

NORTHOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Northop Community Council held at the Memorial Institute, Northop on Monday 18th December, 2017.

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

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillors Paul Ashley, Marion Bateman, Jo Millar, Geoff Pierce and Alan Watkin.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Stephanie Jones was unable to attend the meeting but did provide Members with an e-mailed update on Police matters in the community since the last Council meeting:

- 18/11/17 – Report of youths setting fire to rubbish close to the junction nearby Soughton Hall. Officers attended but youths had fled. Arson alert board fitted at location.
- Attempted break in at Northop Cricket Club. CCTV seized and currently being circulated for identification.
- 2/12/17 – Anti-Social Behaviour at Soughton Hall Hotel. Report of a group of youths in the car park setting off fire crackers. Officers attended. Ongoing patrols in the area where possible in response to nearby arson and the ASB.
- Two incidences of Suspicious Circumstances reported:
 - 25/11/17 – Hall Lane, Sychdyn. Report of a blue Ford Transit with Irish registration plates driving around the area. Officers attended the area and search conducted.
 - 3/12/17 – Main Road Sychdyn. Report of an unknown naked male in the street. Officers attended, no further reports of a similar nature.

PCSO Jones reported that speed surveys are ongoing along Blackbrook Lane and an update would be provided at the next Council meeting.

In response to concerns raised at the previous Council meeting, PSCO Jones had investigated the issue of dangerous parking at Llys y Wern, Sychdyn. Patrols to be continued.

Members noted:

- There had been no further action following the GoSafe speed survey at Maes Celyn on 22/10/17. Cllr. Brebner to chase progress.
- There had been numerous instances of vehicles being parked on the pavement along Church Road. The problem was most notable adjacent to the Church on Sunday mornings. The Clerk to pass on this information to PCSO Jones to investigate.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of the 13th November 2017 were confirmed as a true record.

4. STREETSCENE ISSUES

- (a) The Clerk reported on a faulty light at Park View, Northop. The previously reported faulty street light at Ffordd Edwin had also been referred to Flintshire County Council (FCC) for repair.
- (b) Concern was raised regarding the faded cross hatching on the B5126 (from Connah's Quay), protecting traffic turning right towards the Northop car park on the approach to the traffic light crossroad with the A5119. The Clerk to report to FCC.

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/057593** – PROPOSAL: Conversion and extension of industrial unit to offices and warehouse at Baling Wire Products Limited, Northop Country Park, Northop, CH7 6WA.

The Council had no objection to the proposed development.

- (ii) **LEJ/057795** – PROPOSAL: Removal of bay window, erection of two storey extension at 6 St. Peters Park, Northop, Mold, CH7 6DP.

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) **057570** – Delegated Officer Refusal 22/10/17. Application for the widening of existing door opening between reception rooms at First Floor level, Soughton Hall Hotel, Sychdyn, CH7 2AB.
- (c) Ffordd Eldon development site, Sychdyn

No further updates were available.

6. ACCOUNTS

- (a) The payment of the following accounts was approved:
- (i) Gwen Smith – £512.57 comprising of:
- Clerk's salary for December 2017 plus $\frac{1}{4}$ of Annual Allowance of £90.00
(1.9.17 – 30.11.17) £398.45 (net)
 - Quarterly internet rental (1.9.17 – 30.11.17) £48.00
 - Quarterly contribution to telephone calls (1.9.17 – 30.11.17) £25.00

- Reimbursement of photocopying, printing materials, postage and stationary costs (1.9.17 – 30.11.17) £41.12
(Cheque No. 2027) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (ii) HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax payment of £99.80 in respect of Clerk's salary December 2017
(Cheque No. 2028) (Government Act 1972 - Section 111)
- (iii) Flintshire County Council – Contribution towards the Improvement Works to Footbath 18, Northop = £500.00
(Cheque No. 2029) (Highways Act 1980, ss 43, 50)
- (iv) Flintshire County Council totalling £1,412.19
 - Electricity consumption October 2017, £186.04
 - Inspection and maintenance October 2017, £326.15
 - Replacement of Column, Church Rd., Northop, £900.00
(Cheque No. 2030) (Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3)

(b) Having received the current audited annual accounts, the grant payment to the following organisation was completed, as approved at the Council meeting of 9/10/17, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

(i) St. Peter's Churchyard, Northop (£1,000) (Cheque No. 2031)

(c) Bank mandate forms to be supplied to new signatories at the next Council meeting. The Clerk to arrange.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS

(a) Northop Telephone Kiosk (Cllr. L. Scott)

Cllr Scott was awaiting a response from Northop Cricket Club. The matter to be returned to the next Council meeting.

8. SUMMARY OF EXENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2018 (AS AT 30th NOVEMBER 2017)

The Clerk provided details of expenditure to date compared with the approved 2017/18 budget and confirmed the sum of available funds in the current and reserve bank accounts. Overall expenditure to date and the predicted outcome was in line with the approved budget, however the replacement of the Duke Street streetlight and an increase in the cost of electricity for street lighting meant that the streetlighting power and maintenance budget heads would be overspent. Members accepted the report of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

The Clerk to seek an explanation from FCC of this Council's streetlighting burn time and power consumption.

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

The Clerk to confirm member availability for meetings in January with the local Assembly Member, Hannah Blythyn.

10. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2015-2030 PRE-DEPOSIT PROPOSALS PUBLIC CONSULTATION (PREFERRED STRATEGY)

(i) Council received the recommendations of the two Task & Finish Groups and agreed a response to FCC's consultation which included the comments:

- "Need" should be the main driver of future development in Northop and Sychdyn not "desirability".
- "Sustainable considerations" would soon be impacted if development is not based on need and specific housing type (see previous para) rather than just whatever the developers want to provide (4 bed detached). Housing requirements/need should accommodate people who were brought up in Northop and Sychdyn villages and who want to continue to live here.
- Members are concerned that no definition of scale has been provided, whether it should be in percentage terms, relate to a single development or a village as a whole. Without a definition there will be nothing to measure whether an application meets the criteria of the plan or not. The scale needs to be defined by FCC. The characters and infrastructures of Northop and Sychdyn would be affected and adversely impacted if they were to turn into commuter villages as a result of the wrong type of housing development.
- Train and bus timetables are not linked up and therefore if you want people to use public transport this needs to be looked at. A sustainable integrated transport system is needed.
- Members feel that it is important to protect the natural environment by protecting green barriers. The assumption that because agricultural land is "unbuilt" land then it does not serve a useful purpose is false – it is important to allow for the preservation of wildlife, with the soil on agricultural land acting as a carbon sink etc.

Cllr. Brebner was thanked for compiling the response for the Northop Group. The Clerk to forward the response by the closing date of 5:00pm on Thursday 21st December.

(ii) Members agreed to respond in line with the consultation response above, to an approach regarding a development site within the community. The Clerk to reply.

11. PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER

Members agreed the arrangements and supplies required within the community. It was agreed that additional salt bins be requested to be sited close to each of the community's schools. The Clerk to contact FCC accordingly.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

Council resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial by reason of the personal and confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item 12.

12. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The requested six months leave of absence was granted.

13. SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Via the Clerk, Cllr. Bateman advised that discussions with FCC's Road Safety Officer and the School Transport Service would be reconvened after the 21st December. Cllr. Bateman to report further at the next Council meeting.

14. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

Concerns were raised that the Review would result in services currently provided by the County Council being transferred to community and town councils without the appropriate budget (from the Welsh Government grant and FCC's element of the Council Tax). Members were unanimous in the view that such off-loading of services would place a greater financial burden on residents through an increase in the town and community council precepts and should be resisted.

The Chairman requested that members give full consideration to the consultation on the review of the community and town council sector with a view to finalising a response at the January Council meeting.

15. FLINTSHIRE PLAY SUFFICIENCY – JANUARY WORKSHOPS***

Cllr. Hayward agreed to consider attending the Professional Development Programme Workshops in the New Year. Cllr. Millar to also be offered the opportunity.

17. FOR INFORMATION

Council received the following information.

(a) The Allotments, Northop – is now managed by the Northop Horticulture Society and the Society's Secretary is Mrs. V. Malone.

(b) Christmas Greetings – received from the Chairman of Flintshire County Council, Cllr. Brian Lloyd and Consort Jean Lloyd.

(c) Civic Invitations received:

- 15/12/17 – The Northop Party Providers' Christmas Party at Edith Bankes Memorial Hall.
- 2/2/18 – The Mayor of Mold's St. Dwynwen's Day Charity Dinner Dance and Auction at Theatr Clwyd.

(d) Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2018-19 has been confirmed by The Welsh Government as £7.86. Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2018-19 will be £7.86 per elector.

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

COUNCIL MEETING	DATE: 18th DECEMBER 2017
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MEMBER	ITEM	MIN. NO. REFERS
None.		