

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 11th February, 2019.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Deane (Chairman), Pauline Lawton-Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Paul Ashley, Marion Bateman, Alison Brebner, Jarred Livesey, Rob Mackey, Chris Ruddle, Linda Scott, Alan Watkin and the Clerk. Also in attendance PSCO Pritchard and colleague.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Rachel Hayward and Jo Millar.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declaration of Interest were made.

2. POLICE MATTERS

The local PCSO provided an update on Police Issues in the community area over the past month:

- 10/1/19 – Report of suspicious inquiries by two males in Sychdyn.
- 23/1/19 – Reports of blue transit van being driven for some time around the villages of Sychdyn, Northop and Northop Hall. Vehicle registration number noted by Police.
- 8/2/19 – Reports of on-line scams. Residents are warned to be cautious of any Facebook or social media contacts requesting personal/bank account details.

Members raised the following issues:

- Illegal parking on the pavement at Church Road.
- Vehicles are regularly parked across or obstructing the entrance to Pilgrim's Close, off High Street, Northop. Recently Flintshire County Council's (FCC) waste collection services were unable to bring the vehicle into Pilgrim's Close to be able to undertake the refuse collection. The PCSO advised that such incidences should be reported to the Police on the 101 non-emergency number and that photographs of the offending vehicle, with number plate, should be taken and forwarded to the PCSO.
- The Chairman re-iterated the warning regarding on-line scams and the warnings issued by the banks.

The Clerk to share the PCSO's contact details with all members again. The Clerk to contact Streetscene to seek advice on siting double-yellow lines at the junction of High Street/Pilgrim's Close.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 14th January, 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

Matters arising

Item 10: Cllr. Scott advised that a location for the defibrillator cabinet had been agreed with the owner of Northop Post Office and that a response from FCC was awaited.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

Members reported the following issues:

- The Give Way sign at the Mold end of the cut through from the B5126 (The Green) and the 5119 is down.
- The exposed wiring to the streetlight at the top of High Street has not been remedied.
- The streetlight on Church Road has been reinstated.
- Reports of a significant dog-fouling problem by the Old School, The Green. Cllr. Bateman advised that an additional dog waste bin will be located in the area shortly.
- Flooding on the road beyond 31 The Green - possible blocked gully.
- Flytipping at The Green:
 - Recent flytipping needs to be removed.
 - Flytipping at the 1st layby - historic waste needs removing and the area cutting back and tidying.
 - There appears to be an old "No Tipping" sign in amongst the flytipping.
 - Behind the layby there are a great number of old tyres which are close to Northop Brook. These need to be removed so as not to affect the watercourse.
- It was noted that FCC should be left to remove any bio-hazards and that with evidence, FCC are able to pursue possible offenders.
- Cllr. Bateman advised that she accompanies FCC's Streetscene Area Co-ordinator on regular inspections of the community area. Cllr. Bateman extended an offer to Cllr. Livesey to be present on one of the community area inspections.
- A request that replacement "No Tipping" signs (bilingual) are sited in the area.

The Clerk to report the above to FCC.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- (i) **KHJ/059410** – PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing church, and erection of 4no. houses and 2no. apartments at the United Reformed Church Northop, High Street, Northop, CH7 6BL

Many concerns were raised regarding the proposed development which echoed those raised by local residents. Members agreed to support the concerns of local residents in their call for an alternative access, off the B5126, into the development and the re-positioning of the units on site to accommodate this change. The Clerk to write to FCC raising the following points:

- with local knowledge, the proposed entrance to the site is hazardous for the following reasons:
 - residents of the new development will not be able to access their homes from the B5126, but instead along High Street at the centre of Northop village and via the existing one-way system at the far end of High Street (junction with Ffordd Edwin). This in turn will increase traffic flow through the village.
 - this end of High Street is notoriously busy providing access to and from Ysgol Owen Jones and to the private day nursery opposite the site. Additional traffic will only compound the problem.
 - the Police are aware of a number of breaches of the one-way system at this end of High Street and it is felt that locating the site entrance on the one-way system, so close to the B5126, may prove to be too much of a temptation for some not to observe the one-way system
 - demolition traffic will have to approach the site and, at times will have to park on High Street. This will also be true for the construction traffic. High Street is a narrow road, without centre white lining. Residents park on High Street as for some there is no access to the rear of their properties. Most houses on High Street open directly onto the pavement of High Street as they do not have front gardens. There are a number of pinch points along High Street where heavy traffic may not be able to pass parked vehicles, e.g. at Yacht Terrace and outside and beyond the Post Office - opposite Pilgrim's Close. The Police are aware of inconsiderate drivers blocking the approach/entrance to Pilgrim's Close on numerous occasions.
- the site should be accessed from the B5126. The existing access road serves properties on High Street and the extension and development of this existing access road would:
 - give residents direct access onto the B5126
 - not increase traffic through Northop village and the one-way system
 - avoid the need for demolition and construction traffic to use High Street.
- the layout of the site would need to be amended to accommodate the alternative access onto the B5126 and that the re-positioning of the units would be an opportunity to address the concerns regarding the proximity of Unit 1 to the existing building and provide a better outlook from the rear of Unit 1.
- the existing brick boundary wall be retained.

Members expressed support for the principle of the development in providing small, affordable housing units.

(ii) **DJM/059420** – PROPOSAL: Erection of 1no. dwelling at Land adjacent Offa Bank, Wats Dyke Way, Soughton, CH7 6DX. To view on-line:

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) **059190 –PROPOSAL:** Proposed erection of a rear double storey extension and separate rear single storey extension to the existing house

at Isfryn, London Road, Sychdyn, CH7 6EL. Approved. Delegated Officer decision - 17/12/18.

- (ii) **059209 –PROPOSAL:** Proposed entrance porch at Greenacres, Bryn Offa Lane, New Brighton, CH7 6RQ. Approved. Delegated Officer decision – 16/01/19.

(c) The Clerk reported that she had received a response from FCC to the Council's initial e-mail of complaint regarding FCC's actions in response to the breaches of planning permission by Stuart Milne Homes. The response declined this Council's invitation to attend this meeting to explain what actions have been taken/will be taken to stop the successive breaches of planning consent by Stuart Milne Homes. The Clerk had subsequently replied to FCC and requested a summary of the outcome of the listed meetings and earlier meetings with Stuart Milne Homes to provide clarity to the Community Council. A response is awaited.

Cllr. Ashley to investigate whether the H.S.E. are able to place sanctions on developers who breach the Traffic Management Plan agreed between them and the local authority as part of the planning consent.

6. ACCOUNTS

(a) Payment of the following accounts were approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – Clerk's salary for February 2019 = £333.02 (net) (Cheque No. 2110) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £83.40 in respect of Clerk's salary February 2019 (Cheque No. 2111) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – Contribution towards the summer Playschemes 2018 (2 sites x 3 weeks each) - £2,618.00. (Cheque No. 2112) (Local Government Act 2000, s.2)

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

None raised.

8. UPDATE ON THE A55/A494/A548 DEESIDE CORRIDOR PROJECT

No further information was received on the issue which is to be returned to the March Council meeting.

9. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- (a) Members gave consideration to the requests received for financial support and agreed a donation of £50.00 to the North Wales Crossroads Care Services. This item to be returned to the March agenda for further consideration.
- (b) Members accepted a correction of powers used for donations to:
 - Sychdyn Bowling Club (08/10/2018)
 - Northop Institute Bowling Club (12/11/2018)

The donations should have been made under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, rather than Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL WALES – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members agreed to renew the Council's membership of CPRW at a cost of £20.00 for the year.

11. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT 2018-19

Members agreed the appointment of JDH Business Services as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2018-19 Annual Audit.

12. SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES 2019

(a) Council agreed to fund 3 weeks' provision of Summer Playschemes in Sychdyn and Northop villages at a cost of £1,373.95 per playscheme setting. Provision is likely to commence 22nd July 2019.

(b) Council agreed the principle of partnership working with local groups who may wish to fund any additional Playscheme provision at a cost of £355.00 per week. The Clerk to contact Sychdyn Carnival Committee to advise and enquire whether they would be able to fund the additional week.

(c) Members received information on attendance at 2018 Playscheme which showed 173 attendances at Northop (3 weeks) and 239 attendances at Sychdyn (4 weeks).

13. FLINTSHIRE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2019

Members finalised the Council's response to FCC on the Play Sufficiency Assessment. Thanks were noted to Cllr. Millar for her input. The Clerk to forward the response to FCC the closing date of 22nd February 2019.

14. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – MATCHFUNDING OPPORTUNITY

It was agreed that improvements to part of the Sychdyn Circular walk at Springy Lane should be put forward to FCC for matchfunding. Cllr. Mackey to arrange to meet with FCC's Public Rights of Way Officer to seek a remedy to this muddy section of Springy Lane.

15. TRAFFIC MATTERS

To receive any updates on:

(a) Speeding Vehicles in and around Northop

Cllr. Brebner provided an update on the delayed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which will allow the GoSafe speed camera van to operate on the B5126 between the college campus and Northop village. FCC anticipate that the necessary Order will be advertised within the coming two weeks, to be followed by a consultation period of three

weeks. If no objection is received, then it is hoped that the GoSafe van will operate at the site shortly afterwards.

(b) Improvement to the road network within the Community Area

(i) Traffic Issues in Northop

There were no further updates.

(ii) Safety Improvements along New Brighton Road

The Clerk had written to FCC's Highways and Streetscene Services on the matter but still awaited a response. The Clerk to chase progress. The matter to be discussed further at the March Council meeting when two FCC representatives would be present.

16. CITIZEN'S AWARD/YOUNG PERSON'S AWARD 2019

The Clerk to progress and publicise.

17. CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

(a) Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of the Clerk of the Council with effect from 31st July, 2019.

(b) It was agreed that the Clerk's Job Description and working hours would be reviewed and increased to up to 12hrs per week. The new Clerk would be appointed w.e.f. 1st July, 2019, initially to shadow the existing Clerk, but to take full responsibility from 1st August, 2019.

(c) A Panel of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. Bateman was appointed to undertake the review, the short listing and interviews for the role of the new Clerk. The Clerk to forward copies of the existing Job Description and SLCC template Job Description to the Panel members.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

Council resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item 18.

18. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2019

The Grounds Maintenance Contract for a term of 3 years (2019-21) was awarded to Jim's Mowing of Treuddyn.

19. FOR INFORMATION

The following information was received:

(a) Spirit 2019 – Child Friendly Communities – There will be a conference event on 16th May in Cardiff which will explore child friendly communities and the challenges/barriers to providing for children's play. Legislation is in place to protect play/sports activity opportunities for children and young people. The conference can

be viewed as an opportunity for members to familiarise themselves with the legislation and it's benefits in working to protect play opportunities across the community area.

(b) The Council has received a letter of thanks from Flintshire Citizens' Advice for the grant of £100 made in support of their work.

(c) The Council has been asked to publicise the upcoming Community Advice Drop-in Sessions to be held by Hannah Blythyn, the local Assembly Member. The sessions are as follows:

- Friday 22 February, 4-5pm at Holywell Library
- Friday 22 March, 10-11am at Northop Hall Pavilion
- Friday 24 May, 11am-12pm at Caffi Isa, Mynydd Isa
- Friday 28 June, 10-11am at Ffynnongroyw Community Centre.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 11th February, 2019
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
	None.	