

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 8 May, 2017.

PRESENT: Councillors Geoff Pierce (Chairman 2016-17), Chris Ruddle (Vice-Chairman 2016-17), Paul Ashley, Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Jo Millar, Linda Scott, Alan Watkins, and the Clerk. PCSO Stephanie Jones (until the conclusion of Item 5.) and three members of the public were also present.

APOLOGIES – None.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

All members present completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed the new Councillors and reported on his year of Office and on the significant issues addressed by the Council during that time. The Chairman noted as significant issues the proposed housing development behind the Cricket Field, which was rejected by Flintshire County Council, and the current appeal by the developer following the refusal by Flintshire County Council of the proposed housing development on land south-east of Northop Brook.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Vice-Chairman (Cllr. Chris Ruddle) for their support and paid particular thanks the Cllr. Ruddle for his great assistance in carrying out a number of civic commitments on behalf of the Chairman and the Council. Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes also received the Chairman's thanks for assisting him to civic functions. In addition, the Chairman thanked all of the Council members for the way in which they had conducted themselves and stated that it had been a pleasure to serve as their Chairman.

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND INVESTITURE WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE

It was proposed that Cllr. Chris Ruddle be elected Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2017-18. The proposal by Cllr. L. Deane was seconded by Cllr. M. Bateman and on being put to the vote, was agreed. Cllr. Chris Ruddle was invested with the Chain of Office by Cllr. G. Pierce who offered his best wishes for his year of Office. Cllr. Ruddle thanked his fellow members for their support on being elected as Chairman and thanked Cllr. G. Pierce, the retiring Chairman, for his work on behalf of the Council.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed that Cllr. Linda Deane be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2017-18. Cllr. Deane accepted the nomination by Cllr. J. Carlin which

was subsequently seconded by Cllr. M. Bateman and, on being put to the vote, was agreed. Cllr. Deane accepted the role and expressed her thanks to her fellow members.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made:

4. VACANCY

Members were advised of the vacant seat in the Sychdyn Ward and that under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Section 116 a Notice of Co-option would be advertised immediately following the meeting. The Notice would seek expressions of interest by 31st May, from duly qualified members of the public, who are interested in representing their community. Members were asked to advertise the vacancy as widely as possible amongst their contacts and amongst residents of the Community area. The Clerk would post the Notice on the Council's website and at the village Post Offices and Halls.

5. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stephanie Jones advised members that she was the new PCSO for the Northop, Sychdyn, Northop Hall, Ewloe and Hawarden areas. She also noted that unfortunately Northop and Hawarden Community Council meetings were held at the same time, but she would seek to attend as many Council meetings as possible. Members heard of a theft from a vehicle on St. Peter's Park, Northop where a number of personal items had been stolen. Residents were advised to ensure that all vehicles are securely locked and personal items placed out of sight. The theft of a golf buggy from the Northop Golf Course was also reported.

Issues raised by Members

- Northop Church door had been forced open and items stolen, however there were no Police reports. The PCSO to investigate further.
- An increase in the number of vehicles speeding along the B5126, out of Northop village towards the College and beyond. The PCSO to investigate further.
- Concern regarding the abuse of the weight limit along the lane out of Sychdyn towards New Brighton. The PCSO to investigate further.
- The continued abuse of the one-way system at the top of the High Street, Northop, particularly during the morning and afternoon school drop-offs and pick-ups. The PCSO to investigate further.
- Concern regarding the actions of teenagers playing in the designated children's play area adjacent to Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop. The PCSO to investigate further.

Once received, the Clerk would share with members, PCSO Stephanie Jones's contact details.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 10th April 2017 were accepted as a correct record.

7. COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

In accordance with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, members considered payments to be made to members of the Council in the execution of their duties. It was resolved that:

- (a) 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.
- (b) The Chairman's Allowance for the Civic Year 2017-18 would be up to £200.00 and would be paid on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursements of expenses are not subject to income tax.

8. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council's Standing Orders require review and it was agreed that Cllrs. M. Bateman, L. Dean and P. Lawton-Hughes would form a Task & Finish Group to review those Standing Orders.

The Clerk to arrange a suitable date to meet.

9. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Council representatives on the following organisations were agreed as follows:

- (a) School Governing Bodies
 - (i) Northop CP School - Councillor Mrs Linda Deane stood down as Council representative. Representation to be re-considered at the Council's meeting on 12th June.
 - (ii) Sychdyn CP School - Councillor Mrs Pauline Lawton-Hughes to continue in the role.
- (b) Memorial Halls
 - (i) Northop - Councillor Mrs Linda Deane to continue in the role.
 - (ii) Sychdyn - Councillor Mrs Marion Bateman to continue in the role.
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau - Councillor Pauline Lawton- Hughes to continue in the role.
- (f) Northop Community Council Planning Sub-Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to the Council)

Additionally the following roles were identified:

- (g) County Forum – Cllrs. Chris Ruddle and Pauline Lawton-Hughes to continue in their roles.
- (h) Police Consultation – Cllrs. Pauline Lawton Hughes and J. Carlin to continue in their roles.

The following roles would be reviewed at the Council meeting on 12th June:

- (d) Flintshire County Council Public Transport User Forum

- (Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes)
(e) Flintshire County Council Planning Focus Group (Councillor John Carlin)

10. STREETSCENE ISSUES

- (a) Reports of the following issues were received:

Street Lighting– A light out near to 18 Pen-y-Pentre, Sychdyn.

Gullies – A request for the gullies to be cleaned on the lane between Sychdyn and New Brighton.

- (b) Members were advised that the next phase of the upgrading work to the 8 bracketed street lights along Church Road had been agreed with Flintshire County Council at a cost of £850 per light. Members further agreed that the condition of the single column light adjacent to Park View should be investigated and if found to be sub-standard, it too should be replaced (at an anticipated cost of £1,150). The Clerk advised that the upgrading work is likely to begin in the next two weeks.

The Clerk to report to Flintshire County Council.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

(i) **DJM/056822** – Proposal: Construction of a two storey fronted extension, and double-pitched roofs to the side of the property at Pontenion Cottage, Connah's Quay Road, Northop, CH7 6BT.

The Council had no objection to the 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) **056698** – Delegated Officer Approval 7/4/17. Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission ref. 056410 at Bryn Gwyn, London Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EL

12. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

None raised.

13. ACCOUNTS

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for May 2017 = £326.65 (net)
(Cheque No. 1983) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £81.60 in respect of Clerk’s salary May 2017 (Cheque No. 1984) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – Payment of March 2017 invoice totalling £388.77 comprising:
 - Street Lighting = £161.77
 - Inspection and Maintenance = £227.00
 (Cheque No. 1985) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (iv) Jim’s Mowing – Grass Cutting on 10th and 24th April totalling £110.00. (Cheque No. 1986) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (v) Cllr. M. Bateman – Reimbursement of costs associated with Citizens’ Award £50.00 (Cheque No. 1987) (Local Government Act 2000, s.2)
- (vi) JDH Business Services Ltd. – Fee for internal audit £139.20 (Cheque No. 1988) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (vii) Flintshire County Council – Crown lift of 1 x conifer tree at Northop Car Park, £120.00 (Cheque No. 1989) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

14. DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) IN FLINTSHIRE

The Council consider a response to the consultation by Flintshire County Council on locations to be included in the Public Spaces Protection Order. The response to include the Northop Car Park along with all play areas in the Community area, open grassed areas and verges maintained by the County Council. The Clerk to advise Flintshire County Council by the closing date of 26th May 2017.

15. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

(a) Council received the Clerk’s report on the Internal Audit for the financial year ended 31st March 2017. Following the revaluation of the Council’s Fixed Assets for 2016-17, the Internal Auditor’s recommendation was to seek further advice from the External Auditor with regard for the requirement to ‘restate’ the 2015-16 fixed asset valuations. The External Auditor’s response was awaited.

(b) In view of the awaited response from the External Auditor, Council resolved to defer until the June meeting, the decision to authorise the Chairman and Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer to sign the draft Annual Return for submission to the External Auditor by 13 June 2017.

16. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - A55 JUNCTION WITH A494 AND A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR

The Chairman invited two members of the public to speak on the matter of the Deeside Corridor Study. Mr. John Yorke and Mr. Robert Hodgkinson raised concerns regarding the proposed Red and Blue Routes set out in the Welsh Government’s Consultation Document. Mr. Yorke and Mr. Hodgkinson set out the impact the Red Route would have on the residents, businesses and biodiversity in its path. Mr. Hodgkinson stated that his family organic farm would be severely affected by the Red Route and he

considered that it would not be viable to continue farming if the Red Route was chosen. The loss of ancient woodland, green barrier land, good productive farm land and diverse habitats would ensue, should the Red Route be chosen and the scale of the proposed intersection at Northop would dwarf the village. Neither the Red nor the Blue Route would alleviate the westbound congestion currently experienced along the A55 as the fundamental cause of the tailbacks would not be addressed, including the slowing of traffic on the hill between Northop and Halkyn. Mr. Yorke and Mr. Hodgkinson proposed an alternative route, which they identified as the Green Route, which would see traffic bound for North Wales filtered from the M56 onto the M53 which becomes the A55 to the south of Chester. This route would reducing the traffic along the A494 (the Blue Route) and removing the need for the Red Route through Oakenholt and Flint Mountain to Northop.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Yorke and Mr. Hodgkinson for their input.

Members agreed:

(a) To accepted the recommendations of the Task & Finish Group as set out in the draft response and to convene a 2nd meeting of the Task & Finish Group to finalise the response given additional information that was now to hand. The draft response set out the Council's objection to the Red Route and had detailed an alternative route that coincided with the Green Route noted above.

(b) To share the Council's draft response with Mr. Yorke and Mr. Hodgkinson before the further exhibition of the road scheme options to take place at the Northop Campus of Glyndŵr University on Wednesday 10th May, between 10:00am and 8:00p.m.

The Clerk was thanked for compiling the draft response.

17. RENEWAL OF THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY

Council heard that, of the two quotes received to date, Zurich Municipal was by far the cheapest at £411.98, however the content of the two policies would need to be compared further with a view to negotiating a better 2-year deal. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to consider any improved quotes before the renewal date of 1st June, 2017.

...

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 8th MAY 2017
------------------------	--------------------------------------

MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
None		