

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 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, Tony Sharps, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. Andy Roberts and Russell Price of Flintshire County Council were present for the presentation. Two members of the public were also present.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Councillor Joss Wynne-Williams.

### **PRESENTATION BY ANDY ROBERTS, Planning Strategy Manager, Flintshire County Council (FCC)**

The Council received an informal presentation by Mr. Andy Roberts in which he outlined the Local Development Plan process to date and future considerations and opportunities. More detailed information was provided on:

- the publication of the Candidate Site Register – available on the FCC website
- the formulation of a methodology to assess individual sites based on 18 Topic Papers which the LDP will need to address - consultation on the Topic Papers began 9.3.15, closing 20.4.15
- the process of assessing individual sites will commence once the methodology is established and is expected to take at least 6 months. During this time the initial views of Town & Community Councils would be welcomed
- FCC will consult with statutory consultees on capacity and infrastructure etc. before formulating a Pre-deposit Plan
- the Pre-deposit Plan will be subject to public consultation.

Mr. Roberts (AR) responded to the following issues which were raised by Members:

- Cllr. T. Sharps asked what pressures the Welsh Government were putting on FCC for housing development given that the current Unitary Development Plan will end on 31.3.15 with 1,000 allocated housing units not built and outline planning permission granted on 2,000 undeveloped housing units. AR responded that the Welsh Government's policy is to maintain a 5year supply of building land based on a heightened methodology and calculation. It is anticipated that during the next 3-4years FCC will be unable to maintain that level of supply. There is therefore likely to be an increase in speculative developments with some such sites in open land or outside settlement boundaries, with FCC's control of development compromised. An early conclusion to the LDP process is therefore to be welcomed.
- Cllr. J. Carlin stated that most village residents want to see the village envelope retained. The Welsh Government is pressuring for housing development but FCC should give equal weight to protection of the environment. AR responded that the methodology adopted to assess sites may reveal a more sustainable way of allocating development.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Price for an informative discussion.

## 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declaration of Interests were made.

## 2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Turner was unable to attend the meeting but her e-mail update had been circulated to members and included:

- Theft of heating oil from a tank at the rear of a secluded property.
- An unknown male had been seen acting suspiciously around a high-powered vehicle in the Trem Y Foel / Pen y Bryn area of Sychdyn. Patrols have been requested from Response constables.

The Clerk advised that Chief Inspector Sharon McCairn had written to the Council in response to the letter of thanks sent, regarding the incidents at Sychdyn last year.

## 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February were confirmed as a correct record.

### Matters Arising

Cllr. M. Bateman advised that an additional dog bin had been sited outside Sychdyn School.

Item 2 – Cllr. H. Bateman apologies for not being able to attend the South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting on 4.3.2015.

Item 7 – Cllr. G. Pierce advised that he had received a verbal apology concerning the incident on the golf course.

Item 10 – Cllr. J. Roberts thanked the Clerk for a balanced response to the Post Office regarding the proposed changes to Sychdyn Post Office.

## 4. STREET LIGHTING

The following faults were reported:

Sychdyn – Column 5 on Blackbrook opposite the White Hill footpath had still not been repaired. The Clerk had received confirmation from FCC that the light had been inspected last week and that Scottish Power would be pursued to reinstate it.

## 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) **BMK/053229** – Proposal: Conversion of loft space and creation of dormer and conversion of garage at 4 Ffordd Las, Sychdyn, CH7 6DU.

The Council had no objection to the above proposal.

(ii) **JZF/053211** – Proposal: Installation of free standing domestic solar PV at Fern Bank, Alltami Road, Alltami, CH7 6RJ.

The Council had no objection to the above proposal.

(iii) **LEJ/053323** – Erection of single storey extension and garage at Maes Y Coed, Blackbrook Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6LT

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) **RMH/052334** – Committee Refusal 26.2.2015 - Proposed construction of new crematorium, associated car park, access road and ancillary works, landscaping, gardens of remembrance at Kelsterton Lane/Oakenholt Lane, Nr. Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6DW.

(ii) **PXR/051730** – Delegated Officer Approval 2.3.2015 – Listed Building Application – Conversion of existing outbuildings to form residential accommodation and extension and alterations to existing house. Lislea House, Church Road, Northop, CH7 6BS.

## 6. ACCOUNTS

(a) The following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – £469.74 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for March 2015 plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Annual Allowance (1.12.14 - 28.2.15) = £382.30 (net)
  - Quarterly internet rental (1.12.14 - 28.2.15) £48.00
  - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.12.14 - 28.2.15) £25.00
  - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.12.14 - 28.2.15) £14.44
- (Cheque No. 1848) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £95.60 in respect of Clerk's salary for March 2015 plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Annual Allowance (1.12.14 - 28.2.15)  
(Cheque No. 1849) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – repair and reinstatement of street light on Pen y Bryn, Sychdyn at a cost of £1,050.00.  
(Cheque No. 1850) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (iv) Flintshire County Council – Payment of 3 composite invoices for August, September and October 2014, totalling £1,013.26:
- Street Lighting = £485.31
  - Inspection and Maintenance = £527.95
- (Cheque No. 1854) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)
- (v) Flintshire County Council – Upgrade of street light on London Road, Sychdyn at a cost of £6,300.00.  
(Cheque No. 1855) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

(b) The payment of the following donations, agreed at the Council meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015, were approved (Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972):

- (i) £200 to Welsh Border Community Transport (Cheque No. 1851)
- (ii) £100 to Flintshire Disability Forum (Cheque No. 1852)
- (iii) £100 to Nightingale House (Cheque No. 1853)

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

### **(a) Report on County Forum meeting 26.2.2015 (Cllr. Chris Ruddle)**

Cllr. Ruddle reported on the major issues raised at the County Forum meeting.

Armed Forces Community Covenant – FCC had signed up to work with the Armed Forces, local government, businesses and communities to provide assistance to members of the Armed Forces who might wish to settle in Flintshire.

Community Asset Transfer / Public Service Funding – FCC made it clear that due to the shortfall in funding from Governments, a range of non-statutory services would be cut in the near future. Ian Bancroft advised that some pump prime money was available to organisations undertaking CAT and encouraged Town & Community Councils to consider the transfer process.

Welsh Government White Paper: Power to Local People - Mr. Lyn Cadwallader of One Voice Wales, gave an overview of implications of the White Paper proposals for Town & Community Councils.

Review of the Flintshire Planning Code – Changes in the Code reflect the need to allow Planning Committee members to undertake site visits without hindrance from third party representatives. Representations may be made at the Committee meeting in line with revised protocol.

The Clerk was asked to provide feedback to FCC on the poor acoustic of the Alyn & Deeside room where the meeting was held. The Clerk to add CAT as an item on the April agenda.

### **(b) Northop Car Park wall (Cllr. Rob Mackey)**

It was resolved to seek separate quotes for (i) remedial work to re-pack the section of wall adjacent to the entrance of the car park and, (ii) a general overhaul of the whole wall. The use of lime mortar was to be specified when seeking quotations. The Clerk to action.

## **8. NORTHOP CAR PARK**

(a) The Council were advised that the Non-domestic Rates Bill for 2015/16 would be £566.35, an increase of £10.57 from 2014/15.

(b) FCC is currently consulting on its Draft Car Parking Strategy therefore the level of management fees is currently unknown. The option of implementing car parking charges would be considered further when the FCC Car Parking Strategy is finalised.

## **9. VILLAGE NAME SIGNS**

The Council resolved to seek quotations for 3 new village name signs for Northop. The signs would include the wording “historic village” and “a best kept village” (with Welsh translations) along with an image of a stagecoach to reflect the former role of the village. The Clerk to liaise with FCC.

## **10. SUMMER PLAYScheme 2016**

(a) Cllr. J. Millar stated that if FCC were unable to secure Welsh Government grant funding to part-fund the Summer Playschemes then users had indicated that they would be prepared to raise the necessary funds. The Council in turn undertook to continue to part-fund the Sychdyn Playscheme. Concern was expressed that Northop Playscheme users were not necessarily aware of the possible funding shortfall for 2016 onwards. Cllr. Millar undertook to raise awareness via an open letter and poster to Ysgol Owen Jones.

(b) Cllr. J. Millar accepted the nomination to represent the Council on the working group planned by Flintshire County Council to secure future playscheme provision.

## **11. KIDNEY WALES FOUNDATION**

The Council received the Kidney Wales Foundation Annual Report 2014/15.

### **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960**

**The press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following agenda item in view of the confidential information to be discussed.**

## **12. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2015**

The Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2015 was awarded to Jim's Mowing Wirral and North Wales at a cost of £55 per grass cut and £110 for the annual hedge trimming.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
	None.	