

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northop Community Council held remotely via Zoom Pro on Monday 12th April, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Linda Scott, Linda Deane, Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Alan Watkin, John Carlin, Cara Baker and the Clerk.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of the Duke of Edinburgh.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jo Millar and Councillor Rachel Hayward gave their apologies due to work commitments.

1. WELCOME AND SIGNING DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORM

Councillor Lawton-Hughes welcomed Councillor Cara Baker to Northop Community Council and Councillor Baker signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form at the remote meeting, to be returned to the Clerk for sign and file.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by members.

3. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had shared with Members the information received from Inspector Iwan Jones, South Flintshire Police regarding ways to contact the local Police and informed members that Maisie Prytherch PCSO had advised in an email that they will no longer be providing a monthly Police report and that Community Council's will be able to access any information they require via the various links provided.

Members agreed that this was extremely disappointing and a backward step as regards partnership and communication and that the Community Council should express their strongest disapproval. It was also acknowledged that not everyone has access to these various platforms to view the information. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Inspector Iwan Jones, South Flintshire Police Team and also share the Council's thoughts with Councillor Andy Dunbobbin, as prospective candidate for the new Commissioner's role.

4. MINUTES

Councillor Brebner noted that under Agenda Item 9 Update on the A55/A494/A548 – Deeside Corridor Project Page 5, the Minutes had stated that the Red Route was on hold when they are not officially on hold and at present it is a recommendation. It was agreed that the Clerk would amend the minutes to state 'unofficially on hold'. Councillor Livesey highlighted that the last word of the same paragraph should read updated. The Clerk

agreed to amend the minutes accordingly. Subject to these amendments being made, it was resolved that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Members were in agreement.

Matters Arising

Agenda Item 4 Streetscene Issues Page 3

The Clerk advised that Streetscene had been contacted regarding the out of order traffic light at Northop on two occasions and members confirmed that the light had now been repaired.

Agenda Item 6 Accounts Page 4

The Clerk informed members that an amended cheque had been written to Craig Lockley for his roofing services and the original cheque has been returned and destroyed.

Agenda Item 8 Traffic Matters Page 4

The Clerk had informed Flintshire County Council of Northop Community Council's support of the Welsh Government's plan to introduce 20mph speed limits in all existing 30mph areas in Wales. The response from Sam Tulley, Streetscene Maintenance Manager informed members that the Welsh Government are proposing to make these amendments in the future, likely to be 2023 and that they have selected Buckley and Mynydd Isa as one of the pilot areas in Wales, ahead of the national rollout. He also stated that he would pass on the Community Council's support for the changes to the Strategy Team.

Agenda Item 10 Budget for Financial Year 2021/22 Page 6

Councillor Bateman had liaised with Darrell Jones regarding the updated list of street lighting columns in Sychdyn to be replaced and had discovered that the columns listed by Flintshire County Council to be replaced are not in Northop Community Council's wards but belong to Mold Town Council. Councillor Bateman requested the Clerk check if maintenance had been paid on these columns in recent years. Councillor Bateman agree to continue to pursue this matter with the County Council

5. STREETSCENE ISSUES

Northop

- (a) Councillor Scott had reported fly-tipping of a large number of tyres on the footpath which is part of Wat's Dyke Way to Streetscene, Flintshire County Council online using the 'what three words' app.

Sychdyn

There were no Streetscene issues to report in Sychdyn this month.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) To consider the following planning applications:

- (i) **062558**

- PROPOSAL:** Extensions to existing dwelling – two storey side

AT: Tyddyn Ucha Cottage, Black Brook, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT
(There were no objections raised to this proposal by Northop Community Council).

(ii) **062642**

PROPOSAL: Change of use of grassed amenity land to garden and relocation of existing hedge.

AT: Rosemount, Northop Country Park, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6WD

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

(iii) **062646**

PROPOSAL: Change of use of grassed amenity land to garden and relocation of existing hedge.

AT: St. Georges House, Northop Country Park, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6WD

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

(iii) **062675**

PROPOSAL: Proposed single storey rear extension and proposed rear roof dormer

AT: 12 Fox Field, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6GQ

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

The following application was received after the agenda had been sent to members. The Clerk had sent members a copy of the amendment to the original planning application prior to the meeting and noted that the original application had been seen by members in February and there were no objections raised.

(iv) **062362**

PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extension

AT: Mory, Church Road, Northop, Flintshire CH7 6BS

(There were no further comments made regarding this proposal by Northop Community Council).

(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) **062210 Delegated Officer Decision Approval 02/03/2021**

PROPOSAL: Change of timber to render to match front elevation, addition of roof light, movement of windows

AT: The Tannery, Church Road, Northop Flintshire CH7 6BS

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

(ii) **061566 Delegated Officer Decision Refused 08/03/2021**

PROPOSAL: Proposed conversion of existing agricultural outbuilding to form 1 no. dwelling

AT: Mount Pleasant Cottage, Altami Road, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6RH

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

(iii) **062044 Delegated Officer Decision Approved 08/03/2021**

PROPOSAL: Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission Reference 060577

AT: Green bank Cottage, Greenbank Lane, Soughton, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6ES

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

There was an additional notification of planning outcome received after the agenda had been sent to members.

(iv) **062504 Delegated Officer Decision Approved 19/03/2021**

PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by condition no. 3 (Materials) Attached to planning permission reference 061855

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

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

7. ACCOUNTS

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

- (i) **Clerks Salary – April 2021 Mrs S C Lovell at £614.84 (Net); Cheque Number 002289**
- (ii) **HMRC – Income Tax in respect of Clerk’s salary paid April 2021 at £46.20; Cheque Number 002290**
- (iii) **Clwyd Pension Fund Employers & Employee Pension contribution for Clerk April 2021 at £182.79; Cheque Number 002291**
- (iv) **Flintshire County Council Actuarial Assessment Fee 2019/20 at £750.00; Cheque Number 002292;**
- (v) **Susan C Lovell – Payment made online for SLCC Membership on 23/07/2020 at £44.00; Cheque Number 002293**
- (vi) **Flintshire County Council – Street Light A5119 at £146.05; Cheque Number 002294**
- (vii) **Jim’s Mowing – Grass cutting and all waste removed at the Band Room/ Northop Car Park on the 17th and 31st March 2021 at £120.00 (each visit £60.00); Cheque Number 002295**
- (viii) **Compacc Complete Accountancy Services UK Limited – Annual Payroll Services and monthly charges at £228; Cheque Number 002296**

Councillor Watkin proposed that the payments (i) to (vii) be approved and that the payment to Compacc Complete Accountancy Services UK Limited be considered following discussion of Agenda Item 13. This was seconded by Councillor Scott. All Members were in agreement.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

There were no matters raised by members.

9. TRAFFIC MATTERS

Councillor Bateman had informed members prior to the meeting that the VAS signs had been approved by Flintshire County Council and Councillor Brebner stated that they would be in place by the 30th April 2021. Councillor Bateman and Councillor Brebner to liaise regarding where the most appropriate place to situate the sign in Northop will be.

Councillor Carlin had noticed that certain signage in the Northop area was currently obstructed by trees and greenery and that any work to rectify this would need to be

undertaken urgently before the birds begin nesting. It was agreed that Councillor Bateman would take this matter forward with Flintshire County Council.

10. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT

Councillor Brebner updated members with the following information:

- The group now had posters and banners to be erected for the election and the newsletter ready for distribution. Councillor Scott requested that should anyone who has any prominent positions on their property boundaries on the main roads and are willing to display a poster or banner, to please liaise with her.
- North Wales Wildlife Trust who are involved on a non-political basis but an environmental one, had prepared a budget highlighting the escalating costs of the project which are increasing exponentially This has been sent to the Audit Commission in Cardiff, who will be reviewing the information.
- There is an e-action online which allows people to lobby their candidates in the forthcoming elections.
- A leaflet with an alternative to the Red Route has been emailed to all candidates, Council chief executives, officers and cabinet members.

Councillor Brebner reported that despite the Clerk contacting Hannah Blythyn MS requesting a response to the issues raised by the two constituents and to the Community Council, to date there has been no response. Members felt that the Red Route was an election matter.

Councillor Scott agreed to send the e-letter to the Clerk for it to be circulated.

11. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

- (a) Councillors had already been provided with a report from the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer on the final accounts for the financial year 2020/21 at the March meeting.
- (b) The Clerk had provided members with an amended copy of the Bank Reconciliation as at the 31st December 2020 and a copy of the reconciliation as at year end, 31st March 2021, prior to the meeting. Councillor Scott noted that the date on the last Quarterly bank reconciliation was incorrect. The Clerk to amend accordingly and Resend members an amended copy.
- (c) The Clerk advised members that JDH Business Services had now confirmed that the date for submission of the internal audit would be May 2021 and the final accounts and supporting documentation would need to be signed by the Chair.

12. MANAGEMENT PLAN - NORTHOP CAR PARK & ENVIRONS**

- (a) The Clerk had requested the GSL resubmit their quote with a more definitive breakdown of costs however, Andrew Reid had stated that he felt the breakdown into labour and materials against the structural engineering report provide was sufficient. All contractors had quoted to the specification of work set out in the Structural Engineers Report produced by Barnard Engineering Ltd.

Councillor Watkin proposed that a sub-committee be formed comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair and Councillor Mackey to consider at all the quotes in more detail And report back to members. Councillor Baker also expressed an interest in being part of the sub-committee. The Clerk to liaise with members of the sub-committee regarding a remote meeting date. Councillor Scott requested that the Clerk resend members of the sub-committee copies of the quotes provided by local contractors to date.

13. COMPACC COMPLETE ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES UK LTD**

The Clerk had obtained a comparison quote which showed that the cost for the single system payroll service was approximately the same as Compacc at £280. Councillor Lawton-Hughes had not been able to contact the Treasurer of Sychdyn Village Hall for a comparison quote. It was agreed that a further comparison quote was required before a decision could be made. The payment of the invoice for Compacc payroll services for 2021/22 would be placed on hold until the next meeting and the Clerk would liaise with the Salisbury's Accountancy in St Asaph for information and a quote.

14. CLERK SALARY SCALE REVIEW APRIL 2021

Councillor Lawton-Hughes explained that the Clerk had been informed in her letter of appointment dated the 19th May 2020 that there would be a review of her salary scale in April 2021. Councillor Watkin suggested that the Community Council place the matter on hold at present and wait to see what the Local Government settlement is and then consider the matter later in the year and backdate any increase to April 2021. Councillor Deane was not in agreement with the matter being deferred. The majority of members agreed to reconsider the matter later in the year.

15. NOTICE OF CO-OPTION

- (a) The Clerk informed members that the co-option notice had ended on the 11th March 2021 and that there had been two formal written expressions of interest received. The Clerk had provided members with the applicant's details and statement of expression of interest prior to the meeting. The general consensus of the meeting was that it would be good practise to interview both applicants. Councillor Bateman proposed that both applicants be interviewed. A vote was taken with nine members in favour and one abstention.

Motion Carried

- (b) Councillors discussed the arrangements for the co-option interview process and agreed that the interview panel should comprise the Chair, Vice Chair and another Sychdyn member, Councillor Bateman. It was resolved that a date for the interview would be arranged by the Clerk and interview panel.

16. RESIDENT'S AND YOUNG CITIZEN'S AWARDS

- (a) Members agreed that the presentation should take place outside the Edith Bankes

Memorial Hall with the Chair presenting the award. The Clerk to liaise with Councillor Lawton-Hughes regarding a date prior to informing the recipients and Those that nominated them.

It was noted that a photograph and write up of the awards and presentation should be forwarded to the local Press.

19. ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP 2021/22

Members considered the matter and decided not to pursue membership with One Voice Wales.

16. FOR INFORMATION

- a) The Clerk had shared information regarding the Best Communities Competition 2021/22 prior to the meeting. Councillor Bateman stated that there were other options for participating that could be considered also.
- (b) The Clerk updated members on the One Voice Wales new draft Code of Conduct however, members advised that Northop Community Council have adopted the Code of Conduct produced by Flintshire County Council.
- (c) The Clerk confirmed that the Flintshire County Council Playscheme for 2021/22 has now officially had the mandate, nationally and locally to deliver our play services.
- (d) Members agreed for the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the Play Wales free membership for 2021/22.
- (e) The Clerk updated members on the Welsh Government document 'Encouraging Engagement in Local Democracy'. Councillor Mackey requested a copy be emailed.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 12th April, 2021
------------------------	--

There were no new declarations of interest made at the meeting.

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS