

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Linda Deane (Chairman), Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashley, Alison Brebner, Rachel Hayward, Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Chris Ruddle, Linda Scott and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Councillors Marion Bateman, John Carlin, Jo Millar and Alan Watkin.

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declaration of Interest were made.

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

Members received apologies from PCSO Prytherch and an e-mailed update for the Community area:

##### Northop

- 18/11/2018 – Reports of a car racing on St. Peters Park. Two police officers attended as soon as the report was made but findings were negative.
- 24/11/2018 – Theft from vehicle in Northop. This incident is ongoing.
- 07/12/2018 – Report of a stolen quad bike. Investigations are still ongoing.

##### Sychdyn

- 13/11/2018 – Attempted burglary in Sychdyn but failed attempt and no access was gained/nothing was taken.
- 17/11/2018 – Reports of parking issues on the Cae Berwyn Cul-de-Sac.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 were confirmed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Item 2 (b) Amendments to the wording for clarification: “Members agreed that if a meeting could not be arranged *within a month* or if no progress was subsequently made to resolve these issues, a formal complaint would be submitted to the Chief Executive of FCC *and the Council would resort to publicity via The Press.*”

Item 4: Reference to the black domestic waste bin to be deleted.

#### **Matters arising**

Item 5 (c): The Clerk to again contact Flintshire County Council’s (FCC) Planning Service for information on progress made regarding the encroachment by Stewart Milne Homes at the Ffordd Eldon development site.

Item 6: Cllr. Ruddle and the Chairman reported that they had personally received thanks for the Council’s donations, from members of the Sychdyn and the Northop Bowls Clubs.

Item 10: The item to be returned to the January meeting with information regarding the Mold and Hawarden Council schemes.

Item 12: Following clarification of the location of the requested salt bin at Northop Car Park, the Clerk would instruct FCC accordingly.

#### 4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

A number of issues were raised:

Northop

- The gully at Northop Car Park is slow to drain away and following the recent heavy rains, water remained standing for some time. The puddle down the full length of the centre of the car park was about two metres wide at it's worst. The Clerk to request that the gully be cleaned out.
- Two large potholes have appeared in St. Peter's Park. The pothole outside no. 60 is particularly long and deep with the other, outside no. 30 a little smaller. Filling in the potholes will reduce the risk of pedestrians tripping and damage to vehicles.
- The surface of the area of the council garages off Ffordd Owen was also reported as being in a poor state. The Clerk to seek advice on possible action by FCC.

Sychdyn

- There is a light out by the Coronation Playing Field gate - opposite Ysgol Sychdyn.
- The dog waste bin outside Ysgol Sychdyn requires emptying more often or a larger bin put in place. Dog owners are leaving waste bags on top of the full bin or leaving the bags on the ground.

The above to be reported to FCC for resolution.

#### 5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) The following planning application was considered and observations agreed to be submitted to Flintshire County Council's (FCC) Head of Planning:

- (i) **KCS/059190** – PROPOSAL: Proposed erection of a rear double storey extension and separate rear single storey extension to the existing house at Isfryn, London Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EL.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

- (ii) **DJM/059209** – PROPOSAL: Proposed entrance porch at Greenacres, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, Mold, CH7 6RQ.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

(b) Council received and noted information from Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning on planning applications on which the Council has previously submitted observations.

- (i) **058211** – PROPOSAL: Construction of 6no. detached dwellings on land at Cortonwood, Blackbrood Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6LT. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 25/10/2018.

- (ii) **058740 – PROPOSAL:** Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of land as an extension to land as a domestic garden at 7 Bryn Rhyd, Northop, CH7 6EH. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 26/10/2018.
- (iii) **058878 – PROPOSAL:** Rear single storey and part side extension to 54 New Brighton Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EF. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 24/10/2018.
- (iv) **058901 – PROPOSAL:** Part demolition and extension to the existing dwelling with erection of new stone building at Gatekeepers Cottage, Sychdyn, CH7 6AD. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 25/10/2018.
- (v) **059098 – PROPOSAL:** Application for a non-material amendment following grant of planning permission 038004 at 14 Bryn Hyfryd, Sychdyn, CH7 6FB. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 24/10/2018.
- (vi) **059012 – PROPOSAL:** Demolition of conservatory – proposed single storey rear extension at 43 Ffordd Las, Sychdyn, CH7 6DU. Approved. Delegated Officer decision 9/11/2018.

(c) No further information had been received from FFC's Planning Service regarding the encroachment of the show house garden onto Wats Dyke at the Ffordd Eldon development site at Sychdyn. The encroachment by the builders, Stewart Milne Homes, is contrary to the planning permission granted. The Clerk to seek clarification from FCC and to include the matter in the January agenda.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

- (a) Payment of the following accounts were approved:
- (i) Gwen Smith – £506.55 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for December 2018 plus ¼ of Annual Allowance (1.9.18 – 30.11.18) £405.22 (net)
  - Quarterly internet rental (1.9.18 – 30.11.18) £48.00
  - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.9.18 – 30.11.18) £25.00
  - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.9.18 – 30.11.18) £28.33
- (Cheque No. 2097) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £94.80 in respect of Clerk's salary December 2018  
(Cheque No. 2098) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Cllr. Mrs. Linda Deane – Donations from Chairman's Allowance - £50.00.  
(Cheque No. 2099) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iv) Wales Audit Office – Audit of Accounts 2017/18 - £376.80.  
(Cheque No. 2100) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (v) Flintshire County Council totalling £226.35
- Electricity consumption August 2018, £156.35
  - Inspection and maintenance August 2018, £70.00
- (Cheque No. 2101) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (vi) One Voice Wales – Member Training on 29/11/18 - £30.00  
(Cheque No. 2102) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

(b) Having received copies of current audited accounts the following grant payment were made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

(i) St. Peter's Churchyard, Northop (£1,000) (Cheque No. 2103) – As agreed on 9/10/2018

(c) Cllr. Ashley received the updated single mandate form to be presented to the bank to ensure that he is included as a signatory. The Clerk to ensure that Cllr. Millar also receives the new form at the next Council meeting.

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

(a) **Pedestrian safety on New Brighton Road** (Cllr. P. Ashley)

Members heard of concerns by residents as to the hazards for pedestrians and drivers along the New Brighton Road between Sychdyn and New Brighton. The nature of the road, the lack of a pavement and the inadequate street lighting are further compounded by the inappropriate 60mph speed. There were calls for a decrease in the speed limit to no more than 40mph. A campaign to raise awareness amongst pedestrians/runners of the need to take measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others was also considered appropriate. Cllrs. Hayward and Lawton-Hughes would raise the matter with Ysgol Sychdyn. Members agreed to approach FCC directly to work towards a package of measures to improved safety for all users of New Brighton Road. The Clerk to write to FCC and to provide County Cllr. Bateman with a copy of the correspondence.

To consider possible action to improve pedestrian safety along New Brighton Road between Sychdyn and New Brighton villages.

(b) **Community Benches** (Cllr. C. Ruddle)

Members heard of a request to site a bench at the junction of Ffordd Las and Maes Gwalia, Sychdyn. The Clerk to contact FCC to determine ownership of the site and to request maintenance of the area.

## **8. SUMMARY OF EXENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019 (AS AT 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018)**

Members received the quarterly report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer noting:

- The budget for Community Donations included £500 c/f from 2017-18 for match funding by FCC for improvements to the Sychdyn Play area and a further £500 similarly agreed in November 2017.
- The £500 cheque to Sychdyn Playgroup had been despatched.
- The External Audit costs were £376.80 (£117.80 over budget).
- An additional £110.00 was built into the Grounds Maintenance heading as a contingency for an extended growing season. This sum was not required due to the very dry summer.
- The budget for Buildings/Repairs/Road Signs/Litter was amended as the remedial work to Sandhole Field would now take place in Spring 2019 and would be noted under a separate budget heading in future years.

- No footpath improvement schemes (Public Rights of Way) had been commissioned during the financial year, however the Clerk would contact FCC to enquire about match funding to maximise any contribution from the Council.
- A significant reduction, on past years totals, could be seen in the cost of Street Lighting Maintenance and Repairs, demonstrating the value of on-going investment in upgrading the Council's stock.
- Invoices for completed street lighting projects were awaited from FCC.
- The Clerk was awaiting FCC's invoice for the Holiday Playscheme.
- There remained scope to pay for training for Members and the Clerk.
- £2,500 remained allocated for Election costs.
- £3,514.00 remained earmarked for improvement works to street lighting during 2019-20.

Members were asked to give consideration to any other community schemes for the coming financial year that would require further funds to deliver. A further report would be presented at the January meeting when the annual precept would be set.

In order to maximise interest on capital, it was agreed that an appropriate sum of money should be transferred from the Council's Current Account into the Business Reserve Account. The Clerk to arrange.

## **9. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr. Scott provided an update on the community project noting that following a recent leafletting campaign, the total donations now exceeded £1,500 and that Northop Silver Band would make a further contribution from their Christmas concert. The proposed location of the defibrillator is either on the external wall of the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall or that of the Northop Post Office. Both buildings lie within the Northop Conservation Area therefore the location of the defibrillator would need to be discussed with FCC's Conservation Officer. The Clerk to make the initial contact with FCC on behalf of Cllr. Scott.

Members noted that the tarmac at the site of the old telephone kiosk was uneven and a likely trip hazard, also that wiring remained at the site. The Clerk to seek assistance from FCC.

## **10. TRAFFIC MATTERS IN NORTHOP**

Cllr. Brebner reorted on a meeting with FCC Streetscene and Highways officers, Cllr. M. Bateman and the local PCSO regarding speeding vehicles between the Coleg Cambria Campus and Northop village. The following points were raised and solutions sought:

- Delays in processing the legal issues surrounding the notice submitted by GoSafe to FCC, to site their speed monitoring van along this stretch of road.
- Maintenance works - FCC advised that there is no budget provision for further road maintenance in 2018/19 but that the scheme would be re-assessed at the start of the new financial year in April 2019. It was requested that Northop C.C. be advised then of the proposed works to be carried out.

- Cllr. Brebner supplied photographs of locations of 40mph repeater signage around Northop that were obscured by trees/damaged/missing and requested remedial action by FCC.
- A request was also made that the pavement along the route in question be looked at and overgrown areas cut back, to allow pedestrians to use it safely.
- A request that the traffic lights at the crossroads be assessed to make them safer for drivers, particularly those crossing from the college side of the B5126 onto the A5119 in the direction of Mold, with a view to a filter arrow being added.
- Discussion concerning the possibility of requesting that Northop C.C. consider funding the purchase of a VAS sign at a cost of £2,000, the alternative being that FCC put in a bid to WAG for funding.

Responses by FCC to the above points are awaited. It was agreed that the matter would be reviewed further at the next Council meeting along with the separate issue Traffic Issues in Northop.

#### **11. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NORTHOP CAR PARK AND ENVIRONS**

Cllr. Mackey reported on a meeting with the Clerk and FCC's Forestry Officer. The Council's Management Plan for the Northop Car Park and Environs was well received by the Forestry Officer who in turn suggested further actions for greening of the village including funding streams for community projects, e.g. North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency funding for biodiversity projects, The Woodland Trust and FCC's fund to support its Urban Tree and Woodland Plan. Advice was also given on the requirement for Planning Consent to fell/lop any tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order or within the Conservation Area. Council agreed that the felling of the large conifer and thinning of other trees at the car park would be the first step in the Plan. Cllr. Mackey and the Clerk to complete the necessary planning application form.

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

The matter to be returned to the January meeting.

#### **13. THE OLD SAND HOLE, SYCHDYN**

The Clerk confirmed that some information regarding the Old Sand Hole at Sychdyn was available at the Flintshire Archive Office but that continuing with such investigations would be very time consuming within the limited number of working hours available to the Clerk. It was therefore agreed that the priority would be confirmation of current ownership and further requests under the Freedom of Information Act to Natural Resources Wales. It was noted that monitoring of Northop Brook by Natural Resources Wales may highlight any pollution in the river from whatever source.

#### **14. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: A494 RIVER DEE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PREFERRED OPTION**

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a response to the consultation undertaken by North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent, on behalf of the Welsh Government, on options to replace the A494 River Dee Bridge. Members asked that the response include reference to:

- the need for a quality solution that would provide a long service life-span
- concerns regarding the convergence of three traffic lanes into two from the Queensferry junction up the Aston Hill
- Assurance that network cycle path provision is included.

The draft to be returned to the January meeting to be finalised before the closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

#### **15. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: REVISED PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2018/2028**

Cllr. Mackey agreed to consider a response on behalf of the Council to the consultation on Flintshire County Council's 2018-28 improvement plan and policies booklet: Council would consider the final response at the January meeting.

The closing date for the consultation is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

#### **16. BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a response to the consultation undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBCW). Members asked that the response should confirm the preferred option of combining Northop and Northop Hall electoral areas to be served by two County Councillors. Northop and Northop Hall electoral areas have historically been linked in such a way and are served within the same Mission Area of the Church of England (Parish). Such arrangements would ensure that both Community Councils could continue to operate as separate bodies serving their local village communities independently.

The draft to be returned to the January meeting to be finalised before the closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.

#### **17. CONSULTATION/SURVEY BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTH WALES: HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT POLICING**

Council considered a response to the survey by the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner. Members felt that "Safer Neighbourhoods" should be the over-arching priority and the themes noted should cascade from that priority. The Clerk to submit the response before the closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

#### **18. FOR INFORMATION**

##### **(a) Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children's Play Areas 2018/19.**

Council has received notification from AURA that the joint application with the Sychdyn Coronation Playing Fields Association for match funding has been approved. The £500 grant from Northop Community Council and £500 from the Coronation Playing Fields Association has attracted a contribution of £1,000 from Flintshire County Council. Details of the scheme will follow in the New Year.

**(b) Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4)(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.** Council has been advised by the Welsh Government that the **Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2019/20** has been increased from £7.86 to £8.12 per elector.

During the financial year 2017/18 the Section 137 expenditure by Northop Community Council was £2.29 per elector.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	