/D	410.59		7,772.50
Transfer to imprest	23-Nov-15	Auto tfr	199.36		7,573.14
Transfer to imprest	24-Nov-15	Auto tfr	21.00		7,552.14
Transfer to imprest	26-Nov-15	Auto tfr	53.40		7,498.74
Transfer to imprest	30-Nov-15	Auto tfr	199.36		7,299.38

Imprest Account (02/11/2015 > 09/12/2015 - 1280 > 1290)

<b>Imprest A/C</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chq</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Inc</b>	<b>Balance</b>
D Jenkins (wk 31)	2-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		223.33
HMRC (5 November)	5-Nov-15	1280	443.95		-220.62
Transfer from current	5-Oct-15	Auto tfr		199.36	-21.26
Transfer from current	9-Oct-15	Auto tfr		30.00	8.74
Transfer from current	12-Oct-15	Auto tfr		668.16	676.90
Transfer from current	14-Oct-15	Auto tfr		660.00	1,336.90
Transfer from current	19-Oct-15	Auto tfr		199.36	1,536.26
Transfer from current	20-Oct-15	Auto tfr		70.00	1,606.26
Transfer from current	26-Oct-15	Auto tfr		199.36	1,805.62
Transfer from current	27-Oct-15	Auto tfr		446.67	2,252.29
Transfer from current	29-Oct-15	Auto tfr		83.40	2,335.69
Transfer from current	30-Oct-15	Auto tfr		21.00	2,356.69
L Breeze (wk 32)	9-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		2,257.01
D Jenkins (wk 32)	9-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		2,157.33
L Breeze (wk 32 o/t)	9-Nov-15	1281	91.22		2,066.11
D Jenkins (wk 32 o/t)	9-Nov-15	1282	56.76		2,009.35
WCBC - TEN for Memorial Gardens event	10-Nov-15	1283	21.00		1,988.35
L Breeze (wk 33)	16-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		1,888.67
D Jenkins (wk 33)	16-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		1,788.99
L Breeze (wk 34)	23-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		1,689.31
D Jenkins (wk 34)	23-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		1,589.63
L Breeze (wk 34 o/t)	23-Nov-15	1284	53.40		1,536.23
CTS Ltd (grass cutting - Holy Trinity Church)	24-Nov-15	1285	346.50		1,189.73
L Breeze (wk 35)	30-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		1,090.05
D Jenkins (wk 35)	30-Nov-15	S/O	99.68		990.37
L Breeze (wk 35 o/t)	30-Nov-15	1286	48.06		942.31
D Jenkins (wk 35 o/t)	30-Nov-15	1287	230.63		711.68
L Breeze (wk 36)	7-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		612.00
D Jenkins (wk 36)	7-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		512.32
HMRC (5 December)	7-Dec-15	1288	493.90		18.42
Transfer to cash	7-Dec-15	1289	500.00		-481.58
W Hall & Son (drinks etc for S C party)	8-Dec-15	1290	567.42		-1,049.00
Transfer from current	2-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	-849.64
Transfer from current	9-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	-650.28
Transfer from current	11-Nov-15	Auto tfr		535.17	-115.11
Transfer from current	12-Nov-15	Auto tfr		56.76	-58.35
Transfer from current	16-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	141.01
Transfer from current	23-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	340.37
Transfer from current	24-Nov-15	Auto tfr		21.00	361.37
Transfer from current	25-Nov-15	Auto tfr		53.40	414.77
Transfer from current	30-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	614.13

7. Cash Transactions

Petty Cash Account (02/11/2015 > 09/12/2015)

<b>Petty Cash A/C</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Rec No</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Inc</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bank</b>
Imp War Museum Loan box - mileage BJ	2-Nov-15		52.65		552.05	
QD - tablecloths/forks > Rem Sunday 8/11	5-Nov-15		5.99		546.06	
Katy Thomas (bugler - Rem Sunday)	6-Nov-15		40.00		506.06	
Refreshment items for Rem Sunday 8/11	9-Nov-15		48.08		457.98	
Stamps (2nd x 48)	26-Nov-15		25.92		432.06	
Imp War Museum Loan box - mileage JP	30-Nov-15		52.65		379.41	
Transfer from Imprest	7-Dec-15			500.00	879.41	
Poundworld (Selection boxes - scouts)	7-Dec-15		21.00		858.41	

8. **Invoices/Quotations etc.**

Insurance ECC - report to members by Cllr Richard Elias following a meeting with Vicky Jacomb, Senior Scheme Underwriter from the Council's Insurance Brokers, Came & Company on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December attended by the Chair of Finance and the Clerk,

a) 3 quotes were received for consideration for 2016/17 - renewal date 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Policy in the name of Esclusham Community Council and Fete Committee

i) Aviva £2,403.39 inclusive of insurance premium tax

ii) Hiscox £2,085.26 inclusive of insurance premium tax

iii) Ecclesiastical £2,242.91 inclusive of insurance premium tax

Cllr Elias gave more detail with regard to the 'Core Cover' together with benefits available from each individual insurer and answered some questions from members.

Recommendation - Hiscox. Following discussion it was felt that this meets the Council's insurance requirements. In addition, Cllr Elias advised that should Esclusham Community Council and Fete Committee wish to enter into a 3-year binding agreement with Hiscox, the annual premium can be reduced by a further 5%, giving a premium of £1,981.00, including IPT. Following some further questions and subsequent explanations by Cllr Elias, members unanimously agreed to renew the policy with Hiscox and take up the 3 year binding agreement at the quoted premium of £1,981.00.

**Action** - Clerk advise Came & Co of decision.

In addition to arranging the renewal of the Council's insurance for a further 12 months, discussion took place on the following:-

b) Professional valuation of the Parish Hall. Cllr Elias advised members that an updated professional valuation will need to be undertaken in 2016. Noted - and this matter will be re-visited in Q2 2016.

**Action** - Clerk be on diary.

c) Recommended actions upon purchase/ownership of woodland areas. This matter had been discussed with the broker as the Community Council was looking to purchase a small plot of land, incorporating a woodland area, in Bersham. Members agreed that it would be prudent to undertake a professional report on the state of the trees in Q1 2016. Cllr Mark Pritchard agreed with Cllr Elias that WCBC could be asked to undertake this report. In addition, Cllr Elias advised that, via Vicky Jacomb, the Woodland Trust might be able to give guidance regarding ongoing maintenance. **Action** - Clerk arrange to re-visit in January and discuss possible actions with Cllrs Elias and Pritchard as well as Vicky/Woodland Trust.

d) Finally Cllr Elias advised members that Vicky Jacomb is to arrange re-visit Esclusham and go through all Risk Assessments with the Clerk - this will cover all required Risk Assessments including the Fete and associated events. **Action** - Clerk re-visit all Risk Assessments in Q1 2016 and ensure that all is in order for the visit. AP entry January 2015 removed due to re-stating.

9. **Statement of Accounts**

The most recent reconciled bank statements are recorded below. However as the cash book is always more up to date than the bank statements the latest position (un-reconciled) is shown in the accounts above with the totals shown at 'Current Balance - Cash Book' below.

	No. of last Statement Reconciled to cash book	Date of Statement	Current Balance Cash Book - £
Business Instant Access Account	027	29/09/2015	14,861.14
Current Account	016	01/12/2015	7,299.38
Imprest Account	003	01/12/2015	614.13
Petty Cash Account		09/12/2015	858.41
Memorial Gardens Account	008	01/12/2015	6,923.22
			<b><u>£30,556.28</u></b>

The situation regarding the Trust fund is recorded below for information.

<b>RPHT Current A/C</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chq</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Inc</b>	<b>Balance</b>
JG Thomas - new fire door & frame etc	28-Oct-15	0034	450.00		26,152.83
Playgroup	26-Oct-15			100.00	26,252.83
Transfer from Petty Cash	7-Dec-15			675.00	26,927.83
Playgroup	25-Nov-15			100.00	27,027.83

<b>RPHT Petty Cash A/C</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Rec No</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Inc</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bank</b>
Bespoke tablecloths for P Hall events	30-Oct-15		25.50		734.66	
Slimming World	2-Nov-15	1443		24.00	758.66	
Tuesday Club	3-Nov-15	1444		12.00	770.66	
D Sides Dance Class	3-Nov-15	1445		10.00	780.66	
Indoor Bowls Club	4-Nov-15	1446		16.00	796.66	
Under 7's football	4-Nov-15	1447		8.00	804.66	
D Sides Dance Class	5-Nov-15	1448		8.00	812.66	
Karate Club	6-Nov-15	1449		12.00	824.66	
Bersham Cricket Club (presentation)	9-Nov-15	1450		55.00	879.66	
Tuesday Club	10-Nov-15	1451		12.00	891.66	
Slimming World	9-Nov-15	1452		24.00	915.66	
Jim Manzanilla (deposit for kids party 19/12)	10-Nov-15	1453		40.00	955.66	
D Sides Dance Class	10-Nov-15	1454		12.00	967.66	
Indoor Bowls Club	11-Nov-15	1455		16.00	983.66	
Karate Club	13-Nov-15	1456		24.00	1,007.66	
Flash x 2, air freshener, kitchen spray (local)	16-Nov-15		4.58		1,003.08	
Slimming World	16-Nov-15	1457		24.00	1,027.08	
Tuesday Club	17-Nov-15	1458		12.00	1,039.08	
D Sides Dance Class	17-Nov-15	1459		12.00	1,051.08	
Indoor Bowls Club	18-Nov-15	1460		16.00	1,067.08	
Amanda Jones (deposit for kids party 21.2)	18-Nov-15	1461		20.00	1,087.08	
Under 7's football	18-Nov-15	1462		8.00	1,095.08	
Playgroup (event 22/11)	19-Nov-15	1463		16.00	1,111.08	
Karate Club	20-Nov-15	1464		24.00	1,135.08	
Currys/PC World (batteries for Hall)	23-Nov-15		7.99		1,127.09	
Cantral Stores (tea bags for the Hall)	24-Nov-15		1.49		1,125.60	
Slimming World	23-Nov-15	1465		24.00	1,149.60	
Tuesday Club	24-Nov-15	1466		12.00	1,161.60	
Indoor Bowls Club	25-Nov-15	1467		16.00	1,177.60	
Karate Club	27-Nov-15	1468		24.00	1,201.60	
Tina Purnell (kids party)	28-Nov-15	1469		25.00	1,226.60	
Ceris & Mark (kids party)	29-Nov-15	1470		30.00	1,256.60	
Slimming World	30-Nov-15	1471		24.00	1,280.60	
Tuesday Club	1-Dec-15	1472		12.00	1,292.60	
D Sides Dance Class	1-Dec-15	1473		12.00	1,304.60	
Indoor Bowls Club	2-Dec-15	1474		16.00	1,320.60	
Under 7's football	2-Dec-15	1475		8.00	1,328.60	
D Sides Dance Class	3-Dec-15	1476		8.00	1,336.60	
Transfer to current	7-Dec-15				661.60	675.00
Wilko - 2 x halogen bulbs	7-Dec-15		4.98		656.62	

<b>RPHT</b>	<b>No. of last Statement Reconciled to cash book</b>	<b>Date of Statement</b>	<b>Current Balance Cash Book £</b>
Current Account	045	01/12/2015	27,027.83
Petty Cash Account		09/12/2015	656.62
			<b><u>£27,684.45</u></b>

10. Budget Position - ECC situation noted.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATED \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL COUNCIL

### CHAIR : Cllr John Droog

#### Agenda Items

1. **Apologies** - Cllr A Richards
2. **Chair's announcements** - Cllr Droog echoed the Chair of Finance's comments regarding the Senior Citizens Christmas Party and thanked all members who helped make the evening a success. He also asked the Clerk to forward the Council's thanks to the caretakers, Linda Breeze and Debbie Jenkins, and also to his wife, Alwena, for their commitment and enthusiasm during the evening. The Clerk confirmed that a verbal "thank you" had been given.

The Chair and Cllr Mark Pritchard shared with members the content of a just received letter signed by a number of local residents who had attended the party asking to "pass our thanks on to the committee for another great party last night". Other members also confirmed that they had received positive verbal feedback during and post-party.

3. **County Councillors' Reports** - Cllr Mark Pritchard >

**a)** Cllr Pritchard advised the Council that the kitchen and bathroom upgrade exercise was progressing well and expected to be completed by late April. Cllr Alan Jenkins mentioned that he had received some negative comments regarding the timescales for work on individual properties with some jobs taking longer than expected to complete. Cllr Pritchard accepted this but also advised that substantial positive feedback had also been received. He felt that at least 75% positive feedback was received against some 25% negative. He also advised Cllr Jenkins and the Council that it was accepted that some delays had occurred due to the work being carried out by three different contractors but that the Clerk of Works was responsible for signing off each property and that any work deemed not satisfactory would be re-done. He advised members that it is very much hoped that the work will be completed by the end of April.

**b)** Cllr Pritchard advised members that the 'Stopping Up of Highways (Eldon Grove) Order' was currently available for viewing by residents at the Parish Hall and the Clerk confirmed that these will be held for inspection until late January as detailed in the Order. Cllr Pritchard once again explained to members the broad outline of the plans which include a new roundabout on Wrexham Road and the stopping up of the spur road at the lower end of Henblas Street.

Linked to this matter, Cllr Graham Blackmore wished to place on record concerns that had been passed on to him by residents regarding the dangerous nature of the road towards the bottom end of Henblas Street due to vehicle parking. Cllr Pritchard accepted that this was an issue, although he did point out that the contractors vans are a temporary parking issue and would no longer be a problem once the above works had been completed. Cllr Blackmore accepted this, but felt that ongoing car parking still presents a danger to traffic. Other members felt similar and a discussion ensued regarding possible scenarios such as requesting double yellow lines. In the first instance the Clerk was instructed to write to WCBC to establish options - if any. **Action** - Clerk.

**c)** Cllr Sarah Love wished to place on record with Cllr Pritchard her disappointment at the lack of a Christmas Service at the Holy Trinity Church this year. Cllr Pritchard noted the comments and was hopeful that once the new Vicar was in-situ, the situation would revert to as previous. It is also hoped that the Community Council will be able to meet the new Vicar early in his tenure.

4. **Declaration of interest** - None
5. **Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015** - Unanimously ratified



6. **Members' Items/Action List**

a) Feedback from Cllrs John Droog and Nat Cargius following a meeting with Prospects on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Whilst both councillors felt that the meeting was beneficial they were unequivocal in their opinion that further, ongoing, meetings were required as both felt that there are fundamental issues with regard to the running of the unit.

Cllr Cargius advised members that Prospects had been sold and that the unit at Bersham was to be retained as current, although now as part of a much larger organisation. Moving forward it is hoped that the local Bersham ward member, Cllr Cargius, be involved, and meet, with the team at the school, on a far more regular basis.

Cllr Cargius gave members a little more detail into how things work at the school and what the supervisors/carers can and cannot do on an ongoing basis.

Cllr Droog felt that the welcome he and Cllr Cargius had received from the Headmaster was somewhat tepid and asked the Clerk to arrange a further meeting in January. **Action** - Clerk. Both he and Cllr Cargius felt that Prospects do not, at present, give the impression of being part of the local community.

With regard to the previously raised parking issues, Cllr Cargius advised that it was felt that this had been sorted and that Prospects were also looking at alternative solutions such as secure parking towards the rear of the main building. Cllr Cargius also advised that he had spoken to one of the directors, Chris Edwards, and suggested that when a meeting is arranged for January, the Clerk ask whether Mr Edwards could also attend. **Action** - Clerk.

In addition to the latest Estyn report, which is held, Cllr Sarah Love suggested that Cllrs Droog and Cargius obtain a copy of the latest CSSIW report prior to the January meeting. She will look at liaising with the Clerk in obtaining a copy. **Action** - Cllr Sarah Love/Clerk.

In view of some recent incidents involving Prospects residents, one of which was mentioned by Cllr Val Morgan regarding an altercation outside The Bersham club, members unanimously felt that regular, ongoing, discussion with Prospects is imperative. The Clerk was also instructed to make a note of any subsequent issues involving young people from Prospects. In the immediate, as stated above, a meeting is to be arranged before the end of January where Cllr Droog and Cargius, and it is hoped, Cllr Mark Pritchard will attend on behalf of Esclusham Community Council.

b) Cllr Richard Elias updated members on the ECC Memorial Gardens Project and gave feedback regarding the 'An Evening to Remember' event held at the Parish Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

i) Cllr Elias advised that the feedback received indicated that the event had gone very well and that Major General Cordingley's talk had been inspiring and interesting. He gave members a breakdown of the funds raised on the evening and also advised that, as a direct result of the event, a cheque of £1,000 had been received from the RWF Officers Association, with, it is hoped, a similar sum to be received from the RWF Comrades Association. Cllr Elias also gave members more details as to how the fund raising efforts were progressing.

ii) In addition, Cllr Elias also advised that the statues had now been ordered and that Cllr John Perkins was to liaise with the manufacturer in Q1 regarding the design and ongoing assembly.

c) Cllr Mabyn Pickering gave members feedback following attendance at the 'Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Local County Council Members & Community Council Members Meeting' on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr Pickering advised that Cllr Hugh Jones of WCBC had chaired the meeting and gave members some background detail regarding the AONB, which currently spans the counties of Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham. Around 10% of Wrexham County being in the AONB. Cllr Pickering advised that the AONB were prepared to match fund some works such as repairs to bus shelters, red telephone boxes and the installation of defibrilators. In addition, Cllr Pickering mentioned that they were making available meters which might be of benefit to the Parish Hall. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Cllr Pickering to look at this option. **Action** - Clerk.

d) Youth Service provision within Esclusham - Cllr John Droog had placed this item on the agenda to facilitate discussion regarding options with regard to what can be done in 2016 to re-invigorate the youth service provision locally.

Cllr Droog asked members for their opinion as to whether or not the Community Council could look to run its own in-house youth provision. A lengthy discussion took place regarding possible courses of action and the following points mentioned/raised:-

i) Availability of the Parish Hall - the Clerk and Cllr Alan Jenkins advised that, at present, it would be difficult to accommodate any Youth Club requirement without the inevitable loss of income from the current users. Cllr Mark Pritchard stated that this matter was at a very early stage and, for the present, in his view, there is no need to be too concerned about this aspect. Cllr Jenkins also expressed his concerns regarding some of the equipment at the Hall.

ii) Youth workers/ use of specialists - it was unanimously agreed that the Council would not wish to go down the route of using volunteers but look at paying an agreed rate to supervisors or booking specialists. Discussion took place as to where such individuals could be found. Cllr Sarah Love offered to make some enquiries with businesses such as Star A Sport to get an idea of funding requirement per session.

iii) Funding - most members accepted that this would be a major stumbling block and whilst suggestions such as using the monies due from John Gallanders (see AP) or applying for a grant might cover any cost in year 1, there would be serious concerns as to ongoing funding in future years. Cllr Richard Elias stated that he would need to be happy with regard to any financial viability ongoing before considering the proposal. Cllr Jean Kelly stated that employing two youth workers, albeit perhaps for only six months of the year as suggested by Cllr Pritchard, would not come cheap.

iv) Cllr Alan Jenkins expressed doubts as to how much usage the young people of Esclusham would make of any such facility especially in view of the vastly reduced numbers over the last two or three years of the Youth Club run by WCBC. Cllr Graham Blackmore also expressed concerns regarding this point.

v) Members were agreed that the Community Council only consider running a club for 6 months during the Autumn/Winter months.

vi) Concerns raised by some members regarding loss of income to the RPHT which would result in a 'double hit' of reduced monies thereinto weekly, along with whatever ongoing costs are incurred in supplying the youth service provision.

vii) Cllr Val Morgan suggested that, in the first instance, the Council undertake a feasibility study, perhaps by preparing local questionnaires, to establish whether there is any interest amongst the youth of the area, prior to looking at other issues such as Hall availability and ongoing funding. The Clerk was asked to write to Donna Dickerson of WCBC to find out if they have any templates available. **Action** - Clerk

This matter can be re-visited towards the end of Q1/early Q2 whereupon members will have had time to consider the implications, most pertinent being the requirement of ongoing funding, not just setting-up costs for Year 1. The Clerk will diarise to place on the agenda for the April meeting. **Action** - Clerk.

#### **Action Plan items - update**

a) Risk Assessment item re-stated - see Finance section 'Invoices/Quotations' above.

## 7. **Planning Items & Reports**

### **Applications**

P/2015/0817 - Application for a "two-storey side extension with conversion of existing garage" at 4 Highgrove Close, Bersham, Wrexham. *Already circulated and comments requested by 1/12. Noted*

## Withdrawals

None

## Reports/Appeals

None

## Determinations

P/2015/0631 - Application for a "single-storey rear extension" at 58 West Grove, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4BN. Granted with conditions. Noted

P/2015/0677 - Application for the "erection of double garage and boiler store facility (partly in retrospect) (resubmission)" at Nevin, Wrexham Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham. Refused :- "The proposed double garage and boiler store facility by reason of its siting, scale, design and use of materials would have a significant detrimental impact upon the visual amenity of the adjoining dwelling, Alyndale. To allow the proposed development would be contrary to Policy GDP1(a) of the adopted Wrexham Unitary Development Plan." Noted

P/2015/0786 - Application to "display of 2 no internally illuminated fascia signs" at Tool Hire and Sales Depot, Wrexham Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham. Granted with conditions. Noted

## 8. Correspondence - for the attention of the Council

a) One Voice Wales - correspondence forwarded from Ramblers Cymru regarding "protecting and improving the places where people walk in your local area". The walking charity, Ramblers Cymru are keen to work with Community and Town councils to help understanding and exercise their rights to help protect and improve paths in the locale. The updated guide 'Paths for people: a guide to public paths for members of town and community councils' has recently been updated and can be viewed at [www.ramblers.org.uk/pathsforpeople](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/pathsforpeople). Copy of the e-mail shared with members. The guide is a 25 page document and a hard copy is held at the Parish Hall. Cllr Mabyn Pickering gave members additional detail/information regarding the document and confirmed that she and the Clerk had gone through and discussed the relevant sections. At present no action required by ECC but the Clerk will arrange to re-visit ongoing with Cllr Pickering. Noted

b) Marie Curie - correspondence giving a broad outline of the work done by Marie Curie nurses throughout North Wales and asking if the Community Council "might consider making a financial donation to support our local service". Copy of the e-mail shared with all members. Noted and the Clerk was instructed to add to the S137 file for the meeting in Q1 2016. **Action** - Clerk

c) WCBC Playwork Provision - letter detailing the current School Holiday Playwork Provision within Esclusham and enquiring as to what level of funding can be secured from each Community Council for 2016/17. In order to maintain the current levels of provision in their areas, Community Councils would have to be willing to increase their financial contribution by approximately 13%. This equates to an annual cost of £5,309 per Community Council for a five day per week playscheme, three hours per day, for 10 weeks. The charge for the current year, 2015/16, is £4,700.00. Copy of the letter shared with members together with a copy of a report providing an overview of provision delivered in 2015/16 as detailed on the second page of the letter. Community Councils are also advised that they "may prefer to keep their financial contribution the same as the previous year but that would then mean reducing the level of provision." Members were to discuss the options and advise WCBC of decision by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December - however see comment at item (r) below.

d) OVW - consultation on policing priorities. Winston Roddick, North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, is "asking the people of North Wales to tell me what is important to them with regard to policing." Comments can be submitted by completing an online survey or, alternatively, attendance can be booked at one of a number of consultation meetings throughout North Wales. Copy of the e-mail, which contains more detail regarding the aforementioned options, shared with members. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Further, similar, correspondence received direct from the Police & Crime Commissioner and via OWL. Noted

- e) WCBC - request for Precept information for 2016/17. Required by the 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Further to discussion in the Finance section above - precept requirement for 2016/17 = £85,626.*
- f) WCBC - Wrexham Town & Community Council Forum to be held at 4.00pm on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. ECC are invited to send 2/3 representatives. In addition, any items for the agenda are requested by the 26<sup>th</sup> November. *In view of timescales, note forwarded to all members 12/11. Noted and the Clerk advised that he had attended the forum*
- g) WCBC - advising of a 1% increase to the School Crossing Patrol Service for 2016/17, equating to an increase of £37 per year per School Crossing Patrol point. The 2015/16 charge of £3,695 would increase to £3,732. The letter sets out details of the provision that will be made by WCBC with regards to the continuation of the School Crossing patrol service in Esclusham. *Copy of the letter shared with members.* Members unanimously wished to continue with the service and Cllr Elias advised that a +£300 uplift had already been factored into the 2016/17 draft budget. **Action** - Clerk advise WCBC that ECC wish to renew for 2016/17 at the terms stated in the letter.
- h) British Red Cross - letter detailing the services carried out by the Red Cross together with a "request for funds to support Local Services". *Noted and the Clerk was instructed to add to the S137 file for the meeting in Q1 2016. **Action** - Clerk*
- i) Esclusham Community Fete 2016 - formal request for the exclusive use of the Rhostyllen Parish Hall, its surrounding car park and the adjacent football pitch and recreation ground from the Friday evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> June to the evening of Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> June. The Clerk is also asked to advise WCBC of this request. In addition, the committee ask to have use of the Parish Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to hold a children's party and crown the fete queen. *Copy letter shared with members.* Cllr Sarah Love updated the Council as to progress with regard to the 2016 Fete and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Hall would be made available on the dates requested - free of charge. **Action** - Clerk formally advise Cllr Sarah Love of the decision. In addition, the Clerk was asked to formally advise WCBC that agreement had been given by the Community Council for the use of the aforementioned grounds on the requested dates. **Action** - Clerk.
- j) WCBC - as part of Wrexham's next play sufficiency assessment the WCBC Play development team are looking to facilitate a consultation session for Community Councils with a particular focus around any support needed to help work towards play sufficiency at a local level. This session will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of January (6.00pm > 8.00pm) in meeting room 1 at the Guildhall. *Copy of the e-mail together with attachment giving more detailed information shared with members. Action required - WCBC wish to know if ECC is interested in being involved, and, if so, who will be attending the aforementioned consultation session.* Cllr Sarah Love expressed interest in attending and Cllr Mark Pritchard advised that he would be in attendance. **Action** - Clerk to speak to WCBC to ascertain if there are available spaces.
- k) WCBC - linked to item (c) above. Final report from CSSIW following their inspection of all the local authority run playschemes in 2015. *Copy of report and covering e-mail shared with members. Noted*
- l) North Wales Police - OWL notice advising that N W Police are looking for local volunteers to help deter speeding motorists across the region. 'Community Speed Watch' gives local people the ability to actively get involved in road safety. *Copy of the OWL notice shared with members and both Cllr Nat Cargius and Cllr John Perkins expressed an interest in becoming involved in the scheme and volunteering for the role of 'Community Speed Watch Operator'. **Action** - Clerk look to progress matters by the end of January.*
- m) Lloyds Bank - "Changes to the Financial Compensation Scheme limit and withdrawal of payment instructions by fax." *The deposit protection limit is changing from £85k to £75k wef 1/1/2016. Noted*
- n) WCBC - "Wrexham Borough Council (Wrexham 25 in the Community of Offa and Esclusham Below 35 in the Community of Esclusham) Definitive Map Modification Order 2015." *Copy of the Order, together with the Notice relating thereto, shared with members. Noted*

**o)** Welsh Government - the Minister for Public Services has published for consultation a Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill which sets out the Welsh Government's detailed proposals for the reform of local government. This includes consultation on the Welsh Government's preference for the future 'map' of local government in Wales. The Consultation documents can be accessed via the Welsh Government's website at "Welsh Government/Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill and Explanatory Memorandum". The closing date for responses is the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016. *Members will note that there are a number of documents, most containing substantial pages.* All members were asked to peruse the documentation and the Clerk was instructed to place this matter on the January agenda for the Council to consider responding to the consultation. **Action** - Clerk.

**p)** WCBC - letter from the WCBC Armed Forces Champion, Cllr David Griffiths, seeking monetary donations to complete a project relating to the Standard, or ceremonial flag, of five local veterans associations that were active in 20<sup>th</sup> Century conflicts. Namely Normandy, Eighth Army, Burma Star, Dunkirk and Korea. *Full details contained in the aforementioned letter shared with all members.* Cllr Griffiths will be launching the project at Wrexham Museum on the 27<sup>th</sup> January and members of the Community Council are invited to attend. *Confirmation of attendance requested and, in addition, Cllr Griffiths is happy to attend a meeting to share further details of the project with councillors.* *Following discussion the Clerk was instructed to place the letter in the S137 file for Q1 2016.* **Action** - Clerk. *The Clerk will also liaise with members/Cllr David Griffiths in January regarding possible attendance at the launch at the museum.* **Action** - Clerk.

**q)** WCBC - re Planning application P/2015/0788 - "erection of 5 no industrial units (B1, B2 and B8 uses) together with associated access road and parking" at land north of CTM Wholesale, Croesfoel Industrial estate, Rhostyl;len, Wrexham. Further to this planning application being discussed at the November meeting of the Community Council, and subsequent comment made by ECC, it appears that there are a number of concerns regarding this application. *Noted*

**r)** WCBC - linked to items (c) & (k) above. E-mail from Mike Barclay of the Play Development Team attaching a letter from Donna Dickenson, Head of education Enrichment, which advises that, "due to uncertainties over the level of Welsh Government funding that will be available to the WCBC Play Development Team in 2016/17, the local authority cannot guarantee it will be in a position to deliver these services on behalf of Community Councils in the next financial year." *Copy of the e-mail and Donna Dickenson's letter shared with members. A firm decision on the funding contribution cannot be made until, probably, late Q1 2016.* Cllr Richard Elias advised that a figure of £4.7k, the same as 2015/16, had been factored into the draft budget for 2016/17 and he strongly advised the Council that this figure should not be increased. Following discussion the consensus was that the Community Council would support a slightly reduced service as detailed in correspondence (c) above, at a maximum funding cost of £4.7k. **Action** - Clerk advise WCBC that, in principle, ECC could support/fund this provision next year up to a maximum of £4.7k.

**s)** Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales - letter detailing the work that they do and asking if ECC would consider giving support. *Noted and the Clerk was instructed to add to the S137 file for the meeting in Q1 2016.* **Action** - Clerk

9. **Items for the Clerk**

**a)** The Clerk advised members that the closing date for applications for co-option onto the Community Council had been the 27<sup>th</sup> November and that one application had been received - namely Ian Lloyd of Derwenfa, Vicarage Hill, Rhostyllen. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to offer the position to Mr Lloyd. **Action** - Clerk to arrange a meeting to explain requirements of the role and progress formal procedures for co-option at the January meeting of the Community Council.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATED** \_\_\_\_\_