

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 13th January, 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Chairman), Linda Scott (Vice-Chairman), Linda Deane, Rob Mackey, Paul Ashley, Alison Brebner, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin, John Carlin, Jo Millar and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Jarred Livesey, Rachel Hayward and Marion Bateman.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest from Members were received.

2. POLICE MATTERS

There were no updates by the PCSO.

Members raised the following matters:-

- Weight limit on the New Brighton Road between New Brighton and Sychdyn is regularly being broken by vehicles from AHA Plant Hire and Thorncliffe Building Supplies.
- Speed limit on New Brighton Road is also being broken regularly every mid-week night at 5.15pm/5.25pm by Pats Coaches of Wrexham doing 40mph in a 3mph area.

The Clerk to contact Inspector Steven Owens who is the inspector of South Flintshire to confirm who the correct Police contact for reporting any issues is and to ascertain whether a monthly report on reported Police matters within the Community area could be made available.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 9th December 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

Matters arising

None

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

Members reported:-

- Footpath along the road between Northop and Sychdyn. The footpath surface is broken and bushes have over grown onto the path making it difficult to walk along. It has been two years since this was reported, the footpath remains in a poor state.
- On the road from Northop to Sychdyn there is a massive pool of water by the Vets practice, this is hazardous to both drivers and pedestrians. The gullies along this stretch of road need to be cleared of debris.

The Clerk to report these matters to FCC.

- Dog fouling on Church Road between Lisley House and the Old Police Station, Northop, this is an ongoing problem. Members discussed if there are there any initiatives or preventative measures so a positive action can be taken to help prevent this continually happening.

The Clerk to report this to FCC and ask if Street scene can support the Council in solving the continued problem with dog fouling. The Clerk will enquire if the Dog Fouling Wardens have any initiatives to help the Council move forward with combatting this problem.

- Cllr Paul Ashley queried the wattage being used in replacement street lights in the area.

The Clerk to contact FCC to ascertain what is the wattage being used in replacement streetlights.

- Cllr Lawton-Hughes gave a verbal report on behalf of Cllr Marion Bateman on how a black wheelie bin which had been fly tipped at the top of The Green, Northop had contained a dead emaciated dog. FCC have removed the bin and arranged for a vet to examine the dog. A microchip was discovered but was not registered. The RSPCA are appealing for information.

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) **060744** – PROPOSAL: Extension to existing dwelling with construction of new garage at 29 Ffordd Las, Sychdyn, CH7 6DU
The Council had no objection to the proposed development.
- (ii) **060756** – PROPOSAL: Small ground floor rear single storey extension to existing dwelling at Rusan, The Green, Northop, CH7 6BD
The Council had no objection to the proposed development.
- (iii) **060766** – PROPOSAL: Construction of Two New Dwellings at The Spinney, The Green, Northop, Mold, CH7 6BD
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) **060577** – PROPOSAL: Erection of new extensions to rear and side of existing property at Greenbank Cottage, Greenbank Lane, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6ES.
Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 22/11/19.
(No objection by Northop C.C.)
- (ii) **060506** – PROPOSAL: Outline application for the erection of 1 no. dwelling at 17 Manor Park, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6EQ.
Approved. Delegated Officer decision – 05/12/19 (No objection by Northop C.C.)

6. ACCOUNTS

- a) Payment of the following accounts were approved:
- (i) Clerk's salary for January 2020 = £441.01 (net)
(cheque no. 2189) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (ii) HMRC – Income Tax £110.40 Clerk's salary January 2020
(cheque no. 2188) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (iii) Clwyd Pension Fund Employers & Employees' Pension Contribution for Clerk
£148.21 (cheque no. 2190) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (iv) P.G.Parsons, Delfryn Designs, Website updating service 28.11.19 to 27.11.20,
£267.00 (cheque no. 2192) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (v) Flintshire County Council Street Lighting Energy October & November 2019,
£312.70 (cheque no. 2191) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) Bus Service (Cllr. J. Carlin)

Cllr Carlin reported that the Transport Office in Mold is closed and the bus timetables at the bus station stands are out of date, as are the bus timetables along the bus route to Northop. Members discussed how there is no decent public bus service, the bus service is limited and without a correct and up to date bus timetable people cannot avail themselves of the service. The community needs a reliable bus service, information needs to be accurate and readily available.

The Clerk to report the above concerns to FCC and seek information as to when the Bus timetables will be replaced with accurate and up to date time tables. The Clerk to also notify Hannah Blythin of Members concerns as to the reliability of the Bus Service in the community area.

(b) The Ford in Northop (Cllr. J. Livesey)

Cllr J. Livesey was not in attendance to report the concerns of residents as to the flooding of the Ford; however, the Clerk was able to report that FCC have been out to the stream and have cleared the debris. Cllr Carlin also reported that FCC will write to the person responsible for the maintenance of the stream, to prevent further issues with the stream blocking and potentially causing flooding.

8. TRAFFIC MATTERS

The Clerk reported to Council a verbal update received from FCC Officer Lee Shone in regards to the results of the Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) assessments. Northop will not be put forward for VAS implementation in the current financial year 2019/2020 but is in a good position for 2020/2021 onwards.

The Clerk to contact FCC Officer Lee Shone and ask for an update to be provided in April of the new financial year.

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

Cllr L. Scott reported that at the recent meeting at the Northop Cricket Club on Monday 6th January a representative from the Wildlife Trust shared his experience of the campaign against the M4, which has since been shelved. He gave good advice on how to organise and take the campaign forward.

10. NORTHOP CAR PARK – TREE MANAGEMENT

The Clerk reported that Cllr Bateman has met with FCC Tree Officer Stuart Body and approval has been given for the removal of the large fir tree (planning consents will be submitted) and for the cutting back of shrubs and branches around the car park. Council considered the quotes and agreed and authorised AGM Services to carry out the work to remove the large fir tree in the car park and to authorise Jims Mowing to cut back the shrubs. Council considered and noted a letter received from a resident in regards to the removal of the tree.

The Clerk will respond to the resident with the reasons and grounds that Council have made the decision to remove the tree.

11. CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL WALES – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members agreed to renew the Council's membership of CPRW at a cost of £20.00 for the year.

12. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (ESTIMATED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31st MARCH 2020 AND 31st MARCH 2021

Council considered the report by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the Estimates for the financial years ending 31st March 2020 and 31st March 2021 with an Appendix containing particular items prepared in consultation with the Chairman, in order to agree the precept for the financial year 2020-21.

As well as suggested levels of expenditure for the next financial year, details were included in relation to probable/actual income and expenditure for 2019/20. The report indicated the projected increase in the precept if the proposals, as submitted, were approved. It was noted that projects such as road safety initiatives, the Northop Car Park and Environs project, and the continued upgrading of the street lighting portfolio would have an impact on the Council's reserves. Council also authorised an increase in the Clerks home allowance to bring it in line with established rates; to be paid monthly through payroll.

Having given due consideration to the matter, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the precept for Band D equivalent properties be raised by 10% to £24.20, an increase of £2.20 per household for the financial year 2020-2021, this would raise the required £38,365.80 to meet the agreed Budget and would ensure that a reserve of 50% minimum was maintained.

13. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Members agreed and authorised the appointment of JDH Business Services as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2019-20 Annual Audit.

The Clerk will write to JDH Business Services Ltd advising them of the Council's decision to continue to use their services.

14. OWL CYMRU SERVICE SUPPORT FLINTSHIRE

The Council considered a letter from OWL Cymru who were seeking financial support. OWL provided background to their funding and their current situation, they have stated without support OWL Cymru will not be able to continue to provide a service without implementing charges to the community. It was noted that this will be on the agenda at the County Forum when more information may be available.

The Council agreed to mark the letter as received and noted.

15. FOR INFORMATION**

Council noted the letter of thanks from Citizens Advice Flintshire for the grant of £100.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 13th January, 2020
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	None.	

Chairman's Signature..... **Date**.....