

# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair), Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mr B Hughes, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead, Mrs E Oldham, Dr P Bevan and Mrs J Tilston

**Also Present:** Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

### 313. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Cunnah and N Jones.

### 314. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Taylor declared an interest in agenda 10 (min 322) - External Audit of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023.

### 315. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair did not have any announcements.

### 316. Minutes of Council

**RESOLVED:** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 317. Minutes of Committees

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

- i. Planning and Highways – 6th March 2024
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 6th March 2024
- iii. Finance – 6th March 2024

### 318. To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

**Min 291** – the flag has been ordered. The council will need to arrange it being flown from 9am on 6th June for 1 week.

### 319. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence

An email had been received from S4C in relation to comments made on social media regarding the flags at the Caergwrle Cenotaph which the Chair and Clerk had responded to. One of the questions raised was were flags flown all year?

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted. This will be included on the May agenda for the council to consider flags being flown all year round.

### 320. To receive the County Councillor Report from Cllrs David and Gladys Healey

Cty Cllrs David and Gladys Healey provided a report which included information on:

**Chair's Charity Dinner** - to date it appears that the various activities and donations have raised in excess of £4,600 for North East Wales Mind and Lymphoma Research.

**Bluebell Field Development** – gratitude to 52 local objectors, Cllr L Davies and to the resident's spokesperson, Mrs C Olsen, for voicing their opposition to this development at the recent planning meeting. Cllr D Healey also spoke in opposition. Unfortunately, this planning application was passed, largely because of the weight given to land which is in the Local Development Plan.

It was passed in spite of the revelation that the sewage from the site will not go directly to the Hope Waste Water Treatment Works, which has now got additional 'headroom' to cope with phosphates and an appropriate licence.

As there is insufficient hydraulic capacity for the Bluebell Field site to move the sewage directly to Hope it will have to go to the Gwern Alyn Pumping Station in Cefn y Bedd in order to be pumped there.

However, a freedom of information request has revealed that Gwern Alyn had 29 sewage spills into the River Alyn between 6th December 2021 and 6th December 2023. Welsh Water confirmed that there has been no upgrading investment in this pumping station and that the sewage from the Bluebell Field development would go, initially to Gwern Alyn.

Cllr D Healey has referred the matter to Natural Resources Wales in the first instance as he believes that the Planning Committee were misled when Welsh Water offered no objection to the Bluebell Field application and that it took a freedom of information request to reveal to real route of the sewage from the site. NRW's own 2023 guidance to planning authorities with regard to the phosphates issues clearly states that one of the conditions for development is that "The sewer network and associated WwTW has the hydraulic capacity for new connections without leading to an increase in the environmental impact of storm overflows."

**Hwb Caergwrle** - Hwb Caergwrle continues to flourish by using existing facilities within the community for activities. The planned painting of the Willow Skateboard Park by pupils from Ysgol Estyn and Dime One has been rescheduled to April 16th because of poor weather.

Cllr Sheibani reported that Cllr G Healey's term of office as Chair of FCC is due to finish and asked the council at this time to acknowledge the work that she has done.

**RESOLVED:** the council were in support of this and Cllr Sheibani will establish the date on which the term of office concludes and the council will write a letter of thanks.

### 321. Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

- i. Supporting Statement (Appendix A1) was received and reviewed with no questions or issues raised.
- ii. a) The Clerk provided the Council with copies of the year end summary, budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation (Appendix A2). The documents had been reviewed prior to the meeting and no issues were raised.  
b) In order to meet the requirements of the financial regulations and internet banking, it is necessary for a programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers to be followed.
- iii. The Internal Audit will be completed between 18 - 25th April 2024.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. The Supporting Statement was approved by the Council.
- ii. a) The year end budget/accounts were approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Davies.  
b) The requirement to undertake regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be completed by Cllr Bowgett electronically.
- iii. The report was received and noted. The Clerk will ensure all documents are prepared and submitted.

### 322. External Audit of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The External Audit has now completed and a copy was provided to all members, however, the Clerk reported that there was a discrepancy with Audit Wales regarding one of the recommendations which has not yet been concluded and therefore this item should be deferred.

**RESOLVED:** the Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 is deferred until the discrepancy is concluded.

### 323. Clerks Report

The Clerk circulated the updated Issue Log detailing outstanding issues and details of progress. This report is for information only and should any items require further discussion they will need to be included on a future agenda (if not already on the current agenda).

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted and will be updated accordingly. The issues above will be reported to FCC.

### 324. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events
- OVW Membership Letter
- Eisteddfod Funding Letter
- Invitation from North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils.

- OVW – Consultation on the Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill.
- Email and information regarding the closure of the Age & Dementia-Friendly Alyn Villages Group.  
**RESOLVED:** to be included on the May agenda for further consideration.

**325. Future Agenda Items**

- Cllr Taylor reported that the Pistyll in Caergwrle is blocked.  
**RESOLVED:** this will be reported to FCC Streetscene.

\*\*6.50pm – Mrs Hughes left the meeting.

**326. Clerks Review – Appraisal (closed session)**

The Clerks Appraisal/Performance Review was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March with the Chairman and Cllr Davies. Cllr Davies provided members with a verbal report on the successful appraisal and the coming years objectives.

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted. In accordance with the contract of employment and successful appraisal, the clerk will be awarded 1SCP with effect from 1st April 2024.

The training requirements were approved. Due to the appointment of a Grounds Person, the council will undertake an interim review before November/December to ascertain whether this has impacted the Clerks working hours in order, if necessary, to include in the 2025/26 budget.

\*\*6.55pm – Mrs Hughes returned to the meeting.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 6.55pm

Chairman: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

## HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### SUPPORTING STATEMENT

#### Assets

	<b>Cost</b>
(a) During the year the following assets were purchased:	
8 x Bracket Christmas Lights	£2310.00
2 x Interpretation Boards – Caergwrle Castle	£0.00
(b) During the year assets were disposed of:	
1 x Telephone Kiosk	£2185.45
(c) At 31 March 2024 the following assets were held:	
Community assets	
Land off High Street, Caergwrle (play area)	-
Site of Caergwrle Castle	-
Planted area at junction of Hawarden Road/Gresford Road Hope	
Queensway play area Equipment	£58805.29
Skate Ramp at Willows Play Area	£85232.71
Other Fixed Assets	
Street furniture	
- public benches x 11	£7135.20
- bus shelters x 1	£2667.56
- notice boards x 2	£1145.77
- Millennium maps x 3	£3912.02
- streetlights x 120(*)	£66550.00
- 53 x Bracket Xmas lights	£18093.75
- 4 x CCTV cameras (inc Ipad)	£14282.40
- 1 x Defibrillator, Cabinet & 3x Signs	£2532.13
Office equipment (laptop)	£602.15
Chain of Office	£4727.14
Honours board	£765.12
2x Interpretation Boards (Caergwrle Castle)	£7000.00
	<b>£273,451.24</b>

The basis of valuation of these assets is replacement value, excluding (\*) which is based on audit valuation only.

#### Borrowings

At the close of business on 31 March 2024 there were no outstanding loans

#### Leases

At 31 March 2024 there was the following lease in operation:

- Photocopier lease with Canda Copying Ltd - £160 pa

#### Tenancies

During the year the following tenancies were held:

*Council as tenant*

<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Rent pa</i>	<i>Repairing/non Repairing</i>
Hope CC	Land at Queensway Hope	£59.33 plus inflation	Repairing.

## Debt Outstanding

At the year end there was a total debt of £11519.62:

- £11519.62 - VAT Refund and is less than 3 months old.

## S137 Payments

S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Community Councils to spend up to the product of £9.93 per head of electorate (approx. 3233) for the benefit of the people of the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. The limit for this Council in the year ended 31 March 2024 was approx. £32103.69 and the payments are set out as follows:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Nature of Payment</b>	<b>£</b>
Ysgol Estyn HAS	Kings Coronation Grant	£400.00
1st Caergwrle Girls Brigade	Kings Coronation Grant	£250.00
Hope Preschool Playgroup	Kings Coronation Grant	£100.00
1st Hope Scouts	Kings Coronation Grant	£100.00
Pontblyddyn Cricket Club	Kings Coronation Grant	£150.00
Lynn Davies	Kings Coronation Bunting & Flags	£41.44
Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	£50.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	Grant	£300.00
Hope Pre-school playgroup	Grant	£400.00
Ysgol Estyn - HAS	Grant	£400.00
1st Hope Brownies	Grant	£600.00
Hope Parent & Toddler	Grant	£400.00
Caergwrle Boys Brigade	Grant	£250.00
Abermorddu Residents Committee	Grant	£300.00
		<b>£3741.44</b>

## Agency Work

During the year the Council undertook no agency work.

## Advertising and Publicity

No costs were incurred during the year.

## Pensions

Clwyd Pension Fund - Employees were offered the Local Government Pension Scheme 2016/17.

Updated: 12.03.2024

2023/24 Financial Year			
Income			
	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Precept	122,800.00	122,800.00	0.00
Bank Interest	2,713.37	400.00	2,313.37
Refunds/Other (inc Match Funding)	13,382.00	0.00	13,382.00
CADW - Castle Maintenance Grant	4,450.00	4,450.00	0.00
VAT Refund	6,217.45	5,151.24	1,066.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>149,562.82</b>	<b>132,801.24</b>	<b>16,761.58</b>

## Expenditure

	Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Leisure & Environment	16,752.22	39,950.00	23,197.78
Planning & Highways	35,534.78	63,000.00	27,465.22
Finance & General Admin	38,196.91	45,099.00	6,902.09
<b>Reserves</b>			
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle (grant)	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle	13.90	18,757.00	18,743.10
Reserved - Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (2021)	13,000.00	25,000.00	12,000.00
Reserved - Street Lighting	0.00	42,074.15	42,074.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,497.81</b>	<b>238,880.15</b>	<b>135,382.34</b>

## Current Summary

Bank Balance as at 31 March 2023	146,030.16
Total Expenditure	103,497.81
Total Income	149,562.82
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>192,095.17</b>
<b>VAT Costs for 2023/24 Financial Year</b>	<b>11,519.62</b>

## Year End Summary

Balance c/f as at 31 March 2023	146,030.16
Receipts (Income) for 2023/24	149,562.82
Total Receipts	295,592.98
Total Expenditure	103,497.81
<b>Gross Balance as at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>192,095.17</b>
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle (grant)	5,000.00
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle	18,743.10
Reserved - Street Lighting	53,677.73
Reserved - Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (22/23)	12,000.00
Reserved - Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (23/24)	23,000.00
Reserved - Grants to be included in 2024	350.00
<b>Net Balance as at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>102,324.340</b>

<b>HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24</b>				
<b>Committee/Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget 2023-24</b>	<b>Actual to Date</b>	<b>Of which is VAT</b>	<b>Available</b>
<b>Leisure and Environment Committee</b>				
1.1 Summer play scheme/Youth	£2,200.00	£2,126.80	£0.00	£73.20
1.2 Environ imp/plygrnd	£16,000.00	£1,597.02	£249.20	£14,402.98
1.3 Caergwrle Castle	£6,000.00	£12,728.40	£696.40	-£6,728.40
1.4 Community Competitions/Engagement	£750.00	£300.00	£0.00	£450.00
1.5 Village Improvements	£15,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£15,000.00
<b>L &amp; E Reserves</b>				
1.7 Caergwrle Castle (grant)	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00
1.8 Caergwrle Castle	£18,757.00	£13.90	£2.32	£18,743.10
1.9 Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (21/22)	£25,000.00	£13,000.00	£0.00	£12,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£88,707.00</b>	<b>£29,766.12</b>	<b>£947.92</b>	<b>£58,940.88</b>
<b>Planning and Highways Committee</b>				
2.1 Bus shelters	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00
2.2 Street lighting – supply	£15,500.00	£3,007.16	£501.20	£12,492.84
2.3 Street lighting – maint (inspections & repairs)	£30,300.00	£18,696.42	£7,331.42	£11,603.58
2.4 Christmas lights	£12,500.00	£11,701.20	£1,950.20	£798.80
2.5 CCTV Cameras	£4,500.00	£2,130.00	£355.00	£2,370.00
2.6 Road & Highway Improvements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>P &amp; H Reserves</b>				
2.7 P&H Misc/Reserved - Street Light Upgrade	£42,074.15	£0.00	£0.00	£42,074.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>£105,074.15</b>	<b>£35,534.78</b>	<b>£10,137.82</b>	<b>£69,539.37</b>
<b>Finance Committee</b>				
3.1 Salaries and N.I. (& payroll fees)	£15,130.00	£15,819.03	£0.00	-£689.03
3.2 Pension/gratuity	£2,962.00	£3,425.69	£0.00	-£463.69
3.3 Expenses - Clerk Travel (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£145.60	£0.00	£54.40
3.4 Bank Fees (NEW)	£60.00	£63.60	£0.00	-£3.60
3.5 Audit fees (Gen Admin)	£825.00	£494.00	£49.00	£331.00
3.6 Chain / honours board (Gen Admin)	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
3.7 Stationery & equipment (Gen Admin)	£450.00	£270.97	£45.19	£179.03
3.8 Computer, Maint, Hosting, Emails & GDPR(Gen Admin)	£2,000.00	£1,725.19	£287.53	£274.81
3.9 Postage (NEW)	£200.00	£245.60	£0.00	-£45.60
3.11 Insurance (Gen Admin)	£1,427.00	£1,666.34	£0.00	-£239.34
3.12 Subscriptions (Gen Admin)	£790.00	£115.00	£0.00	£675.00
3.13 Photocopier (Gen Admin)	£250.00	£192.94	£32.16	£57.06
3.14 Election expenses	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00
3.15 Office costs (Gen Admin)	£1,585.00	£1,731.45	£0.00	-£146.45
3.16 Grants	£4,000.00	£3,650.00	£0.00	£350.00
3.17 Chairman's allowance/Cllr Exp	£9,920.00	£7,417.06	£0.00	£2,502.94
3.18 Council website (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£84.00	£14.00	£116.00
3.19 Training	£2,250.00	£73.00	£0.00	£2,177.00
3.21 Noticeboard/Millennium Maps	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
3.22 Defib	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00
3.23 Village Celebration (Kings Coronation)	£1,000.00	£1,041.44	£0.00	-£41.44
3.24 Working Balance	£0.00	£36.00	£6.00	-£36.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£45,099.00</b>	<b>£38,196.91</b>	<b>£433.88</b>	<b>£6,902.09</b>
<b>Summary</b>				
Leisure and environment	£88,707.00	£29,766.12	£947.92	£58,940.88
Planning and Highways	£105,074.15	£35,534.78	£10,137.82	£69,539.37
Finance	£45,099.00	£38,196.91	£433.88	£6,902.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>£238,880.15</b>	<b>£103,497.81</b>	<b>£11,519.62</b>	<b>£135,382.34</b>
** All above figures include VAT which will be reclaimed				





# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair of Council), Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mr B Hughes, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead, Mrs E Oldham, Dr P Bevan and Mrs J Tilston

**Also Present:** Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

### 327. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Cunnah and N Jones.

### 328. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

### 329. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the Council in the absence of the Chair of Committee.

### 330. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

**Min 221** – Abermorddu Residents Committee have confirmed they have funded phase 1 of the refurbishment of the kiosk and requested the £300 grant awarded by the council to be paid. This was authorised by the 4x Chairs and has now been paid.

### 331. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Members reviewed the [IRPW 2024/25 Annual Report](#) in conjunction with the [2022/23](#) and [2023/24](#) Annual Reports and considered which of the Panel's determinations to adopt for 2024/25.

As the council is in Group 4 (Electorate 1,000 to 4,999), the following is applicable for consideration:

#### Group 4

#### Electorate 1,000 to 4,999

Det (4) Extra Costs Payment	Mandatory for all members
Det (43) Cost of Care or Personal Assistance	Mandatory for all members
Det (45) Senior Role	Optional up to 3 members
Det (46/47) Travel and Subsistence	Optional
Det (48) Financial Loss	Optional
Det (49) Attendance Allowance	Optional
Det (50) Mayor or Chair	Optional - Up to a maximum of £1,500
Det (51) Deputy Mayor or Deputy Chair	Optional - Up to a maximum of £500

**RESOLVED:** for 2024/25 the council will adopt Determination 4 of the 2023/24 IRPW Report and Determination 43, 45-51 of the 2022/23 IRPW Report.

- With regard to Det 45 – Senior Role Payment, this will be applicable to the Chair of the Committees (Planning & Highways, Leisure & Environment and Finance)
- With regard to Det 49 – Attendance Allowance, the sum was approved at £20 for each qualifying event. Please refer to the separate Attendance Allowance Scheme. (The Attendance Allowance Scheme will be updated accordingly and presented at the May council meeting).
- Payments will be made to members at the end of the financial year February or March.
- Payments will be as one lump sum, including the Extra Cost Payment for consumables.
- As payments will be made at the end of the financial year it should reduce the requirement to recover any payments made to a member who leaves their role during the financial year.
- Should a member leave part way through a year, a pro rata payment will be made.
- Payments will be processed via payroll and paid to the members via bacs.

### 332. D-Day 80 Grant Applications

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the poster and Application form for publication. The closing date will be 23<sup>rd</sup> April and all applications will be reviewed at the May meeting.

### 333. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 3rd April 2024.

<b>Payable to</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Mammoth Workwear	(The Evenlode Co) Uniform logo set up fee *	£36.00
One Voice Wales	Annual Membership	£773.00
AVOW	Payroll charges jan - march 24 & Yr end fee	£122.35
Staffing Cost	Mar-24	£1,653.65
Mrs S Hughes	Tesco Mobile - Monthly data package	£10.00
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£19.31
Abermorddu Residents Committee	Grant*	£300.00
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£5.00

\* Authorised and paid mid month

The approved grant payment of £300 to has now been processed after being reviewed and approved by the Chairs.

**RESOLVED:** The above payments be approved. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, the schedule for payments was signed by the Chairman of Finance and/or the Chairman of the Council and countersigned by two bank signatories.

The meeting of the Committee began at 6.55pm and ended at 7.05pm

Chairman: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chair of Committee), Mrs T Bowgett, Mrs M Williams, Mr B Hughes, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead, Mrs E Oldham, Dr P Bevan and Mrs J Tilston

**Also Present:** Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

### 334. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Cunnah and N Jones.

### 335. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

### 336. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 337. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

### 338. Planning Applications

i. The following planning applications received for the Committee to consider.

**RESOLVED:**

a) [FUL/000228/24](#). Extension to existing dropped kerb access from main road. Bryn Y Grog, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Supported**

ii. Applications received which have been determined by Flintshire County Council:

a) [FUL/000038/24](#). Single storey side and rear extensions. 31 Windsor Avenue, Caergwrle. **Approved**

b) [Ref: 064077](#). Erection of three new dwellings and associated access and landscaping. Laurel Grove, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. **Approved**

c) [FUL/000419/23](#). Replacement dwelling. St Kilda, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Approved**

### 339. Land at Wrexham Road, Abermorddu, Hope (Bluebell Fields)

The Chair reported that she had attended the FCC Planning Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March to speak/object on [FUL/000769/22](#). Erection of 70 dwellings, construction of a new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works. Land at Wrexham Road, Abermorddu, Hope. This was approved by FCC despite objections from residents, Cty Cllr Healey and herself regarding sewage capacity and regular spillages, polluting the river and areas in Caergwrle. It was said that it was on the LDP and we have had our chance to object, which we did, and implied that all areas for development on the LDP will go through. Welsh Water have told FCC that there is sewage capacity for more housing developments, despite evidence to the contrary gathered by Cllr Healey and supported by local residents. FCC chose not to investigate further and took WW approval as correct. WW has already been fined £40m by Ofwat for sewage inadequacies elsewhere. Cllr Healey obtained information from WW confirming 29 sewage discharges from Gwern Alyn between 6/12/21 – 6/12/23.

Castle Green Homes plan to connect 70 houses to Gwern Alyn pumping station in Cefn-y-bedd prior to sewage pumping to Hope Waste Water Treatment. They have not made any upgrades to Gwen Alyn works and no significant capital investment has been made to the site.

One Cllr at the aforementioned meeting who strongly supported the application said it was up to Cllr Healey and Hope CC to report WW to NRW who have the power to fine and enforce WW to improve the sewage system. Cllr Healey has already sent a letter to NRW and Cllr Davies suggested for the council to support Cllr Healey and also write to NRW.

Cllr Bevan commented that WW have a program of attaching sensors to outlets and reporting and that the council could request for an outlet to be added.

**RESOLVED:** the council approved to write to NRW expressing concern of spillages, capacity and that the Gwern Alyn pumping station that will be dealing with the additional 70 homes is not fit for purpose. Cllr Davies to prepare the letter.

Due to the location of the pumping station, the Clerk will liaise with the Clerk of Llanfynydd to ascertain if they have received any complaints on this issue.

### 340. **Street Lighting Upgrades**

During the current phase of street lighting upgrades, FCC were due to upgrade columns on Kiln Lane, however, objections and complaints were received from residents due to not wanting to have the historical columns removed and replaced. A halt was placed on these columns, and FCC have upgraded alternatives. A site meeting was held with HCC, FCC, Cty Cllr G Healey and residents to discuss the columns on 26th March. Whilst some residents wished for the historical columns to remain, others considered that new lighting was needed. Due to the brightness of new lights FCC advised that shields can be installed.

Should the columns remain they could benefit from being painted and Dylan Williams, FCC has said he could look at installing brighter lights.

As safety was a concern for the columns, it was agreed at the meeting that the council would obtain costings for a structural inspection of the columns, which FCC has since advised will be approx. £200 for both columns. A report will be provided to state the condition of the columns and whether a 1yr, 3yr or 5yr follow up inspection is required.

**RESOLVED:** the council approved for the Structural Inspections on the 2x columns and will discuss further once the report has been received.

### 341. **Highway Matters**

- Notification from FCC that there will be some remedial works beginning on the 2nd April, at the new pedestrian crossing by The Beeches in Hope. This will be to allow cyclists to access the main carriageway for onward journeys towards Llay. It's expected to last for approx. 1 week and will be finished before the end of the school Easter holidays.
- Cllr Davies reported a number of dangerous pot holes; A550 (Gresford Rd), Bridge End, Hawarden Road. These will be reported to FCC. Cty Cllr D Healey has advised that he will be reviewing all areas of the community to prepare a list to submit to FCC.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.05pm and ended at 7.27pm

Chairman: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mrs M Williams (Chair of Committee), Mrs T Bowgett, Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead, Mrs E Oldham, Dr P Bevan and Mrs J Tilston

**Also Present:** Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

### 342. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Cunnah and N Jones.

### 343. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

### 344. Minutes

**RESOLVED:** the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th March, be approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Bowgett Chair of the Council.

### 345. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising to report.

### 346. Play Areas

- i. Willows Play Area – Richard Roberts, Aura has requested the council to review the suggested equipment and provide feedback of what was the councils preference in order to obtain like for like quotes.
- ii. Nothing further report as appropriate.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- i. A zipwire and climbing frame were considered, however, the council will also request examples and costing of accessible equipment. Once these have been provided, members will consider further what additional equipment will be installed. Enquires will also be made to any grant funding for accessible equipment.

### 347. Caergwrle Castle

The new ladder sign has been delivered and FCS will now liaise with the contractor on a date when it can be installed and the old sign removed. They are hoping that could be potentially in the next four weeks, depending on the contractor's availability.

FCS have also removed some trees to open up the view from the seat below the castle. A couple more might need to be removed, but further work will have to wait until later this year when birds have finished nesting.

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted. FCS will be reminded to keep the old board and to liaise with Cllr A Parsonage.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.27pm and ended at 7.45pm

Chairman: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Personnel (Advisory) Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024

**Present:** Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair), Mrs L Davies, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani

**Also Present:** Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

### 348. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Williams and Oldham.

### 349. **To Receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

### 350. **Village Grounds Person Vacancy**

Following the closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> March, members reviewed all 14 applications against the essential and desirable requirements.

**RESOLVED:** a shortlist of 6 candidates was agreed who will be invited to attend an interview on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, held by Cllr Bowgett, Sheibani, Davies and Parsonage.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.50pm and ended at 8.22pm

Chairman: ..... 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024