

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 10th September, 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Deane (Chairman), Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Rachel Hayward, Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Jo Millar, Chris Ruddle, Linda Scott and the Clerk. Rev. Hainsworth and two members of the public were also present for the earlier part of the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Vice-Chairman), and Alan Watkin

Members received an update by Rev. Hainsworth on the attempts to extend the Northop Churchyard. The following points were raised:

- The planning application submitted to extend Northop Churchyard had to be withdrawn because it was found that the water table is too high for a burial ground.
- Water engineers advised that it would cost in excess of £100,000 to permanently lower the water table, therefore the Church does not consider that to be a viable option. An alternative planning application to bury ashes only may be considered.
- Rev. Hainsworth raised the issue of finding a suitable site for a community owned cemetery that would become the responsibility of the Community Council.
- Members were asked to give some thought to any possible suitable sites.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Hainsworth for keeping the Community Council informed. The matter to be returned to the October agenda.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

Cllr. Marion Bateman – Item 5(b)(vii) - Planning Applications and the update provided by the Rev. Hainsworth on the attempts to extend Northop Churchyard. Member of Northop Church.

Cllr. Chris Ruddle – Item 11(b) - Consideration of a request for financial assistance. Member of Sychdyn Bowling Club.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stephanie Jones was unable to attend the meeting but provided Members with an e-mailed update on Police matters in the community since the last Council meeting:

- 21/7/18 – Burglary at Northop Cricket Club. No CCTV nor evidence. No suspects have been identified.
- 1/8/18 – Theft from the development site at Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn. Gate lock damaged and items stolen from the location. No CCTV nor evidence. No suspects have been identified.

- 24/8/18 – Burglary at Highfield Hall. Unknown offenders broke into the location overnight. Investigations ongoing.

Cllr. Brebner reported that she had not received any further response from the Wales Road Casualty Reduction Partnership since 10/8/18. The outcome of the March speed survey is still awaited.

Members raised concerns regarding the welfare of an individual living within the community. It is understood that the individual has, at present, chosen not to take up the offer of assistance from the local authority.

An opportunity was afforded to two local residents to express their concerns regarding speeding vehicles in and around Northop village. The following points were raised:

- There are currently only two Speedwatch volunteers to work with the designated Police officer to undertake speed surveys and there is a need to recruit more.
- The volunteers and the Police officer had undertaken a summer campaign of surveys by the Cricket Club and on the B5216 towards Connah's Quay.
- Assistance had been offered by Lee Shone of Flintshire County Council (FCC), including improved signage and road markings.
- Based on the improvements to a similar problem in Sychdyn, it was felt that FCC offered a more responsive service than GoSafe to tackle the problem of speeding vehicles.
- Cllr. Bateman offered to instigate a meeting with FCC to explore options to seek to reduce the problem of speeding vehicles in Northop. Cllr. Brebner agreed that such a route would appear to be the best way forward.
- Cllr. Bateman offered to instigate a meeting with FCC officers to seek a solution to the problem. She further advised the residents that in order to progress their concerns with FCC, they would need to canvass fellow residents and obtain letters of objection to the current situation to demonstrate the level of support for their concerns. Cllr. Bateman would contact Lee Shone to discuss the matter further.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 9th July 2018 were confirmed as a true record.

Matters Arising

PAGE 1 - The Clerk reported that she had not had a response to her requests for a copy of the Traffic Management Plan for the Ffordd Eldon Site. Cllr. Bateman would pursue the matter with the Planning Department.

PAGE 5 – Cllr. Scott provided an update on the fundraising campaign for a community defibrillator:

- The Community Café event raised £200 and a further £60 was raised through on-line donation and via Facebook.
- Details of the fundraising event by Northop Silver Band are awaited.
- The Toddlers' Group will be holding a Coffee Morning to fundraise.
- Donation boxes have been sited at the Cricket Club (who will make a separate donation), at the Post Offices and the two village pubs.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

- (a) Sychdyn – The Clerk asked members to check whether a street light on New Brighton Road, close to the junction of Pen-y-Bryn, was faulty and to advise the Clerk accordingly.
- (b) Northop.
- The last street light on Church Road was reported to FCC as faulty but no repair has yet been undertaken to this recently upgraded column light. The Clerk to chase progress.
 - The Connah's Quay directional road sign at the Northop cross-roads has been damaged.
 - The Payphone sign needs to be removed from the approach into Northop from the Flint direction.

The Clerk to report the faults to FCC and to chase progress.

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) **KCS/058810** – PROPOSAL: Demolition of rear single storey and proposed two storey side extension at Rossendale, 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) **058399** - Delegated Officer Approval 21/6/18. Proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of new garage in a new location to match original at The Coach House, Hall Lane, Sychdyn, CH7 6AD.
- (ii) **058408** - Delegated Officer Approval 4/7/18. Proposed demolition of conservatory and rear flat room – proposed rear orangery at Rose Lea, London Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EL.
- (iii) **058585** - Delegated Officer Approval 4/7/18. Proposed single storey rear extension at Grasmere, Bryn Seion Lane, Sychdyn, CH7 6YY.
- (iv) **058496** - Delegated Officer Approval 20/7/18. Proposed Replacement of existing container with new portable building at Sychdyn Bowling Club, Vownog, Sychdyn.
- (v) **058509** - Delegated Officer Approval 16/7/18. Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single-storey extension to provide Hydrotherapy Room, Gym and replacement Conservatory, at St. Pierre, Northop Country Park, Northop.

(vi) **058425** - Delegated Officer Approval 24/7/18. Proposed first floor extension, loft conversion, extension (Front & Rear) and internal modifications and erection of garage at Garth, Black Brook, Sychdyn.

(vii) **056793** - Withdrawal 1/8/18. Change of use of land for use as extension to existing graveyard at Land to the rear of St. Eurgain and St. Peter's Church, Church Road, Northop.

6. ACCOUNTS

The payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – £492.86 comprising of:
 - Clerk's salary for September 2018 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance of £90.00 (1.6.18 - 31.8.18) £398.65 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (1.6.18 - 31.8.18) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.6.18 - 31.8.18) £25.00
 - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.6.18 - 31.8.18) £21.21(Cheque No. 2073) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £99.60 in respect of Clerk's salary for September 2018 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance
(Cheque No. 2074) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Mrs. L. Deane – Reimbursement of Chairman's expenses (14.5.18 – 18.7.18), £35.00
(Cheque No. 2075) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iv) Clerk's SLCC Membership (1.10.18-30.9.19), £100.00
(Cheque No. 2076) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (v) Jim's Mowing, Grounds Maintenance 15th and 29th August, £110.00
(Cheque No. 2077) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (vi) Flintshire County Council, May 2018 invoice totalling £226.35
 - Electricity consumption, £156.35
 - Inspection and maintenance, £70.00(Cheque No. 2078) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (vii) The Poppy Appeal, for 2 wreaths and a £10.00 donation, £50.00
(Cheque No. 2079) (Government Act 1972 – Section 137)

(b) The payments made in August 2018 of the following accounts were received and approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for August 2018 = £326.45 (net)
(Cheque No. 2069) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £81.80 in respect of Clerk's salary August 2018
(Cheque No. 2070) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 4th and 20th July, totalling £110.00.
(Cheque No. 2071) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

- (iv) Flintshire County Council – Payment of June 2018 invoice totalling £226.35 comprising:
- Street Lighting = £156.35
 - Inspection and Maintenance = £70.00
- (Cheque No. 2072) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

(c) The addition of Cllr. Livesey as a signatories to the Council's bank mandate was approved. New signatories will need to complete the process by presenting the necessary information directly to the Council's bank.

(d) No action could be taken to complete any mandatory payment (Determinations 44, 46 and 51) to members in accordance with the requirements of the Annual Report 2018/19 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales as certain members were not present at the meeting.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- (a) **Update on an Independent survey on the land at The Old Sandhole and its ownership** (Cllr. M. Bateman)

The Clerk reported that a request for information on river water monitoring had been submitted to Natural Resources Wales. The Clerk to seek to obtain information from FCC regarding ownership and tipping activities. The item to be returned to the October agenda.

- (b) **Traffic Calming – Blackbrook, Sychdyn** (Cllr. M. Bateman)

Cllr. Bateman's e-mailed report of the agreed course of action, had previously been shared with members. The actions to be taken to implement traffic safety measures included:

- Pedestrian in road signs, Slow/Araf road markings, Upgrade of all existing 30 mph signs (enlarged on yellow background), Additional 30 mph signs, Stop road markings at road junctions, 30 mph gateway markings, Slow/Araf road marking on bend near Top yr Allt, Centre carriage markings where possible (determined by road width) Edge of carriageway markings (determined by road width)
- Consideration of a small raised island on the junction of Main Road and Blackbrook.
- Further proposals for Welsh Government grant funding would be looked at after the above measures are in place.

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

No action could be taken on this matter as the necessary report had not been received from the Welsh Audit Office's external auditors, BDO. The matter to be returned to the October agenda.

9. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Attendance at the following training events for members was considered:

- (a) Code of Conduct Training – Cllr.Livesey to advise on his availability. The Clerk to contact Cllr. Ashley.
- (b) Planning Aid Wales Guidance Publications are a useful source of information and are downloadable from their website:

<http://www.planningaidwales.org.uk/community-and-town-councils/>

- (c) Members interested in the ‘Community/Place Planning’ and ‘The Council Meeting’ modules would confirm their availability a.s.a.p. so that the Clerk could make the necessary arrangement.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY FORUM – 23rd OCTOBER 2018

Attendance was confirmed but no items were proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the County Forum meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd October at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold (6:00-8:00pm).

11. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (a) Members received an update on the request by Sychdyn Bowling Club.
- (b) Members agreed to award a grant of £250.00 to Sychdyn Bowling Club to support the work of replacing the portacabin and creating a community room.

12. FOR INFORMATION

- (a) The Council received the second (of three) instalments of the Annual Precept. The Annual Precept totals £34,194.00.
- (b) The Council received correspondence from Flintshire County Council’s Streetscene & Transportation Service outlining the procedure for applications for road closures for community events. Flintshire County Council will continue to support community event road closures free of charge.
- (c) The Council received an invitation to attend an event by North Wales Superkids at the Old Library Raikes Lane, Mold, CH7 6NW on Thursday 20th September, commencing at 11:00am. Cllrs. Brebner and possibly Millar to attend. The event will provide information on the work of the charity, especially their current Toy Box Appeal.

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

COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 10th SEPTEMBER 2018

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Marion Bateman (Member of Northop Church)	Item 5(b)(vii) Planning Applications and the update provided by the Rev. Hainsworth on the attempts to extend Northop Churchyard.	Update noted at beginning of the Council meeting.
Cllr. Chris Ruddle (Member of Sychdyn Bowling Club.	Item 11(a) - Consideration of a request for financial assistance.	11.