

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northop Community Council held remotely via Zoom Pro on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Linda Scott, John Carlin, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Jarred Livesey, Alison Brebner, Alan Watkin, Linda Deane, Cara Baker, Rob Mackey and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies received from Councillors Marion Bateman, Joanne Millar and Louise Higgs.

#### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Livesey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5(a) iii as the application relates to his property. Councillor Scott also declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 10(b) and 11.

#### **2. POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk had liaised with PCSO Adeline Olaru who had confirmed that PCSO's were hoping to be able to attend Community Council meetings again but would be unable to attend remote meetings held via the Zoom Pro platform. PCSO Olaru also stated that they would not be providing reports. Members requested that the Clerk ask if a verbal report could be provided prior to each meeting regarding any police matters that may have arisen in both villages. Members felt it was unacceptable to have to obtain such information themselves on a monthly basis and agreed to invite the North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, Andy Dunbobbins to the next face to face meeting to raise their concerns.

#### **3. MINUTES**

A copy of the draft minutes had been given to Members prior to the meeting. Councillor Deane noted that under agenda item 5(a) iii Planning Applications Page 4 it should state that there were no objections to application 063455 and that under Agenda Item 13 Annual Grants to Local Organisations Page 7, it was not herself that had seconded the grant for the Northop Memorial Institute. The Clerk agreed to check her meeting notes and amend the minutes accordingly.

Councillor Watkin proposed that subject to the above amendments being made that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Carlin. All members were in agreement.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **Matters Arising**

## **Agenda Item 12(c) Matters Raised by Members**

### **Refill Wales**

Councillor Lawton-Hughes informed members that the Refill Wales scheme was to be discussed at the next Sychdyn Village Hall management meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Councillor Brebner requested that the matter be raised as an agenda item at the December meeting.

## **Agenda Item 11 Matchfunding Invitation Sychdyn Play Area**

The Clerk informed members that she had liaised with Richard Roberts and confirmed the Community Council's interest in participating in the match funding for Sychdyn Play Area for the amount of £1500.00

## **Agenda Item 4 Streetscene Issues**

The Clerk updated members regarding the Streetscene issues raised at previous meetings:

- The requested dog bins have been ordered but have yet to come into stores;
- The filter lane at the Northop traffic lights is connected to one way and resident parking in the High Street and the proposal is due to go out to consultees;
- Lee Shone will contact the manufacturer and ascertain the revised delivery date for the correct VAS sign;
- Councillor Bateman and Tom Cartwright at Streetscene have both requested on several occasions that the cutting back of vegetation from signage be undertaken. It had been put on hold until after the nesting season and the matter is now being dealt with by Katie Wilby, who has requested a list of all sites that require cutting back from Streetscene coordinators.

## **Agenda Item 15 Investment Strategy**

The Clerk has amended the dates on the strategy and sent copies to all members.

## **Agenda Item 14 British Legion Poppies**

Councillor Carlin stated that he had found it offensive, to be informed by the Insurance Company that to ensure the indemnity cover was valid, training had to be provided to any volunteers undertaking the erection of the event poppies for the Community Council and that having contacted a number of Community Councils, many had used a disclaimer for the erection work to be undertaken by volunteers. Councillor Brebner stated that a disclaimer would not be sufficient in the event of an injury or death of a volunteer undertaking such work for the Community Council. Members agreed that the matter should be looked at again next year prior to November.

## **4. STREETSCENE ISSUES**

### **Northop**

- (a) Councillor Deane reported that the litter bins in the Lane in Northop and near the bus stop on Holywell Road were full and appeared not to have been emptied. It was agreed that Councillor Deane would inform Streetscene of the matter directly.

## Sychdyn

- (a) Councillor Lawton-Hughes reported that there had been a significant increase in the number of HGV lorries using the road network around Raikes Lane and Black Brook in Sychdyn in the previous weeks. Local residents had raised their concerns with her regarding the weight restrictions on the roads being ignored, the risk of lorries turning left at the top of Raikes Lane and getting stuck at the narrow bridge and having no place to turn around as well as the risk to pedestrians.

Members agreed that the Clerk should inform the Police, who have a legal duty to enforce the weight restrictions in place on roads and also Flintshire County Council regarding the lack of weight restriction signs.

## 5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) To consider the following planning applications:

(i) **063514**

**PROPOSAL:** Erection of single storey rear extension, rear roof dormer and front dormer above existing garage.

**AT:** 12 Fox Field, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6GQ

(The application was discussed and there were no objections raised by Northop Community Council).

(ii) **063574**

**PROPOSAL:** Amendment to internal finished (ground) floor level to plots 4 & 5

**AT:** Cortonwood, Black Brook, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT

(There were no objections raised to this proposal by Northop Community Council).

Councillor Livesey left the meeting whilst Planning Application 063585 was discussed, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application.

(iii) **063585**

**PROPOSAL:** Removal of rear conservatory, single garage and mock Tudor cladding. Erection of rear extension, two storey garage with living accommodation above and front infill porch.

**AT:** 2 Bryn Rhyd, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6EH

(There were no objections made to this proposal by Northop Community Council).

Councillor Livesey rejoined the meeting.

(iv) **063631**

**PROPOSAL:** Proposed development of two dwellings. Previously approved under 042684.

**AT:** Land adjacent to Fron Heulog, Main Road, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6EA  
(There were no objections raised by Northop Community Council).

(v) **063503**

**PROPOSAL:** Erection of two storey extension to the rear. Ground floor will be a dining room, second room would be a bedroom with a small area for a balcony and

**AT: 16 Maes Celyn, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BA**  
(There were no objections raised to this application by Northop Community Council)

(b) The Council accepted correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning regarding planning applications on which the Council had previously submitted observations.

(i) **063540** Delegated Officer Certificate of Conformity Agreed 27/09/2021  
**PROPOSAL:** Demolition of conservatory. Proposed single storey rear extension.  
**AT: 17 Maes Celyn, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BA**  
(No objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

(ii) **063502** Consultation Response Issued 11/10/2021  
**PROPOSAL:** Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 Neighbouring Local Authority Pre-application Consultation on the preliminary Environmental Information Report for the Awel Y Mor Offshore Wind Farm.  
**AT: Awel y Mor Wind Farm, Liverpool Bay**

(iii) **063574** Delegated Officer Refused 25/10/2021  
**PROPOSAL:** Amendment to internal finished (ground) floor level to plots 4 & 5.  
**AT: Corton Wood, Black Brook, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT**

## 6. ACCOUNTS

(a) To approve the payment of the following accounts:-

- (i) **Clerks Salary – November 2021 Mrs S C Lovell at £744.57 (Net); Cheque Number 002343 comprising of:  
Clerks Salary for November at £614.64 and  
Reimbursement of Expenses including Mileage, Postage & Stationery from 01/07/2021 – 31/10/2021 at total of £129.93**
- (ii) **HMRC – Income Tax in respect of Clerk's salary paid November 2021 at £46.40; Cheque Number 002344**
- (iii) **Clwyd Pension Fund Employers & Employee Pension contribution for Clerk November 2021 at £182.79; Cheque Number 002345**
- (iv) **Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting and all waste removed at the Band Room/Car Park site in Northop on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and 1st November 2021 at £120.00 (each visit £60.00); Cheque Number 002346**
- (v) **Susan C Lovell – Payment for Zoom Pro November 2021 at £14.39 ;Cheque Number 002347**
- (vi) **Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Maintenance Monthly Inspections on x 35 columns in July, August & September 2021 at £218.76; Cheque Number 002348**
- (vii) **Flintshire County Council – Payment for Summer Playscheme 2021 at Northop & Sychdyn villages x 3 weeks at £2857.80; Cheque Number 002349**

(b) Subject to the receipt of current audited accounts, complete the grant payments to the following organisations, as approved at the Council meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (i) **Edith Bankes Memorial Hall** – Annual Grant of **£1,500.00**; Cheque Number **002350**
- (ii) **Sychdyn Village Hall** – Annual Grant of **£1,500.00**; Cheque Number **002351**
- (iii) **St. Peters Churchyard** – Annual Grant of **£1,000.00**; Cheque Number **002352**

And under Section 142 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (iv) **Flintshire Citizen’s Advice Bureau** – Annual Grant of **£100**; Cheque Number **002353**

Councillor Watkin proposed the accounts be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Brebner. All members were in agreement.

### **Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

There were no matters raised by members this month.

## **8. TRAFFIC MATTERS**

Although a response had been received by the Clerk regarding progress on the delivery of the VAS sign, Councillor Brebner had not and stated that she found the lack of response to her email regarding the VAS sign from Flintshire County Council officials unacceptable. Councillor Brebner also requested it be minuted that she felt it was also wholly unacceptable to still be waiting in November for a sign that was to be installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Councillor Watkin agreed and suggested that the Clerk write to the Head of Department to raise this issue. Members were in agreement.

## **9. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT**

Councillor Brebner informed members that Red Route staff had prepared a statement to go to the Review Panel, convened by the Welsh Government who now seemed very sympathetic to climate change issues.

## **10. MANAGEMENT PLAN - NORTHOP CAR PARK & ENVIRONS**

- (a) The Clerk had liaised with Hannah James, Chartered Surveyor regarding the Northop Car Park gully repair and confirmed that the Community Council had decided not to proceed with the latest contractor quote of £8371.50 plus VAT. Ms James agreed to invoice for the work undertaken so far.

Councillor Carlin had obtained a quote from another local contractor for and shared the details with members. Following discussion, Council agreed to proceed with this quote, subject to usual due diligence.

(b) Following confirmation that the Band Hall land is owned by Flintshire County Council and leased to Northop Silver Band, members discussed whether the Community Council should continue to fund the twice monthly (March to October) maintenance of the Band Hall land and also provide an annual grant of £500. Several members felt that now that the ownership of the land had been ascertained, that the Community Council should not continue to double fund the Northop Silver Band. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the band and make them aware of Northop Community Council's intention to cease double funding and ascertain the thoughts of the band and for the matter to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

## **11. ANNUAL GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Members agreed that the grant for Northop Silver Band would be discussed at the December meeting.

## **12. SANDHOLE FIELD**

- (a) The Clerk informed members that the tree trunk had now been removed from the ditch as requested and that continue to await the overgrowth and general vegetation die back before reviewing the blockage in the ditch and ascertain whether it is in a specific area rather than the running the complete length of the ditch.
- (b) The initial three month rental license has expired and the agreed six month license has now been signed by both parties and will be required to be reviewed prior to April 2022. The Clerk has liaised with Legal Property Services at Flintshire County Council and previous clerks regarding the deeds to the site, none of whom have seen any deeds for the land. Despite the lack of deeds however, advice has been sought that the land can be placed for sale by completing a statutory declaration of statement of truth. Councillor Watkin proposed that we proceed with undertaking this declaration, contacting the Land Registry regarding registration of the land and arranging for a valuation of the land. Members were in agreement.

## **13. COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Clerk advised members that there had been no requests for an election to be called following the vacancy in the Sychdyn Ward being advertised. The process of co-option will now commence. Members are advised that there is a vacant seat in the Sychdyn Ward and that under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Section 116 a Notice of Co-option will be advertised immediately following this meeting. The Notice will seek expressions of interest, from duly qualified members of the public, who are interested in representing their community.

The Clerk confirmed that one expression of interest in the role of Community Councillor for the Sychdyn Ward had already been received. Councillor Watkin suggested that the Chair, Vice Chair and a third Councillor be involved in the informal interview, the Clerk arrange an appropriate date and the group make the recommendation to Council in due course.

**14. FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) The Clerk updated members regarding the Flintshire County Council (public Footpath Nos 21 & 22a in the community of Northop) Public Path Diversion Order 2020, informing members that the Order had now been confirmed as of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.
- (b) The Clerk confirmed that she had received a letter of disengagement from Compacc as of November 2021. Monies to be repaid have been received and will be banked by the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer. AVOW will commence undertaking the payroll services for Northop Community Council as of December 2021. Members were in agreement with the new payroll service arrangements for the Council.

**The meeting closed at 8.42pm**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>
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There were several new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Councillor J. Livesey Councillor L. Scott	Agenda Item 5 (a) iii Agenda Item 10 (b) and 11	Page 3 Page 5 & 6