

## NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 12 January, 2015.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Geoff Pierce, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin, Joss Wynne-Williams and the Clerk. Two members of the public were also present. PCSO Lynn Turner and Sgt. Mavis Evans were present to the conclusion of Item 2.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Councillors Joanne Millar and Tony Sharps.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing all present a Happy New Year.

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

No Declaration of Interests were made.

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

PCSO Lynn Turner introduced Stg. Mavis Evans who is based at Mold Police Station. PCSO Turner outlined three issues that had occurred during the past month:

- A drugs raid was carried out on a property in Northop where cannabis was grown.
- There had been a high-value burglary at a large property bordering Northop and Sychdyn.
- A Sychdyn resident known to the Police was awaiting trial later in the month.

On behalf of the residents of Sychdyn, Cllr M. Bateman express thanks to the Police for the supportive manner in which they had dealt with the numerous incidents relating to the third point above. PCSO Turner responded stating that the Police were aware of the level of concern amongst residents. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Police.

Cllr. L. Dean asked that PCSO Turner investigate parking on the grassed area near to the Red Lion pub in Northop. The parking position limits sight-lines coming out of St. Peter's Park onto the A5119.

Cllr. J. Carlin asked whether there had been many incidents of speeding along the Flint Road. Sgt. Evans offered speed monitoring on this road. Cllr. Carlin also commented that the new signage for The Stables restricted sight-lines at the junction to join the A5119. PCSO Turner would investigate.

Cllr. J. Wynne-Williams queried the range of speed limited on the Flint to Mold road. Sgt. Evans advised that Highways dictate speed limits by considering various factors including density of dwellings and accident statistics.

Cllr. A. Watkin asked what changes were anticipated with the reduction in the Police budget. The response indicated a likely reduction in the number of PCSOs, as PCSOs who secure a substantive post will not be replaced. Other initiatives were

also being considered including reinstatement of Community Beat Officers, more use of CCTV and seeking volunteers to work for the Police.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **Matters Arising**

Item 4 (a) – Cllr. H. Bateman reported that Column 5 on Blackbrook, Sychdyn was still out.

Item 7(a) – Cllr. J. Roberts was of the opinion that Sychdyn would benefit from an information board in addition to the one at the Village Hall. The Clerk to enquire about costings. Cllr. R. Mackey advised that the Northop notice board was paid for by Sponsorship by David McLean. Cllr. M. Bateman requested that a letter be sent to FCC's Tourism Service expressing concern about the lack of progress on the replacement of the damaged Information Board at Northop. Notice Boards to be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

Item 7(b) – Cllr. G. Pierce stated that he had been misled regarding the number of people seeking allotments and apologised that he, in turn, had misled the Council. Cllr. Pierce advised that one resident wanted to establish allotments for the school children to learn how to garden. The resident was not seeking any financial assistance and, working with Ysgol Owen Jones, the group to be established would be self-funding. It was agreed not to pursue the matter further but to leave the project as a matter between the resident and the school.

Item 7(d) – Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes expressed her thanks for the support offered to her by local colleagues.

### **4. STREET LIGHTING**

(a) The following columns were reported as not functioning:

Sychdyn – Column 5 on Blackbrook opposite the White Hill footpath had still not been repaired.

Northop - The light outside 20 Ffordd Gwynedd had not been lit for the past 10 days and a light outside 15 Ffordd Gwynedd had not been lit since before Christmas.

The Clerk to report the above faults.

(b) It was resolved that the Council would continue with the programme of upgrades to the street lighting portfolio. The work would be carried out by Flintshire County Council (FCC). Further consideration of transfer of the lighting stock to FCC was deferred to a later date.

### **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

(a) The following planning applications were considered and observations agreed to be submitted to Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning:-

- (i) **BMK/053075** – Proposal: Alternations and extensions to existing dwelling to form annexe at 12 Cae Berwyn, Sychdyn, CH7 6AJ.

The Council had no objection to the above proposal.

- (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) **LEJ/052892** – Provision of additional car parking facilities at Llaneurgain House, Northop Country Park Golf Club, Northop, CH7 6WD. Delegated Officer Approval 5.1.2015.

- (c) The Clerk advised that the planning application by Brock plc at Pinfold Lane Quarry, Alltami (**MES/052364**) would be considered by Flintshire County Council in late February. Cllr. John Roberts would prepare a short statement on behalf of the Community Council, for presentation at Planning Committee.

- (d) The Council received an open letter (dated 6.1.15) from J. E. Davies & Son regarding the re-submission of the planning application (**RMH/051043**) for the erection of a crematorium at Tyddyn Starkey, Starkey Lane, Northop. Cllr. M. Bateman advised that if Mr. Davies feels he has been treated unfairly by Flintshire County Council's Planning Committee he should take the matter to Appeal. At the Planning Committee meeting on 8.10.14 Cllr. M. Bateman forwarded the officers' recommendation that both Mr. Davies's application and that of Memoria Ltd. (**RMH/052334**) should be heard together. This proposal was rejected. Officers further recommended that Mr. Davies's application (green barrier site) should be heard after that of Memoria Ltd. Members of the Planning Committee forwarded a proposal that Mr. Davies's application be heard at a Special Meeting, separately and before that of Memoria Ltd. The latter proposal was carried. (see Flintshire County Council Planning Committee minutes for more detail)

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

- (a) To Council approved the payment of the following accounts:-

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for January 2014 = £293.90 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1841) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £73.60  
in respect of Clerk's salary January 2014  
(Cheque No. 1842) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council - £1,796.40 contribution towards Summer Playscheme Programme 2014 (2 x 3 week sessions)  
(Cheque No. 001843) (Local Government Act 1972 – Section 111)

- (b) At the October meeting, members approved the following payment, subject to receipt of appropriate audited accounts. Audited accounts were received therefore payments under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 were approved as follows:

- (i) Northop Silver Band - Annual Grant of £500 (Cheque no. 001844)

## **7. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – TAITH CONSULTATION EVENT**

Cllr. J. Roberts attended the Exhibition at Mold Town Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> December and advised the Council that there were many aspirational improvements proposed to junction and pinch points in the Community, notably on the Flint to Northop road. Funding for the proposals were unclear. Cllr. Roberts would seek to pursue the proposals within the Flintshire Projects 7 and 14.

Cllr. Roberts advised that he was in the process of reviewing all of the Public Rights of Way within the Community and would report at the next Council meeting.

Cllr. M. Bateman had received a report from a resident that Footpath No. 2 was blocked with a stile removed and a field planted over the footpath. Cllr. Roberts advised that the new link between Footpaths 1 and 2 is not shown on the OS plan, possibly because the Legal Order had not been completed. He also noted that he had reported (to FCC) that maize cropping over the footpath at Starkey Lane was restricting access. Cllr. M. Bateman would forward further details to Cllr. Roberts to pursue with FCC.

## **8. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)**

The Clerk reported receipt from FCC of the Candidate Sites map which identified sites proposed for inclusion in the draft LDP. A small number of slight discrepancies were noted between the sites proposed by Northop Community Council and that shown on the map. The Clerk to pursue the discrepancies with FCC. The Council sought to take up Mr. A. Roberts's offer to discuss LDP proposals at a future meeting. The Clerk to arrange.

## **9. SLCC PAY AWARD 2014-16 FOR CLERK**

The Council resolved to:

- (a) Authorise an incremental uplift to the Clerk's salary from SCP 23 to SCP 24. The Clerk was appointed w.e.f. 1 September 2013 on point 23 of the NALC/SLCC salary scale range 21-25.
- (b) Agree the National Salary Award in respect of the Clerk's salary.

## **10. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The item to be considered at the Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## **11. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (ESTIMATED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2014 AND 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2015**

The Council considered the statement and noted:

- Cllrs. H. Bateman, M. Bateman, P. Lawton-Hughes and A. Watkins requested that future agendas be e-mailed to them to reduce the cost of photocopying for NCC.
- The Chairman opted not to accept his annual Allowance.
- A request by Cllr. J. Roberts that a sum of £250 be allocated in 2015/16 for footpath maintenance to improve accessibility for residents.

- Possible future expenditure on the Council owned car park at Northop.
- Savings by deferment of transfer of lighting stock to FCC.

The Council resolved to maintain the precept at £20.00 for the financial year 2015/16.

**12. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS (CAT)**

(a) Delineated maps of the four sites identified by Flintshire County Council had not been received from FCC therefore the matter was deferred until further information was available.

(b) Further to Cllr. G. Pierce's earlier comments (Item 3), no further consideration needed to be made to the future use of the Land adjacent to Ysgol Owen Jones (Allotment Field).

**13. VILLAGE NAME SIGNS (additional item)**

Members gave consideration to the replacement of the roadside village name signs for Northop. The matter to be discussed further at the February Council meeting which Neil Hickie, Streetscene Manager will attend. The Clerk to make further enquiries.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	