

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair), Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead and Dr P Bevan.

By Video: Cllr C Cunnah (Vice Chair)

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

278. **To Receive the Signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Dr Paul Bevan**

RESOLVED: Cllr Bevan signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk.

279. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Oldham, Williams and Tilston.

280. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Bevan Declared an Interest in relation to agenda item 11 (min 288).

281. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Bevan to the council.

A thank you letter from the Boys Brigade for the Chair's Grant had been received and also advising that the Caergwrle BB are 95yrs old.

282. **Minutes of Council**

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7th February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

283. **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 – 7th February 2024
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 7th February 2024
- iii. Finance – 7th February 2024
- iv. Personnel (Advisory) Committee – 26th February 2024. These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

284. **To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

285. **To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence**

There were no public questions.

286. **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:

FCC Budget - It will not have escaped the notice of Members that council tax in Flintshire is going up 9% when the bills next come through our doors.

The measure is accompanied by a raft of cuts which have been necessary, as well as use of reserves, to produce a legal and balanced budget. The good news is that the Council managed to balance its budget and avoid the need for a Section 114 Notice and a Commissioner.

The Welsh Government receives its budget from the UK Government and that budget is now worth £1.3bn less than when the UK spending review was made in 2021.

In Flintshire itself we have significant issues with the funding formula, used by Welsh Government, to fund local authorities. Flintshire is 20th out of 22 authorities when it comes to funding because of the

'prosperity' of our county and there are significant differences in the funding, per head, which authorities receive.

The prospects for next year are even more challenging as so many cuts have already been made to services.

Dime One Mural Art - young people at Ysgol Estyn have been involved in a mural project with Dime One which was sponsored by Hwb Caergwrle with funding from TNLF. The proposed work on the Willow Skateboard Park is being rescheduled because of the weather.

287. **Personnel (Advisory) Committee – Grounds Person Vacancy**

- i. The council reviewed and considered the proposals/recommendations from the Personnel (Advisory) Committee meeting held on 26th February relating to the advertisement and appointment of a Village Grounds Person.
It was suggested that Lone Working should be including in the training and/or risk assessments.
- ii. Members considered what tasks are deemed a priority for the first two months. Cllr Arnold also mentioned that Hope Station has no adopters of the maintenance of the green areas and Transport for Wales are always looking for community-based groups to adopt their stations, such groups often take care of planted areas for the benefit of the communities the stations serve.

RESOLVED:

- i. The council approved delegated powers to the Personnel Advisory Committee for the full recruitment process of this appointment.
 - Approved that the employee will commence on 8 hours per week, rather than 4 hour, as previously agreed, for the first 2 months.
 - The closing date to be set as 28th March and interviews held on 8th April
 - Advertise the vacancy on noticeboards, facebook, website and Indeed.
 - There will be online mandatory training required before commencing. This will also include Lone Working.
 - The appointed person will be asked to attend either the May or June council meeting to meet all members.
- ii. Tasks to include; painting council owned benches, litter picking and to undertake a review of the villages, including play areas, pathways and ginnels, to prepare an 'Issue Log' of recommended maintenance and issues.

288. **Hope – Penyffordd Cycle Path & School Buses**

Members considered and discussed the concerns raised by Cty Cllr G Healey that FCC may in the future reassess the A550 between Penyffordd and Hope and declare it to be a 'non hazardous route' which in turn will affect school transport.

Concerns of the safety of cyclists and pedestrians with the path having over 20 driveways and having to cross a large junction of Kinnerton Road, whilst the opposite side of the road only has 4 driveways and the junction of Pigeon House Lane

Cllr Davies advised that Cty Cllr Healey has confirmed that there is no risk of this being implemented within the next 12 months, but certainly something to be aware of for the future.

The safety concerns were something that the council brought up to FCC in the consultation stages, together with the risk of school transport being withdrawn.

It was asked that as this will affect the community of Penyffordd, has Penyffordd Council taken any action and maybe consider submitting a joint letter? The Clerk advised that the same concerns are shared.

Cllr Bevan commented that whilst there are some negatives with this provision, as a cyclist this has improved the connectivity between Penyffordd and Hope and is part of the wider plan to connect communities in safer routes.

RESOLVED: the council will keep this under review.

289. **FCC – Standards Committee Town and Community Council Representative**

To review the nominations for the vacancy and submit the councils 1st and 2nd preferences.

RESOLVED: 1st Preference: Cllr David Ellis 2nd Preference: Cllr Russell Davies

290. **Members Allowances**

The Clerk reported that after seeking advice regarding the processing of the Members Allowance payment to the late Mr D Roberts, OVW advised that as councillors are treated as if they are employees for the purpose of payments made through PAYE, the council will need to follow the guidance contained in the government website for 'deceased' employees.'

RESOLVED: the payment has therefore been processed through payroll and the cheque will be presented to the solicitors dealing with his estate.

291. **D-Day 80 Flag of Peace - Community & Town Councils**

RESOLVED: the council will purchase 1x Flag of Peace (5x3) for the cenotaph at cost of £28.80 each. The information on the flags will be shared with the schools and church should they wish to purchase.

292. **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.

293. **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events
- Open Space Society – Spring Newsletter 23.2.24
- Relocation of the Wales Air Ambulance Consultation
- Request for Nominations for the Kings New Year 2025 Honours

294. **Future Agenda Items**

- D-Day 80 Grant Applications.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 7.09pm

Chairman: 3rd April 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair of Council), Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead and Dr P Bevan.

By Video: Cllr C Cunnah (Chair of Committee)

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

295. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Oldham, Williams and Tilston.

296. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

297. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th February 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

298. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported she has been in communication with Audit Wales regarding the 2022/23 external audit and is hoping to receive this back very shortly.

299. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 6th March 2024.

Payable to	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs (kiln lane)	£237.00
Staffing Cost	Feb-24	£1,653.65
Mrs S Hughes	Tesco Mobile - Monthly data package	£10.00
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£72.67
Paul Bevan	Members Allowance	£66.67
Macaskills Solicitors	Members Allowance - Dave Roberts	£653.67
HMRC	Members Allowance - Tax & NI	£166.00
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£5.00

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 7.09pm and ended at 7.12pm

Chairman: 3rd April 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chair of Committee), Mrs T Bowgett, Mr B Hughes, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead and Dr Bevan.

By Video: Cllr C Cunnah

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

300. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Oldham, Williams and Tilston.

301. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

302. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th February 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

303. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

304. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

- a) [FUL/000131/24](#). Replacement of conservatory with a single storey rear extension. 1 Maes Alun Derby Road, Caergwrle. **Supported**
- b) Notification that the following application will be heard at the FCC Planning Committee, held on 13th March 2024. [FUL/000769/22](#). Erection of 70 dwellings, construction of a new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works. Land at Wrexham Road, Abermorddu, Hope. **Objection - The council will make be making representation at the meeting.**
- c) Notification that the following application will be heard at the FCC Planning Committee, held on 13th March 2024. [FUL/000419/23](#). Replacement dwelling. St Kilda, Fagl Lane, Hope.
- d) Notification that an appeal has been for the following application: [FUL/000851/23](#). Single Storey Extension. Brooklyn, Sarn Lane, Hope.

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

- a) [FUL/000989/23](#). Rear and side extension. 33, Willow Avenue, Hope. **Approved**
- b) [FUL/000523/23](#). Part demolition of existing dwelling and residential development comprising of 7no detached dwellings and associated roads and drainage works. Foxfield, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Approved after completing Legal Agreement**
- c) [FUL/000027/24](#). Proposed rear extension and internal layout remodel. Golygfa Ddol, Gwern Lane, Caer Estyn, Hope. **Approved**
- d) [FUL/000061/24](#). Proposed Single Storey Extension. Haulfryn, Fellows Lane, Caergwrle. **Approved**

305. Strategic Development Plans

Cllr Davies reported that she had attended Strategic Development Plan training with Planning Aid Wales.

Every planning application in Wales is currently considered against national policies and local development plan policies. In future, they will also be decided against this new form of regional plan.

Four new Strategic Development Plans will be produced, one each for North Wales, Mid Wales, Southwest Wales and Southeast Wales.

These plans are extremely important because they will identify the scale and location of housing and employment growth in each region and will allocate strategic sites for development.

The LDP Lite is also due to be prepared which will be shorter and more focused.

The Strategic Development Plan is due to come out in September for comments, the council needs to be ready with evidence to back up any concerns and establish community priorities eg sewage spillages, flooding, areas to be protected etc

RESOLVED: members to start to collate information between now and September.

306. Highway Matters

- Riverside Cottage, Bridgend has now been sold and it is understood that it is currently being renovated for a private single dwelling.
- The two council houses on Hawarden Road are being renovated.
- Concerns had been raised regarding a large commercial building at Hafod Owen, Lower Mountain Road advertised as Garden Rooms. There does not appear to be any planning application relating to this development and enquires are being made with FCC Planning.
- Cllr Parsonage reported that Network Rail have been to Caergwrle station, Bridgend and trimmed the undergrowth and installed fencing, however, they have not done any work to the dead trees.
- A very large and dangerous pothole near the Equestrian Centre was reported to FCC and actioned immediately.

RESOLVED: the reports were received and noted. The council will contact Network Rail regarding work required on the dead trees.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.12pm and ended at 7.40pm

Chairman: 3rd April 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair of Council), Mrs L Davies, Mr A Parsonage, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr J Mead and Dr Bevan.

By Video: Cllr C Cunnah

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

307. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Oldham, Williams and Tilston.

308. **To Receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

309. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th February 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Bowgett Chair of the Council.

310. **To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising to report.

311. **Play Areas**

There were no matters to report.

312. **Caergwrle Castle**

There were no matters to report.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.40pm and ended at 7.42pm

Chairman: 3rd April 2024