

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 11th September, 2017.

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Ruddle (Chairman), Paul Ashley, Rachel Hayward, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Jo Millar, Geoff Pierce, Linda Scott and the Clerk. PCSO Stephanie Jones attended for agenda items 1 and 2.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Linda Deane (Vice-Chairman), John Carlin, Rob Mackey, and Alan Watkin

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

Cllr. Paul Ashley – Item 4(b) Streetscene Issues – Consideration of action following damage to a Council owned streetlight.

Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes – Item 5(a)(i) - Consideration of Planning Application KCS/057349 – Members property abuts the application site.

2. POLICE MATTERS

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

- 31/8/17 – Burglary at a property on Starkey Lane.
- Suspicious door to door callers in the South Flintshire area.
- Bones had been discovered on Quarry Lane, Sychdyn. These were later confirmed not to be human bones.
- 2/8/17 – Incidence of Anti-Social Behaviour on the playing field to the rear of Ffordd Las, Suchdyn. Adults and youths with motorcycles were involved.
- Speed Surveys – five sessions with speed guns have been held and the information has been forwarded to Go Safe who will decide on any remedial action. It was noted that it was possible for Community Speed Watch member to 'hire' speed guns to conduct surveys and the results of the survey could trigger warning letter from the police, to those who breach the speed limit. There was some concern that due to the number of youths observed driving at speed in the area, it may be more appropriate for the Police to deal with this matter. Cllr. L. Scott would advise residents that it is possible to highlight speeding issues with the Police as a Community Request and therefore place the onus on the Police to deal with problem speeders.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 10th July 2017 were confirmed as a true record.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

(a) Faulty light reported near to the junction of the A5119 and Pen y Bryn, Sychdyn. The lamppost also carries a speed detector matrix sign. The speed detector matrix sign is also faulty. The Clerk to report.

(b) Members heard of an incident which resulted in the loss of a Community Council owned streetlight. The Clerk to seek to resolve the matter and to recover costs associated with the reinstatement.

(Cllr. P. Ashley took no part in the resolution of this item.)

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/057349** – PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey side extension at 10 Maes Gruffydd, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6LS.

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) **057026** - Delegated Officer Refusal 19/6/17. Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission ref. 055541 at Bryn Seion Chapel, Bryn Seion Lane, Sychdyn.

6. ACCOUNTS

The payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – £614.37 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for September 2017 plus ¼ of Annual Allowance of £90.00 (1.6.17 - 31.8.17) £398.65 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (1.6.17 - 31.8.17) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.6.17 - 31.8.17) £25.00
 - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.3.17 - 31.8.17) (six months) £142.72
- (Cheque No. 2006) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £99.60 in respect of Clerk's salary for September 2017 plus ¼ of Annual Allowance (1.6.17 - 31.8.17)
- (Cheque No. 2007) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Edith Bankes Memorial Hall – Hire of hall for 13 meetings, £162.50
- (Cheque No. 2008) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iv) Clerk's SLCC Membership (1.10.17-30.9.18), £93.00
- (Cheque No. 2009) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (v) Delfryn Designs (Mr. P. G. Parsons) – Website domain name registration and hosting (28.10.17 - 27.10.18), £106.00
- (Cheque No. 2010) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

- (vi) Jim's Mowing, Grounds Maintenance 7th and 21st August, £110.00 (Cheque No. 2011) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
 - (vii) 2 composite invoices from Flintshire County Council totalling £532.08
 - Electricity consumption June and July 2017, £372.04
 - Inspection and maintenance June and July 2017, £160.00 (Cheque No. 2012) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (b) To approve the payments made in August 2017 of the following accounts:
- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for August 2017 = £326.45 (net) (Cheque No. 2002) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £81.80 in respect of Clerk's salary August 2017 (Cheque No. 2003) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (iii) SLCC Enterprises Ltd. – Conference delegate fee (Clerk) £82.80. (Cheque No. 2004) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
 - (iv) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 10th and 24th July totalling £110.00. (Cheque No. 2005) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- (a) **Deeside Corridor Project** (Cllr. Chris Ruddle)

The Clerk to ascertain the funding protocols for Community Councils in relation to Public Enquiries.

- (b) **Preliminary views on development proposals within the community** (Cllr. Chris Ruddle)

Following an ad-hoc approach by a developer relating to a proposed development within the Community Council area, members were unanimous in their view that any response to development proposals should be undertaken as part of the formal consultation process managed by the Planning Authority. This would ensure that any views or comments made are on the basis of having all of the facts before Community Council members that are also required by a Planning Authority in order to ultimately decide upon any application.

8. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

Following the audit by the external auditor, BDO, members:

- (a) approved and accepted the Council's Annual Return 2016/17
- (b) approved and accepted the external auditor's report on the Annual Return.
- (c) noted that the Annual Return and Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be publicised on the Council's website and at both community Post Offices before the 30.9.17 for a period of 14 days.

The Clerk was thanked for her work on the Annual Audit.

9. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Attendance at the following training events for members was considered:

- (a) Cllr. Linda Deane to attend the Code of Conduct Training on Thursday 14th September commencing at 6:00pm in the Clwyd Room, County Hall, Mold. The training is free and all members, new and established, were encouraged to attend. Diary clashes precluded some members from attending therefore the Clerk would ascertain whether further training sessions would be provided by Flintshire County Council.
- (b) Members were asked to confirm attendance at the Planning Aid Wales events with the Clerk by the 15th September (delegate fees are £35.00 per course):
- (i) "How to be more effective when responding to planning applications" - at Acton Community Resource Centre, Overton Way, Acton, Wrexham, LL12 7LB on 28th September, 6:30 – 9.00pm.
- (ii) "An introduction to Planning" – at Theatr Clwyd, Mold on 17th October, commencing 6:30 – 9.00pm.

10. OVW/SLCC CONFERENCE – 12th JULY 2017

Deferred until the next Council meeting.

11. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (FCC) CONSULTATION – ACTIVE TRAVEL INTEGRATED NETWORK MAP***

Members considered a response to FCC's consultation:

- The Map appears to place emphasis on walking/cycling to school / urban areas, however it was felt that equal emphasis should be placed on securing opportunities for those who commute by bicycle to work, or walk to work.
- The roadside footway between Sychdyn and Northop is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded to encourage walkers.
- Cycle provision in the area is insufficient and therefore discourages commuters/leisure use between relatively populated areas and Mold, e.g. St. Peter's Park / Sychdyn Alleyway / County Hall / Mold town centre.

The Clerk to highlight these issues with FCC.

12. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN***

Members resolved to respond to the Consultation and highlight the following points:

- The PRoW network could be improved by ensuring that the hedgerows are kept under control.
- Signage could be improved, especially in response to damaged/missing signs.
- Improvement in general maintenance could encourage greater usage.

The Clerk to respond to FCC.

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY FORUM – 12th OCTOBER 2017

The Council would be represented at the County Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 12th October at Buckley Town Council Offices, Mold Road, Buckley, CH7 2JB.

14. FOR INFORMATION

(a) Council was advised that the local branch of the NSPCC have organised a fundraising concert to be held at St. Eurgain & St. Peter's Church, Northop on Friday 20th October, commencing at 7:00pm. Tickets are available from Northop and Sychdyn Post Offices.

15. ADDITIONAL ITEM – School Transport

The Chairman accepted an additional item on School Transport. Concerns had been raised again at the beginning of a school term about the inadequate and unpredictable school bus service provided to Mold secondary school children travelling from Northop and Sychdyn. Concerns were also raised as to the correct single bus journey fare between Sychdyn and Mold. The Clerk to clarify whether the fare should remain at 50p per single journey or rise to £1.10.

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

COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 11th SEPTEMBER 2017

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Paul Ashley	Item 4(b) Streetscene Issues – Consideration of action following damage to a Council owned streetlight.	4(b)
Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes	Item 5(a)(i) - Consideration of Planning Application KCS/057349 – Members property abuts the application site.	(5(a)(i))