

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Geoff Pierce, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. Darell Jones (Flintshire County Council) attended for the presentation, PCSO Lynn Turner was present for Item 2.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Councillors Haydn Bateman, Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Linda Deane, Joanne Millar and Jos Wynne-Williams.

### **PRESENTATION by Darell Jones, Street Lighting Team Leader, Flintshire County Council – “Street Lighting – White Light, Dimming, Trimming and Stock Maintenance”**

Darell Jones provided a very detailed presentation on many aspects of street lighting and in particular:

- The benefits of switching from thermal orange lighting to electronic white light – improved visibility for motorists and pedestrians and energy cost savings.
- The saving to be achieved by investing in modern equipment which will also reduce carbon footprint.
- The savings to be achieved by reviewing the burn time of street lighting (trimming and dimming).
- The work to be undertaken to improve the condition of much of the Community Council's lighting stock.
- The condition requirements to enable any transfer of street lighting to Flintshire County Council for a commuted sum of £950 per light.

The presentation was well received and appreciated by the members present. The Chairman thanked Darell Jones for his guidance and advice and clarity of his presentation.

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

No Declarations of Interest were made.

### **2. POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Turner provided the members with an update on Police Matters in the community:

- There had been a burglary on Rhosesmor Road, Northop and thefts of a chainsaw from Chester Road, Northop and two mountain bikes from Sychdyn.
- There had been an attempted break-in at the Northop Golf Club.
- Enquiries are on-going after a second burglary at a Sychdyn property where the outbuilding had been attacked.
- A night disturbance by 2 people in the garden of a property at Trem-y-Foel, Sychdyn

- There had been reports of a dog attacking sheep along Alltami Road, One lamb from Bryn-y-Ffynnon Farm had been killed. No description of the dog had been secured. PCSO Turner asked that walkers be vigilant and if anyone has witnessed an attack they should report it to the Police.
- PCSO Turner advised residents to be extra vigilant as the dark nights approach. The Police would be pleased to receive any information about suspicious vehicles and ask that registration numbers be carefully noted and reported to the Police.
- The new Police Sargeant for the Area is Sgt. 1337 Mavis Evans.
- There have been a number of registration plate thefts in the area. Thieves swap the stolen plates onto stolen cars used in burglaries. Residents are advised to report any registration plate burglaries.

Members raised concerns with PCSO Turner:

- Cllr. Geoff Pierce expressed concern that vehicles are speeding along the High Street, Northop from 8.15am onwards. PCSO Turner advised that any reduction in the speed limit would need to be directed to the Highways Authority but that the Police would work to support the Council to realise a reduction to 20mph along the High Street. The 20pmh speed limit outside schools would soon be enforceable.
- Cllr. John Carlin enquired about the increased number of AMP cameras in the county. PCSO Turner advised that the cameras have proven very useful in identifying the location of stolen cars or those suspected of being used in crime.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 was accepted as a correct record. Cllr. John Roberts referred to agenda item 7.(b) and welcomed the re-opening of the Cross Keys public house, Sychdyn wishing them every success.

### **4. STREET LIGHTING**

(a) No reports of faults were received.

(b) Members considered future options for the Council's lighting stock. Cllr Rob Mackey commented that there was a need to look carefully at the work and funding required to upgrade the lighting stock over the next 10 years. It was estimated that some £20,000 may be required each year for the next 10 years to discharge the Community Council's lighting responsibilities to Flintshire County Council. Careful consideration would need to be given to the sourcing of necessary funds.

The Council resolved to fund the repair and upgrade of the smashed light on London Road, Sychdyn. The Council further resolved that once the upgrade work was completed and the light on Pen-y-Bryn, Sychdyn had been reinstated to the network, both lights would be transferred to Flintshire County Council for the commuted sum of £950 per light.

The Council resolved unanimously to consider a suitable policy approach to the transfer of all of it's street lighting portfolio over the coming 10 years.

## 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) **BMK/052460** – PROPOSAL: Erection of porch to front of dwelling and erection of single garage at 21 Llys Y Wern, Sychdyn, CH7 6BJ.

The Council had no objection to the proposed scheme.

(ii) **BMK/052492** – PROPOSAL: 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.

The Council had no objection to the proposed scheme.

(iii) **BMK/052475** – PROPOSAL: 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.

Members of the Council welcomed the proposal to develop lettable hotel rooms at the Red Lion Hotel provided the lettings were restricted to tourist/leisure use and not for long-term social housing lets which could change the character of the village.

Although the following applications fall outside the Northop Community area, there was an opportunity for this Council to comment.

(iv) **MES/052364** – PROPOSAL: 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 resolved to object to the above development proposal on several grounds:

Impact on residential amenity: Public Right of Way Buckley 1 crosses the identified site and would be compromised if the development proceeds leading to a loss of amenity / leisure activity. Waste Management sites are noisy and odorous facilities which have a negative impact on local resident and those some distance away.

Impact on the character and appearance of the area: The proposals would constitute a major scarring of the countryside bringing with it increased traffic flows and pollution.

Planning policies and proposals, or Government planning advice: A previous recent application was refused on the grounds of questionable need. Need for such a development remains unproven.

(v) **RMH/052334** - PROPOSAL: Construction of a new crematorium, associated car park, access road and ancillary works, landscaping, gardens of remembrance and area for natural burials at Land at Kelsterton Lane/Oakenholt Lane, Nr. Northop.

The Council resolved to object to the proposed development as it would have an impact on the character and appearance of the area forcing development in what is currently open land.

(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) **PXR/052280** – Delegated Officer Approval 14/8/14. Erection of a first floor extension to the rear and extension to the existing garage at Greenacres, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, Mold, CH7 6RQ.

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – £450.06 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for September 2014 plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Annual Allowance (1.6.14 - 31.8.14) = £365.90 (net)
  - Quarterly internet rental (1.6.14 - 31.8.14) £48.00
  - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.6.14 - 31.8.14) £25.00
  - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.6.14 - 31.8.14) £11.16  
(Cheque No. 1820) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £91.60.  
in respect of Clerk's salary for September 2014 plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Annual Allowance (1.6.14 – 31.8.14)  
(Cheque No. 1821) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 4th and 18th August, totalling £110.00.  
(Cheque No. 1822) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)

(b) The Council approved the payments made in August 2014 of the following accounts:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for August 2014 = £294.10 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1816) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £73.40  
in respect of Clerk's salary August 2014  
(Cheque No. 1817) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 7th and 21st July totalling £110.00.  
(Cheque No. 1818) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (iv) Society of Local Council Clerks - £118.80 (incl. £19.80 VAT). Fee for Clerk's ILCA on-line course. (Approved on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014).  
(Cheque No. 1819) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

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

**Condition of the Old School, The Green, Northop** (Cllr. Marion Bateman)

Cllr. Alan Watkin spoke on behalf of Cllr. Marion Bateman who sought the support of the Community Council to put pressure on Flintshire County Council to take enforcement

action to conserve the Old School . The Council heard that the planning permission for the Old School had now lapsed. Members resolved to write to Flintshire County Council to request they pursue the necessary enforcement action. The Clerk to write to the Head of Planning Services on the matter.

**8. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014**

The Council approved the certification and signing off of the Council's Annual Return 2013/14 undertaken at the August 2014 meeting.

**9. NORTH WALES POLICE – SOUTH FLINTSHIRE CONSULTATION MEETING**

It was agreed that Cllr. Pauline Lawton-Hughes would represent the Council at the Consultation Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr. Haydn Bateman would also be approached to attend.

**10. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY WHITE PAPER – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Council resolved not to comment further on the consultation document.

**11. BIG BUDGET CONVERSATION / DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES**

(a) In considering the implications for Northop Community Council of the current initiative, members expressed concern that any transferred services should be accompanied by appropriate funding.

(b) It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would attend the meeting for Town and Community Councils hosted by leaders of Flintshire County Council on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at County Hall. .

**12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY FORUM - 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

Cllr Alan Watkin proposed 'Youth Services' as a suitable items for inclusion in the agenda of the County Forum meeting to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr. Watkin expressed concern about the disappearance of Youth Services in Sychdyn and Northop and wished to know what was being done to improve on the matter. The Clerk to inform Flintshire County Council.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	