

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 12th March, 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Ruddle (Chairman), Linda Deane (Vice-Chairman), Alison Brebner, John Carlin, Rachel Hayward, Pauline Lawton-Hughes, Rob Mackey, Linda Scott, Alan Watkin and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Marion Bateman and Jo Millar, also PCSO Stephanie Jones.

Members received and took part in a PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2015-2030 PRE-DEPOSIT PROPOSALS PUBLIC CONSULTATION (PREFERRED STRATEGY) with Andy Roberts (Service Manager Strategy, Environment Directorate, Flintshire County Council (FCC))

The Council had previously raised a series of questions regarding the LDP and Mr. Roberts responded under the following headings:

Timescale

The pre-deposit LDP would be finalised with FCC's Cabinet as soon as possible. The LDP will set out amongst other things, a vision for development/protection and proposal plans by settlement type. The target date for completion is the end of 2018. At that stage there will be an opportunity for Town & Community Councils to attend a series of workshops and to comment on the pre-deposit LDP. Following that stage, the pre-deposit LDP will be open to the public to comment, and finally will be put to the Inspectorate. It is anticipated that the process will take some 2-2½ years.

Mr. Roberts offered to return to speak to Northop C.C. members about any concerns they may have regarding the LDP at any time in the future.

Location of the Strategic Sites

Under STR3, the main strategic sites are located at Warren Hall and the Northern Gateway, both sites having existing planning permission for housing and employment use. These sites will be balanced with smaller sites to maintain a 5-year land supply as required by the Welsh Government.

STR2 sets out how sites and development are distributed across the county. A five-tier hierarchy of settlements has been defined on the basis of sustainability. The percentage distribution of development is defined for each of the five tiers, not by individual settlement (as was the case under the UDP).

STR11 sets out how the LDP will aim to meet a range of housing needs including the needs of an increasing ageing population.

Location of sites with Planning Permission

Planning Authorities are obliged to produce an annual report of housing land availability and the survey undertaken shows the degree of development. The current report was compiled in April 2017. The degree of development influences the number of new housing units that must be met. STR11 sets out the requirement for 7,645 housing units during 2015-2030. Having regard for the existing undeveloped housing sites with current planning permission, there is therefore a need to allocate sites for a

further 1,450 housing units to meet the required 7,645. Market forces, policy changes and the jobs market may affect the final figures over the life of the LDP.

Mr. Roberts undertook to supply this Council with a list of sites with current planning permission which have not as yet been developed.

Risk of overdevelopment

Unlike the UDP, the LDP does not include individual settlement growth plans and Mr. Roberts stated that not every settlement has to have growth. Both Northop and Sychdyn villages are classified as in the third of the five tiers of settlement hierarchy.

Members raised concerns that:

- there are insufficient numbers of bungalows
- there is no need for even more 4 or 5-bedroom houses
- there are very few 'affordable houses'
- the villages may lose their character and community spirit as a result of any overdevelopment.

Mr. Roberts responded that the Local Housing Market Assessment undertaken will inform an appropriate mix, density and affordability of properties to influence the nature of housing developments.

Mr. Roberts reiterated his offer to return at any time in the future to speak to Northop C.C. members about any concerns they may have regarding the LDP. The Chairman thanked Mr. Roberts for his attendance and for his offer to return.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stephanie Jones was unable to attend the meeting but had provided an update on Police matters in the community. The update was emailed to members prior to the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint about vehicles being parked on the zig-zag markings outside Ysgol Sychdyn and that the road markings were faint. Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes advised that Cllr. M. Bateman had confirmed that the zebra crossing and zig-zag markings outside Ysgol Sychdyn would be relined. It is hoped that this action will deter those who park their vehicles illegally outside the school.

Cllr. Brebner reported that she had again contacted GoSafe regarding the delays in conducting speed surveys along the B5126 adj. to the college campus. On this occasion, the rubber detection strips had been sited on the B5126 by Fox Field rather than adj. to the college campus. In view of this, and of the repeated delays by GoSafe, members agreed that a letter of complaint should be sent to the Chief Constable of North Wales Police and to the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr. A. Brebner and the Clerk to liaise on the content of the letter, but it was noted that it should include thanks to PCSO S. Jones for her actions and continued support in the matter.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 12th February 2018 were confirmed as a true record. It was noted that the County Forum meeting was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions and that the Clerk had been unable to attend the Engagement Event in Wrexham.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

(a) Members reported two areas of flooding and therefore concerns regarding the condition of gullies at:

- The junction of the A5119 and High Street, Northop, opposite the entrance to the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall.
- On the left-hand side of the A5119 travelling towards Mold, between the traffic light crossroads and the driveway to Lower Lodge.

The Clerk to report the above issues to FCC.

(b) (i) The streetlight on The Green, Northop was still out. The Clerk to chase progress.

(ii) Members received an update from the local County Councillor, via Cllr. Lawton-Hughes on:

- The drains on Chestnut Close and Raikes Lane had been cleared.
- The Culvert at Tai Cochion had been cleared.
- Patching work had been scheduled to repair the potholes on the area's roads.

(iii) The Chairman reported that overweight lorries from the Ffordd Eldon development site were travelling along Newbrighton Road. The Clerk to ask FCC whether the Transport Management Plan for the site is in place and being adhered to.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) No planning application were received for comment.

(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) **057593** – Delegated Officer Approval 08/02/18. Application for the conversion and extension of industrial unit to offices and warehouse at Bailing Wire Products Limited, Northop Country Park, Northop, CH7 6WA.

(c) Members were advised that Cllr. Bateman had undertaken a site visit of the development site at Ffordd Eldon following reports by local residents of increased traffic and traffic incidents associated with activity on the site. An invitation to be sent to the Head of Planning and the Senior Planning Officer responsible for the site, to attend this Council to update members on the development of Ffordd Eldon. The Clerk to action.

6. ACCOUNTS

(a) The payment of the following accounts was approved:

- (i) Gwen Smith – £519.50 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for March 2018 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance of £90.00 (01.12.17 – 28.02.18) £398.65 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (01.12.17 – 28.02.18) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (01.12.17 – 28.02.18) £25.00
 - Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (01.12.17 – 28.02.18) £124.40 (Cheque No. 2042) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- Note:** There is an error in the calculation of this payment.
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £99.60 in respect of Clerk's salary for February 2018 (Cheque No. 2043) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council totalling £266.04
- Electricity consumption January 2018, £186.04
 - Inspection and maintenance January 2018, £80.00 (Cheque No. 2044) (Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3)
- (iv) Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, annual membership £20.00. As approved in the Council meeting of 12.2.2018. (Cheque No. 2045) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)

(b) Following receipt of the current audited annual accounts, the following grant payments were completed, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- (i) Northop Memorial Institute (£1,500) as approved at the Council meeting of 09/10/17. (Cheque No. 002)

And, as approved at the Council meeting of 12/02/18

- (ii) Welsh Border Community Transport (£300). (Cheque No. 00246)
(iii) Marie Curie Nursing Services (£100). (Cheque No. 00247)
(iv) OWL – Flintshire & Wrexham Online Watch Link Association (£50). (Cheque No. 00248)

(c) Return item to the April Council meeting.

(d) The following information was received:

- Summer Playscheme – a Welsh Government grant of £911 has been made available, via Flintshire County Councils, to Town and Community Councils offering Playscheme sites in their communities. The grant of £911 will maintain the cost per site of the Playscheme at £1,309. Northop C.C. has commissioned Flintshire County Council to deliver Playscheme at Northop and at Sychdyn. The cost will therefore be $(2 \times £1,309) + £911 = £3529.00$.
- The Non-Domestic Rates Bill for the Northop Car Park for 2018/19 is £693.90 (approx. 3% rise on last year's costs).

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Northop Telephone Kiosk (Cllr. L. Scott)

Cllr Scott provided an update on the proposed scheme to install a defibrillator in the decommissioned telephone kiosk in Northop village. It was noted that:

- A replacement door for the kiosk would cost £950.00.
- Two types of defibrillator cabinets are available and members favoured the stainless-steel version at an additional cost of £250.00
- There are two options for securing the defibrillator facility for the village, with a choice of outright ownership or a managed scheme via the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) with an annual fee of (currently) £135.00.
- Northop Silver Band have offered to play at a fundraising concert to help purchase the defibrillator. The CHT will supply advertising posters and collection buckets for any events.

Members were unanimous in their agreement in principle to the scheme, subject to final confirmation of costings. Cllr. Scott to produce a paper for consideration at the April Council meeting.

8. CASUAL VACANCY

Members accepted, with regret, the resignation of Cllr. Geoff Pierce and noted the significant contribution he had made to the community during his time serving on Northop Community Council. Members agreed that the vacancy should be advertised, with a view to co-opting a new member to the Council. The Clerk to take the necessary action.

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

Members heard that there would be a meeting for interested parties at Flint Town Hall on 15.3.18. The item to be returned to the April meeting.

10. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Members heard that FCC are undertaking a review of Code of Conduct training and that the Clerk had enquired whether FCC would be able to undertake the training for Northop members on 1st May, rather than this Council paying for training by One Voice Wales. Members agreed to await FCC's response and to keep the evening of the 1st May available for training.

11. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Members heard that Cllr. M. Bateman would shortly be meeting with the Leader of FCC, Cllr. Aaron Shotton to discuss the matter further.

12. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Deferred to a later meeting.

13. CITIZEN'S AWARD

Members agreed that the Award would take the form of that of previous years and that a decision on the winner would be taken by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. P. Lawton-Hughes.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 12th MARCH 2018
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
None.		