

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Geoff Pierce, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin, Jos Wynne-Williams and the Clerk. PCSO Lynn Turner was present for Item 2.

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

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

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr. Haydn Bateman – Member of Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 8(b) – Annual Grants to Local Organisations)
- Cllr. Marion Bateman – Member of Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 8 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Linda Deane – Northop Community Council representative of the Northop Memorial Institute (Agenda Item 8(a)) and Member of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Northop (Agenda Item 8 (c) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes – Secretary to the Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 8 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr Rob Mackey – Trustee of Northop Memorial Institute (Agenda Item 8 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Alan Watkin - Chair of the Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 8 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Chris Ruddle - Trustee of Sychdyn Memorial Hall (Agenda Item 8 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)

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

Members were advised of a break in at the Post Office/shop in Sychdyn on Friday last. The Clerk to notify PCSO Turner and request a visit of reassurance.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **4. STREET LIGHTING**

**Sychdyn** – Column 4, London Road, Sychdyn was reported as a day burner. The Clerk to report and enquire progress on reconnection of the Pen-y-Bryn column and repair to an earlier fault on London Road.

**Northop** – No faults notified.

## 5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) No planning applications had been received for comment.
- (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) **BMK/052492** – Delegated Officer Approval 22/9/14. Extension to single garage and replacement of existing flat roof with pitched roof over extension and existing garage and insertion 2no. Velux windows to rear at 65 St. Peters Park, Northop.
- (ii) **BMK/052475** – Delegated Officer Approval 30/9/14. Change of use of first floor from private accommodation (C3) to lettable hotel rooms (C1) – 6no. Bedrooms at the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Northop, CH7 6BQ.
- (iii) **MES/052364** – Invitation to speak at Planning Committee 8.10.14 on the proposed development of integrated waste management facility comprising a mixed waste treatment facility, a construction waste materials recycling facility, a contaminated soils treatment facility and a non-hazardous landfill approximately 1.7 million cubic metres at Pinfold Lane Quarry, Pinfold Lane, Alltami. The Council subsequently received confirmation that the application would not be heard at the specified Planning Committee. Members resolved that should a further invitation to speak be received, Cllr. John Roberts may wish to represent the Council in it's objection to the development.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

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

- (a) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for October 2014 = £294.10 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1823) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (b) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £73.40  
in respect of Clerk's salary October 2014  
(Cheque No. 1824) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (c) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September.  
Totalling £165.00  
(Cheque No. 1825) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (d) Delfryn Design – Website hosting 28/10/14-27/10/15 - £103.00  
(Cheque No. 1828) (Government Act 1972 - Section 142)
- (e) Flintshire County Council – Street lighting power, inspection and  
maintenance costs July 2014 - £241.77  
(Cheque No. 1826) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (f) Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's annual membership - £231.00  
(Cheque No. 1827) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (g) UHY Hacker Young – External Audit Services - £246.00  
(Cheque No. 1829) (Government Act 1972)
- (h) The Poppy Appeal – donation for two wreaths - £40.00  
(Cheque No. 1830) (Government Act 1972 – Section 137)

## 7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- (a) **Rememberance Day Wreaths** (Cllr. Linda Deane)  
Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Council at both Northop and Sychdyn War Memorials on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr. Carlin to attend at Northop and Cllr. Marion Bateman to attend at Sychdyn. Cllr. Dean was thanked for sourcing the wreaths.
- (b) **Railings at St. Peter's Park, Northop** (Cllr. Rob Mackey)  
Members heard that Cllr. Marion Bateman met with Neil Hickie (Flintshire County Council's Streetscene) and that the railings would be replaced in a different form. The pavement would also be dropped behind the bus stop.
- (c) **South Flintshire Police Consultation – feedback from meeting** (Cllr Pauline Lawton-Hughes)  
Cllrs. Marion Bateman and Pauline Lawton-Hughes attended the meeting on 17.9.14 and provided members with key information regarding:
- Police Establishment data – 8 Sergeants, 38 Police Constables and 13 Police Community Support Officers
  - Policing Performance to date – a reduction in reported crime
  - Financial Challenges – savings of £14m by 2017/18 are required.
  - Neighbourhood Policing, use of Media by the Police and Good News articles
  - New powers as detailed in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 including:
    - measures to counter Anti-Social Behaviour. From October 2014, ASBOs will be superceeded by Community Protection Notices which can also be issued by PCSOs, Council Officers, and Social Landlords.
    - Environmental Powers
    - Dispersal Powers requiring a person committing or likely to commit anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder to leave an area for up to 48 hours.
    - Closure Powers which will allow the Police and/or Councils to quickly close premises which are being used, or likely to be used, to commit nuisance or disorder.
  - North Wales Police and Cheshire Constabulary have a reciprocal arrangement to provide policing cover should either force require assistance in extreme circumstances.
  - Inspector Jolley would attend Town & Community Council meetings if requested and PCSOs would continue to attend such meetings.
- (d) **The Budget Conversation – feedback from meeting** (Cllr. John Carlin)  
Cllr. Carlin and the Clerk attended the meeting on 2.10.14. Cllr. Carlin provided the following update:
- Over the next two years Flintshire County Council (FCC) will need to save between £13-18m per annum depending on the Welsh Government settlement.
  - FCC is looking to transfer assets/services to local Councils and/or community groups to reduce their expenditure. Some limited funding may be available with transfers. A transfer process has been established and FCC are seeking expressions of interest rather than imposing transfers/closures. FLVC will provide guidance to organisations which have an interest in asset/service

transfers to ensure that robust business plans are in place and funding sources identified.

The issue of asset transfers prompted discussion on the extent of upgrading required to bring the Council's street lighting to current standards. The Clerk was asked to seek further quotations for the proposed upgrading work. The level of commuted sum required to transfer any lights to FCC was also an issue of concern and members resolved to seek to negotiate at least a reduction in the current figure. Transferring street lighting to FCC would reduce this Council's liabilities in the future and it was proposed that this could be undertaken over a period of 10 years with a rolling programme of upgrades. Also of concern was the issue of inequitable 'double-rating' where some communities do not have to raise additional funds to provide street lighting.

(e) **Former Allotment Field, Northop (Land adjacent to Ysgol Owen Jones)**  
(Cllr. John Carlin)

The Council resolved to give further consideration, at a later meeting, to the future possible use of the land as a Community Garden.

(f) **Best Kept Village** (Cllr. Jos Wynne-Williams)

The Council agreed to acknowledge the voluntary work undertaken by residents by means of an addition to the Council owned village signs, proclaiming "Best Kept Village Winner". The Clerk to seek quotations and clarify any need for planning permission.

## **8. ANNUAL GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Members resolved to approve the Annual Grants upon receipt of the necessary financial information from the recipients.

## **9. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015 (AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014)**

Members accepted the report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer which detailed expenditure to date and expenditure forecast to the end of the financial year.

## **10. FORMAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Members resolved to extend the document presented to include Street Lighting with an Impact Assessment classed as High and Risk Likelihood classed as Medium. The Clerk to amend the document.

## **11. INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Members accepted the report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer, agreeing no change to the current arrangements.

## **12. ASSET REGISTER**

(a) Members resolved that the 'Wire & Post & Wire Fencing, Northop Car Park' should be redefined as 'boundary fencing, Northop Car Park' and that the Council's insurers be advised.

(b) The Council considered including Sandhole Field, Sychdyn and some street lighting in the insurance policy, along with any other assets not previously identified. The Clerk to clarify whether such assets/risks are currently covered by the Council's Public Indemnity Insurance before further consideration.

(c) Members confirmed the Asset Register (subject to (a) above) for the purposes of the Annual Audit.

### **13. FOR INFORMATION**

- The Council resolved to receive a presentation by Gary Nancarrow (North Wales Minerals and Waste Management Manager) on Hydraulic Fracking and Unconventional Gas on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- Members responded to the Polling Station Review by Flintshire County Council stating both Polling Station in the Community were satisfactory.

### **14. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2015**

It was resolved that the Clerk should seek quotes from three local companies for grounds maintenance services for the 2015 growing season.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Cllr. Haydn Bateman Cllr. Marion Bateman Cllr. Linda Deane Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes Cllr Rob Mackey Cllr. Alan Watkin Cllr. Chris Ruddle	8. Annual Grants to Local Organisations	1 and 8