

ESCLUSHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes: Council Meeting Monday 11th January 2016

Present: Cllrs N Cargius, J Droog, M Pickering, R Elias, M Pritchard, J Kelly, A Jenkins, S Love, J Perkins, G Blackmore & I Lloyd

Apologies: Cllrs A Richards, V Morgan & C Richards

PRELIMINARIES

1. Police Report.

Community Beat Manager, PC Lucia Pritchard was present and, firstly mentioned the three 'priorities' as summarized on the front of the report and gave a little more background to the comments thereon. She then went through the crime figures for the members, which were as follows:-

13 crimes reported in Wrexham 'town':- 1 burglary
1 burglary other than dwelling
1 theft from motor vehicles
2 theft
3 criminal damage
1 drugs
4 anti social behaviour

Lucia gave some additional background to the figures and there was little doubt that the main concerns related to incidents involving pupils of Prospects school. Lucia advised that regular, ongoing, meetings between NWP and Prospects took place with either Insp Simon Kneale or Sgt Steve Owens attending.

Members were advised that the police were proactively looking at incidents involving some pupils from Prospects and that a positive result was expected further to the 'white paint' vandalism at Bersham.

A number of particular incidents and confrontations were related by some of the members, including Cllrs Alan Jenkins and Nat Cargius, and it was unanimously agreed that matters needed further involvement by all parties..

The Chair, Cllr John Droog, suggested that now was the time to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Community Council, North Wales Police and Prospects. He expressed concerns, as did Cllr Mark Pritchard, that some of the incidents could easily lead to conflict. Cllr Pritchard expressed his opinion that much of what had happened needed to be a police issue with, perhaps, an increased presence locally to look at avoiding confrontation. Many members felt that there was an impression, certainly by some residents, that no one was doing anything to look at alleviating the problems.

Lucia advised members that she felt that the matter was being given priority by NWP and confirmed to the Council that the new PCSO for Esclusham, Danielle Peters, would be commencing her role soon and would be covering Rhostyllen and Bersham. She had been made aware of the recent issues involving Prospects pupils.

In addition Lucia advised that an Action Plan could be prepared regarding the recent incidents and would be shared with the Council. Members, however, felt that the situation had become so concerning now that an urgent, tri-partite meeting needed to be arranged as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk was instructed to liaise with NWP and arrange a meeting as a matter of urgency with representatives of Prospects. Attending, it is hoped, on behalf of ECC will be Cllrs John Droog, Mark Pritchard and Nat Cargius with Cllr Sarah Love also willing to become involved in discussions. **Action** - Clerk.

Before leaving the meeting, Lucia was asked by Cllr Mabyn Pickering as to the whereabouts of any figures from the 'rural' section of Esclusham. All are aware of the difficulty in obtaining such figures from the NWP 'rural' team, but Lucia promised to re-visit and see what can be done. **Action** - CBM Lucia Pritchard.

The Chair thanked Lucia for attending and she left the meeting.

2. Further to correspondence (item b) received and discussed at the meeting of the 9th of November the Clerk had invited Tom Booty to speak to members regarding his suggestion for the MUGA but, unfortunately, he was not present.
3. Cllr Ian Lloyd signed the Declaration of Office and was welcomed onto the Community Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair : Cllr R Elias

Agenda Items

1. **Apologies** - Cllrs A Richards, V Morgan & C Richards
2. **Chair's announcements** - Cllr Elias welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year and, specifically, congratulated Cllr Ian Lloyd on joining the Community Council.
3. **Declaration of interest** - None
4. **Ratification of minutes from the meetings of Monday 14th December 2015** - Unanimously ratified
5. **Members' Items** - None
6. **Bank Transactions** -

Current Account (09/12/2015 > 06/01/2016 - 3798 > 3806)

Current A/C	Date	Chq	Exp	Inc	Balance
Transfer to imprest	30-Nov-15	Auto tfr	199.36		7,299.38
Viking (stationery)	14-Dec-15	3798	82.49		7,216.89
Viking (stationery)	14-Dec-15	3799	1.79		7,215.10
JRB Enterprise (6,000 poop scoop bags)	14-Dec-15	3800	100.94		7,114.16
Country Buffets (for S C party)	14-Dec-15	3801	937.50		6,176.66
Came & Company (Renewal insce premium)	17-Dec-15	3803	1,981.00		4,195.66
Viking (cleaning materials)	18-Dec-15	3804	59.84		4,135.82
Bryn Jones (December salary)	22-Dec-15	3802	980.31		3,155.51
Transfer from business savings	22-Dec-15			6,000.00	9,155.51
Claybrook C S Ltd (Christmas tree - Mem G)	23-Dec-15	3805	516.00		8,639.51
British Red Cross Society (Christmas party)	4-Jan-16	3806	105.60		8,533.91

Imprest Account (09/12/2015 > 06/01/2016 - 1291 > 1296)

Imprest A/C	Date	Chq	Exp	Inc	Balance
Transfer from current	30-Nov-15	Auto tfr		199.36	614.13
P H Holland (headline act for S C party)	11-Dec-15	1291	140.00		474.13
L Breeze (wk 37)	14-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		374.45
D Jenkins (wk 37)	14-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		274.77
L Breeze (wk 37 o/t)	14-Dec-15	1292	98.84		175.93
D Jenkins (wk 37 o/t)	14-Dec-15	1293	78.63		97.30
L Breeze (wk 38 o/t)	18-Dec-15	1294	84.28		13.02
L Breeze (wk 38)	21-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		-86.66
D Jenkins (wk 38)	21-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		-186.34
L Breeze (wk 39)	28-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		-286.02
D Jenkins (wk 39)	28-Dec-15	S/O	99.68		-385.70
L Breeze (wk 40)	4-Jan-16	S/O	99.68		-485.38
D Jenkins (wk 40)	4-Jan-16	S/O	99.68		-585.06
L Breeze (wk 40 o/t)	4-Jan-16	1295	187.34		-772.40
D Jenkins (wk 40 o/t)	4-Jan-16	1296	74.08		-846.48

7. Cash Transactions

Petty Cash Account (09/12/2015 > 06/01/2016)

Petty Cash A/C	Date	Rec No	Exp	Inc	Balance	Bank
Poundworld (Selection boxes - scouts)	7-Dec-15		21.00		858.41	
Chocolates - gifts for party attendees	11-Dec-15		86.00		772.41	
Chocolates - gifts for party attendees	11-Dec-15		54.00		718.41	
Premier Installations (cooler for s c party)	11-Dec-15		100.00		618.41	
Bookers (supplies for Christmas Party)	11-Dec-15		51.95		566.46	
Milk for Christmas party	11-Dec-15		2.00		564.46	
Bingo prizes (for senior citizens party)	11-Dec-15		40.00		524.46	
Stamps (2nd x 36)	16-Dec-15		19.44		505.02	
Stamps (2nd x 48 & 1st 12)	4-Jan-16		33.48		471.54	

8. Invoices/Quotations etc.

a) Renewal of street lighting supply contract with SSE due before the 29th February and the Community Council's brokers, LSI, furnished up-to-date comparison figures wef the 1st March 2016. The Clerk read out the figures supplied and following a brief discussion, the members unanimously voted to renew at the lowest figure as recommended by the broker. **Action** - Clerk advise LSI that ECC wish to renew with SSE at the estimated annual cost of £3,947.23 for a 12 month term. Contract to be signed on behalf of the Community Council.

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	028	29/12/2015	37,115.61
Current Account	016	01/12/2015	8,533.91
Imprest Account	003	01/12/2015	-846.48
Petty Cash Account		06/01/2016	471.54
Memorial Gardens Account	008	01/12/2015	8,956.87
			£54,231.45

The Chair of Finance advised that the Imprest account was not actually overdrawn, only showing as such as the up-to-date statement, containing details of the daily sweep, had not yet been received.

In addition, Cllr Elias advised that the balance on the Memorial Gardens account had increased slightly in the past few days and that the 'Evening to Remember' event had raised a lot of awareness and interest in the project.

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

RPHT Current A/C	Date	Chq	Exp	Inc	Balance
Playgroup	25-Nov-15			100.00	27,027.83

RPHT Petty Cash A/C	Date	Rec No	Exp	Inc	Balance	Bank
Wilko - 2 x halogen bulbs	7-Dec-15		4.98		656.62	
Slimming World	7-Dec-15	1477		20.00	676.62	
Tuesday Club	8-Dec-15	1478		12.00	688.62	
D Sides Dance Class	8-Dec-15	1479		10.00	698.62	
Indoor Bowls Club	9-Dec-15	1480		12.00	710.62	
Refund from Wilko for 1 halogen bulb	14-Dec-15			2.49	713.11	
N K Poole (deposit for kids party 18/6)	14-Dec-15	1481		10.00	723.11	

Slimming World	14-Dec-15	1482	24.00	747.11
Tuesday Club	15-Dec-15	1483	12.00	759.11
D Sides Dance Class	15-Dec-15	1484	8.00	767.11
Indoor Bowls Club	16-Dec-15	1485	16.00	783.11
Karate Club	16-Dec-15	1486	12.00	795.11
Jim Manzanilla (kids party)	19-Dec-15	1488	30.00	825.11
Slimming World	21-Dec-15	1489	24.00	849.11
Michelle Jones (deposit for kids party 3/1)	24-Dec-15	1491	10.00	859.11
Slimming World	29-Dec-15	1492	50.00	909.11
Tuesday Club	29-Dec-15	1490	24.00	933.11
Michelle Jones (kids party)	3-Jan-16	1493	30.00	963.11
Catherine (birthday party)	3-Jan-16	1494	65.00	1,028.11

	No. of last Statement Reconciled to cash book	Date of Statement	Current Balance Cash Book £
<u>RPHT</u>			
Current Account	045	01/12/2015	27,027.83
Petty Cash Account		06/01/2016	1,028.11
			<u>£28,055.94</u>

10. **Budget Position - ECC situation noted.**

Cllr Elias stated that he and the Clerk would be monitoring the situation very closely until the end of the financial year.

CHAIR _____

DATED _____

FULL COUNCIL

CHAIR : Cllr John Droog

Agenda Items

1. **Apologies** - Cllrs A Richards, V Morgan & C Richards
2. **Chair's announcements** - Cllr Droog echoed Cllr Elias' words and wished all members a "Happy New Year". He also welcomed Cllr Ian Lloyd onto the Community Council.
3. **County Councillors' Reports** - Cllr Mark Pritchard >

a) Cllr Pritchard also wished all attending a "Happy New Year". He wished to make additional comment regarding his concerns as to the situation with Prospects but noted that this matter was earmarked for discussion under Members Items, below. Cllr Pritchard did, however, wish to place on record his displeasure with the police attendance within Esclusham and during a meeting with the North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, Winston Roddick, had mentioned these concerns.

He was, however, pleased to report that, as mentioned in the Police report, above, a new, dedicated PCSO was to be allocated to Esclusham, or more specifically the Bersham and Rhostyllen wards (NWP 'town').

Cllr Pritchard advised members that he had nothing further to report.

4. **Declaration of interest** - None
5. **Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 14th December 2016** - Unanimously ratified
6. **Members' Items/Action List**

a) NWP/ECC police liaison meeting 5/1 - feedback by Cllr Graham Blackmore :-

Cllr Blackmore advised that the meeting had been attended by CBM Lucia Pritchard, himself and the Clerk and discussion topics were as follows:-

i) Prospects - Cllr Blackmore advised that all present agreed that the recent spate of incidents involving pupils of Prospects school was, at present, the main course of concern within Rhostyllen and Bersham, much of which were mentioned in the Police section, above. The Clerk had advised that he was attempting to arrange a further meeting with Prospects for representatives of the Community Council, but Cllr Blackmore acknowledged that this had now been overtaken by events whereby a tri-partite meeting was to be arranged as a matter of urgency, involving NWP as well.

ii) A resident had requested a police visit and Lucia had arranged to call.

iii) Further to a request by Cllr John Droog for Arrive Alive presence at Legacy/Aberoer, Lucia was unsure as to whether or not they had attended. She will re-visit and advise accordingly.

iv) Community Speed Watch Volunteers - Lucia provided the Clerk with details of the local traffic police officer who would assist in progressing the training/accreditation of Cllrs Nat Cargius and John Perkins.

v) Cllr Blackmore stated that, in his opinion, the dog fouling incidents appeared to be getting worse especially along the path between Langdale Avenue and Erddig Close. At the meeting it had been agreed that the police would monitor ongoing. In addition, members suggested that a notice be placed on the Council's noticeboards thanking residents for using dog bags but also reminding of the potential fine for allowing a dog to foul in a public place. **Action** - Clerk liaise with CBM at next Police Liaison meeting and draw up a suitable notice.

In addition, Cllr Mabyon Pickering asked the Local Member, Cllr Pritchard, if he was aware of the regularity of visits by the dog warden service to Esclusham. Cllr Pritchard advised that he was aware of a small number of instances where individuals had incurred a fine but would not be able to share any further details with the Council. In addition, Cllr Pritchard will arrange to discuss the matter of dog fouling, and what steps can be taken to alleviate, when meeting with the new PCSO, Danielle Peters.

vi) The Clerk is to look and arrange the next tranche of Police Liaison meetings at which it is hoped that Cllr Mark Pritchard will also be able to attend.

b) Further to the minutes of the S137 meeting on the 23rd March, members unanimously ratified Cllr Nat Cargius' suggestion that the second, already agreed, tranche of £500 be awarded to the ECC Memorial Gardens Project. A brief discussion ensued as to whether to allocate an increased amount but it was decided to proceed with awarding the original amount. **Action** - Clerk make out a cheque.

c) Prospects - Cllrs Nat Cargius and John Droog had given feedback following their attendance at a meeting with Prospects representatives on the 11th of November at the December meeting but, as yet the Clerk had been unable to arrange a further appointment. This has now been overtaken by events whereby an urgent meeting is to be arranged between representatives of Prospects, North Wales Police and the Community Council. See above.

Further to what was mentioned and discussed during the Police Section, above, there was further discussion regarding the, some serious, incidents involving pupils of Prospects. Whilst most of these had occurred in the Bersham area, there have also been incidents and confrontations in Rhostyllen. The area outside the home of the Bersham ward representative, Cllr Nat Cargius, had been subject to an act of vandalism whereby white paint had been spilled/painted onto the road, pavement and wall surfaces along with an area on Cllr Cargius' car which was parked outside the property. Cllr Cargius shared photographs of the painwork with members and advised that he had, eventually, spoken to the police about the damage and the perpetrators, who had been identified to him and by CCTV, it is understood. This is but one example of recent incidents related by members, a number of them involving The Bersham public house and its environs. Members once again placed on record their concerns regarding the possibility of confrontation/retaliation should these incidents continue.

It was unanimously agreed that matters must be brought to a head. Cllr Sarah Love suggested and was asked to look at involvement by the CSSIW and would arrange to obtain a copy of the latest Prospects Inspection Report and any other paperwork deemed required. **Action** - Cllr Love.

Cllr Jean Kelly questioned as to whether many of the children, some undoubtedly from difficult and disturbed backgrounds, should actually be placed in this environment where it appeared that insufficient control outside the school/home was evident. Members unanimously agreed that the care of the children in question was of equal importance and Cllr Richard Elias opined that Prospects should have a duty of care if the young people were allowed out in the local area unsupervised.

It is hoped that matters can now be moved on apace with a meeting expected to be arranged within the next week or so. The Clerk is to stay close until this is arranged.

In addition, it was agreed that Cllr Sarah Love be invited to attend the meeting when arranged.

d) Cllr Richard Elias asked the Local Member, Cllr Pritchard, about the present situation regarding the road surface on Spring Road as he had been approached by a resident enquiring as to the proposed plans. Cllr Elias stated that the Community Council had agreed to a spend of over £18k at the meeting of September 2013 to assist with the cost of completing/upgrading the pavements on Spring Road whereupon the road could be formally adopted by WCBC, and work commenced on the road carriageway. He was concerned that over two years after agreeing to this spend the road was still in a very poor state. Cllr Pritchard had previously advised the Council that WCBC had encountered delays in their attempts to adopt the road but he was confident that matters would progress apace during 2016 and would hope to have the road surface done by December. He asked that members bear with him/WCBC until the end of the year. This was unanimously agreed and matters will take their course.

e) Following an approach by a resident Cllr Jean Kelly mentioned the kerb situation on Upper West Grove which, it was felt, needed looking at. She asked Cllr Mark Pritchard if there was a timeframe for re-visiting the possibility of altering the kerb height. Cllr Pritchard advised that all residents had been asked, fairly recently, if they wished to have the kerb outside their house dropped or raised and he was not aware of any outstanding requests. He confirmed that all would have been asked and, for the present, there would not be further opportunity. Cllr Kelly will advise accordingly. Cllr Pritchard did however suggest that Cllr Kelly might wish to mention the name of John Roberts to the resident should they wish to carry out some work at their own expense.

f) Cllr Graham Blackmore raised his concerns regarding the condition of the area of land off Station Road recently awarded to developers, S G Estates. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Company and ask for the area to be tidied up. **Action** - Clerk.

Action Plan items - update

All matters ongoing or to be progressed as soon as able.

7. **Planning Items & Reports**

Applications

None

Withdrawals

None

Reports/Appeals

P/2013/0545 - Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Section 78 Appeal at "land at former site of Hafod Tileries, Hafod Road and Bangor Road, Johnstown, Wrexham". An appeal has been made to the Welsh Ministers in respect of the aforementioned site with regard to the application for "outline application for redevelopment of land for proposed mixed use development of up to 300 (use class C3) residential dwellings, 465sqm (use class B1, B2 and B8) business, industrial, storage and distribution units, 235sqm (use class A1) retail, ecological enhancement, landscape, open space, highway improvement and associated works".

The start date for the appeal, under Welsh Government ref no H6955/A/15/3135730, was the 1st December 2015 and comments/additional comments are requested within six weeks - this being the 12th of January 2016. *Copy of the appeal correspondence shared with members on the 21/12 together with the minute entries for the application (9/13)/ determination (7/15) and a copy of the Community Council's comments to WCBC dated the 13th September 2013.* As an interested party the Community Council are invited to make representation in connection with the appeal. Any comments following the original application will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate/appellant and will be taken into account by the Inspector in deciding the appeal. *Comments by Esclusham Community Council drawn up and unanimously ratified by members. Clerk to submit by the 12/1 being the final day for submissions.* **Action** - Clerk.

Determinations

P/2015/0183 - Application for the "construction of new vehicular access and maintenance of existing fence line" at Hyfrydle, Llwyneinion Road, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham LL14 4ET. *Granted with conditions. Noted*

P/2015/0808 - Application for the "construction of new vehicular access and hard standing/turning area and erection of gates" at 2 Henblas Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4AA. *Granted with conditions. Noted*

P/2015/0817 - Application for a "two-storey side extension with conversion of existing garage" at 4 Highgrove Close, Bersham, Wrexham LL14 4FB. *Granted with conditions. Noted*

P/2015/0788 - Application for the "erection of 5no industrial units (B1, B2 and B8 uses) together with associated access road and parking" at land north of CTM Wholesale, Croesfoel Industrial Estate, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL12 4BJ. *Refused due to (1) "The highway network serving the site is unlikely to be able to cater for the additional traffic that will be generated by the development. In the absence of a supporting Traffic Impact Assessment demonstrating otherwise, the development will likely increase congestion and highway safety problems and therefore conflicts with Policies GDP1 and T6 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan." (2) "The application documentation indicates that all surface water generated by the development will be disposed of by means of soakaway. In the absence of sufficient supporting information to demonstrate that soakaway is a suitable option for the site, both in terms of ground permeability and attenuation volume, the development may result in flooding of the site. The development therefore conflicts with Policies GDP1 and EC13 of the Wrexham unitary Development Plan."* Noted

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

a) WCBC - further to previous discussions regarding the repair of the boundary wall between the bungalows on Chapel Street and the Parish Hall, comprehensive missive from Alan Jenkins, Asset and Development Manager, WCBC regarding the proposed way forward. *Copy correspondence shared with members.* A number of options had been suggested by WCBC with the preferred option being to sympathetically repair the wall to a satisfactory standard with the cost of £16,254 being split equally between WCBC and ECC. In the apparent absence of any formal deed or conveyance detailing ownership of the wall, WCBC feel that it should be regarded as a party boundary with any cost of repair split between the two parties. This latter statement caused much discussion amongst members as it is felt that as the wall existed, as the rear wall, supporting outbuildings, to properties on the then Chapel Street, prior to the Community Council being granted the land on which the Parish Hall and its environs now stand. In the first instance the Clerk was instructed to write to WCBC pointing this out and placing on record that the Council are of the opinion that as WCBC purchased the properties on Chapel Street to build the current houses/bungalows, it is the opinion of ECC that the wall, being as it supported outbuildings, would have constituted part of the property purchase at the time. **Action** - Clerk.

b) WCBC re Rural Flexibus service (forwarded from 9/11 agenda) - further to the letter from WCBC regarding the changes to the 47F Flexibus scheme to Wrexham, where these were noted by members at the November meeting, the Clerk was instructed to place this item on the January agenda to discuss the possibility of financial assistance. WCBC state:- "Due to the uncertain nature of Welsh Government funding for transport services the scheme can only be guaranteed up until the end of March 2016 at the current time, but Wrexham Council would be happy to engage with any Community Council that may be willing to commit to funding to ensure the scheme continues after March 2016." *Members unanimously decided to note and take no further action at the present time.*

c) Esclusham Scouts - correspondence following their attendance at the Senior Citizens Party on the 11th December and the subsequent monetary collection thereat. *The Chair shared the content with members. Noted.*

d) Welsh Government - New Year 2017 Honours List. Letter from Owen Evans, Deputy Permanent Secretary marked 'Official Sensitive'. Nominations are sought no later than the 29th January 2016. *A copy of the covering letter together with supporting paperwork detailing the criteria for various categories can be shared with members upon request should anyone wish to put forward a nomination. Noted*

e) Home Start Wrexham - letter detailing their work within the County Borough and asking if the Community Council could consider giving financial support. *Clerk instructed to place in the S137 file for March 2016. **Action** - Clerk*

f) North Wales Police - advising that Insp Paul Wycherley has been posted to another role meaning that his time as Inspector at the Wrexham District has come to an end. Insp Wycherley gives his sincere thanks for the support and co-operation from the Community Council during his tenure. Insp Simon Kneale has taken over the role, supported by Sgt Steve Owens. *Copy of letter shared with members. Noted*

g) WCBC - advising that, as from the 1st April 2016 ECC have the opportunity to pay for the Commercial Waste Collection by monthly direct debit, "for which there is no extra charge", or, alternatively, receive an invoice six monthly in April and October. Decision required by the 31st December. *Members unanimously ratified the decision taken by the Clerk and Chair of Finance to go with the direct debit option. Clerk submitted prior to the 31/12 deadline.*

h) Welsh Government - letter further to, on the 24th November, the Welsh Government launching the consultation on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill and Explanatory Memorandum. The objective of the Draft Bill is to complete the programme of Local Authority mergers and set out a new and reformed legislative framework for Local Authority democracy, accountability, performance and elements of finance. It will also establish a statutory Public Services Staff Commission. To put in context how the proposals will affect community and town councils, and provide attendees with an opportunity to comment on and ask questions about the proposals, two engagement events have been arranged. North Wales > Thursday 4th February 2016 at Venue Cymru, Llandudno from 10.30 to 13.30. Expression of interest requested by the 15th January 2016. *Copy correspondence shared with members. The Chair, Cllr John Droog, wishes to attend the Llandudno event and the Clerk was instructed to advise accordingly. Action - Clerk. Cllr Mark Pritchard will be attending in his guise as Leader of WCBC and has a place reserved already.*

In addition - the Clerk was instructed to bring forward onto the January agenda, for discussion and possible action, correspondence item (o) from the December agenda - minute entry 14/12 :-

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 15th 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.*

ECC response will be drawn up following Cllrs Droog and Pritchard attending the engagement event on the 4th of February. Action - Clerk be on diary for adding to the agenda for the 8th February.

i) Welsh Government - from Richard Morgan, Head of Asset Management Standards, Network Management Div writing further to the Road safety Review across trunk roads in Wales. Findings have been updated over the summer months following receipt of correspondence re speed limits and road safety and to be found at:- <http://www.traffic-wales.com/Trunkroadssafetyreview.aspx>. *Noted*

j) The Army Engagement Group - letter inviting a member/members of ECC to an evening reception with Brigadier M J Gamble, Commander of the Army in the region, at the Lion Quays Hotel and Spa on the 11th February. *Invitation shared with members. Noted - unfortunately, no one is able to attend.*

9. Items for the Clerk

a) January RPHT meeting arranged for the 25th January. **Action** - Clerk send out agenda..

b) G M Jones Builders Ltd - Community benefit. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the two main requests will be:-

- i) Memorial Gardens - bases for statues. Clearing and preparing circular bases.
- ii) Vicarage wall - work as previously discussed. **Action** - Clerk forward Marlin Industries quote to Cllr Mark Pritchard asap.

Cllr Pritchard wished to speak to the Company regarding both requests. **Action** - Cllr Pritchard

CHAIR _____

DATED _____