

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 13th May, 2019.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Deane (Chairman 2018-19), Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Rachel Hayward, Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Vice-Chairman 2018-19), Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Jo Millar, Chris Ruddle, Linda Scott, Alan Watkins, and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES – Cllrs. Paul Ashley and John Carlin.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on her year of Office and stated that it had been a privilege to represent the Council and that she was proud that the Council conducted itself in a proper and dignified manner. There had been one change in membership during the past year with the co-option of Cllr. Jarred Livesey who succeeded Geoff Pierce who had given many years of service to the Council. The Chairman stated that she was very proud of a major achievement by the Council in that all but one of the members had been able to undertake Code of Conduct training. The attendance by the Chairman and the Clerk at Flintshire County Council's Standards Committee had been enlightening and a visit by a member of the Standards Committee, Phillipa Earlam to the January meeting of Northop C.C. had been well received.

During the Chairman's year of Office the Council had continued with the upgrading of the community's streetlighting and had funded Summer Playschemes in both villages. Certain challenges remain in respect of non-compliance by the developer of the housing estate in Sychdyn and traffic issues in and around both villages. The Community Council had supported the campaign for a community defibrillator and it is hoped that it will soon be available in Northop village. The repair to the car park boundary wall has recently been completed but further expenditure is likely on other minor repairs as well as improvements to the surface water drainage of the car park. Certain areas of Sychdyn have also been prone to flooding and this is a matter to be monitored.

During the Chairman's year of Office she had the pleasure of presenting Mrs. Muriel Patterson with the Council's Citizen's Award for 2018 and of laying one of the Council's two Remembrance wreaths at the Commemorative Services at Northop Church on 11th November 2018. The second wreath was laid by the Vice-Chairman in Sychdyn. The Chairman noted her visits to various local groups over the year and her attendance of Civic Services for Flintshire County Council and for Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Community Council. The Chairman also noted that at her attendance of the "Women in Wales" event, she was able to share with those present that Northop C.C., against the national average, had seven female councillors, outnumbering the male councillors.

The Chairman noted the resignation of the Clerk, Mrs. Gwen Smith, after over five and a half years' service to the Council and the appointment of the new Clerk with effect from 1st July 2019. The Chairman expressed thanks to everyone for their support which had allowed her to undertake her roll efficiently.

The Chairman's Report of his year of Office was received.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND INVESTITURE WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE

It was proposed that Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes be elected Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2019-20 and on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes was invested with the Chain of Office by Cllr. Mrs. Deane who offered her best wishes for her year of Office. Cllr. Lawton-Hughes thanked her fellow members for their nomination and support on being elected as Chairman. Cllr. Marion Bateman added her congratulations.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed that Cllr. Linda Scott be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2019-20 and on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Linda Scott accepted the role and expressed her thanks to her fellow members for showing confidence in her.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

4. POLICE MATTERS

No Police Matters were raised.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 8th April 2019 were accepted as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Item 4

- The faulty streetlight at Pilgrim's Close had been repaired.
- Cllr. Deane would check again on the light at St. Peters Park and advise the Clerk.

Item 10

The Clerk would ensure that the cheque to Sychdyn Playgroup was cancelled as it had not been presented before the deadline of 30th April, 2019.

6. PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLOR

In accordance with the requirements of the Annual Report 2019/20 of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, consideration was given to payments to be made to members of the Council in the execution of their duties:

It was resolved that:

- (a) Determinations 43 and 44 were adopted on the basis that where a member is authorised to represent the Council at an event, and where the reimbursement of expenses has been approved, the authorised claim would be reimbursed in accordance with the National Scales set by the Independent Remuneration Panel. Such payments would also be applicable to staff.

Determinations 45 was adopted and payments would be made where appropriate and on the production of receipts.

Determinations 42, 47 and 48 were rejected.

- (b) The Chairman's Allowance for the Civic Year 2019-20 was agreed at £200 on a reimbursement of costs basis.

In respect of Determination 40, members noted that the IRP's Annual Report states "*An individual may decline to receive part, or all, of the payments [mandatory or adopted permissible] if they so wish. This must be done in writing and is an individual matter. A community or town council member wishing to decline payments must themselves write to their proper officer [the Clerk] to do so.*"

7. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Council representatives on the following organisations were agreed and remain as follows:

- (a) School Governing Bodies
(i) Northop CP School (Cllr. A. Brebner)
(ii) Sychdyn CP School (Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes)
- (b) Memorial Halls
(i) Northop (Cllr. L. Deane)
(ii) Sychdyn (Cllr. M. Bateman)
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau (Cllr. P. Lawton- Hughes)
- (d) County Forum (Cllrs. P. Lawton-Hughes and C. Ruddle)
- (e) Police Consultation Group (Cllrs. J. Carlin and P. Lawton-Hughes)
- (f) Northop Community Council Planning Sub-Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to the Council)

8. STREETSCENE ISSUES

- (a) Reports of the following issues were received which would be reported by the Clerk to Flintshire County Council:
- At the notorious fly-tipping lay-by on The Green, Northop, the 3 piece suite had rolled down the embankment into farm land.
 - At the junction of Manor Park and Pen y Bryn, Sychdyn the base of the streetlight is bound with duck tape as the panel door is missing.
 - At Ffordd Edwin, Northop, another deep pothole has appeared - near to the previous large one.
 - On the B5126 opposite Northop car park there is a kissing gate which provides access to the Golf Course. There is a big pot hole near to the kissing gate that needs to be filled.
 - The road markings at the zebra-crossing by Ysgol Sychdyn are faint and require repainting.

It was noted that:

- Flintshire County Council would be digging up tree roots in the coming days along the alleyway between High Street, Northop and the pensioners' bungalows. This is remedial action following a fall by a member of the public.
- The new white-lining to the roads through Northop village had been completed except for the zig-zags at the crossroads junction.

- Although obstructive parking continues on the junction of Pilgrims' Close and High Street, Northop, any proposal to re-mark any of the area with double yellow parking lines would require support, through consultation, with local residents.
- (b) Members authorised upgrading work to the 8 streetlights at Blackbrook, Sychdyn (between Raikes Lane and the junction adjacent to the Cross Keys) at an estimated cost of £7,000. The Clerk to commission Flintshire County Council to undertake the work.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- (i) **059632** – Proposal: Listed building application for the maintenance and repair of main building roof, roof over main stair hall, front porch, chimney stacks and windows at Llwyn Offa, Alltami Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6RH.

The Council had no objection to the development.

- (ii) **059695** – Proposal: Proposed erection of shed at Bryn Hyfryd, Main Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EA.

The Council had no objection to the development.

(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) **058373**– Delegated Officer Approval 20/4/19. Demolition of existing house and associated outbuildings and construction of new dwelling and part replacement of existing outbuilding at The Red House, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, CH7 6RQ.

It was agreed that future notifications of planning decisions would note the Community Council's response to the initial consultations.

(c) Members received an update on the Ffordd Eldon development site from Cllr. Bateman who advised that Flintshire County Council's Legal department were pursuing action against Stewart Milne Homes for non-compliance of the Section 106 Agreement and that the company was subject to daily fines until resolution.

10. ACCOUNTS

To approve the payment of the following accounts:-

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for May 2019 = £343.68 (net)
(Cheque No. 2124) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £85.80
in respect of Clerk's salary May 2019
(Cheque No. 2125) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Cllr. Mrs. Linda Deane – Donations from Chairman's Allowance - £40.00.
(Cheque No. 2126) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

- (iv) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 3rd and 17th April totalling £120.00.
(Cheque No. 2127 (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (v) JDH Business Services Ltd. – Fee for internal audit £146.88
(Cheque No. 2128) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (vi) William Taylor Masonry – for repair of damaged boundary wall at Northop car park, £2,568.00 (to be recovered from the Council's insurers)
(Cheque No. 2129) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (vii) Flintshire County Council – Replacement and upgrading of 5 streetlights at New Brighton Road Sychdyn = £5,575.00
(Cheque No. 2130) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (viii) Flintshire County Council - Replacement and upgrading of 6 streetlights at The Green, Northop = £6,600
(Cheque No. 2130) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

Matters to be carried forward to the next Council meeting:

- Authorisation by three signatories to be secured for the agreed transfer of £10,000 from the Council's Capital Reserve Account to its Current Account in order to meet the above payments.
- Amendments to allow the new Clerk to be included on the bank mandate and the out-going Clerk removed as a signatory.

11. **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

None to date.

12. **TRAFFIC MATTERS**

To receive any updates on:

(a) **Speeding Vehicles in and around Northop**

It was reported that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the B5126 in the area of the college campus had been completed by Flintshire County Council and forwarded to GoSafe. It was disappointing to note the time it had taken to get to this stage. A member of the public had reported that following a conversation with the Police Commissioner, it was anticipated that a GoSafe camera van would be sited on the A5119 on the approach into Northop. Cllr Brebner volunteered to write to GoSafe to ascertain the timescale for siting a van on the B5126. The Clerk to write in support of these concerns and, in response and to support the Welsh Govt. report on the feasibility of introducing a 20mph speed in town and village centres. It was proposed that such correspondence should also be directed at Hannah Blythyn AM, as the local representative.

13. **UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT**

It was noted that paper copies of the on-line petition were available at Northop Post Office to enable residents to make heard their voice without having to use a computer. It was further noted that there had been indications, by representatives of the communities affected by the Blue Route, that they were willing to join forces with communities affected by the Red Route, in opposition to both proposed options.

14. NORTHOP COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Concerns were raised at the delay in response from Flintshire County Council to clarify whether planning permission was required for siting a defibrillator within the conservation area. Members heard that Cllr. Scott and the Clerk had contacted Flintshire County Council to seek a meeting to try to resolve the matter. There was much frustration that the scheme funded by the community, for the benefit of the community, could not yet be put into action. Cllr Scott and the Clerk to pursue further.

15. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019**

- (a) Members received the Internal Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 31st March 2019, noting the Clerk's response.
- (b) Members authorised an amendment to the Asset Register and Annual Return to reflect the error identified by the Internal Auditor.
- (c) Members authorised the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer to submit the Annual Return to the External Auditor by the 11th June 2019.

16. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

- (a) Members agreed to advise the Clerk as to their availability to attend the Planning Aid Wales training event on the evening of 4th July at Gwersyllt on "Responding to Planning Applications and Maximising your Influence", at a cost is £35 per delegate.
- (b) It was agreed that Cllr. Deane would attend the "Understanding the Law" training offered by Once Voice Wales in Mold on 21st May.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

Council resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following agenda item in view of the confidential personal information to be discussed.

17. CLERK'S SALARY/PENSION

- (a) Members agreed to implement the negotiated National Salary Award in respect of the Clerk's salary for the financial year 2019/20 and the payment of backpay, effective from 1st April 2019.
- (b) Having given due consideration to three options, Members agreed unanimously that the Council would offer the Local Government Pension Scheme as it's chosen workplace pension for the incoming Clerk (w.e.f. 1st July 2019),

ADDITIONAL ITEM

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed congratulations to Cllr. Marion Bateman on being elected Chairman of Flintshire County Council for the Civic Year 2019-20.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 13th MAY 2019
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
None.		