

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 13 April, 2015.

PRESENT: Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Geoff Pierce, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. PCSO Lynn Turner attended until the completion of agenda item 2.

APOLOGIES – Received from Councillors Linda Deane, Joanne Millar, Tony Sharps and Jos Wynne-Williams.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interests were made:

Cllr. Alan Watkin – Member of Northop Golf Club (Agenda Item 8 – Public Rights Way - Northop Golf Club)

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Turner reported on the following issues in the community:

Sychdyn

- Two youths issued with cautions for smoking cannabis at the Sychdyn Playarea. The youths were not resident in the community.
- Reports of drivers of a white van posing as fish sellers but had been found with connections to thefts of dogs. N.W. Police wishing to raise awareness of the growing trend in stealing dogs.
- Incidents of speeding vehicles along Blackbrook to/from Theatr Clwyd, also along Pant Glas. Offenders advised of speed limit. No further incidents.
- Reports of wandering Huskey type dog loose in the village. Only stray dog found was a Jack Russell which is now in the car of the Dog Warden.
- Issue of awkwardly parked vehicles on Vownog has now been resolved.

Northop

- Reports of intruders found to be youths unaware they were trespassing.
- Following accidents along the Connah's Quay Road with the junction of Kelsterton Lane, Police speed patrols had stopped a number of speeding vehicles which were subsequently found to be uninsured.
- Youths had entered the Old School House and were found to have caused damage. The youths were now subject to a Community Resolution Order as agreed with the owner of the property.
- Three itinerant vehicles were parked on Northop Golf Club land but following Police attendance, were removed within 24 hours.
- Incident of sheep loose in the area of the main crossroads in the village were noted as a fairly regular occurrence by members. PCSO Turner to speak further with the owner of the animals.

Members raised the following issues:

- Cllr. J. Carlin raised the issue of the obstructive location of the advertising 'A' board for Soughton Hall on the junction of the A5119 with the lane between Coed Andrew and Pwll-y-Gaseg Wood. PSCO Turner would investigate.
- Cllr. R. Mackey raised the issue of disturbance at 3am on a recent weekend nights caused by young people congregating outside the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall. PCSO Turner would investigate whether this was a one-off incident or a trend of taxi drop offs.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 10th March 2014 were accepted as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

(a) **Item 10.** to read: "Cllr. J. Millar stated that if FCC were unable to secure Welsh Government grant funding to part-fund the Summer Playschemes then users had indicated that they would be prepared to raise the necessary funds....."

(b) **Item 7(a) Report of County Forum Meeting – Review of the Flintshire Planning Code.** Cllr. M. Bateman explained that under section 4.6 of the County Code, expression of a view by a Member at a Town / Community Council on a planning matter does not in itself mean that the (County) Member cannot take part in the determination of the matter when it comes before the Planning and Development Control Committee provided that the Member has kept an open mind and not committed himself / herself to a final view on the matter until all the arguments for and against have been aired at committee. The Member can enter into discussion and ask questions, but should make clear that a view in favour or against the proposal is on the basis of knowledge and information known at that time."

Item 7(b) Northop Car Park Wall. The Chairman raised concerns about the possible subsidence of the section of wall closest to the B5126 – possibly due to a failed drainage gully. Consideration would be given to erecting a barrier to limit the height of vehicles able to access the car park. The Clerk to investigate and bring forward to the May meeting.

4. STREET LIGHTING

(a) The following reports of faults were received:

Sychdyn

Continuing issue of damaged light on Blackbrook.

Northop

Day burner reported outside Church Cottage.

Wiring cover of the lighting column adjacent to the car park/B5126 found to be open.

The Clerk to report and pursue.

(b) It was agreed that the next phase of lighting stock upgrades would be to the High Street, Northop at an estimated cost of £8,250.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

KCS/053415 – Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and part kitchen projection and erection of single storey rear extension at Rose Lea, London Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EL.

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) **PXR/051729** – Delegated Officer Approval 9/03/15. Conversion of existing outbuilding to form residential accommodation and extension and alterations to existing house. Lislea House, Church Road, Northop, CH7 6BS.

(ii) **PXR/053187** – Delegated Officer Approval 11/03/15. Erection of replacement garage at Greenacres, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, CH7 6RQ.

(iii) **BMK/053229** – Delegated Officer Approval 19/03/15. Conversion of loft space and creation of dormer and conversion of garage at 4 Ffordd Las, Sychdyn, CH7 6DU.

(iv) **JZF/053211** – Delegated Officer Approval 23/03/15. Installation of free standing domestic solar PV at Fern Bank, Alltami Road, Alltami, CH7 6RJ.

6. ACCOUNTS

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

(i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for April 2015 = £310.30 (net)
(Cheque No. 1856) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

(ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £77.60
in respect of Clerk's salary April 2015
(Cheque No. 1857) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

(iii) Flintshire County Council – Payment of 2 composite invoices for
January and February 2015, totalling £483.54:

- Street Lighting = £323.54
- Inspection and Maintenance = £160.00
(Cheque No. 1858) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

(iv) Jim's Mowing – Double visit on 23 March to clear winter debris and cut
grass around the car park and band room. £110.00.
(Cheque No. 1859) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) **Flintshire County Council Budget Deficit Workshop - 12th March 2015**
(Cllrs L. Deane and. H. Bateman)

Cllr. H. Bateman gave an account of Flintshire County Council's (FCC) Draft Street Lighting Policy which was discussed at the above Workshop. Once FCC's Policy had

been approved, Northop members would consider the most appropriate course of action for the Council. The Clerk to clarify costs of installing responsive photocells to future upgrades of Northop CC owned street lights.

8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AT NORTHOP GOLF CLUB*

Members were in agreement with the view that Flintshire County Council was the most appropriate organisation to educate and promote responsible use of Public Rights of Way. Furthermore that it is incumbent on both golfers and walkers to have due regard for other users' rights and safety. The Clerk to respond accordingly to Northop Golf Club.

9. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015*

(a) Council receive a report from the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer, on the final accounts for the financial year 2014/15.

(b) Council authorised the submission of the final accounts and support documentation to the Internal Auditor on 16th April 2015. Cllr Mackey thanked the Clerk for her diligence in completing the Audit documentation.

10. CONSULTATION: BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE - FLINT MOUNTAIN – DRAFT PROPOSALS

Member agreed to support the Boundary Commission's proposed Option A, that Flint Mountain is retained within Trelawny ward of the Community of Flint (the existing arrangement). Members agreed that the Boundary Commission should also have due regard for the views expressed by the residents of Flint Mountain. The Clerk to respond accordingly.

11. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE*

The Council agreed that the Clerk should respond highlighting concerns raised by members, including:

Increasing the size of Community Councils in rural areas will bring particular challenges including the potential need to amalgamate and bring together a number of villages under a single Community Council. There is a risk that fewer elected members will not necessarily be able to represent the whole of a new community effectively .

Members wished to see the current arrangements maintained whereby an elected member of a Principal Authority can also serve as a Community Councillor. This arrangement strengthens the link between the two tiers of government providing a conduit to disseminate information and represent Community Council residents more effectively.

The Council viewed that the needs of vulnerable groups are best met by professionally qualified staff employed by Principal Authorities with robust practices and policies in place for the protection of both clients and staff.

Inequity of granting privileges to larger Community Councils (and therefore their residents), whilst imposing sanctions on smaller Councils (and therefore their residents), based on their annual budget.

Principal Authorities are best placed to deliver statutory and non-statutory services to the residents they serve. They hold the expertise and with adequate funding, can plan and deliver services in the most efficient and effective way that benefits their residents. Principal Authorities have a duty to deliver statutory services, but non-statutory services also enrich the lives of residents and as such should not be viewed as second-class services, reliant upon volunteers for delivery.

If the Welsh Government is committed to improving local government in Wales it should begin by recognising excellent service delivery models and promote those as examples of best practice to be adopted in the new Principal Authorities. Much of what is proposed in the White Paper in terms of partnership working already operates effectively in parts of Wales. Adequate funding and sound management is the key to a successful local government for Wales.

12. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (C.A.T.)*

(a) To consider future options for continued service provision at the four sites identified by Flintshire County Council:

On a general note concerns were raised that associated costs should be more readily available from Flintshire County Council and that the Community Council should be raising awareness of opportunities for transfers to local groups.

(iii) Cllr. J. Roberts queried whether the Sychdyn Playing Fields Committee still existed and if so could be interested in taking over the Vownog Play Area, Sychdyn.

(iv) Cllr. J. Roberts expressed concern that the FCC owned Changing Rooms at Tenant Farm Playing Fields, Sychdyn was available for transfer yet the land it serves is leased to FCC and the owner has submitted this land as a Candidate Site for development under the LDP.

(b) Members agreed to defer consideration of submitting Expressions of Interest in respect of the above sites to Flintshire County Council until the May meeting when Cllr. M. Bateman would provide a report.

13. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN*

Members agreed to consider appropriate responses to third party Candidate Sites and to report further to a Working Group meeting on 1st June.

14. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES (Additional Item)

BT – Adopt a Phonebox Scheme – The Clerk to request a replacement door to the Northop phonebox before Council could consider the Scheme further.

Northop Community Council Website – The Clerk to obtain costing for work to re-structure three pages of the Website.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 13TH APRIL 2015
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Alan Watkin	8. Public Rights Way - Northop Golf Club	8