

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 9 May, 2016.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Marion Bateman (Chairman 2015-6), Geoff Pierce, (Vice-Chairman 2015-6), Haydn Bateman, Linda Deane, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, John Roberts, Chris Ruddle, Tony Sharps, Alan Watkins, Jos Wynne-Williams and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES** – None.

### **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

All members present completed their annual Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on her attendance at notable events and on the significant issues addressed by the Council during her year of Office. The Chairman felt privileged to have represented the Council at the following events:

October 2015: The Proclamation of the Flint Urdd Eisteddfod at Flint Town Hall.  
November 2015: The Remembrance Services along with Cllrs. Geoff Pierce (Vice Chairman), Linda Deane and Pauline Lawton-Hughes. The laying of remembrance wreaths at Northop and Sychdyn with the Vice Chairman. Attendance at Ysgol Sychdyn's Remembrance Service.  
December 2015: Christmas Services at Northop and Mold and assisting with the Northop Pensioners' Party.

The Council agreed to grant its first Citizens' Award and gave generously to the schools to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Following visits to the two schools the Chairman expressed her pride in the school children stating they were a credit to their parents and to their teachers.

The Council had invested in upgrading works to the community street lighting and installed three new village name signs at Northop. The Council continued to support local charities and fund the two Summer Playschemes whilst having the lowest precept in Flintshire. The Chairman expressed her thanks to members of the Council for their support during her year of Office and noted the future challenges that would face the council in the form of the Local Development Plan, the Boundary Reviews, Community Asset Transfers and the Elections.

Cllr. Tony Sharps called for a vote of thanks to Cllr. Marion Bateman for carrying out the duties of the Chairman in a respectful and diligent manner.

The Chairman's Report of her year of Office was received.

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND INVESTITURE WITH CHAIN OF OFFICE**

It was proposed that Cllr. Geoff Pierce be elected Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2016-17. The proposal was seconded and on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Geoff Pierce was invested with the Chain of Office by Cllr. Marion Bateman who offered her best wishes for his year of Office as the 41<sup>st</sup> Chairman of the Council, also noting that this would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for Cllr. Pierce to serve as Chairman. Cllr. Pierce thanked his fellow members for their support in being elected to such a prestigious Chair.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed that Cllr. Chris Ruddle be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Civic Year 2016-2017. Cllr. Ruddle accepted the nomination which was subsequently seconded and, on being put to the vote, was agreed unanimously. Cllr. Ruddle accepted the role and expressed his thanks to his fellow members.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr. Chris Ruddle – Applicant (Agenda Item 10 (b)(iv) – Planning Applications)
- Cllr. Geoff Pierce – Member of Northop Cricket Club (Agenda Item 16 (c) – For Information – approach regarding funding of a defibrillator.

## **4. POLICE MATTERS**

There were no issues reported.

## **5. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were accepted as a correct record.

## **Matters arising**

Item 4 - The Clerk reported that the delay in removing the old street lighting column stumps was due to the Streetscene driver being reassigned to winter maintenance the night before the scheduled removal work. All works had subsequently been completed satisfactorily.

Item 15 – The Clerk had received a response from Welsh Government Minister for Economy, Science and Transport which stated that a formal consultation exercise would be held in spring 2017 where the findings of the study will be presented and stakeholders and the public given an opportunity to comment. Northop Community Council would be notified of the commencement of the consultation.

## **6. COUNCILLOR EXPENSES**

In accordance with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, members considered payments to be made to members of the Council in the execution of their duties. It was resolved that:

- (a) Where a member is authorised to represent the Council at an event, and where the reimbursement of expenses has been approved, the authorised claim would be reimbursed in accordance with the National Scales set by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- (b) The Chairman's Allowance for the Civic Year 2016-17 would be £200.00.

## **7. CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS**

Members considered the adoption of the amended national model code of conduct for councillors. The following was resolved:

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of Northop Community Council adopted the Council's own Members' Code of Conduct which wholly reflects that of Flintshire County Council.
- (b) Council noted that Flintshire County Council will place a joint advert announcing changes to the code on behalf of town and community councils, subject to receiving notification no later than 31 May 2016 of the adoption and publication of a Code of Conduct. Furthermore, that Northop Community Council is required to notify the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales of the adoption/amendment to the national model code of conduct.

The Clerk to action the above resolution.

## **8. OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

The following representative of the Council were re-appointed to the following organisations.

- (a) School Governing Bodies
  - (i) Northop CP School (Councillor Mrs Linda Deane)
  - (ii) Sychdyn CP School (Councillor Mrs Pauline Lawton-Hughes)
- (b) Memorial Halls
  - (i) Northop (Councillor Mrs Linda Deane)
  - (ii) Sychdyn (Councillor Mrs Marion Bateman)
- (c) Citizens Advice Bureau (Councillor Pauline Lawton- Hughes)
- (d) Flintshire County Council Public Transport User Forum  
(Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes)
- (e) Flintshire County Council Planning Focus Group (Councillor John Carlin)  
(subject to agreement)
- (f) Northop Community Council Planning Sub-Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to the Council)

## **9. STREET LIGHTING**

Reports of the following faults were received:

**Northop** – Light out outside the Old Police Station off Church Road, Northop.

**Sychdyn** – Day burner outside 57 New Brighton Road, Sychdyn (column 48).

The Clerk to report to Flintshire County Council.

## 10. **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/050548** – Additional information including surface water drainage at the proposed housing development at Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn.

The Council noted the additional information provided.

(ii) **ADW/055232** – Proposal: Erection of extension to side of dwelling with undercroft garage at Green Briars, The Vownog, Sychdyn, CH7 6EW.

The Council had no objection to the proposal.

(iii) **JZP/054967** – Erection of extension to dwelling at 20 Ffordd Las, Soughton, CH7 6DU

The Council had no objection to the proposal.

Having previously declared an interest in the following application, Councillor Chris Ruddle left the room prior to any discussion and resolution.

(iv) **KCS/055297** – Erection of extensions to front, rear and side of dwelling at 15 Maes Gwalia, Sychdyn, CH7 6RR.

The Council had no objection to the 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) **KCS/054038** – Delegated Officer Approval 14/4/16. Erection of two storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling, together with formation of vehicular access at Springfield, Northop Road, Northop, CH7 6WA.

(ii) **ADW/055085** - Delegated Officer Approval 27.4.16. Outline application for the erection of a replacement classroom building and associated works at Glyndŵr University, Northop Campus, Holywell Road, Northop.

## 11. **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

(a) **Noticeboard at Sychdyn** (Cllr. J. Roberts)

The matter to be deferred to the June meeting.

**(b) Community Transport Workshop – Feedback (Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes)**

Cllr. Lawton-Hughes provided feedback on the Workshop hosted by Flintshire County Council (FCC) at Theatr Clwyd on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr. Lawton-Hughes noted that much of the information provided at the Workshop built upon that presented by Ms. Katie Wilby (of FCC) at this Council's March meeting. Particular reference was made to:

- The seven core transport routes along main roads in Flintshire.
- Concerns regarding the ability of potential users to access the core transport routes from outlying areas.
- The reduction in Welsh Assembly Grant funding for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19 and the impact on lesser used transport routes.
- The potential of partnership working to facilitate access to the core transport routes. The voluntary sector is seen as a major contributor. Some bus operators wish to work with other bodies.
- Estuary Cars provided information on their Community Mini Bus Scheme and their vehicles which are wheelchair accessible. Estuary Cars wish to recruit more volunteer drivers, all of whom will be subject to a DBS disclosure.
- Welsh Border Community Transport (WBCT) provide a similar service to Estuary Cars.
- Concerns regarding the cost of establishing an office base to house an increased presence and role for the voluntary sector.
- The needs of the greater community and individuals.

Cllr. L. Deane noted that users of WBCT must have a bus pass to benefit from the service and asked that members share this information with potential users.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Lawton-Hughes for her attendance and feedback.

**12. ACCOUNTS**

The Council resolved to approve the payment of the following accounts:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for May 2015 - £310.50 (net)  
(Cheque No. 1919) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £77.40  
in respect of Clerk's salary May 2015  
(Cheque No. 1920) (Local Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 6th and 20th April totalling £110.00.  
(Cheque No. 1921) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (v) Tower Mint Ltd. – supply of 280 x Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Medal, £677.64  
(Cheque No. 1923) (Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)
- (vi) Zurich Municipal – Annual Insurance wef 1.6.2016, totalling £397.79

- (Cheque No. 1924) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (vii) Flintshire County Council – Upgrading work to street lighting on High Street, Northop (payment withheld in April, pending satisfactory completion).  
(Cheque No. 1922) (Highways Act 1957 – Section 17)

### **13. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016**

Council authorised the submission of the Final Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and supporting documentation to the Internal Auditor on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

### **14. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

The Clerk reported that a group of allotment holders were in the process of establishing a suitable body to explore the future management of the Northop Allotment Site. Members expressed support for the development.

### **15. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT REVISIONS TO PLANNING POLICY WALES CHAPTER 6 – THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

Members were supportive of the revisions to Chapter 6 which would provide greater protection for the historic environment. The Clerk to respond to the consultation, expressing the Council's support.

### **16. FOR INFORMATION**

(a) The Council has received an invitation from Urdd Gobaith Cymru to a Reception to be held on Monday 30 May at 1.30pm. The new Chairman and Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes would represent the Council.

(b) The Council has received an invitation from Urdd Gobaith Cymru to the ceremony for presenting the Chair and the Crown to the Eisteddfod at Flint. The invitation is for two representatives, at Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint on Thursday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6:50 pm. Cllr. L. Deane to represent the Council.

(c) The Council has received an approach by Northop Cricket Club regarding joint funding of a defibrillator to be sited at the Cricket Club. A representative of the Club to be invited to attend the next Council meeting to discuss further.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 9 MAY 2016</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Cllr. Chris Ruddle	Agenda Item 10 (b)(iv) – Planning Applications	10 (b)(iv)
Cllr. Geoff Pierce	Agenda Item 16 (c) – For Information – approach regarding funding of a defibrillator	16 (c)