

**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL
COEDPOETH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting
Tuesday 24th September 2013**

Present

Cllr M Dixon – Chairman

Cllr S Davies, Cllr J Hinchliffe, Cllr K Woodward, Cllr G Williams, Cllr T Wyatt, Cllr G Jones, Cllr C Williams, Cllr T Shaw, Cllr P Wilson, Cllr L Wright & Cllr G R Price (12)

Cllr G Griffiths – Wrexham CBC

COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCED – 7.30pm

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1	<p><u>INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR</u></p> <p>The Chair reminded the Council that this Special Council Meeting had been called to provide a suitable response to Wrexham County Borough Council’s proposal that Coedpoeth either take over, fund and or contribute to the following services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Play Spaces 2. The Public Convenience in the main car park. 3. The Bowling Green. 4. The School Crossing Patrols <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and added the following thoughts to the debate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrexham CBC has given insufficient time to debate and discuss this issue with the ratepayers in the Village. 2. The Community Council would have to increase its precept by more than 10% and questioned who would be cast as the villain in this scenario in that ratepayers will consider that they are paying twice for the same services. 3. As with any financial figures quoted there needs to be independent verification of them. 4. Where will it stop? <p>The Chair added that both he and the Clerk enjoyed a good, indeed excellent, working relationship with officers of Wrexham CBC. The letter from Mr L Isted (Head of Community Wellbeing & Development) is a good example of how not to approach a delicate issue such as the transfer of services with references to “cessation of services” and “closure of the facilities”. Wrexham CBC must learn that Community Council’s will not be bullied into agreeing courses of action without adequate consultation and the need to know all the facts. Finally, the Chair stated that he would be happy to support transfers of services after lengthy consultation and with proper and adequate funding, controls and advice. The Community Council should, after all, determine a suitable strategy that benefits the Village and not simply to fix Wrexham CBC’s financial issues.</p>

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2	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Cllr B Williams & Cllr K Child.</p>	
3.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4.	<p><u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p>There was a lively discussion and Members accepted and agreed with the thoughts expressed by the Chair. Other comments made by Members were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If services were transferred to Community Councils who would ensure that a minimum standard was applied? 2. Ratepayers would see the Community Council as the villain in this scenario? 3. Wrexham CBC, in this instance has got it completely wrong as evidenced by the recent article in the Leader on this issue – “You Pay Up Or Risk Losing Out”. 4. All this letter has done is to anger Community Councils’! 5. Agreeing to such an initiative could open the floodgates! 6. There is a need to consult with all neighbouring Community Councils’ in Wrexham in order that a consensus decision is given to Wrexham CBC along with the need to work more effectively and jointly with Community Councils’! 7. Why was this issue not raised in the Town & Community Council Fora? 8. Were Wrexham CBC’s Leader and Chief Executive aware of the contents of the letter from Mr L Isted? 9. The Council should expect an apology from Wrexham CBC for not treating the Council with respect and as a joint partner in Local Government! 10. The wider implications of taking over the services in question, such as management costs, increased pension costs etc. would have to be determined in order that the true cost is known and adequately budgeted for. <p>The Clerk reminded the Council that the next meeting of the Town and Community Council would be held on the 3rd October 2013 at 7.30pm and that he had raised the issue of the transfer of services on the agenda. In addition, the Council had been invited to a drop in session, to discuss the proposed transfer, organised by Mr J Bradbury, Head of Environment on 10th October 2013 at 4.00pm. If any Member were interested in attending either meeting could they please inform the Clerk.</p>	

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5.	<u>MOTION</u>	<p>It was agreed “that Coedpoeth Community Council will not be forced to accept the current proposals without proper consultation and the opportunity for adequate examination of all actual and associated costs. Only after realistic consultation and due process would the Community Council be in a position to make such an informed decision”.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr T Wyatt; Seconded: Cllr G Jones – Unanimous</p> <p>The Clerk agreed to reply to Mr L Isted’s letter and copy in the Chief Executive and the Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council. In addition, it was agreed that a copy of the Minutes, of this meeting, would be copied to neighbouring Community Councils’.</p>	DVB
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Meeting closed 8.25pm

Dave Bamber CPFA Clerk to the Council

Approved