

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Linda Deane, Rob Mackey, Geoff Pierce, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin, Jos Wynne-Williams and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Joanne Millar and Tony Sharps.

**A Minute's Silence** was held as a mark of respect for the late Margaret Docherty, passed member and Chairman of Northop Community Council.

**The Council received a Presentation** by Gary Nancarrow (Manager, North Wales Minerals and Waste Management Service, Flintshire County Council) on Hydraulic Fracking and Unconventional Gas.

The presentation provided an insight into the development and processes of hydraulic fracking and unconventional gas extraction as a source of energy. Members heard that there is limited potential for fracking extraction in Flintshire as the shale rocks are not sited deep enough and prior man-made activity may have already released gas. There is however more potential for the extraction of coal bed methane in the area around Northop, Connah's Quay and under the River Dee estuary. The Coal Authority has issued a licence to Clough for coal bed methane exploration under the River Dee. There is currently active exploration around Ellesmere Port with shale gas identified below Cheshire and towards Stoke-on-Trent.

Gary Nancarrow responded to questions stating that:

- land below our homes is owned by the Crown Estates so homeowners will not benefit directly from gas extraction from below their homes.
- If Rights of Way are compromised during test drilling, the Right of Way will be temporarily diverted.
- Community Benefits (sums of approx. £100,000 to communities where drilling takes place) have been challenged by the gas exploration companies. Current advice is that under Section 106, any payment by developers must be used for an actual community need as a consequence of the development rather than a 'pay off'.

The Chairman thanked Gary Nancarrow for his very informative presentation.

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

No Declarations of Interest were made

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

The Clerk read an e-mail update from PCSO Turner which detailed incidents in the community during the past month:

## **Sychdyn**

- Criminal damage to a window at a property in Pen Y Pentre.
- Theft of a CD player from a vehicle – entry by removing the rubber casing of the door.
- Report of youths in Sychdyn School grounds. Local PCSO's to continue with patrols.

## **Northop**

- Burglary during daylight hours at a property at The Green. Perpetrators had been caught.
- Church Road, Northop – report of a young male attending properties trying to sell cleaning items. An area search was carried out but the person was not located. PSCO Turner advised residents who do get a visit from the individual to contact the Police so that they can attempt to verify their identity.
- Officers were present during the recent protest at the Planning Committee site visit to the location of the proposed crematorium on Starkey Lane.

Cllr. L. Dean reported that a vehicle regularly parked outside the houses adjacent to the Red Lion pub, restrict motorists' line of sight. Cllr. Dean asked that PCSO Turner be advised of the situation and asked to assist in resolving the matter.

## **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were accepted as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

**Page 1, Item 1** - Inclusion of Cllr. C. Ruddle's Declaration of Interest

**Page 4, Item 7 (a)** – Clarification of address of the Allotment Field, Northop to Land adjacent to Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop.

**Page 6, Item 1** - Inclusion of Cllr. C. Ruddle's Declaration of Interest in the Summary.

### **Update**

**Tem 7 (f)** - Members heard that the Northop 2000 community group would be willing to contribute towards the cost of additional village signage to acknowledge 'Best Kept Community' achievements.

## **4. STREET LIGHTING**

Details of the following faults were received:

**Sychdyn** – Previously damaged lights on Pen-y-Bryn and London Road are still out. .

**Northop** – Highway light outside the Church steps is out.

## **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**BMK/052857** – PROPOSAL: Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey extension at 27 Pen y Bryn, Sychdyn, CH7 6EE.

The Council had no objection to the proposed scheme.

(b) The Council accepted correspondence from Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning regarding planning applications on which the Council had previously submitted observations.

**BMK/052460** – Delegated Officer Approval 10/10/14. Erection of a porch to front of dwelling and erection of single garage at 21 Llys Y Wern, Sychdyn.

(c) Members were advised:

**MH/051043** – Committee Refusal 30/10/14. Erection of crematorium with associated car parking, new access, landscaping and garden of rest at Starkey Lane, Northop. Flintshire County Council's reason for refusing permission is noted as:

Whilst the Local Planning Authority, does not dispute the qualitative and quantitative need for a crematorium within Flintshire the site the subject of this application is located within a Green Barrier. The Local Planning Authority has not been reasonably satisfied that there is no other suitable site outside the Green Barrier which would satisfy this need. Consequently it is not considered that the very exceptional circumstances exist which would justify the development, and that granting permission in these circumstances would be contrary to the provisions of Planning Policy Wales (2014) and Policy GEN4 of the adopted Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.

(d) The Clerk advised that the Council had again received an invitation to speak at the Planning Committee which would consider the application for the proposed development of an integrated waste management facility at Pinfold Lane Quarry, Pinfold Lane, Alltami (**MES/052364**). The Council subsequently received confirmation that the application would again not be heard at the specified Planning Committee. The case Planning Officer advised the Clerk that only one person is able to speak either for or against an application at Committee. However, if in agreement, that individual could represent other interested parties, expressing their concerns on their behalf. Members therefore resolved that should a further invitation to speak be received, it would be appropriate for Cllr. John Roberts to liaise with the primary speaker seeking representation of the Council's objection to the development.

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

The Council resolved to approve the payment of the following accounts:-

- (a) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for November 2014 = £293.90 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1831) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (b) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £73.60  
in respect of Clerk's salary November 2014  
(Cheque No. 1832) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (c) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November.  
Totalling £165.00  
(Cheque No. 1833) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

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

### **(a) County Forum (Cllrs. Pauline Lawton-Hughes and Chris Ruddle)**

Cllr. Chris Ruddle reported on the main points presented at the County Forum meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October at Mynydd Isa Community Centre:

#### Community Asset Transfer

Ian Bancroft outlined of the background, process, and Flintshire County Council's approach to furthering Community Asset Transfers and the support available to communities expressing an interest.

#### Local Development Plan

Review of progress with the Plan particularly in relation to candidate sites, stakeholder consultation and future key stages in the process. Andy Roberts offered to attend any Town & Community Council meetings if required. It was agreed that Cllr. Marion Bateman would be best placed to advise when to take up the offer.

#### Highway Road Maintenance

Steve Jones provided information on the maintenance standards and operating arrangement on the County highway network and an overview of the relative current condition of the network, declaring Flintshire roads to be the best in Wales.

#### White Ribbon Campaign – 25 November

Sian Jones raised awareness of the campaign to eradicate violence towards women and sought the support of Town & Community Councils.

#### Urdd National Eisteddfod – Flint 2016

Local fundraising committee members sought financial assistance to raise the £230,000 contribution required for Flint to host the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2016. Flint Town Council had committed to donate £60,000 over 3 financial years.

#### Budget Pressures

Flintshire County Council must save £30m over the next 2 years.

### **(b) Christmas Lights - Sychdyn (Cllr. Joanne Millar)**

Members agreed to the request by Cllr. Millar for permission to arrange connection of the Sychdyn Festive Lights to one of the Community Council's street lights for power. Sychdyn 2012 would bear the connection and disconnection costs.

## **8. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS (CAT)**

Members were unanimous in their wish to see the continued provision of all services/facilities and felt an obligation to keep local groups informed. Members discussed the difficulties of accepting CAT without tangible forms of income and the danger of losing the service/facility if no action is taken by local groups or by Town & Community Councils.

(a) Members received details from Flintshire County Council (FCC) on the status of the following sites:

- (i) Allotment Land to rear of 70-78 St. Peters Park, Northop – FCC owned
- (ii) Ffordd Owen Play Area, Northop – FCC owned – part of the school

- (iii) Vownog Play Area, Sychdyn – not owned by FCC but FCC have maintained this land for a number of years. Members heard that the land was gifted by the Bankes Estate.
- (iv) Changing Rooms, Tenant Farm Playing Fields, Sychdyn – FCC have a lease which expires in 2019. Members heard that the land is owned by David Williams.

Members requested more detail costing for all aspects of management of the above sites.

- (b) Members requested details of ownership of the Allotment Field, Northop (land adj. to Ysgol Owen Jones).

## **9. PREPARING FOR THE COMING WINTER**

Members resolved to respond as follows to the recent letter from Flintshire County Council concerning:

- (a) **Information on local weather forecast and gritting actions** – Clerk to receive.
- (b) **Salt bins** – no additional bins required
- (c) **Bagged rock salt** – no additional stocks required
- (d) **Community involvement in Snow Clearing** – equipment in place.

## **10. FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATION – YOUR SERVICES, YOUR CHOICES**

Members resolved to respond to the Public Consultation on the level of Fire and Rescue Services Provided in North Wales by supporting Option 3 'To increase the Authority's annual budget by an average of 2% each year until 2019/20 and avoid making the £3.3million of cuts (10%) to fire and rescue services in North Wales.'

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	