

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Hope Community Council**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 6 May 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor C Shone, (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, P Evans, Mrs L. Griffiths, B Hughes, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, PR Pemberton, IR Sumpter and Mrs MD Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Smith.

**2. Election of Chairman 2015/2016.**

The Chairman invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Council for 201/2016.

**Resolved:**

that Councillor PR Pemberton be elected Chairman of the Council for 2015/2016.

Councillor Pemberton took the Chair and made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Councillors for their support.

**3. Appointment of Vice Chairman 2015/2016.**

**Resolved:**

that Councillor Mrs SL Davies be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2015/2016.

Councillor Mrs Davies made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and also thanked Councillors for their support.

**4. Standing Committees.**

**Resolved:**

(i) that standing committees of the Council for 2015/2016 be designated as follows:-

- (a) Planning and Highways.
- (b) Leisure and Environment.
- (c) Finance.

(ii) that the Chairmen of the above standing committees be appointed as follows:

Planning and Highways – Councillor C Shone.  
Leisure and Environment – Councillor Mrs L Griffiths.  
Finance - Councillor Mrs SL Davies.

## **5. Meeting Dates.**

### **Resolved:**

that the dates of the meetings for 2015/2016 be approved as follows:-

3 June 2015	1 July 2015	2 September 2015
7 October 2015	4 November 2015	2 December 2015
6 January 2016	3 February 2016	2 March 2016
6 April 2016	4 May 2016	

## **6. Chairman's Announcements.**

(i) The Chairman thanked Councillors for electing him as Chairman and hoped to be able to continue the work of improving the area. He also thanked Councillor Cliff Shone for his year of office and the many years service given to the Community Council.

## **7. Minutes of Council.**

### **Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 April 2015, be approved and signed, by the Chairman.

## **8. Minutes of Committees.**

### **Resolved:**

that the minutes of the following standing committees be approved and adopted and confirmed as a correct record:

:

- (i) Planning and Highways - 1 April 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment - 1 April 2015.
- (iii) Finance - 1 April 2015.

## **9. Vacancy for Councillor.**

The Council considered three expressions of interest for co-option to the Council following publication of a Notice of Co-option and the process for filling the above vacancy. Copies of the expressions of interest submitted were circulated with the agenda for the meeting. Each had been acknowledged and advised that they would be reported to Council.

The Clerk advised that each of the candidates qualified for the position being local government electors for the area. The candidates were Ms Karianne Harston, Mr Kenneth Shone and Mrs Amanda Williams. He also informed Councillors of recent guidance on best practice for co-option which stated that when this item was reached on the agenda the Chairman should call for nominations which should be duly proposed and seconded. Candidates could either be interviewed or their letter of interest read out at the Council meeting.

The decision was taken to proceed with the appointment at this meeting and it was agreed that voting should be by signed ballot as provided for in standing orders. Having received a

majority of the votes cast the Chairman declared that Mrs Amanda Williams was duly co-opted to the Council.

**Resolved:** accordingly.

Councillor Mrs C Cunnah declared an interest in respect of this item.

#### **10. Matters Arising.**

(i) Electrification of Wrexham Bidston Railway Line – The Clerk reported that he had emailed Antoinette Sandbach AM and was still awaiting a response.

(ii) Mains gas connections to villages in the area – The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Clerk of Treuddyn Community Council and was still awaiting a response.

(iii) Hope HRC site – The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Caergwrle and District Community Action Group to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council raising questions about the rationale for closing the Hope recycling centre. It was understood that a two month reprieve had been granted while the above questions were being considered by the County. Councillor Parry gave further background to proposed changes to operating procedures and Councillors thanked the local action group for their efforts in trying to retain this facility. Councillor Mrs Williams also reported that the local County Councillor for Hope had been active in opposing this closure.

#### **11. Internal and External Audits and Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015.**

The Clerk reported progress on the arrangements for audit and processing the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2015. He reported receipt of the internal auditor's letter confirming continuing independence. The Council was also requested to approve the engagement of JDH Business Services Ltd as the Council's internal auditor and confirm that the internal auditor was a suitable person to carry out the work in accordance with proper practice guidance. The internal audit was set for 14 May 2015. The annual return having been certified by the Responsible Financial Officer would then be completed by the internal auditor JDH Business Services Ltd presented to the Council for approval at the next meeting on 3 June 2015. The internal audit report would also be available for inspection by Councillors at that meeting. Following confirmation that the annual return had been presented to the Council the return and relevant documents would be submitted to the external auditor UHY Hacker Young by 26 June 2015.

**Resolved:**

(i) that the above report be received and noted.

(ii) that the Council approve the engagement of JDH Business Services Ltd as the Council's internal auditor and confirm that the internal auditor is a suitable person to carry out the work in accordance with proper practice guidance.

(iii) that the internal auditor's letter confirming continuing independence be noted.

**12. Receipts and Payments/Bank Reconciliation for Financial Year 2014/2015.**

The Council considered the receipts and payments/bank reconciliation for financial year 2014/2015, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

**Resolved:**

that the above receipts and payments/bank reconciliation for financial year 2014/2015, be approved and that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign accordingly.

**13. Review of Internal Financial Controls 2015 – 2016.**

The Council reviewed internal financial controls, a copy of the report for which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

**Resolved:**

that the above report on internal financial controls as presented be approved.

**14. Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2015 Supporting Statement and Asset Register.**

The Council considered the above documents, copies having been circulated to Councillors.

**Resolved:**

that the above asset register and supporting statement be approved.

**15. Annual Investment Strategy 2015 – 2016.**

The Council considered the investment strategy for 2015/2016, a copy of which had been circulated to Councillors.

**Resolved:**

that the above report and strategy as presented be approved.

**16. Revised Guidance on the Code of Conduct.**

The Clerk reported the issue by Ombudsman of revised guidance on the Code of Conduct. A copy was handed to Councillors at the meeting.

**Resolved:**

that the above document be received and noted.

**17. Items requested at last meeting.**

(i) Hydro electricity schemes – In the absence of Councillor P Smith this item was deferred to the next meeting

(ii) Railway stations – The Chairman raised the issue of yellow safety lines on platforms which had not been provided at Hope station. He asked that his matter be raised with Arriva

Wales.

(iii) Red telephone box Abermorddu – Councillor Parry drew attention to a notice in this telephone box and asked whether the Community Council would wish to adopt it. I was agreed that the Community Council seek to adopt this telephone box as an item of street furniture.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 6 May 2015.**

Present:

Councillor C Shone, (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs SL Davies, Mrs C Cunnah, P Evans, Mrs L Griffiths, B Hughes, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, PR Pemberton, IR Sumpter and Mrs MD Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**18. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Smith.

**19. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 1 April 2015.

**20. Matters Arising.**

(i) Car Parking Caergwrle – The Clerk reported that it had now been decided not to implement car parking charges at the High Street car park Caergwrle, however proposals for on street parking charges were still an ongoing issue.

(ii) Bryn y Gaer Quarry – The Clerk reported that he had contacted the planning department who had confirmed that the quarry was largely filled but was still receiving some further suitable material as and when it was available. It was difficult to assess when this would be complete. Once restored there was a period of aftercare during which the land owner was responsible for management of the area on the basis of the final restoration plan During that time it would be available as an open space for use by the public. The footpaths would be restored to their original routes as soon as possible on completion of restoration.

Any comments the Council may have on the restoration plan would still be considered. Councillor Parsonage suggested that some form of recognition be given to the original hillfort which occupied this area. After the 5 year period the land owner would then be able to decide on the future use of this area subject to any planning requirements, such as to sell it on or seek a change of use.

(iii) Public Footpaths at Gwern Alyn Definitive Map Modification Order 2008 – The Clerk reported a letter from Flintshire County Council stating that a number of objections had been received in respect of the above Order. As a result the Order had been referred to the Planning Inspectorate to decide whether to call a local public inquiry. The local Ramblers' Association had intimated that they may be prepared to support the Order. The County would keep the Council informed of developments. Councillor Parsonage would endeavour to ask as many of the original claimants as possible to be available in the event of an enquiry.

## **21. Planning Applications.**

(a) The Committee considered planning applications received as follows:

- (i) Application LEJ/053419 – Extensions and alterations to dwelling at Fieldhouse, Rhos Estyn Lane Hope.
- (ii) Application SCB/053449 – Notification to fell ash and sycamore within conservation area at rear of Somerset House Castle Street Caergwrle.
- (iii) Application SCB/053459 – Notification to fell 3 no ash 1 no wild cherry and 1 no oak within conservation area at rear of 40 Castle Street Caergwrle.
- (iv) Application LEB/053436 – Erection of two storey extension at 33 Bryn Yorkin Caergwrle.
- (v) Application LEJ/053455 – Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached garage at 26 Kingsway Hope.
- (vi) Application PXR/053479 – Outline application for the erection of a dwelling at The Spinneys, Huxleys Lane Wrexham Road Hope.
- (vii) Application PXR/053566 – Erection of double garage with office accommodation at first floor at Meadowside Gresford Road Caergwrle.
- (viii) Application ECH/053533 – Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings at Windsor Avenue Caergwrle.

**Resolved:**

that the above applications be supported.

(b) Applications which had been determined by Flintshire County Council were reported as follows:

- (i) Erection of single storey extension to rear of existing garage at Bronwylfa Hawarden Road Caergwrle – approved.
- (ii) Existing external ATM to be replaced with new model at HSBC 31 High Street Caergwrle – approved.
- (iii) Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and associated ground works at 30 Rhyddyn Hill Caergwrle – approved.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 6 May 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor Mrs L Griffiths (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs SL Davies, Mrs C Cunnah, P Evans, B Hughes, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, PR Pemberton, IR Sumpter and Mrs MD Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**22. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Smith and C Shone.

**23. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 1 April 2015.

**24. Matters Arising.**

(i) Caergwrle Castle Lease – The Clerk reported the County Countryside Service was prepared to provide a future management service from 1 October 2015 to 31 March in the sum of £1300. £1500 had been included in this year's budget to cover that. This would cover fortnightly patrols to include litter picking health and safety monitoring basic repairs as needed h&s tree work and other maintenance work as required. In addition the Countryside service was involved in an initiative to join the Offa's Dyke national trail with the start of the Wales Coast path and it was intended that this link would pass through Caergwrle on existing rights of way. Senior Ranger Mike Taylor would be more than pleased to attend a future meeting to give more information on this initiative.

**Resolved:**

(i) that the Countryside service be asked to continue to manage the Castle site from September 2015 to March 2016 and Senior Ranger Mike Taylor be invited to a future meeting.

(ii) that the condition of the existing hand rail be reported to the Countryside Service for attention.

(ii) Tree planting at the Willow – Mr Stuart Body of Flintshire County Council had been in contact to advise on progress with the planting and fencing for the Willow. One problem experienced was people removing the canes and spiral guards off the young trees. This was difficult to address and relied on re-caning and replacement spirals to keep on top of things.

Mr Body had 40 spare canes and guards from the contractor which could be used as spares but it would require a local volunteer to re-instate or replace as necessary. If there was



someone willing he would drop off the bag of materials at their property. Councillor Parsonage offered to do this.

The contractor had sprayed out the planting with herbicide and this would probably be required again in 6-8 weeks depending on weed growth. As previously discussed a sum of money was available to carry out the maintenance comprising of replacements and spraying. This needed to be discussed when the outstanding monies had been paid to the contractors.

The large trees may require watering, as these were high value and would be costly to replace if there was a drought. A colleague was carrying out watering during dry periods and he would be asked him to put the large trees on his watering schedule, for which the Community Council would not be charged.

## **25. Willow Playingfield.**

The Clerk reported that Mr Roberts of Flintshire County Council was meeting with County engineers this week and would be seeking tenders for the skate park very shortly.

The Clerk also read out an email which had been received from Mr Gareth Jones of 24 Willow Avenue expressing concern about the skate park proposal on the grounds that it would attract an unwanted intrusion to the area and Councillors were invited to respond. Mr Roberts' response had been that previous consultations had revealed a demand for this facility and similar facilities in other villages had proved to be very popular. The skatepark offered a safe venue for young people to use their skate boards, scooters and bmx's and reduced the likelihood of them playing in inappropriate areas. Parking was unlikely to be a problem as it was anticipated that most of the users would be local young people making their own way to the facility. The email from Mr Jones had been the only objection received by the Clerk.

### **Resolved:**

(i) that the above report be noted and the Clerk respond to Mr Jones accordingly.

(ii) that the Clerk request that the dog wardens carry out intensive monitoring of dog fouling on this site.

## **26. Play Area Crossways Abermorddu.**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the local residents committee to inform them that the Council had agreed to put £300 towards a bench in memory of the late Councillor Stella Jones.

### **Resolved:**

that the above report be noted.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held at the  
Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on Wednesday  
6 May 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs SL Davies, C Cunnah, P Evans, Mrs L Griffiths, B Hughes, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, and IR Sumpter and Mrs MD Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**27. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Shone and P Smith.

**28. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 1 April 2015.

**29. Matters Arising.**

(i) Council's Insurance - the Clerk reported that the renewal premium for the Council's insurance which was due on 1 June 2015 had been received from AON in the sum of £497.17. This was the same premium as last year. An alternative quote had been sought from another insurer Zurich in the sum of £434.33.

**Resolved:**

that subject to there being no increase in the premium following the Council resuming responsibility for Castle Hill Caergwrle in September 2015, approval be granted to the renewal of the Council's insurance with the cheaper quote received from Zurich in the sum of £434.33..

**30. Payments.**

**Resolved:**

that the payments up to and including 6 May 2015, as attached to these minutes and in the total sum of £2910.34 be approved.

**31. Duration of Meetings.**

The meetings began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.15pm.