

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 14th March, 2016.

PRESENT: Councillors Marion Bateman (Chairman), Geoff Pierce (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, John Carlin, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Joanne Millar, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle and the Clerk. Katie Wilby of Flintshire County Council was present for the presentation. Seven members of the public were also present for agenda items 1-5.

APOLOGIES – Received from Councillors Alan Watkin and Joss Wynne-Williams.

PRESENTATION BY KATIE WILBY of Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council (FCC)

The Council received an informal presentation by Ms. Katie Wilby in which she outlined developments in Community Transport. More detailed information was provided on:

- The £250,000 reduction in bus subsidies w.e.f. 1st April 2016.
- The proposed development of Community Transport in it's various forms which can attract funding from the Welsh Government, including concessionary travel for passengers. FCC wishes to see communities sharing vehicles and working together to develop community transport to link effectively with the Core Bus Network. There could be opportunities to generate income by hiring out vehicles or competing for school transport contracts. Community Transport would remain heavily reliant on volunteers.
- The maintenance and purpose of the Core Bus Network, forming transport hubs with connecting services. Northop is well placed affording the opportunity for Community Transport to link effectively to the Core Bus Network.
- With effect from 14th May 2016, the withdrawal of the D42 bus service and the possible loss of the 28/28A Saturday 07:45 service from Flint as a result of subsidy withdrawal.

Ms. Wilby extended an invitation to two representatives of the community council to join other councils at a Community Transport Workshop on 26th April. Representatives of Estuary Cars and Welsh Border Community Transport would be attending the Workshops to share experiences. Further details would follow.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Wilby for an informative presentation.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declaration of Interests were made.

2. POLICE MATTERS

(a) PCSO Turner was unable to attend the meeting and her e-mail update indicated that there had been no incidents in the villages since the last Council meeting.

(b) The Council resolved that the Cyber Crime – Stay Safe Guides should be made available in Northop and Sychdyn Post Offices and village halls.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 8th February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Page 2 - Cllr. M. Bateman advised:

- that the faulty green traffic light at the crossroads had been repaired
- that a response regarding the road design in the area of the pedestrian crossing/slip road in Northop was still awaited.

4. STREET LIGHTING

The following fault was reported:

Sychdyn – Light out opposite The Cottage, Vownog, Sychdyn. The Clerk to report.

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) **RMH/054548** – Proposal: Erection of 43no. dwellings and associated works at Land at Ffordd Eldon, Soughton, Mold.

The Chairman invited a representative of the Sychdyn Village Action Group (SVAG) to speak for 3 minutes on the proposal, prior to the Council's discussion of the matter. Mr. G. Hulbert's comments included:

- that the SVAG were delighted with the Community Council's response to the initial planning application.
- that the land in question was described as a 'brownfield' site in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Any appeal to change that description to 'greenfield' to afford greater protection from development would have cost SVAG some £10,000 in legal fees.
- Unlike the Ffordd Eldon site, not all land that was identified in the UDP for development had been automatically transferred to the Local Development Plan (LDP). The land had been put forward for protection by some residents.
- The site is considered to be a spur development and approval would increase the risk/scope for development elsewhere.
- The single access route (via a narrow unadopted road) to the site is a concern as is the inevitable increase in traffic so close to the village school and the bungalows for senior citizens.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hulbert for his comments. The Chairman stated, for clarification, that her comments on this matter are based on what she

knows at this point in time. Members of the Council discussed the proposed development at Ffordd Eldon and raised the following points:

- The land in question was put forward for development by the Welsh Government.
- The latest planning application does not address the shortcomings highlighted in the community council's response nor the Flintshire County Council (FCC) Development Brief, particularly in terms of development density.
- The planning application does not refer to:
 - the unadopted road.
 - the Public Right of Way
 - the protection of Wats Dyke
- The unacceptability of an increase in traffic flow so close to Ysgol Sychdyn.
- That the proposal is a spur development to be strongly opposed.
- The need for affordable housing to be integrated within the site.
- That the FCC Development Brief (Adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance 17.7.2012) must be taken into account and adhered to as *“The objective of the brief is to bring about a high quality development by providing clear advice to potential applicants on the Council's requirements and expectations in relation to this site at Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn.”*

The Chairman advised on procedure at Planning Committee and noted that one speaker from the community council and one from the community in general would each have three minutes to present their views on the planning application. As a member of the Planning Committee, the Chairman would have the option to be in attendance and to be able to speak on the matter for 5 minutes. Cllr. John Roberts agreed to represent Northop Community Council at the Planning Committee.

As yet there was no indication of when a site visit would take place. It was noted that individual objections would carry more weight than a petition.

The Council resolved unanimously to oppose the development at Ffordd Eldon on the grounds of:

- Impact on the character and appearance of an area - density of development
- Impact on highway safety - increased traffic flow, narrow site entrance
- Impact on community facilities - loss of open space
- Planning policies and proposals, noncompliance with Flintshire County Council's adopted Development Brief, including specified site density, lack of affordable housing and location of the public open space.

(ii) **KCS/054038** – Proposal: Amendment to previous application for the erection of two storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling, together with the formation of vehicular access at Springfield, Northop Road, CH7 6WA.

Members resolved to seek more detailed information on the line of the new vehicular access before commenting further. The Clerk to enquire.

(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/054380** - Application withdrawn 08/02/2016. Part demolition and conversion of existing chapel into 2No. semi-detached houses at Bryn Seion Chapel, London Road, Sychdyn.

(ii) **DJM/054669** - Delegated Officer Approval 12/02/2016. Erection of single storey side extension at 47 New Brighton Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EF.

(iii) **RMH/052334** – Postponement of the Planning Inspectorate Appeal due to take place 8th-11th and 15th March 2016. PROPOSAL: Construction of a new crematorium and associated works by Memoria Ltd. at Land at Kelsterton Road/Oakenholt Lane, Nr. Northop, CH7 6NF

6. ACCOUNTS

(a) The following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – £525.82 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for March 2016 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance (1.12.15 - 29.2.16) = £382.50 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (1.12.15 - 29.2.16) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.12.15 - 29.2.16) £25.00
 - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.12.15 - 29.2.16) £70.32
- (Cheque No. 1908) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £95.40 in respect of Clerk's salary for March 2016 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance (1.12.15 - 29.2.16)
- (Cheque No. 1909) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – October 2015 to January 2016 Street Lighting costs totalling £1,300.08
- Inspection = £320.00
 - Repair and Maintenance = £333.00
 - Energy costs = £647.08
- (Cheque No. 1910) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (iv) Section 137 donation to Urdd Gobaith Cymru (as agreed at the Council meeting on 8.2.2016) £100.00
- (Cheque No. 1911) (Government Act 1972 – Section 137)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting

Cllr. J. Carlin provided feedback on the well-attended consultation meeting held on 3rd February, including:

- The current compliment of Police staff, noting that the operational areas for PCSOs would be extended.
- The current policing priorities which include, child exploitation, child abuse, legal highs, Anti-social Behaviour Registration and attacks.
- The local Rural Crime contact.

(b) Age-Friendly Communities Workshop

Cllr. L. Deane provided feedback on the meeting held on 10th February, and reported that:

- The majority of attendees were already involved in some form of associated support group/centre activity.
- The core message was that isolated people are not necessarily all of pensionable age and that it is important for all age groups to be able to get out and meet other people.

(c) Notice Board at Northop Car Park (Cllr. G. Pierce)

The Chairman advised that Mr. Lightfoot (FCC) had the replacement of the Circular Walk Notice Board in hand and that the Council would receive costings advice in the coming week.

(d) Highway issues – Sychdyn (Cllr. J. Millar)

The Chairman advised that FCC have an on-going rolling programme of pot-hole filling/patching and that certain areas of Sychdyn village were already included. The Chairman to liaise with Neil Hickie regarding the new reports.

The missing Sychdyn village sign had been found by FCC and will be replaced at no cost the the community council. Replacement will be on a like-for-like basis.

(e) H.M. Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Commemorative Medal for Schools and Councils (Cllr. M. Bateman)

To celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday, the council resolved to purchase commemorative medals for the primary school pupils of Ysgol Sychdyn and Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop, at a cost of £1.99 per medal.

8. CITIZENS' AWARD

No nominations were received for the Junior Award. The nominations for the Citizens' Award were referred to the Awards Sub-Committee for consideration.

9. FOR INFORMATION

(a) Best Kept Communities Competition 2016

The Council has been advised that the closing date for entries is Friday 27th May and that judging will take place in the week beginning 4th July 2016.

(b) Connah's Quay Swimming Pool

The Council has been advised that the swimming pool has been the subject of a Community Asset Transfer Programme to Cambrian Aquatics Ltd., a local voluntary organisation. Cambrian Aquatics Ltd., are seeking support from businesses and organisations within the locality.

(c) Flint RNLI 50th Anniversary Lifeboat Appeal

The RNLI is seeking support for their Appeal and have extended an invitation to two Council members to attend their annual open meeting on Tuesday 5th April at 7.00pm at Flint lifeboat station.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 14th MARCH 2016
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	None.	