

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 9th June, 2014.

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

APOLOGIES – Received from Councillors Linda Deane and Tony Sharps.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Rob Mackey – Employee of Applicant (Agenda Item 5 (a) – Planning Applications)

2. POLICE MATTERS

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

- Other PCSOs have been patrolling areas where there have been reports of anti-social behaviour in Northop, namely at the bus stop and the school playing field.
- The Traffic Office is aware of the infringements of the one-way-system on the High Street, Northop and officers will offer advice as necessary.
- Enquiries following a recent theft of bicycles in Sychdyn have to date been unsuccessful.
- There have been reports of anti-social behaviour outside the Sychdyn Village Hall on a Monday evening. PCSO Turner was advised that there was no longer a Youth Club in Sychdyn.
- Speeding vehicles remain a problem along Northop Road.

PCSO Turner advised members that the Police were looking to prioritise community issues relating to:

- the reduction of anti-social behaviour
- providing a quality service that builds confidence in the effectiveness of the Police
- protecting people and reducing harm.

Requested Police action would need to fit one or more of the above classifications in order to benefit from 3 months concentrated Police action to remedy. Members responded by highlighting the following local issues:

- Speeding vehicles are still problematic along Blackbrook and Denbigh Road, Sychdyn. PCSO Turner commented that the speed gun does act as a

deterrent but that any warnings to drivers can only be delivered by regular Police Officers.

- There have been reports of under-age drinking on Tenant Field (near the Sychdyn football field). PSCO Turner undertook to look into the matter.

On a general note, PCSO Turner was advised that both the Sychdyn and Northop Carnivals would be held on Saturday 14th June. PSCO Turner would ask the local Sergeant to pay a visit to the events.

3. MINUTES

(a) Matters Arising from the meeting on the 12th May

Item 4 – Cllr. M. Bateman noted that the Sychdyn all-weather pitch is to be re-surfaced at a cost of over £100,000 to the County Council.

Item 11- Following the Clerk's querying of Flintshire County Council's invoice for supply of rock salt, a revised invoice for only 6 bags had been received.

Item 12 (b) – Cllr. J. Millar thanked members for their support to Sychdyn 2012 in their provision of an additional week's Summer Playscheme at Sychdyn.

Matters Arising from the meeting on the 27th May

- Cllr. M. Bateman confirmed that she had written to Flintshire County Council as the local County Councillor, in support of the Community Council's Local Development Plan Candidate Site Submission.
- It was agreed that the Community Council's Policy Statement (with list of candidate sites) should form an appendix to the approved Minutes and be posted on the Council's website.

(b) The Minutes of the meetings of the 12th and 27th May 2014 were accepted as correct records. The Council thanked the Clerk for her support and diligence in completing the submission of Candidate Sites for the Local Development Plan.

4. STREET LIGHTING

(a) Northop

No reports of faults were received.

Sychdyn

- Report of a light out along Blackbrook, near to the hairdressers shop.
- Report of a light on Pen y Bryn still out following incident in December 2013.

The Clerk would report both faults drawing particular attention to the light along Pen y Bryn.

(b) Cllr. M. Bateman provided members with an update on the meeting on 13th May with Flintshire County Council's Head of Streetscene. Cllr. Bateman reported that the meeting was well supported with some ten Community Councillors present and that Steve Jones was able to answer questions and concerns raised by those present.

It was hoped that by working together, Flintshire County Council and Community Councils would be able to facilitate a borrowing opportunity specifically for the improvement of street lighting. Such an opportunity could see the improvement of more or all of community council lighting columns in a concentrated programme of works. The interest rate for borrowing over 10 years was anticipated to be very low but would depend on the number of community councils willing to join the scheme.

Some concerns were raised as to the cost of any potential transfer of ownership of the Community Council's lighting stock to Flintshire County Council and any further burden upon the ratepayers. The Clerk would provide members with a timeline and summary of the actions to date on the issue of improving the lighting stock. It was requested that either Steve Jones or Darell Jones be invited to the September meeting of the Council to consider any future actions. The Clerk to arrange.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- **BMK/052145** – Application for the installation of 50KW roof mounted solar panels at Deeside College, Northop Campus, Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA.

The Council had no objection to the proposed scheme.

(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) **DGJ/051782** – Withdrawn 30/5/14. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the erection of 3 tourist/leisure let accommodation units and associated works at Northop Country Park, Northop.

6. ACCOUNTS

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

- (i) Gwen Smith – £546.78 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for April 2014 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance (1.3.14 - 31.5.14) = £366.10 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (1.3.14 - 31.5.14) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.3.14 - 31.5.14) £25.00
 - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.3.14 - 31.5.14) £107.68
- (Cheque No. 1806) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £91.40. in respect of Clerk's salary for June 2014 and allowance (1.3.14 – 31.5.14)
(Cheque No. 1807) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 12th and 26th May totalling £110.00. (Cheque No. 1808) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (iv) Zurich Insurance (cover for 1.6.14 - 31.5.15) £549.05 (Cheque No. 1809) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (v) Flintshire County Council – Supply of 6 bags of rock salt totalling £36.00 (Cheque No. 1810) (Highways Act 1980 ss.43,50)

7. INSURANCE

The Clerk provided members with an update regarding the damage to the Council's fencing at the traffic light junction at Northop. The Clerk would seek quotes for repairs to the railings in order to complete the claim submission to Zurich Municipal Insurance.

8. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members agreed a new procedure for considering requests for financial assistance including adopting the draft application pro-forma (with slight amendments). Future requests for financial assistance would be considered at the July and February meetings. For the current civic year, requests would be considered in September and February. The application process would be included on the Council's website noting limitations on funding.

9. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS/ONE VOICE WALES ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 15.5.14 AT LLANDUDNO

The Clerk provided feedback on particular points of interest raised at the Conference:

- **Insurance**
Councils were advised to include in their Insurance Policy all land owned by the Council to ensure Public Liability cover. It was further advised that the use and forwarding of e-mails should be carefully considered to mitigate the risk of libel.
- **Transfer of Services / Assets from Principal Authorities**
SLCC/OVW cautioned Town and Community Councils against accepting transfers without detailed information and fully understanding the financial, staffing and practical implications of transfers. Particular caution was expressed in terms of transfers from Principal Authorities of street lighting. SLCC/OVW called for a more measured approach where joint delivery partnerships may proved to be the best solution.
- **Membership of Once Voice Wales**
Cllr. Bryan Grew of Mold Town Council offered a reduce membership fee of £180 for the next 12 months for Northop Community Council to re-join OVW. Members resolved not to take up the offer.
- **Qualified Clerks**
SLCC/OVW sought to encourage Councils to fund training of their Clerks to complete the Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) and Certificate of Local Council Administration (CiLCA). At the request of the Clerk, members resolved to support the funding of the ILCA course (£99 + VAT) which could be eligible for a further bursary. The Clerk thanked the members for the opportunity and undertook to action the matter.

10. COMMUNITY REVIEW

The Clerk reported that Flintshire County Council's Cabinet had approved the recommendations of the recent consultation process which saw no change to the boundaries of the Northop Community Council area.

11. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS –WG21017

Members resolved to respond to the consultation on the draft statutory guidance regarding access to information on Community and Town Councils as follows:

1. Agreeing that the draft Guidance is in keeping with the provision of the Local Government Democracy (Wales) Act 2013.
2. Content with the proposed draft guidance for access to information on Town and Community Councils.
3. Confirming that there were no further issues not mentioned which the Council would like the Welsh Government to take into account.
4. Having no related issues which had not been specifically addressed in the consultation document.

The Clerk would respond to the consultation before it's closure on 4th August 2014. It was noted that with the exception of the Register of Members' Interests, Northop Community Council's website met the required standard. The Clerk would therefore draw together a Register of Members' Interests for inclusion on the Council's website.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 12th JUNE 2014
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
Cllr. Rob Mackey	5 (a) Planning Application Ref. BMK/052145. Application for the installation of 50KW roof mounted solar panels at Deeside College – Northop Campus, Holywell Road, Northop, CH7 6AA.	5