

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 13th November, 2017.

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Ruddle (Chairman), Linda Deane (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashley, Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Rachel Hayward, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Linda Scott, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. PCSO Stephanie Jones was present for items 1-2. Four members of the public attended for items 1-5 and item 11.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Jo Millar and Geoff Pierce.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest was made:

- Cllr. Alan Watkin – Neighbour of applicant (Agenda Item 5 (b) (ii) – Consideration of planning application)
- Cllr. Rachel Hayward – Member of the Carnival Committee (Agenda Item 15 – Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children’s Play Areas 2017/18.)

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stephanie Jones attended the meeting and provided Members with an update on Police matters in the community since the last Council meeting:

- 16/10/17 – Theft from a vehicle on Northop Road, Northop. Items recovered.
- Theft on Hall Lane, Sychdyn – investigations ongoing.
- 27/11/17 – Incidence of suspicious behaviour in the early hours at Bryn Teg, Sychdyn. A reminder to ensure that vehicles are secured and locked.
- Speed Survey was undertaken recently during the late afternoon at The Green, Northop following reports of vehicles being driven at high speed in the area. No incidents to report.
- PCSO Jones advised that GoSafe will site a camera van along the B5126 between Northop village and the college campus. Further information awaited.

PCSO Jones would investigate the issue raised by members, of dangerous parking at Llys y Wern, Sychdyn.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 9th October 2017 were confirmed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Page 1 – The inclusion of the Declarations of Interest made by Cllr. Alison Brebner, in respect of Agenda Item 7(a) and by Cllr. Jo Millar, in respect of Agenda Item 11. Both Declarations of Interest had been included in the summary table on page 6.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

Two issues were raised:

(a) The dog waste bin at Pen y Pentre/Vownog Lane, Sychdyn had been removed. The Clerk to clarify with Flintshire County Council (FCC).

(b) Members reported excessive build up of fallen leaves on pavements in the following areas:

NORTHOP

- From Brook Street and along the B5126 to the bus stop approaching the junction with the A5119.
- On Church Road
- Outside the college site the build up of leaves forces pedestrians to walk on the main road.

SYCHDYN

- Along Vownog to Llys y Wern, Sychdyn.

The Clerk to report to FCC highlighting the potential slip hazard and gully blockages.

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/057570** – PROPOSAL: Widening of existing door opening between reception rooms at First Floor level at Soughton Hall Hotel, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6AB.

The Council had no comment to make on the proposed development.

(ii) **KCS/057615** – PROPOSAL: Erection of extension to dwelling at 9 Tan Y Coed, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6TU.

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) **057435** – Delegated Officer Approval 16/10/17. Application for the construction of a two-storey brick fronted extension with rendered side and rear elevations, and double pitched roofs to the side of the property at Pontenion Cottage, Connah's Quay Road, Northop, CH7 6BT.

(c) Ffordd Eldon development site, Sychdyn

In her capacity as local member, Cllr. Marion Bateman advised that the footpath across the site would be the subject of a further closure from 24/11/2017, up to a maximum of 6 months. Following the developer's actions in accessing the site before the pre-development work was completed, the site had now been secured. Further work needs to be undertaken on the access, but the discharge of conditions must be completed before the site can be accessed to begin building works.

Those members of the public present were invited to speak briefly on this matter and they raised concerns regarding:

- the developer's actions in beginning work on site before the pre-development work had been completed
- a lengthy closure of the local and regionally important PRoW
- partial removal of the site surface before the ecology survey could be undertaken.
- the reported destruction of a badger set
- the proximity of the site stripping/digging to the historical monument of Wat's Dyke.
- the two remaining planning conditions which have not been agreed i.e., Land Contamination and the Travel Plan.

The residents sought the support of the Community Council in seeking to resolve these issues.

It was agreed that the Council should write urgently, in strong terms to FCC's Head of Planning Services expressing the community's concern at the attempted development and seeking total assurance that his officers would be vigilant and that all planning conditions are fully met. It was further proposed that FCC provide the Community Council and local member with regular progress reports of the measures taken by the Planning Officers.

6. ACCOUNTS

(a) The payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for November 2017 = £326.65 (net)
(Cheque No. 2021) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £81.60
in respect of Clerk's salary November 2017
(Cheque No. 2022) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 2nd and 23rd October.
Totalling £110.00
(Cheque No. 2023) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (iv) Two composite invoices from Flintshire County Council, £696.18
 - Electricity consumption August and Sept. 2017, £372.08
 - Inspection and maintenance August and Sept. 2017, £324.10(Cheque No. 2024) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (v) Northop 2000 – Grant to complete a memorial to Rosemary Jones,
£300.00
(Cheque No. 2025) (Government Act 1972 – Section 137)

(b) Having received the current audited annual accounts, the grant payment to the following organisation was completed, as approved at the Council meeting of 9/10/17, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (i) Flintshire Citizen's Advice Bureau (£100) (Cheque No. 2026)

(c) The Clerk to arrange for further signatories to be able to sign the Council's cheques. The Clerk would also take forward the issue of electronic payments.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

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

Cllr. Lawton-Hughes provided an update on the recent County Forum meeting. The issues noted were:

- Public Spaces Protection Order / Dog Control Order
- Community Asset Transfers
- Community Review Guidance and Boundary Commission Consultation on Community Reviews
- Local Government Reform
- Council Plan and the Well-being Strategy for Flintshire
- National and Local Budget Positions
- Review of the County Forum and Charter
- Developments at Theatre Clwyd.

Council resolved to write to FCC supporting future investment and development of Theatr Clwyd and to further propose an improvement in the signage to the theatre.

(b) Northop Telephone Kiosk (Cllr. L. Scott)

Cllr Scott advised of possible schemes to facilitate locating a community defibrillator in the de-commissioned telephone kiosk outside the Red Lion Inn in Northop. Cllr. Scott would investigate further and report back to the Council meeting in December.

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

Council agreed to the request to facilitate the powering of the Sychdyn Festive Lights.

(d) Planning Aid Wales Event – 17th October 2017 (Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes)

Cllr. Lawton-Hughes reported that the training had proven to be very useful and interesting and presenting guidance on a range of planning scenarios. The planning handbook provided at the event would be circulated amongst Members.

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

There was no further information to be considered at the meeting. The Clerk to seek clarification on the timing of the proposed meeting with the local Assembly Member, Hannah Blythyn.

9. CITIZENS' AWARD 2017-18

Council agreed the proposed publicity and timing of the Citizens' Award for 2017/18, as follows:

- Friday 2nd March 2018 – closing date for nominations.
- Monday 12th March 2018 – consideration of nominations by a sub-group of the Council.
- Monday 9th April 2018 – presentation of the Award at the Council meeting.

10. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY WELSH BORDER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (WBCT)

Council agreed in principle a request for financial support by WBCT to reflect the usage of their services by local residents. The sum to be granted would be agreed at the February meeting of the Council. It was noted that WBCT offered a well-used service.

11. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2015-2030 PRE-DEPOSIT PROPOSALS PUBLIC CONSULTATION (PREFERRED STRATEGY)

Council agreed to consider a final response to FCC at the December meeting (11/12/2017) based on the recommendations of the two Task & Finish Groups (one for each Ward) that would meet in the meantime.

The Clerk to seek to publicise the consultation as widely as possible via the Council website and local groups.

12. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW): CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Members received the Clerk's report on the implications of the proposed changes by the IRPW to mandate the payment of a contribution to costs and expenses, and reimbursement of the costs of care, for all members of Community and Town Councils as set out in the proposed Determinations 44 and 50. Members unanimously agreed a response to the IRPW on the following points:

- Objecting to the change to mandate such payments to members.
- Proposing a mechanism whereby, a member who has incurred such actual costs could apply, in confidence, to the Chairman and Clerk, for reimbursement.

The Clerk to respond accordingly to the IRPW.

13. BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES CONSULTATION: DRAFT COMMUNITY REVIEW GUIDANCE

Council duly noted the new and updated Community Review Guidance document has been produced to assist and help to ensure consistency in the conduct of Community Reviews by principal councils. It has been produced to explain the statutory processes that should be followed, reflects best practice developed by councils over time and, the considerations a council may wish to consider in the course of conducting a review.

14. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

In her capacity as local County Councillor, Cllr. Bateman advised that she had been in discussions with FCC's Road Safety Officer and would be attending a FCC workshop on School Transport on 29th November. A further, fuller report on the matter would be made at the Council's December meeting.

15. MATCH FUNDING SCHEME – IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN’S PLAY AREAS 2017/18

(a) Council receive an update by the Clerk regarding costings and the scope of the proposed scheme.

(b) Council approved a grant of £500 to support an application by Sychdyn Coronation Fields Committee for the above Scheme. If successful the grant could be match funded by Flintshire County Council to a maximum of £10,000.

16. FOR INFORMATION

Council received the following information:

(a) The **CPRW** Council Meeting North will be held at Colwyn Bay on 18th November.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 13th NOVEMBER 2017
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Alan Watkin	Agenda Item 5(a)(ii) – Consideration of Planning Applications	5(a)(i)
Cllr. Rachel Hayward	Agenda Item 15 – Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children’s Play Areas 2017/18.)	15