

## **NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Chairman), Linda Scott (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashley, Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Linda Deane, Jarred Livesey, Jo Millar, Rob Mackey, Alan Watkin and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES:** Received from Councillors Marion Bateman, Rachel Hayward and Chris Ruddle.

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

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr. Alison Brebner – Member of Northop Heritage Group (Agenda Item 13 – Requests for Financial Assistance)
- Cllr. Linda Scott – Member of Northop Heritage Group (Agenda Item 13 – Requests for Financial Assistance)

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

Members raised the following issues at the meeting:

- Concerns about purposeful gatherings and fires being lit at Rabbit Wood, Sychdyn.
- Obstructive parking at Llys y Wern, Sychdyn. Members were reminded that any such incidences should be photographed and the details, including the vehicle number plate, should be forwarded to the PCSO.

The Clerk to report the above matters to the PCSO and forward again the contact details as requested.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

#### **Matters arising**

Item 5 – The £500 cheque to Sychdyn Playgroup was cashed on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2019.

Item 6 – Members were reminded that should they wish to opt out of receiving the mandatory payment of £150 p.a. towards expenses incurred in executing their duties as Councillors, they needed to confirm this in writing to the Clerk without delay.

#### **Item 10**

- The Clerk confirmed that the transfer of £10,000 from the Capital Reserve Account to the Council's Current Account had been actioned.

- Amendments to the bank mandate to add the new Clerk to the list of signatories and remove the existing Clerk from the list w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> August, would be actioned at the July Council meeting.

#### 4. **STREETSCENE ISSUES**

Members reported the following issues:

- A car seat had been dumped at the layby at The Green, Northop and the area looked particularly unkept.
- Along the footpath of the A5119 between Sychdyn and Northop, between the end of the stone wall from Sychdyn, and the entrance to the Vet's practice (near to Hall's Wood), at a section where the old wall was removed, tree branches had broken through and obstruct the footpath.
- The surface of the same footpath is subject to a lot of plant growth and therefore the surface is slippery.
- The gully on Ffordd Owen, opposite the Playground appears to be blocked and has been overflowing quite a way across the road.

The Clerk to contact Flintshire County Council to request remediation.

#### 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) **RMH/059951** – Proposal: Change of use to provide extension of existing graveyard for ashes plots only at land to the rear of St. Eurgain and St. Peters Church, Church Road, Northop, CH7 6BQ.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

(ii) **CXK/059735** – Proposal: Listed building application for proposed extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling Lislea House, Church Road, Northop, CH7 6BS.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

(iii) **CEM/059994** – To change part of existing garage into Dog Grooming Salon, no external alterations to be made, at Kursaal, Church Road, Northop.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

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

(i) **059709** - Delegated Officer Approval 18/4/2019. Single storey rear extension at 3 Pilgrims Close, Northop, CH7 6BF. (No objection by Northop C.C.)

(ii) **059147** - Delegated Officer Approval 25/4/2019. Retention of existing marquee for a further 3-year period and relocation of log cabin to be used in conjunction with marquee. (No objection by Northop C.C.)

(iii) **059148** - Delegated Officer Approval 25/4/2019. Listed Building Application for the retention of existing marquee for a further 3-year period and relocation of log cabin to be used in conjunction with marquee. (No objection by Northop C.C.)

(c) There were no updates on the Ffordd Eldon Site, Sychdyn.

## **6. ACCOUNTS**

(a) Payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith –Clerk’s July salary and back-pay = £353.94  
(Cheque No. 2131) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £83.40  
in respect of Clerk’s salary for July and back-pay  
(Cheque No. 2132) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Jim's Mowing – Grass Cutting on 11<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, totalling £120.00  
(Cheque No. 2133) (Open Spaces Act 1906 - Sections 9 and 10)
- (iv) Zurich Municipal (insurance 1.6.19-31.5.20) = £444.72  
(Cheque No. 2134) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (v) Flintshire County Council – Road closure to facilitate the repair of  
Northop Car Park wall (to be reclaimed from insurers) = £2,200.00.  
(Cheque No. 2135) (Open Spaces Act 1906 - Sections 9 and 10)

(b) The purchase of a laptop, printer, keyboard, computer mouse and necessary software was approved. A range of quotes were provided at the meeting.

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

None raised.

## **8. TRAFFIC MATTERS IN THE COMMUNITY AREA**

(a) Cllr Brebner provided an update on the siting of a GoSafe camera van on the B5126 between the College Campus and Northop village. GoSafe had indeed sited a camera on this stretch of road during the early part of a weekday during the school holiday. Two speeding offences were recorded. Cllr. Brebner would respond to the correspondence suggesting that if the camera van should be located along that stretch of road on a Friday evening, the number of speeding offences recorded would be far greater and a truer reflection of the day-to-day habits of road users.

(b) Members were aware of the likely planning application to be submitted for a significant housing development at New Brighton and that the proposed access to the site would be off New Brighton Road. Members were unanimous in their concerns regarding the impact of the increase in traffic such a development would cause along a minor road. The Clerk to contact Flintshire County Council to ask that Northop Community Council be given the opportunity to comment on any such planning application.

## **9. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - A55 JUNCTION WITH A494 AND A548 - DEESIDE CORRIDOR**

Members heard the on-line petition to Stop the Red Route had closed the previous day with 1,270 signatures (plus over 100 supporting paper submissions), and as such was considered by the organising group to be successful. It was reported that the cancellation of the M4 Relief Road raised hopes that the same environmental criteria for cancellation would be applied to the Red Route proposals.

## **10. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR**

Cllr. Scott advised that she and the Clerk had met with Flintshire County Council's Conservation Officer on 24<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the proposal to site a defibrillator, within the Conservation Area, at Northop Post Office. The Conservation Officer agreed to the proposal to site the defibrillator on the gable wall of the Post Office and that the cabinet design advised by Heartbeat Wales was acceptable. Cllr. Scott had since written to the Conservation Officer thanking him for his agreement to the scheme and had also written to Heartbeat Wales asking for clarification of the installation and training timescale. It was noted that Northop Community Council would fund the annual service charge of £130 for the defibrillator unit.

## **11. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Members approved the following:

(a) That the new Clerk undertake the CILCA training of Clerks. The on-line training course consists of 5 Modules on Core Roles, Law and Procedure, Finance, Management and Community, at a cost of £99.00 + VAT.

(b) That Cllr. Millar attend the Planning Aid Wales training event on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> July at Gwersyllt on "Responding to Planning Applications and Maximising your Influence" at a cost of £35.

## **12. SANDHOLE FIELD**

Members were advised of an approach by a member of the public to lease the land for grazing purposes. Following discussion and consideration, members agreed that until definitive legal ownership had been confirmed:

- the land would not be offered for rental.
- the land would be maintained by the Council and would be top mowed as soon as possible, with thistle and ragwort but back, and that the hedges would be cut back in the Autumn once the nesting season was over.

Cllr. Ashley volunteered to provide the Clerk with details of any contractors who might be willing to undertake this maintenance work.

## **13. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Members considered the requests for financial support and responded as follows:

- The request for a grant of £1,000 from Sychdyn Bowling Club would be re-considered once it was clear that the Club had submitted a request, and received a decision, for similar support from the Bryn Gwalia Trust in Mold. The Clerk to advise the Club.
- Council approved a grant of £250 to the Northop Heritage Group to help fund the Northop History Day to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The Clerk to prepare the payment cheque for the next Council meeting.
- The request for assistance by St. Kentigern Hospice would be re-considered at the end of the financial year at the February council meeting.

It was noted that no further information had been received regarding the “Views from Home” project.

#### **14. ENVIRONMENTAL AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT FUNDING SCHEME**

Members resolved not to take part in the Scheme offered by Flintshire County Council to enhance the existing rotas and the current level of enforcement presence within the community.

#### **15. THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING**

A suitable date was proposed for the Council’s August meeting. The Clerk to confirm with all parties the 12<sup>th</sup> August as the date of the meeting.

#### **16. FOR INFORMATION**

(a) Data Protection Registration Fee – the Council has received a reminder to pay the Information Commissioner’s (ICO) registration fee for the year to come. However, in recent months the ICO has produced new guidance clarifying the issue of fees to smaller organisations. The on-line assessment now indicates that there is no fee payable by this Council. Advice for the Society of Local Council Clerks supports this view.

(b) Cllr. Deane provided very positive feedback on the One Voice Wales training course she had attended since the last Council meeting. The Clerk to scan and share the training materials provided.

...

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

<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2019</b>
------------------------	---

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
Cllr. Alison Brebner Cllr. Linda Scott	Both Members of Northop Heritage Group (Agenda Item 13 – Requests for Financial Assistance)	13.