

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Edith Bankes Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 8 February, 2016.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Marion Bateman (Chairman), Geoff Pierce (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Joanne Millar, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Jos Wynne-Williams. Darell Jones (for first item) and the Clerk in attendance.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Councillors John Carlin and Alan Watkin.

### **PRESENTATION/LINK OFFICER MEETING WITH DARELL JONES, Operations North & Street Lighting Manager, Streetscene, Flintshire County Council**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Jones to the meeting. Mr. Jones outlined his new role and remit as Operations North & Street Lighting Manager for Flintshire County Council (FCC) and presented information and answered questions on the following topics:

#### **Street Lighting**

After an extensive period of trialling various LED lighting products, FCC has decided upon a satisfactory supplier and will upgrade street lights across the county to LED technology. The change to LED technology will achieve considerable savings in energy consumption.

FCC have embarked on a programme of part-night illumination whereby street lighting in specific areas of the county are dimmed between 22:00-06:00. However the energy cost savings of LED lighting may reduce the need for part-night illumination. Mr. Jones advised that road safety, crime levels and vulnerability of residents are factors given due consideration in the process of determining whether lighting should be dimmed/extinguished in specific areas. Lighting on main thoroughfares and roads with traffic calming interventions would not be lessened. Lighting along Raikes Lane, Sychdyn and St. Peter's Park, Northop are currently dimmed between 22:00-06:00.

The Council sought advice on the proposal that Church Road, Northop should benefit from the next phase of lighting upgrades. Mr. Jones confirmed that the lights along Church Road were in most need of upgrading and undertook to provide a quotation for the replacement of 6 bracketed lights and 1 columnar light, with LED technology. The existing column would be replaced with a new one made of 5mm thick steel and therefore more resilient to external erosive influences than the existing 3mm thick columns. The new columns have an expected lifespan of over 20 years. Scottish Power connection costs would be a significant element of the final quotation.

#### **Road Safety**

The following issues were raised and would be investigated by Mr. Jones:

- The road design in the area of the pedestrian crossing at the village end of the slip road between the A5119 and B5126 adjacent to Northop car park forces

larger vehicles over the central white line. The Chairman requested a meeting to discuss a solution to the issue.

- There is a faulty green light on the traffic light column sited adjacent to the Golf Club for traffic leaving Northop in the direction of Mold along the A5119.
- There is a filter lane for vehicles turning right off the B5126 onto the A5119 to Mold but there is no filter arrow on the controlling traffic lights.
- The Police are aware of the continued abuse of the one-way system at the top end of the High Street, Northop. The Community Council sought assistance from FCC to improve signage/road markings to counter the problem.
- Obstructive signage on the junction of the A5119 and the lane to Soughton Hall limits visibility onto the A5119.
- A queue of vehicles from the Mold direction can often be observed at the village traffic lights.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jones for his informative contribution and assistance.

## **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declaration of Interests were made.

## **2. POLICE MATTERS**

There were no matters to report.

## **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were confirmed as a true record.

## **4. STREET LIGHTING**

- (a) There were no reports of faulty lights.
- (b) It was resolved unanimously that the next phase of street lighting upgrades would be the first seven lights on Church Road (off the A5119). The Clerk to seek costings from Flintshire County Council.

## **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (i) **DJM/054669** – PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey side extension at 47 New Brighton Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EF.

The Council had no objection to the proposal.

- (ii) **BMK/054847** – PROPOSAL: Erection of extension and to dwelling and erection of detached double garage at Gatekeepers Cottage, Soughton, Mold, CH7 6AD.

The Council resolved no objection to the proposed development providing the proposed extensions are within the policy limit of a 50% increase in the size of the original building.

(iii) **JZB/054829** – PROPOSAL: Extension to existing garage and erection of new garage at Maes Y Llan, Flint Road, Northop, CH7 6BR.

The Council resolved no objection to the proposed development providing the proposed extensions are within the policy limit of a 50% increase in the size of the original building.

(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) **DJM/054621** – Application Withdrawn 07/01/16. Demolition of existing unit and stores and erection of new industrial building with associated parking at Tank House, Alltami Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6RH.

(ii) **JZP/054579** – Delegated Officer Approval 13/01/16. Change of use of land to additional car parking area for public house and relocation of vehicular and pedestrian access at Cross Keys, Black Brook, Soughton, CH7 6LT

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for February 2016 = £310.30 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1906) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £77.60  
in respect of Clerk's salary February 2016  
(Cheque No. 1907) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

## **7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

### **(a) South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting**

Deferred until the March Council meeting for feedback by Cllr. J. Carlin.

### **(b) The Car Park (Cllr. L. Deane)**

The Council resolved to:

- (i) Erect a disclaimer notice at the Northop Car Park.
- (ii) Obtain costings for a height restricting barrier at the Northop Car Park.

### **(c) Age-Friendly Communities Workshop**

Deferred until the March Council meeting.

## **8. CITIZENS' AWARD**

The matter to be deferred to the March Council meeting.

## **9. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Council considered requests for financial assistance and resolved to award £100 to Urdd Gobaith Cymru to support the Eisteddfod at Flint in May 2016.

## **10. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL**

(a) Members receive feedback from Cllr. J. Roberts and the Clerk as attendees of the Consultation Event at Venue Cymru on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

(b) The Council resolved to respond to the consultation with particular regard to:

- the need for adequate funding for local government to be able to deliver efficient and effective services to residents
- opposing proposals to merge town and community councils to form larger local councils
- concerns regarding the increasingly onerous roles for volunteer councillors in the proposed merged councils
- staffing issues associated with mergers
- the unacceptability of a six-year term of office for community councillors from 2017-2023, and counter-proposing two terms of office of three years length
- the introduction of 'competency' status to town and community councils at a time of major change
- the proposal to introduce Community Area Committees
- the role of Public Service Boards
- the inappropriateness of proposals to allow members of the press and public to record/film town and community council meetings
- the need for a paper-based system to work in parallel with the proposed e-petition system to replace community polls; also concerns regarding verification methods of signatories of e-petitions.

The Clerk, in consultation with Cllr. Roberts, to complete the response by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## **11. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – ALLOTMENT LAND, OFF ST. PETER'S PARK, NORTHOP**

The Council resolved to contact existing allotment holders to advise them of actions to date. It was agreed that the Community Council's aim would be to offer support in establishing a self-governing and independent community based group that could manage the allotment site.

## **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960**

Council resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item 12.

### **12. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

The Grounds Maintenance Contracts for the 2016-2019 growing seasons were awarded to Jim's Mowing, The Green, Northop.

### **13. FOR INFORMATION**

The Council received information on the following:

#### **(a) Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales**

- (i) Confirmation of annual membership and receipt of Newsletters/information.
- (ii) Invitation to attend Branch Meetings at Loggerheads Country Park.

**(b)** The Council had received a letter of thanks from Northop Silver Band for the grant of £500.00.

#### **(c) Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2016/17**

The Welsh Government has confirmed that the Section 137 limit for the forthcoming financial year is £7.42 per elector.

#### **(d) Community Council Precept 2016/17**

Flintshire County Council have advised that due to rounding of the precept/tax base, the Band D equivalent for the area would be £19.99, indicating a reduction of 0.05% on the previous year.

#### **(e) Best Kept Community Competition 2016**

The Judges' Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at County Hall, Mold commencing at 6.00pm.

#### **(f) Changes to Flintshire Mobile Library Service**

Flintshire County Council has advised that changes have been made to the date/timing of the Mobile Library Service to Northop and Sychdyn villages, commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February:

Visit on Day 6 (Monday) of 3 week rota to the Village Hall, Sychdyn, 3.00-3.30pm  
Visit on Day 15 (Friday) of 3 week rota to Ffordd Glyndŵr, Northop, 2.00-3.45pm.

#### **(g) Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain – Consultation Report**

The Consultation Report on the proposed closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin could be viewed on Flintshire County Council's website.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	