

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northop Community Council held remotely via Zoom Pro on Monday 12th July 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Scott, Jo Millar, John Carlin, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Linda Deane, Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Cara Baker, Louise Higgs and the Clerk.

ABSENT: Councillor Hayward

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies received.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

2. POLICE MATTERS

Councillor Bateman had written to PCSO Ryan Thomas regarding a date to walk both villages in August. There has been no response to date. The Clerk would liaise with PCSO Thomas. Councillor Deane reported that the PCSO had been in Northop on Saturday 10th July.

3. MINUTES

A copy of the draft minutes had been given to Members prior to the meeting. Councillor Scott highlighted that on Page 2 Agenda Item 12 (a) Matters Arising, for clarification purposes the minutes should read that it was the Clerk who had reported that the Conservation Officer had been contacted and not herself.

On page 3, Agenda Item 4(a) Streetscene issues, Councillor Scott noted that the pavement beyond the College was overgrown rather than the public footpath. It was agreed that the minutes be amended and subject to these amendments, be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All members were in agreement.

Matters Arising

Agenda Item 3 Matters Arising

Matters Arising Agenda Item 9(a) Streetscene Issues

Councillor Deane stated that the overgrown hedges at the property of Glan-yr-Afon in Northop had now been cut back. Councillor Scott had been contacted by the owner of the property, who requested that in future should there be any issues regarding the hedging, the Community Council contact them directly rather than via the County Council.

Agenda Item 4(b) Streetscene Issues

Councillor Lawton-Hughes reported that the public footpath from Sychdyn to Mold which was overgrown, had been cut back within a week and thanked Councillor Bateman for contacting Streetscene regarding the matter.

Agenda Item 12(a) Matters Raised by Members

Northop National School

The Clerk had written to the Conservation Officer on a number of occasions but received no response to date. Councillor Bateman agreed to contact Mr Chris Rees-Jones on behalf of the Community Council.

Agenda Item 12(c) Matters Raised by Members

Refill Wales

The Clerk had liaised with Refill Wales to request stickers. These are free and will be sent to the Clerk, for distribution to those local hostellers in both villages, interested in participating in the scheme.

Agenda Item 11 Hynet CO2 Pipeline Consultation

The Clerk reported that the comments made by the Community Council regarding the Hynet CO2 Pipeline had been submitted as part of the consultation process which closed on the 11th June.

Agenda Item 12 Request for Financial Support

Mrs Frances Cooper wished to thank the Community Council for their kind donation towards the maintenance of the planters in Sychdyn.

Agenda Item 16(a) Sandhole Field

Councillor Lawton-Hughes reported that the dangerous tree at the Sandhole had now been cut down and made safe.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

Northop

- (a) Councillor Scott reported a pothole on Ffordd Edwin and commented that the pavements at Ffordd Edwin, Ffordd Gwynedd, Ffordd Glyndwr and St. Peters Park were in a poor condition and there were a number of trip hazards. Councillor Bateman stated that the pavements in these areas have been reported to Streetscene and job tickets created.

Councillor Scott also noted that the road surface from Badgers Court to past the College was in a poor condition, being particularly bad at the junction of the High Street. Councillor Bateman stated that the County Council Highways Department had been out to look at the road surface and were aware of the issue. Repairs are made on a priority basis however, Councillor Bateman stated she would contact Highways to raise the matter again.

Councillor Scott reported that the dog bin at the top of The Green required replacing, as the door was being held together with tape. Councillor Deane also reported that the dog bins at the Northop Car Park and by the Cricket Ground have no lids and also require replacing. The Clerk to report the matters to Streetscene.

Councillor Brebner mentioned that the verges were overgrown on either side of the road. Councillor Bateman had raised the matter with Streetscene following last month's meeting and reported that the matter was in hand.

Councillor Carlin raised again the need to cutback considerably the growth around road traffic signage and speed cameras urgently, particularly on route to Sychdyn and towards Celyn and Middle Mill. Councillor Mackey stated that it would require a contractor to cut the growth back on foot rather than from a cutting vehicle.

Councillor Mackey requested that Streetscene be contacted to remove the debris from the car accident on the 10th July which has been left on the verge by the traffic lights in Northop.

(b) Sychdyn

Councillor Millar requested that additional dog bins be provided in Sychdyn, possibly on the bridal path or on the lane towards Hall Lane, where many local residents are walking their dogs regularly. Councillor Bateman reported that a new dog bin had been provided on the footpath on Hall Lane but would look into the matter for additional dog bins on the route highlighted by Councillor Millar.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) To consider the following planning applications:

(i) 062929

PROPOSAL: Erection of outbuildings.

AT: Tyddyn Ucha Cottage, Black Brook, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT

As there were still no plans available to date to view and comment on, it was agreed that this application to be considered again at the next meeting. The Clerk to request an extension to comment from the Case Officer.

(ii) 063029

PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey side extension.

AT: 1 St Peters Park, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DP

(There were no objections raised to this proposal 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) **060362** Delegated Officer Approved 11/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by condition no.19 (Archaeological Interpretation)) attached to Planning Application reference 054548.
AT: Land at Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire
- (ii) **061904** Delegated Officer Approved 10/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Extension to provide accommodation for disabled access and facilities.
AT: Bryn Seion, Bryn Seion Lane, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6YY
(No objections were raised by Northop Community Council to this application).
- (iii) **061966** Delegated Officer Approved 08/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Extension and alterations to existing building.
AT: Crime Prevention Services Security House, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6HB
(No objections were raised by Northop Community Council to this application).
- (iv) **062675** Delegated Officer Refused 04/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Proposed single storey rear extension and proposed rear roof dormer.
AT: 12 Fox Field, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6GQ
(No objections were raised by Northop Community Council to this application).
- (v) **062620** Delegated Officer Approved 30/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Proposed first floor extension and alterations to provide a kitchen to serve the private living accommodation.
AT: Cross Keys, Blackbrook, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT
(No objections were raised by Northop Community Council to this application).
- (vi) **062865** Delegated Officer Approved 29/06/2021
PROPOSAL: Erection of first floor extension, single storey side extension and widened drive access and dropped kerb.
AT: 36 St Peters Park, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DR
(No objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

6. ACCOUNTS

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

(i) **Clerks Salary – July 2021 Mrs S C Lovell at £713.71 (Net); Cheque Number 002313**
Comprising of:

Clerks Salary July at £614.64

Reimbursement of Expenses including Mileage, Postage & Stationery from 01/04/2021 – 30/06/2021 at total of £98.87

(ii) **HMRC – Income Tax in respect of Clerk's salary paid July 2021 at £46.40; Cheque Number 002314**

(iii) **Clwyd Pension Fund Employers & Employee Pension contribution for Clerk July 2021 at £182.79; Cheque Number 002315**

(iv) **Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting and all waste removed at the Band Room/Car Park site in Northop on the 15th and 28th June 2021 at £120.00 (each visit £60.00); Cheque Number 002316**

(v) **John Griffiths Landscapes/Groundworks/Plant Hire – Tree Cutting at Sandhole Field July 2021 at £380; Cheque Number 002317**

(vi) **Susan C Lovell – Payment for Zoom Pro July 2021 at £14.39; Cheque Number 002318**

(vii) **Susan C Lovell – Payment for Power Cord for Acer Laptop at £12.99; Cheque Number 002319**

Councillor Deane has requested that Members consider the approval to order two Remembrance wreaths to be ordered in August in preparation for November 2021.

Councillor Watkin proposed the accounts be approved. This included approval for the ordering and future purchase of two Remembrance wreaths and this was seconded by Councillor Mackey. All Members were in agreement.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) Overgrown Hedge Northop (Councillor J. Livesey)

This matter had been dealt with under Matters Arising earlier in the meeting.

8. TRAFFIC MATTERS

Councillor Brebner reported that the VAS signs for Northop and Sychdyn had not yet been erected.

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

Councillor Brebner reported that the Welsh Government are in the process of setting up a review panel to review the Red Route.

Hannah Blythyn MS had contacted Councillor Bateman with a request to walk the Northop area and Councillor Bateman stated that she would discuss the Red Route.

Councillor Carlin stated that the press release from Rob Roberts MP for Delyn was incorrect, suggesting that the Red Route had been accepted. It was agreed that the Community Council contact his office and ask them to redress the matter with regard to this comment by recinding it. All members agreed.

10. MANAGEMENT PLAN - NORTHOP CAR PARK & ENVIRONS

(a) The Clerk had liaised with Hannah James, Chartered Surveyor regarding progress on the Northop Car Park gully repair. She is still awaiting GSL's new quote and has been chasing the contractor, who is awaiting costings from one supplier.

(b) Rob Monshin AGM Tree Surgery had been out to assess the silver birch overhanging the Band Room and advised that as it is a healthy tree and the overhanging branch is the main trunk, the only option is to undertake a crown reduction in December /January (the only months this work can be carried out) which would partially reduce the overhang but not remove it completely. Therefore, there would still be a potential risk for it to damage the Band Room roof. He also noted that this is the case for a number of larger trees on the external boundary to the Band Room. He advised that the owner of the trees should ensure that they have public liability insurance.

Members discussed the matter and the ownership of the trees. It was agreed that the Chair would clarify ownership of the trees and that should the trees be the Community Council's responsibility, that the crown reduction be undertaken later in

the year. Councillor Scott suggested that the Council should consider undertaking a management programme for the remainder of the trees, should they be the responsibility of the Community Council.

11. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

Regarding the idea of the tree planting in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, Councillor Scott reported that Northop College have been successful in obtaining 500 trees via the scheme which have been planted already. It was therefore agreed not to pursue this initiative as Northop would have received its quota of trees.

Local residents have been suggesting various ideas for celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 via the Northop and Sychdyn Facebook pages and Councillor Baker shared the various ideas with members. Suggestions included wild flowers planted around the villages/wild flower bombs, art competitions for various age groups/portrait of the Queen, art mosaic, field renamed with a plaque to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and street parties. Councillor Deane suggested encouraging families to hold parties in their gardens or on their local streets, similar to those that took place last year for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, with residents being responsible for organising them and the possibility of presenting the school children with a commemorative mug or coin, as had been done to commemorate previous events.

The option of street parties seemed a popular one to pursue. Councillor Mackey suggested that this may require representatives from the Council to oversee and coordinate. Councillor Bateman and Councillor Baker offered their support. The Chair suggested that the idea of street parties be developed further at the September meeting, as well as considering ways in which to enlist volunteer support.

12. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022 (AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021)

The Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer shared a copy of the first quarterly financial report and the Bank Reconciliation as at the 30th June 2021 with members, prior to the meeting. Both documents were considered and received.

Members discussed the Clerk's request to consider online banking (access to view only) to ensure that balances can be viewed as and when required and avoid the need to wait for bank statements to be posted to complete bank reconciliations. Members agreed that it would be useful. Councillor Brebner advised checking that appropriate laptop security firewall systems were in place prior to arranging online banking.

13. MATCH FUNDING INVITATION

Councillor Millar had contacted Richard Roberts, Aura Leisure and Libraries regarding the match funding invitation and to ascertain what improvements were required at both Northop and Sychdyn play areas. The match funding is available, as the County Council are no longer able to finance the upkeep and maintenance of Flintshire play areas independently and are requesting financial support from Town and Community Councils. The majority of Council's have taken up the invitation and have set aside monies in the budget on an annual basis for play area improvements.

It was agreed that a site meeting at both Northop and Sychdyn play areas be arranged with Mr Roberts and a representative Councillor from both Northop and Sychdyn, to discuss the equipment that requires improvement as a matter of high priority and consider costings. Following the site meeting Councillors will feedback to Council and members will consider the budget and possible expenditure required this financial year, at the next meeting.

The Clerk stated that currently there was only £500 in the budget for play area improvements which had been carried over from 2020/21. It was recognised that monies will need to be ring fenced annually for match funding play area improvements.

14. FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members discussed the options available for holding future meetings. As there were mixed views expressed regarding both meeting face to face and hybrid meetings, it was agreed that members would meet remotely via Zoom Pro in September and defer the decision until then, when the situation maybe clearer.

15. PLANNING POLICY CONSULTATION

Councillor Scott stated that as Northop and Sychdyn communities do not fall within any of the highlighted areas, she personally had no significant views. Members agreed that they receive the consultation correspondence and should members wish to comment as individuals, they could.

16. SANDHOLE FIELD

- (a) The Clerk confirmed that the tree at the Sandhole Field had been cut down and made safe.
- (b) The Clerk reported that it had been difficult obtaining quotes from contractors for desilting the ditch at the Sandhole Field. One contractor had quoted £3750 to desilt the ditch and remove the silt from site. The Clerk was waiting on a quote from Mr John Griffiths and had requested a third quote from another local contractor. A decision regarding desilting will be made having received and reviewed all quotes.
- (c) Members discussed the request to rent the Sandhole Field and Councillor Bateman reported that the interested party was keen to be able to rent the land before the grass turned to hay. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Gamlin's Solicitors, to request that a three month temporary license be drawn up, that could be signed and allow the land to be rented in the short term. In the meantime, the Council to liaise with the solicitor regarding a long-term grazing license or agricultural license.

The desilting work would still be undertaken by the Community Council and maintenance of the field would be the responsibility of the tenant. Rent was discussed and the previous charge had been £300 per annum. Councillor Carlin noted that the keys to the field would need to be returned by the maintenance contractor and the Clerk agreed to arrange this.

17. THE AUGUST MEETING

Councillor Deane proposed members accept the remit for August and this was seconded by Councillor Mackey. All members were in agreement.

18. FOR INFORMATION

Councillor Watkin reported that both he and Councillor Brebner had reviewed the Clerks Contract and it was now ready for both the Clerk and Chair to sign. The Chair thanked Councillor Watkin and Councillor Brebner for their help in the matter.

The meeting closed at 20.57pm.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 12TH July 2021
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There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS