

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 9 January, 2017.

PRESENT: Councillors Geoff Pierce (Chairman), Chris Ruddle (Vice-Chairman), Haydn Bateman, Linda Deane, John Carlin, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Joanne Millar, John Roberts, Alan Watkin, Jos Wynne-Williams and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES – Received from Councillor Marion Bateman, PCSO Dan Stanton

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. The Chairman advised that there would be an additional agenda item to consider towards the close of the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Rob Mackey – Chair of Trustees of Edith Bankes Memorial Institute (Agenda Item 6.(a)(iii) – Approval of payment of grant)

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Dan Stanton was unable to attend due to a work emergency and sent his apologies but undertook to e-mail to the Clerk an update to share with members.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings on 5th and 12th December 2016 were confirmed as correct records. Members expressed their thanks to the Clerk for compiling the response to the Strategic Options consultation by Flintshire County Council (FCC).

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

The Clerk to chase progress on repairs to a previously reported light on Manor Park, Sychdyn.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- (i) **RMH/056253** – Erection of 5no. dwellings and associated landscaping and creation of new access at Land off Northop Road, Northop.

Following due consideration, members resolved unanimously to object to the proposed development on the grounds of:

- It is contrary to the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan Policy GEN4,.
- The development would impact on the character and appearance of the village resulting in the loss of, and unacceptable harm, to the openness of the green barrier. and to the character of the village.
- The development includes a property which is totally out of proportion with nearby dwellings and within the adjacent Conservation Area.
- The development proposes the establishment of three separate access roads onto the A5119 close to it's junction with the A55 and would therefore have a considerable impact on residential amenity and road safety in the immediate area.

(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) **ADW/055975** - Delegated Officer Approval 07/12/2016. Erection of Management teaching building with associated parking and landscaping works at Coleg Cambria, Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA.
- (ii) **DJM/056266** – Delegated Officer Approval 05/12/2016. Application for non-material amendment to planning permission ref. 055508 at Lilac Cottage, Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn, CH7 6ST.

(c) **Planning Ref. 055912 / Appeal Ref. No. APP/A6835/E/16/3162410**. Section 78 Appeal for non-determination of planning permission. Appeal Start Date of 6.12.16. **Proposal:** Listed Building application for the conversion of School wing into 2 dwellings and refurbishment of existing school house. Demolition of curtilage storage buildings on boundary at School House, The Green Northop, CH7 6BD. The decision by the Planning Inspector will be on the basis of an informal hearing and site visit.

- (i) Members confirmed that they wish to see the site developed without further delay.
- (ii) A Council representative would not be attending the informal hearing.

6. ACCOUNTS

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for January 2017 and back pay w.e.f. 1.4.16 to 31.12.16 = £351.85 (net)
(Cheque No. 1960) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) Income Tax payment of £87.80
in respect of Clerk's salary January 2017 and back pay (as above).
(Cheque No. 1961) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Edith Bankes Memorial Hall - £175.00 grant towards the cost of repair of the noticeboard. As approved at the Council meeting on 12/12/2016.
(Cheque No. 001962) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 137)

- (iv) Flintshire County Council –invoice totalling £315.27:
- Electricity consumption November 2016 = £161.77
 - Inspection and maintenance of street lighting Nov. 2016 = £153.50 (Cheque No. 1963) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

(b) At the October meeting, members approved the following payments, subject to receipt of appropriate audited accounts. Audited accounts were received therefore payments under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 were approved as follows:

- Flintshire CAB - £100 (Cheque no. 001965)
- Northop Silver Band - £500 (Cheque no. 001964)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting (Cllr. J. Carlin)

Members received feedback from Cllr. Carlin who attended the Consultation Evening at Mold Council Chambers, Town Hall, Mold on Tuesday 6th December. The Consultation Evening was hosted by District Inspector Jonathon Bowcott and Sergeant Richards. Attendees received statistical data which indicated:

- In July, the increase in reported crime was noted at 23% for Flintshire, however in the following months that rate of increase had slowed to 10.6% on the previous period. The rate of increase for that same later period across the North Wales Police Force was 6.4%.
- There was a decrease in the instances of ‘other’ crime but an increase in shoplifting.
- There was an Increase in reported crime associated with Legal Highs – postal delivery and the closure of a shop in Saltney where Legal Highs were sold.
- Instances of Anti-social Behaviour had increased by 16.3%
- The number of patrol officers has decrease over the past 6 months but by February the N.W. Police Force will be actively recruiting.
- There are currently 11 PCSOs in the South Flintshire Area but it is hoped to recruit a further 3 officers in the near future.
- The Police wish to establish a Community Speed Camera team in Sychdyn. Cllr. Carlin can provide the Police contact details for anyone interested in this work.
- Building work is beginning on the new regional Police H.Q. at Llay which will replace the existing building in Wrexham.

Cllr Ruddle asked that at future Consultation meetings, the Police be asked for actual crime figures rather than percentage increased and decreases. This would help everyone to understand the level of reported crime in the area.

(b) Public Rights of Way (Cllrs J. Roberts)

- (i) Cllr. Roberts reported that he had spoken with John Hill of FCC and they had identified a scheme on a stretch of 165mtrs of Springy Lane, south of the bridge from Lower Soughton Hall where the land is falling away. The repair to the land on Springy Lane will provide a good route which

links both community villages. FCC will match fund the proposed £500 contribution by Northop C.C. Council resolved to approve the expenditure.

(ii) Cllr. Roberts provided an update on local Public Rights of Way:

- Footpath Northop 2, heading out of the village, has been reinstated on a stretch where a farmer had dug a ditch through the path. The ditch has now been filled in.
- The stile on Watts Dyke by Offa's Dyke Farm has been repaired.
- The work already undertaken and that which is planned, will see the local network much improved for the benefit of local people and visitors.

(c) **Highway Safety** (Cllr. J. Wynne-Williams)

Cllr Wynne-Williams reported on the difficulties of gaining clear sight of traffic on the B5126 Holywell Road from the junction with High Street, Northop. The installation of a convex mirror across the road from the High Street junction was proposed. Cllr. H. Bateman advised that FCC would not endorse the use of mirrors but a landowner could install one, however, not on FCC land (e.g. a pavement). Cllr. H. Bateman advised that Cllr. M. Bateman would be making further enquiries. It was further proposed that changes in the layout of the junction and/or reducing the speed limit could help improve road safety. The Clerk to write to FCC noting the Council's concerns and seeking a solution to the matter.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2016-17

The matter was deferred to the February meeting pending further information.

9. CITIZENS' AWARD

Member heard that the Clerk had contacted local voluntary groups to seek nominations. Local schools would also be contacted.

10. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES 2017

(a) The Council resolved to fund the minimum 3 weeks' provision of Summer Playschemes in Sychdyn and Northop villages at a cost of £1,309 per location.

(b) The Council resolved to support the request by Sychdyn 2012 community group to provide a fourth week's Playscheme provision in Sychdyn village. Sychdyn 2012 would fund the additional £355 cost.

The Clerk provided statistical information on the take-up of the Northop C.C. funded 2016 Playschemes which indicated 260 visits over 3 weeks in Northop, 240 visits over 3 weeks in Sychdyn. There were 88 visits to the 4th week of provision at Sychdyn, funded by Sychdyn 2012. Members were pleased by this response.

11. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (ESTIMATED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31st MARCH 2017 AND 31st MARCH 2018

The Council considered the Clerk's report of 3.1.2017 and having noted the reasons for the underspend and taken into consideration the known factors influencing costs for the year 2017/18:

- (a) The proposed expenditure budget of £41,210, for the financial year 2017/18 was approved for the purposes of setting the Annual Precept.
- (b) The level of the Annual Precept and Tax Base equivalent Band D cost was agreed in order to support the expenditure budget and maintain a minimum of 50% of the annual precept in the Capital Reserve Account as a contingency fund.

The Council resolved to maintain the Tax Base equivalent Band D cost at £20.00 for the financial year 2017/18 to yield an Annual Precept of £30,680.

12. REMUNERATION FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS

The Council received an invitation from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, to attend a discussion event on the remuneration framework for community and town councils. Unfortunately, none of the members, nor the Clerk were available to attend at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on Thursday 26th January

13. FOR INFORMATION

Members noted the following:

- (a) **Electronic Payments**
The Council has received a request by H.M. Revenue & Customs that future PAYE tax payments should be made electronically rather than by cheque. The Clerk will investigate options for on-line banking for the Council.
- (b) **Charity Event**
The Mayor of Mold will host a Valentine Charity Dinner, Dance & Auction at Soughton Hall on Friday 17th February 2017. The Clerk to forward details to Cllr. Carlin.
- (c) **National Development Framework (NDF)**
The Welsh Government has commenced work on the preparation of the NDF which will be a national land use development plan and will replace the existing Wales Spatial Plan. The NDF will set out the 20 year spatial framework for land use in Wales. The Welsh Government is inviting people and organisations to contribute evidence/projects to help inform the development of the NDF. An information event will be held at Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno on 7th February between 10.30am-12.30pm. More information can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/national-development-framework-for-wales/call-for-evidence-and-projects/?skip=1&lang=en>

- (d) **Consultation on changing the name of the National Assembly**
The Presiding Officer of the National Assembly has launched a consultation on changing the name of the National Assembly for Wales. More information can be found at:

www.assembly.wales/name

- (e) **Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute 11th November 2018**
Councils and community groups are being encouraged to stage commemorative and remembrance events to mark the ending of the First World War.

The Clerk was asked to contact Flintshire War Memorials to enquire of their plans for the commemoration.

- (f) **Code of Conduct Training**
Flintshire County Council is canvassing Town and Community Councils for interest in a possible training event in February 2017. The Clerk advised further that the training would now be undertaken after the Town & Community Council elections.

- (g) **External Audit Fee**
The External Auditor, BDO has advised that the Wales Audit Office will shortly be raising all invoices for the 2015/16 external audit. No indication of the fee has been received.

14. ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chairman brought to the attention of members, concerns raised by a resident regarding school transport. It was reported that insufficient buses had been allocated for transporting pupils from Northop and Sychdyn to schools in Mold. Furthermore, that some bus services had not turned up. Concerns were also raised regarding the safety of pupils at the single pick-up point at Northop bus shelter which is located near the crossroads in the centre of the village and adjacent to a relatively narrow pavement on a particularly busy stretch of road.

The Clerk to write to FCC expressing great concern at the situation.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 9TH JANUARY 2017
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Rob Mackey	6.(a)(iii) Approval of payment of grant to Edith Bankes Memorial Hall towards the cost of repair of the noticeboard.	6.(a)(iii)