

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 12th November, 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Deane (Chairman), Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashley (Items 1-5), Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Jarred Livesey, Jo Millar, Rob Mackey, Linda Scott, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. PCSO Prytherch was present for items 1 and 2.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Rachel Hayward and Chris Ruddle.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr. Linda Scott – Treasurer of Northop Institute Bowls Club (Agenda Item 16 Request for Financial Assistance by Northop Institute Bowls Club) [Personal and Prejudicial Interest].

2. POLICE MATTERS

(a) Update

Members received an update from the PCSO for the Community area:

- During the period 11-18 October there had been a number of thefts across the Flintshire area.
- 18/10/2018 – An incident of criminal damage within the Community.
- The PCSO advised that reports of disturbances could be reported on the Police 101 number, but that any emergency should be reported on 999.

(b) Speeding Vehicles on the B5126

Cllr. Brebner recapped upon the issue of speeding vehicles on the B5126 between the Coleg Cambria site and Northop village, which, with the support of the previous PCSO was initially raised in May 2017. GoSafe had undertaken numerous speed surveys over the past year but it had taken until October 2018 for GoSafe to acknowledge that the result of the surveys warranted classification as a live site. The outcome of a request for a site order to FCC (to park a GoSafe vehicle in the area) is awaited and Cllr. Bateman undertook to chase progress on this. The lack of response and delay in actioning the Community Council's requests to GoSafe was a further frustration in seeking to resolve the issue of speeding vehicles.

Cllr. Brebner had received complaints from a local resident concerning the response received to a request for assistance from Flintshire County Council to improve the road markings and signage around Northop village. Cllr. Bateman undertook to seek to arrange a meeting between Flintshire County Council officers, Cllr. Brebner, the Chairman, the PCSO and herself, with a view to addressing the issue of worn road marking, insufficient road signage, signage obscured by foliage and of traffic speed surveys around the village. 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.

In conclusion there was a strong desire by Councillors to resolve, on behalf of the residents of the village, the issue of speeding vehicles and poor road signage at Northop. It was resolved that a further letter of complaint should be sent to the Chief Constable regarding the inadequate response to the Community Council's initial complaint of 6/8/2018. Cllr. Brebner and the Clerk to finalise the content.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 12th November, 2018 were confirmed as a true record subject to an amendment:

Page 5 – Item 13 - Amendment to wording for clarification: "Following the recent meeting with the Welsh Government Transport Secretary, Ken Skates, further traffic surveys would be undertaken."

Matters arising

Page 1 – Item 2 – Earlier in the day the Clerk had received the new PCSO's phone number and had forwarded it to Members prior to the meeting.

Page 2 - Item 4

- The frequency of emptying the dog waste bin had been increased to 2-3 times per week.
- The request for additional dog waste bins would be taken forward by Cllr. Bateman as the County Councillor for the Ward.
- The front panel of the lighting column at Capel y Nant remained exposed. The Clerk to chase progress.
- The street light at the end of Church Road, Northop had been repaired.
- Any complaints regarding debris/household waste left on the community streets as a result of the collection service should be reported immediately to Streetscene on 01352-701234 for action by the Clean Up Team.
- No licence is required for scaffolding erected on private land, therefore any lighting issues should be taken up with the property owner, however scaffolding erected on public rights of way do need to be lit. The reported scaffolding had since been removed.

Item 5(c) – Members were advised that CADW were aware of the encroachment onto Wats Dyke.

Page 4 – Item 10 – Members were advised that £1,000 had now been received for the Community Defibrillator project.

Page 7 – In view of the workload involved, Members resolved not to respond to the Welsh Government/WLGA joint working consultation on Unadopted Roads in Wales.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

A number of issues were raised:

- The traffic speed indicator sign on the approach to Sychdyn from Mold is not working.
- The dog waste bin outside Ysgol Sychdyn is broken.

The above to be reported to FCC.

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) **JZB/058373** – PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing house and associated outbuildings and construction of new dwelling and part replacement of existing outbuildings at The Red House, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, CH7 6RQ.

Council resolved overwhelmingly to object to the proposed development on the following grounds:

- the design of the property is wholly out of character and appearance of nearby dwellings and the remainder of the community area
- the redeveloped property exceeds the 30% limit increase to the original footprint of the building.

(ii) **CXK/059088** – PROPOSAL: Erection of a porch and side extension with internal alterations at 18 Pen Y Pentre, Soughton, CH7 6EZ.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

(iii) **SCB/059178** – PROPOSAL: Fell 1no. Deodar Cedar within Northop Conservation Area at Brookfield Garage, High Street, Northop.

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) 058933 – Delegated Officer Approval 05/10/18. Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of United Reform Church, High Street, Northop.

(ii) 058810 - Delegated Officer Approval 20/10/18. Application for the demolition of a rear single storey and proposed two storey side extension at Rossendale, The Green, Northop, CH7 6BD.

(iii) 058211 – Delegated Officer Approval 25/10/18. Proposed construction of 6no. detached dwellings on land at Cortonwood, Sychdyn.

(c) Members were advised that Cllr. Bateman was awaiting further information from FCC's Planning Service regarding the encroachment of the show house garden onto Wats Dyke. The encroachment by the builders, Stewart Milne Homes, is contrary to the planning permission granted.

6. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk’s salary for November 2018 = £378.81, including back-payment of the salary increase w.e.f. 1 April, 2018. (Cheque No. 2090) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £94.80 in respect of Clerk’s salary November 2018 (Cheque No. 2091) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim’s Mowing Grass Cutting on 10th and 24th October, £110.00 (Cheque No. 2092) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

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

- (i) Northop Silver Band (£500) (Cheque No. 2093) – Agreed 9/10/2018
- (ii) Sychdyn Playgroup (£500) (Cheque No. 2094) – Agreed 12/2/2018
- (iii) Sychdyn Memorial Hall (£1,500) (Cheque No. 2095) – Agreed 9/10/2018
- (iv) Northop Institute Bowling Club (£200) (Cheque No. 2096) – Agreed 12/11/2018 – See item 16 on the agenda.

(c) The Clerk reported that Cllrs. Hayward, Livesey and Scott’s names had now been successfully added to the Council’s bank mandate. Unfortunately, whilst undertaking deletion of the names of former members, Nat West Bank had also deleted Cllr. Marion Bateman from the mandate. The Clerk had lodged a complaint with the bank on this issue and was awaiting a response. Cllr. Brebner’s single mandate forms were now with the bank. Cllrs. Bateman and Millar were given the new style mandate forms to complete and present to the bank. The Clerk to ensure that at the next Council meeting, Cllr. Ashley receives the updated single mandate form to present to the bank.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) **County Forum Update** (Cllrs. C. Ruddle / P. Lawton-Hughes)

Members received an update from Cllr. Lawton-Hughes on the County Forum meeting held on 23rd October, which included:

- A presentation by a representative of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales on the **Electoral Review of County Council wards** to reduce the number of County Councillors from 70 to 63. The timescale for the Review would begin with consultation (closing 23/1/2019), production of Draft Proposals and consultation in the Autumn 2019. Final Proposals are expected in Summer 2020 followed by Welsh Government consideration and any changes to wards coming into force May 2022. It was likely that the Northop ward boundary could change to reduce the electorate:councillor ratio closer to the County average of 1,895. (A response to the consultation would be considered at Northop C.C.’s December meeting.)
- A presentation by **North Wales Fire & Rescue Service**, giving an overview of the NWFRA Strategy and budget position.

- Updates from Flintshire County Council on:
 - Local Government Reform – the Independent Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales – their Findings and Recommendations
 - National and Local Government Budget Position.
 - General Updates
- The temporary disapplication of Welsh Government’s Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN 1) relating to maintenance of the supply of land for housebuilding.

(b) Sychdyn Festive Lights (Cllr. J. Millar)

Cllr. Millar reported that there were plans in hand to install solar powered festive lights in Sychdyn.

8. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT

At the previous Council meeting it was reported that further traffic surveys would be undertaken and Cllr. Bateman would enquire whether the recent siting of cameras and speed recording on the Sychdyn to Flint road were part of this extended survey. It was noted that the recent survey had been undertaken during the school autumn holidays when traffic flows differ greatly from the highs of the summer months.

Members were advised that a further meeting would take place in the coming days at Oakenholt Farm and that Cllr. Bateman would be attending.

9. NORTHOP CAR PARK AND ENVIRONS PROJECT

Members supported the draft proposals outlining a community project to upgrade the area within the boundary of the village car park and to address maintenance issues. Cllr. Mackey and the Clerk to meet with Flintshire County Council’s Forestry Officer to seek his opinion and advice on the proposed project. The matter to be returned to the December meeting.

10. CITIZENS’ AWARD 2018-19

It was agreed that the junior award should be renamed and the guidance made clearer to appeal more to young people. “Young Volunteer” was suggested as an alternative name and Members were asked to consider this, or an alternative name/description and to provide the Clerk with draft wording to revise the guidance. The Clerk to research the Mold and Hawarden Council schemes.

It was further agreed:

- To begin publicising the Award in early January 2019 on the Council’s website, via posters (including the bus stops) and again amongst community groups and local schools and to seek to include a short article in the Northop 2000 newsletter and the local press asking for nominations.
- The closing date would be Friday 8th March, 2019.
- The awards would be made at the Council meeting on Monday 8th April, 2019.

11. NORTH WALES PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD EVENT: WELL-BEING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

Cllr Millar volunteered to attend the North Wales Public Services Boards (PSB's) workshop for Town and Community Councils (19th November 2019) to learn more about the local Public Services Board, to consider the Well-being Plans of the four Public Services Boards in North Wales, and to understand how Town and Community Councils and Public Services Boards can work together to improve well-being in their local area.

12. WINTER MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

It was agreed that a request would be submitted to Flintshire County Council for an additional Salt Bin at Northop Car Park (to be sited away from the perimeter wall – but adjacent the pedestrian walkway, next to the existing waste bin). Two kits for community involvement would also be requested, one to be delivered to Cllr. Carlin's address and the other to Sychdyn Village Hall.

13. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: GAMBLING POLICY

Members agreed support for FCC's proposed Gambling Policy and had no further comments to make.

14. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

Following receipt of the External Auditor's final report, Members:

(a) approved and accepted the external auditor's report on the Annual Return 2017/18

(b) noted the requirement for the Notice of Conclusion of Audit to be displayed for a period of 14 days within the community at the very earliest opportunity.

15. FOR INFORMATION

The Council has received an e-mail of thanks from Sychdyn Bowling Club for the grant of £250 towards the new bowling club pavilion. (e-mail 29/10/18).

16. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members approved a request from Northop Institute Bowls Club for financial assistance of £200 towards the repair of the roof of the Pavilion.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 12th NOVEMBER 2018
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Linda Scott	Agenda Item 16 – Request for financial assistance by Northop Institute Bowling Club.	16