

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 9th February, 2015.

PRESENT: Councillors John Carlin (Chairman), Marion Bateman (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Joanne Millar, Geoff Pierce, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Joss Wynne-Williams and the Clerk. Neil Hickie was present for the presentation.

APOLOGIES – Received from Councillors Tony Sharps and Alan Watkin.

PRESENTATION BY NEIL HICKIE, Streetscene Services Manager, Flintshire County Council (FCC)

The Council received a presentation by Mr. Hickie in which he outlined the services provided by FCC's Streetscene Services and the associated response time targets. More detailed information was provided on:

- Twice yearly Visual Audits undertaken by Neil Hickie in conjunction with Cllrs. Haydn and Marion Bateman.
- Annual cleansing of road gullies in the community.
- The imminent re-structuring of Streetscene Contact Officer responsibilities.
- The recent roadside litter picking targeting the Mold-Northop-Flint route.
- Technological improvements to reduce the number of missed collections.
- Improvements in identifying fly tippers.

Mr. Hickie responded to the following issues which were raised by Members:

- The gully in the centre of Northop Car Park would be cleansed to be further monitored.
- The repair of the faulty street light outside 15 Ffordd Gwynedd, Northop would be pursued.
- Increased problem of dog fouling along Wats Dyke Way (footpath Northop 33) and the top of Church Road, Northop would be targeted by the Enforcement Team in the coming months.
- An additional Dog Waste Bin would be provided adjacent to Sychdyn School.
- The problem of roadside litter between New Brighton and Sychdyn and along the route to Soughton Hall would be addressed. Much of the litter is clearly from a McDonalds outlet but the localities mentioned are beyond the litter pick radius of the A55 outlet.
- The request that domestic refuse collection teams minimise littering from collections would be taken forward.
- Faults to FCC owned street lighting should be reported directly to Streetscene (01352-701234) whilst faults to NCC owned lighting should be reported via the Clerk. Any delays in rectifying any faults should be reported to the Clerk to pursue.
- Trees overhanging or affecting telegraph lines should be reported to B.T. for action.
- Mr. Hickie advised that in order to provide accurate costings for new village name signs he would require details of the proposed wording and any emblem

to be included. Sign panels are costed by size rather than by the number of words displayed.

Mr. Hickie reiterated his offer of advice to the Council on any Streetscene matter and asked should any fault or failing be considered dangerous, that it be reported to him immediately.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hickie for an informative discussion and for his assistance to the Community Council.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declaration of Interests were made.

2. POLICE MATTERS

(i) PCSO Turner was unable to attend the meeting but provided an update on matters that had occurred during the past month:

- Complaint of speeding motorists in the stretch of road near the Northop college campus. PCSO Turner would monitor the situation and provide an update for the next meeting.
- Damage caused to a vehicle parked on Ffordd Glyndŵr, Northop.
- A theft from a vehicle in Sychdyn. Residents are reminded to ensure their vehicles are locked and secure, even when parked on the driveway. There has been a significant increase in thefts from vehicles which have left unsecured.
- The outcome of a Crown Court hearing (9.2.15) involving a Sychdyn resident is awaited.

(ii) Cllrs. P. Lawton-Hughes and H. Bateman would represent the Council at the South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting at the Mold Town Hall on Wednesday 4th March, commencing at 5.30pm.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 12th January were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Item 4(a) – Cllr. H. Bateman reported that Column 5 on Blackbrook, Sychdyn was still out.

Item 8 – The Clerk confirmed that Andy Roberts and Adrian Walters had agreed to attend the next Council meeting on 9th March to discuss LDP Candidate Sites in the community.

4. STREET LIGHTING

The following faults were reported:

Sychdyn – Column 5 on Blackbrook opposite the White Hill footpath had still not been repaired.

Northop - The light outside 20 Ffordd Gwynedd has been repaired but the light outside 15 Ffordd Gwynedd had not been lit since before Christmas.

The Clerk to pursue.

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) **PXR/053187** – Proposal: Erection of replacement garage at Greenacres, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, Mold, CH7 6RQ.

The Council had no objection to the above 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) **BMK/053075** – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling to form annex at 12 Cae Berwyn, Sychdyn, CH7 6AJ. Delegated Officer Approval 27.1.2015.

(c) The Clerk advised that the Council had received an invitation to speak at the Planning and Development Control Committee on 12.2.2015 on the application **RMH/052334** – Construction of a new crematorium on land at Kelsterton Lane/Oakenholt Lane, Nr. Northop, CH7 6DW. The invitation was noted.

6. ACCOUNTS

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – £344.23 comprising:
- Clerk's salary for February 2015 = £310.38 (net)
 - Back pay w.e.f. 1.1.15 = £16.26 (net)
 - Single non-consolidated payment due 1.12.14 = £17.60 (net) (Cheque No. 1845) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £86.00 in respect of Clerk's salary February 2015 (Cheque No. 1846) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – Payment of 2 composite invoices for November and December 2014, totalling £483.54:
- Street Lighting = £323.54
 - Inspection and Maintenance = £160.00 (Cheque No. 1847) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) **Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the Northop Community Area** (Cllr. John Roberts)

Cllr. Roberts presented his report and noted that in general, the PRowS are in good condition. However, he sought the Council's support to address the following failings:

- (i) **FP21** No signage on the lane to Greenbank at Maes y Grug Farm.
- (ii) **FP20A** No signage at Bryn y Ffynnon and original path is obstructed.
- (iii) **FP20** No signage at Mount Pleasant Farm where the original path is severely obstructed with one section calf deep in mud.

Cllr. M. Bateman thanked Cllr. Roberts for his hard work in reviewing the PRowS and added that the Council was fortunate to have a member committed to bringing about improvements. Cllr. R. Mackey also added his thanks.

Further discussion took place highlighting the following points:

- Increased use of the footpath network could increase the number of visitors to the area and in turn this would be of benefit to local businesses. Cllr. R. Mackey suggested that £250 could be spent on promoting the use of the footpath network.
- Improved signage would improve uptake and use of the footpath network.
- Exploring the suggestion of partnership working with FCC to make us of the network for 'Healthy Walks'.
- Considering promoting the footpath network via the Council's website.
- A number of PRowS cross Northop Golf Course and the paths are identified by short yellow capped posts.

Cllr. G. Pierce reported that he had recently been following a waymarked footpath across the golf course but was challenged by a golfer in a most offensive manner. The Clerk would write to Northop Golf Club, expressing the Council's grave concerns regarding the incident.

The Council resolved to support Cllr. Roberts's motion to address the failings along FP 20, 20A and 21 (above) and in doing so reaffirmed the Council's commitment to improving the health, leisure opportunities and well being of the community. A budget of £250 will be allocated to contribute to footpath improvements.

It was also resolved that the Clerk should write to Flintshire County Council regarding the obstructive practice of maize cropping across footpaths, in particular FP 1 and 2. Flintshire County Council will also be pressed to complete the documentation relating to the re-alignment of FP1, 2, 4 and 19 following the construction of the A55.

(b) Village name signs

The matter was deferred until the March meeting.

8. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

After due consideration, the Council resolved to make the following donations under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (a) £200 to Welsh Border Community Transport.
- (b) £100 to Flintshire Disability Forum.
- (c) £100 to Nightingale House Hospice.

9. SUMMER PLAYSCHHEME 2015 and 2016

- (a) The Council resolved to fund 3 weeks' provision of Summer Playschemes this year in Sychdyn and Northop at a cost of £900 per location. Provision would commence 20th July 2015.
- (b) The Council resolved to support Sychdyn 2012's proposal to fund an additional week's provision at Sychdyn. There would be no additional cost to the Council.
- (c) The consideration of how provision of the Summer Playschemes could be secured for 2016 was deferred to a later meeting.

10. CONSULTATION: PROPOSED CHANGES TO SYCHDYN POST OFFICE

The Council gave due consideration to the changes to services and layout at Sychdyn Post Office. The following points were raised:

- Soughton Post Office is an essential part of village life and has been for many years and the Community Council wishes for that to continue.
- The current location of the Post Office at the rear of the shop allows customers a degree of privacy in their transactions. The proposed configuration with a Post Office till on the retail counter at the front of the shop, adjacent to the shop window and door, would offer no privacy. The Council was concerned that elderly customers in particular, would feel vulnerable receiving their pension payments in full view of the shop's general customers.
- There was a burglary at the Post Office premises some months ago. The proposed configuration of the Post Office would appear to lessen security and in the opinion of the Community Council, make further burglary attempts more likely.
- There were concerns that sighting a Post Office till on the retail counter with limited staffing would cause delays for queuing customers. The Council was concerned that this could affect the viability of the business as a whole.
- The proposed opening hours were considered excessive and there were concerns about how an appropriate level of staffing could be maintained to provide a satisfactory service for Post Office customers.

The Clerk to draft a response in consultation with the Vice-Chairman. The deadline for responses is 18th February 2015.

11. COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk provided the Council with usage data relating to the Council's website. It was noted that use of the website appears to be increasing.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

A Code of Conduct training session has been arranged by Flintshire County Council for Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Offices, Quay Building, Fron Road, Connah's Quay, CH5 4PJ.

- (a) Cllr P. Lawton-Hughes and the Clerk would attend.
- (b) There were no requests for any additional or more detailed training.

The Clerk to advise Flintshire County Council.

13. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE – FLINT MOUNTAIN (additional item)

The Clerk provided copies of the Draft Proposals document. A number of locations were identified as appropriate for posting the necessary Notices. The matter to be discussed further at the Council meeting on 13th April 2015.

14. COUNTY FORUM MEETING - 26th FEBRUARY 2015 (additional item)

Cllr. C. Ruddle and the Clerk would attend the meeting at the Alyn & Deeside Room, County Hall, commencing 6.00pm.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 9th FEBRUARY 2015
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	None.	