

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northop Community Council held remotely via Zoom Pro on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

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

**ABSENT:** Councillor Hayward

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies received from Councillors Alan Watkin, Louise Higgs, Linda Deane and Cara Baker.

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

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

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

The Clerk had contacted PCSO Ryan Thomas for an update on Police matters in both Northop and Sychdyn villages. As he is on leave until the 16<sup>th</sup> September, it was agreed that the Clerk would share any information received from the PCSO on his return to work.

Councillor Bateman informed Council that she had a meeting with South Flintshire Police on the 14<sup>th</sup> September and would raise any particular issues members may have. Councillor Scott highlighted the traffic issue on the High Street and the junction of Pilgrims Close, as residents continue to raise the issue of people continuing to park on the junction and obstruct access and view onto the narrow High Street. Councillor bateman reported that the County Council have started a consultation to consider residential parking on the High Street which would involve the High Street being accessible one way only to vehicular traffic. Part of the consultation would also include proposals for traffic calming measures.

#### **3. MINUTES**

A copy of the draft minutes had been given to Members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All members were in agreement.

#### **Matters Arising**

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

The requested leaflets and stickers had been received from Refill Wales and it was agreed that the Clerk would now contact the hostellers in Northop and Sychdyn to ask if they are

interested in participating in the scheme and if so, provide relevant advertising information and update Refill Wales.

#### 4. **STREETSCENE ISSUES**

##### **Northop**

- (a) Councillor Mackey informed members that the 30mph speed sign had be replaced between the roundabout off the A55 and Northop Cricket Club.
- (b) Councillor Scott reported that the white lines on the Connahs Quay Road up to the traffic lights in Northop had faded and were no longer clearly visible to drivers or pedestrians. Councillor Bateman stated that this matter had been raised with Streetscene previously and that section of the road would be looked as part of the consultation which may be the reason for Streetscene not replacing the lines.
- (c) The Chair stated that a filter light had also been suggested for the traffic light junction. Councillor Bateman agreed to liaise with Streetscene regarding the progress of the light.

##### **Sychdyn**

- (d) Councillor Millar reported that the New Brighton street sign was in a poor state of repair and in need of replacement. Councillor Bateman agreed to request a new sign be ordered by Streetscene.
- (e) Councillor Lawton-Hughes reported a damaged dog bin on Blackbrook Road and Councillor Bateman agreed to liaise with Streetscene to request a replacement.

#### 5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- (a) To consider the following planning applications:

- (i) **063312**

- PROPOSAL:** Conversion and extension of industrial unit to office and warehouse.

- AT:** Baling Wire Products, Northop Country Park, Northop Country Park Estate Roads, Northop, Flintshire

- (The application was discussed and there were objections raised by Northop Community Council)

- (ii) **063379**

- PROPOSAL:** Construction of a single dwelling within the residential curtilage of Potenion Cottage.

- AT:** Potenion Cottage, Connahs Quay Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BT

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

**(iii) 063353**

**PROPOSAL:** Erection of enclosed storage area to the rear boundary and retrospective planning for the erection of a shed.

**AT:** 15 Manor Park, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6EQ

(There were comments made to this proposal by Northop Community Council).

**(iv) 060766**

**PROPOSAL:** Construction of two new dwellings.

**AT:** The Spinney, The Green, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BD

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

As the Planning Applications **063455** and **063461** were not currently open for comment at the time of the meeting, it was agreed that they would be considered at the October meeting.

- (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) 063118** Delegated Officer Approved 08/07/2021

**PROPOSAL:** Proposed home office over existing garage as an amendment from store previously approved.

**AT:** 32 Wats Dyke Way, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6DX

(No objections raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

**(ii) 063167** Delegated Officer Approved 18/08/2021

**PROPOSAL:** Single storey rear extension with extension of existing balcony over.

**AT:** Celebration House, Northop Country Park, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6WD

(No objections were raised by Northop Community Council to this application).

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

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

- (i) **Clerks Salary** – September 2021 Mrs S C Lovell at **£614.64 (Net)**; **Cheque Number 002326**
- (ii) **HMRC** – Income Tax in respect of Clerk's salary paid September 2021 at **£46.40**; **Cheque Number 002327**
- (iii) **Clwyd Pension Fund** Employers & Employee Pension contribution for Clerk September 2021 at **£182.79**; **Cheque Number 002328**
- (iv) **Jim's Mowing** – Grass Cutting and all waste removed at the Band Room/Car Park site in Northop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at **£120.00 (each visit £60.00)**; **Cheque Number 002329**
- (v) **Flintshire County Council** Street Lighting Monthly Inspections for April, May & June 2021 at £218.76; **Cheque Number 002330**
- (vi) **Mrs Frances Cooper** – Donation for the maintenance of the planters in Sychdyn for 2021/22 at £120.00; **Cheque Number 002331**
- (vii) **Susan C Lovell** - Zoom Pro Payment for month of September 2021 at £14.39 **Cheque Number 002332**

Cheque number 002331 for £120.00 paid to Mrs Frances Cooper (Donation for the maintenance of the planters in Sychdyn for 2021/22) is being reissued, as Mrs Cooper has lost the original cheque (002312 ) issued in June.

Councillor Mackey proposed the accounts be approved. And this was seconded by Councillor Bateman. All Members were in agreement.

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

There were no matters raised by members this month.

## **8. TRAFFIC MATTERS**

Councillor Brebner reported that the VAS signs for Northop and Sychdyn had yet to be erected despite having received an email informing her it would be erected early August. Councillor Bateman reported that the signs had arrived, each unfortunately bearing the incorrect miles per hour. They have been returned to the manufacturer, who has apologised. Councillor Brebner requested it be formally recorded in the minutes, that it has been four years since she started the campaign to have the VAS sign installed and that since then the number of vehicles using the road has increased annually and in the meantime the sign is still awaited.

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

Councillor Brebner reported that there was no update since the July meeting other than to say that the Red Route is still under review. Councillor Bateman confirmed that the A55 Crawler Lane was also still under review.

## **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. Despite chasing up the lowest quote contractor on several occasions, she has still had no response. Ms. James will now contact the next lowest quote contractor, EE Civils Ltd, to request a new price and programme, in order that we can progress the matter with some urgency.
- (b) Rob Monshin AGM Tree Surgery has been advised that the Council have agrees that the overhanging silver birch tree should be crowned in December/January however, the planning application for the work is on hold until the ownership of the land can be determined.

The Clerk had written to Councillor Sharps to enquire as to whether he was aware of any information relating to the ownership of the land and trees but had received no response to date. Councillor Bateman to liaise with Councillor Sharps regarding the matter. Councillor Scott informed the meeting that she had been unable to find the deeds with the paperwork held at the Memorial Hall. The Chair had checked the Land Registry website and

it had shown that the car park was unregistered and the band hall had a leasehold on it. It was agreed that Councillor Scott would contact the band and ask if they have any information regarding the ownership of the land and report back at the next meeting.

## **11. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022**

The Chair had suggested at the July meeting that the idea of street parties be discussed further at the next meeting, as well as considering ways in which to enlist volunteer support. The suggestion of a street party in Sychdyn and one in Northop has been popular. Ideas for where to hold the street party in Sychdyn were discussed. Councillor Bateman suggested holding it on the field next to Sychdyn Village Hall, so that in the event of poor weather, the possibility of using the hall could be considered. Councillor Lawton-Hughes agreed to place it on the agenda for discussion at the Sychdyn Village Hall Committee meeting and feedback. Councillor Scott informed members that a few people had offered their support to organise a street party in Northop. Members to continue to look into the matter in both villages and see if there are any other local residents/organisations such as the Women's Institute who may be interested in assisting.

## **12. REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

- (a) Members considered the request from funding from Holywell Leisure Centre and felt that it is likely that limited residents of Sychdyn and Northop would use the facility and agreed that on this occasion they would be unable to assist with funding. The request was received.
- (b) Council discussed the request for financial assistance from Celyn Angling Club and agreed that there were many alternative funding options that the club could investigate, as there is a great deal of financial assistance for angling groups.

It was also noted that the Council had several large projects with significant costs involved that had to be undertaken this financial year and therefore would be unable to assist financially.

## **13. REVIEW OF FUTURE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- (a) The Clerk had shared the Welsh Government briefing for Town and Community Councils regarding multi-location meetings and meeting notices (August 2021).
- (b) Members discussed their views on the matter. Councillor Mackey proposed that the Community Council continue to hold remote meetings through to March 2022 and then consider whether it would be appropriate to hold the April AGM face to face. This was seconded by Councillor Millar. A vote was taken with all members in favour.

## **14. BRITISH LEGION POPPIES**

Various options for commemorating Remembrance Day across Northop and Sychdyn villages had been shared with Members prior to the meeting. Council agreed to purchase

24 large poppies to be erected on lampposts, on the main Northop-Sychdyn road (not Estate roads) with 12 for Sychdyn and 12 for Northop at a cost of £3.50 each. It was agreed that the Clerk would order the poppies. Councillor Bateman advised that the Council would have to comply with Health and Safety regulations when erecting the poppies.

## **15. SANDHOLE FIELD**

- (a) The Clerk confirmed that she had received the initial payment for the three month agreement period from the tenant of the Sandhole. The tenant had arranged for the grass to be cut and noticed that the trunk of the tree that had been recently cut down had been placed on the edge of the ditch and raised concern that with poor weather, it may fall into the ditch and cause further drainage issues. The Clerk had liaised with the contractor John Griffiths who had agreed to remove it.

The Clerk stated that she was still awaiting a third quote for desilting the ditch from a local contact of the tenant. The quotes will be shared with members at the next meeting to enable to matter to be progressed.

- (b) Following advice from the solicitor, Councillor Brebner stated that it was important for Council to retain control of the license agreement(s) and advised that Council formally write to the tenant and confirm that no sheep are currently grazing on the land.
- (c) The Deeds for the land cannot be found and it is not registered with the Land Registry and Council are unsure whether the land was gifted to the Community Councilor to Delyn originally. Following discussion, it was agreed that whilst Council look into the possible sale of the land and investigate the title, the Community Council would prepare a further six month license. The Clerk will liaise with the solicitor regarding this prior to drafting the new agreement.

## **16. CONSULTATIONS**

- (a) The Clerk confirmed that the deadline for the Flintshire County Council Licensing Policy Consultation was the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Details of the consultation had been shared with members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that members would respond as individual Councillors, should they have any strong views on the matter.
- (b) The Clerk confirmed that the deadline for the Active Travel Network Draft Map Statutory Consultation is the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021. Members discussed the advantage of a possible linkage of the walking and cycle path from Northop Hall through to Coleg Cambria which could also involve a request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. Councillor Mackey was in agreement but felt that it should be part of a wider route, joining Connahs Quay and Ewloe to Coleg Cambria. The possibility of requesting a review of the cycle path signage, from St Peters Park through to Sychdyn and the infrastructure was discussed. It was agreed that members would respond to the consultation individually.
- (c) The Clerk briefed members on the Draft Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021 and the draft Local Elections (Communities) (Wales) Rules 2021 noting that the rules state that the constituency of Delyn will be expanded to include

Prestatyn and Rhuddlan. The information had been shared with members prior to the meeting.

**18. FOR INFORMATION**

The Clerk will share a monthly schedule of correspondence with members, highlighting correspondence received and members can request a copy of any relevant information.

**The meeting closed at 20.48pm.**

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 13<sup>TH</sup> September 2021</b>
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There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>