

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Ruddle (Chairman), Linda Deane (Vice-Chairman), Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Rachel Hayward, Rob Mackey, Jo Millar, Linda Scott, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. Mr. Rob Hodgkinson attended for agenda item 15.

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Councillors Paul Ashley, Pauline Lawton-Hughes and Geoff Pierce.

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr. Marion Bateman – Member of Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 10 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Alison Brebner – Committee Member of Northop 2000 Committee (Agenda Item 7.(a) – Request for Financial Assistance)
- Cllr. Linda Deane – Northop Community Council (NCC) representative of the Northop Memorial Institute (Agenda Item 10 (a)) and Member of the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Northop (Agenda Item 10 (c) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Rachel Hayward – Member of the Carnival Committee (Agenda Item 11 – Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children’s Play Areas 2017/18.)
- Cllr Rob Mackey – Chair of Northop 2000 Committee (Agenda Item 7.(a) – Request for Financial Assistance)
- Cllr Rob Mackey – Chair of Trustee of Northop Memorial Institute (Agenda Item 10 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr Jo Millar - Member of the Carnival Committee (Agenda Item 11 – Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children’s Play Areas 2017/18.)
- Cllr. Chris Ruddle – Member of the Sychdyn Memorial Hall Committee (Agenda Item 10 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Linda Scott – Trustee of Edith Bankes Memorial Hall (Agenda Item 10 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Linda Scott – Partner is member of Northop Silver Band (Agenda Item 10 (d) - Annual Grants to Organisations)
- Cllr. Alan Watkin - Chair of the Sychdyn Memorial Hall Trustees (Agenda Item 10 (b) - Annual Grants to Organisations)

#### **2. POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Stephanie Jones provided Members with an e-mailed update on Police matters in the community since the last Council meeting:

- 15/9/17 – 2 reports of Suspicious Circumstances: Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton and New Brighton Road, Sychdyn - unknown make attempting to sell Tarmac door to door.
- 23/9/17 – Incidence of Anti-Social Behaviour by 3 youths on Church Road, Northop.

- 24/9/17 – Incidence of Criminal Damage on New Brighton Road, Sychdyn.
- Speed Surveys – PCSO Jones awaiting advice from GoSafe regarding further speed surveys on the B5126 between Northop village and the Coleg campus.

Members reported that the gate onto Sychdyn Coronation Field and an adjacent light had been damaged on 24/9/17. These had since been reinstated. Cllr. Brebner reported with concern that some members of the local Community Speedwatch Team had been subjected to abuse by some speeding motorists.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 11<sup>h</sup> September 2017 were confirmed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Page 1 – Councillor Linda Deane did not attend the meeting due to illness.

Page 2 – Item 4(a) – The faulty light was near to the junction of the A5119 and Pen y Bryn, Sychdyn.

Matters Arising – In light of the response from Flintshire County Council (FCC) indicating that there would not be any further Code of Conduct training sessions in the foreseeable future, the Clerk was asked to explore the option of an external training session.

### **4. STREETSCENE ISSUES**

(a) Faulty lights reported:

- Two lights adjacent to the Old School, The Green, Northop – The Clerk to pursue following previous report to FCC.
- Outside Sychdyn Village Hall. There is also a traffic observation camera on the light column. The Clerk to report.

Cllr. Mackey reported that the lamp of the streetlight on Church Road, opposite the entrance to Park View, had been replaced but that the leaning column remained.

Cllr. Deane noted that a tree adjacent to the Northop traffic light crossroads had been lopped to improve visibility.

Cllr. Bateman would pursue improvement to the minimal hedge trimming that had been undertaken at the Sychdyn playarea.

(b) Members heard that the streetlight on Duke Street had been replaced. In view of further information that had emerged, the reinstatement costs would be borne by the Council.

### **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- (i) **DJM/057435** – PROPOSAL: Construction of two storey brick fronted extension with rendered side and rear elevations, and double pitched roofs to the side of the property at Pontenion Cottage, Connah's Quay Road, Northop.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

(b) Council received and noted information from Flintshire County Council's Head of Planning on planning applications on which the Council has previously submitted observations.

(i) **057211** – Delegated Officer Approval 25/08/17. Application for removal of variation of condition 1 following grant of planning permission 049241 at Soughton Farm, Rhosesmor Road, Northop, CH7 6AF.

(ii) **057212** – Delegated Officer Approval 21/08/17. Application for the approval of details reserved by condition nos. 3 (materials and finishes), 5 & 7 (drainage) and 9 Photographic Survey attached to planning permission ref. 055541 at Bryn Seion Chapel, Bryn Seion Lane, Sychdyn, Mold.

(iii) **055915** – Delegated Officer Approval 15/9/17. Listed building application for the formation of a new opening consisting of a timber door in external wall at The Old Stables, Church Road, Northop, CH7 6BS

(iv) **057349** – Delegated Officer Approval 14/9/17. Application for the erection of a two storey side extension at 10 Maes Gruffydd, Sychdyn, Mold, CH7 6LS

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

The payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (a) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for October 2017 = £326.65 (net)  
(Cheque No. 2014) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (b) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £81.60  
in respect of Clerk's salary for October 2017  
(Cheque No. 2015) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (c) Jim's Mowing, Grounds Maintenance 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August, £110.00  
(Cheque No. 2017) (Open Spaces Act - Sections 9 and 10)
- (d) Wales Audit Office – Fee for 2016/17 Audit by DBO = £210.90.  
(Cheque No. 2016) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (e) Flintshire County Council –two invoices totalling £3,024.64 for:
  - Uncontested Community Election costs (4/5/2017) = £406.64
  - 2017 Summer Playscheme, total for the two locations = £2,618.00  
(Cheque No. 2019) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (f) The Poppy Appeal – donation for two wreaths - £50.00  
(Cheque No. 2020) (Government Act 1972 – Section 137)

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

### **(a) Request for Financial Assistance from Northop 2000** (Cllr. R. Mackey)

Members considered the request by the Northop 2000 committee to make a grant of £300 to complete a lasting memorial to Rosemary Jones on the grassed area to the front of the village hall. Members resolved (with one abstention) to make the grant. The grant was made under the powers of Wellbeing (Local Government Act 2000, s.2).

## **8. SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

Cllr. Bateman provided an update on the School Transport Service and stated that a full review of the service was underway. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Bateman regarding the option of extending an invitation to an FCC representative to attend a future Community Council meeting.

## **9. SUMMARY OF EXENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2018 (AS AT 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017)**

Members accepted the quarterly report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer. The report indicated that the Council's financial position was close to the agreed budget with the exception of the unforeseen cost of reinstatement of the streetlighting column on Duke Street, Sychdyn.

## **10. ANNUAL GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Members approved the following grants for which provision has been made in the 2017/18 budget:

- (a) Northop Memorial Institute (£1,500)
- (b) Sychdyn Memorial Hall (£1,500)
- (c) St. Peter's Churchyard, Northop (£1,000)
- (d) Northop Silver Band (£500)
- (e) Flintshire Citizen's Advice Bureau (£100)

## **11. MATCH FUNDING SCHEME – IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS 2017/18 \*\***

Flintshire County Council's Match Funding Scheme will be delivered by Aura (a not for profit charitable organisation). The play area survey by Aura identified that landscaping improvements are required at the Coronation Field play area in Sychdyn. The Clerk to liaise with Aura for further clarification of the proposed scheme and more accurate costings. This item to return to the November meeting.

## **12. FORMAL RISK ASSESSMENT\*\***

Members resolved to accept the Annual Risk Assessment for 2017/18 and to include within 'Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity' the requirement to keep data backup storage at more than one location.

## **13. INVESTMENT STRATEGY\*\***

Members accepted the report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer, agreeing no change to the current arrangements.

## **14. ASSET REGISTER\*\***

Members confirmed the Asset Register for the purposes of the Annual Audit subject to the addition of the most recently installed street lights and minor amendments.

## **15. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT**

Mr. Hodgkinson was invited to speak briefly on this matter. Mr. Hodgkinson stated that the cost of representation to oppose the chosen Red Route at a public enquiry would be significant and would require concerted fund raising efforts. Ideally, he hoped that representation by a suitably qualified volunteer, could be secured. Mr. Hodgkinson stressed the need for a robust opposition with clear and valid facts. He understood that the CPRW was continuing to raise objections with the Welsh Government's agents, about the Red Route. He further commented that a groundswell of concern was emerging amongst local residents realising the impact that the Red Route will have on local communities. Mr. Hodgkinson thanked the Chairman and members for the opportunity to speak. The thanks were reciprocated.

Members heard that Cllr. Bateman had written to Cabinet Minister, Ken Skates to express disappointment at the outcome of the recent consultation and had extended an invitation to the Cabinet Minister to visit Northop.

Members were unanimous in their resolve to meet with local A.M. Hannah Blythyn to seek her support in any action required to make a case against the chosen Red Route. The Clerk to seek to arrange a suitable meeting with Hannah Blythyn for the Council's delegated representatives, Cllrs. Bateman, Brebner, Mackey and Scott.

## **16. OVW/SLCC CONFERENCE – 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017**

Members received the Clerk's report on the Conference.

## **17. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR**

The Clerk to return this item to the November meeting.

## **18. FOR INFORMATION**

**(a)** The Council received a letter of thanks from the organiser of the **Sychdyn Friday Club**, Mrs. Hall. A receipt for the £250 grant was also included.

**(b)** The Council received from **Citizens Advice Flintshire** an update on the services provided to local residents. The data highlights the increase in the number of people seeking advice on the Universal Credit system and the upward trend in resorting to Food Bank vouchers.

**(c)** **Cicio i Blant / Kicks for Kids** \*\* are approaching all Community & Town Councils offering "Football and Fun in Your Community" with after school; holiday time or school time football training sessions to children aged 5-15yrs. Further details are available from Steven Taylor on [tayos4ever5times@btinternet.com](mailto:tayos4ever5times@btinternet.com) / 078 1450 4957.

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Cllr. Marion Bateman Cllr. Linda Deane Cllr Rob Mackey Cllr. Chris Ruddle Cllr. Linda Scott Cllr. Alan Watkin	Agenda Item 10 Annual Grants to Organisations	10(b) 10(a) & (c) 10(a) 10(b) 10(a) & (d) 10(b)
Cllr. Alison Brebner Cllr Rob Mackey	Agenda Item 7(a) – Request for Financial Assistance)	7(a) 7(a)
Cllr. Rachel Hayward Cllr. Joanne Millar	Agenda Item 11 – Match Funding Scheme – Improvements to Children’s Play Areas 2017/18.)	11 11