

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair), Mrs C Cunnah (Vice), Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mrs E Oldham, Mr N Jones, Mrs J Tilston, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mr A Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr J Mead.

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mr Paul Reeves, FCC Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager

199. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Williams.

200. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

201. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Mr Reeves to the meeting. She wished to share condolences to Mr & Mrs Healey on behalf of the council, our thoughts are with them and their family.

As this is the last meeting before Christmas she wished all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

202. Visitor - Paul M. Reeves, FCC Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager

Mr Reeves provided members with an overview of his working career and of his current role with FCC. He shared information on how FCC a Local Flood Authority fits in with Natural Recourse Wales (NRW) and Welsh Water. Under the Flood and Water Management Act, FCC has a duty to investigate flooding, this is something they are currently doing following the floods from storm Babet.

NRW are responsible for the main rivers e.g River Alyn; Welsh water are responsible for public sewers e.g surface, foul and combined; and FCC are responsible for everything else.

With regard to issues with the Pack Horse Bridge this is more complex as it is a listed structure. PR will speak to NRW on behalf of the council and community as floods are occurring due to debris in the river. He will also look at Community Action Plans.

Useful information for homeowners - [National Flood Forum](#); [The Flood Hub](#); [Natural Resources Wales](#);
NRW Floodline: 0345 988 1188, FCC Streetscene: 01352 701234, and obviously any risk to life would be Emergency Services: 999.

He advised that FCC do not issue sandbags as once these are used they are contaminated and have to be disposed of.

He welcomed the meeting invitation and would like to attend in the future ensuring lines of communication remain open and to work with the council. He will provide further information via the Clerk.

***7.05pm PR left the meeting.*

203. Minutes of Council

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 1st November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

204. 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 – 1st November2023
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 1st November2023
- iii. Finance – 1st November2023

205. To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 165 – Jennie Williams FCC – advised that unfortunately they have had other priorities to manage which have meant they have not been able to get to progress, having said that they have also been upgrading some sports facilities on the site which leaves a much more attractive package now so she will pick this back up.

Min 169 – Abermorddu CP School has accepted the council's nomination of Cllr Cunnah and she will be invited to the next meeting in February. The governing body would like to extend our thanks to Cllr Jane Tilston for her participation during her time as governor and wish her well in all future endeavours.

Min 171 - the overgrown ivy and removal of wire on the fencing on the Sarn Lane to Willows footpath has been actioned.

206. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence.

No public questions or correspondence was received

207. Delegated Powers

RESOLVED: The Council approved to authorise the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chair's of Planning and Highways, Leisure and Environment and Finance Committees together with the Clerk to deal with any urgent matters during the summer recess subject to those matters being reported back to Council at the February meeting.

208. Village Groundsman

The working group met on 21st November and submitted a proposal for the council to consider which included working a yearly average of 12 hours per week. Members discussed the proposal and a further proposal was submitted for 4 -8 hours per week with a view to starting on 4 hours.

RESOLVED: the proposals were taken to vote with the majority in favour of:

- the council will employ a Village Groundsman;
- flexible working of 4-8 hours per week, commencing on 4 hours;
- additional costs relating to this role including uniform, ppe, equipment, materials, etc will be included within the budget;
- the position will be advertised February 2024 to appoint the person to commence in April 2024;
- the Personnel (Advisory) Committee will prepare the advertisement and be involved with the interviews.

209. Community Council Draft Estimates for 2024/25

The Council reviewed and considered the amended draft estimates for 2024/25. All amendments were considered together with costings for benches/picnic benches for the play areas.

The Clerk advised that the 2024/25 Precept letter has been received from FCC and they have advised that the current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties has slightly decreased from 1853.48 to 1836.54.

RESOLVED: members fully considered the budget and approved this Council's precept requirement for 2024/2025 as £126,105 (one hundred & twenty-six thousand, one hundred and five pounds) which equates to the Band D sum of £68.66 per year. Compared to last year this is an increase of £2.41 per year for a band D property (+3.64%).

In addition to the council approving last month to budget for 1x defibrillator and 3x noticeboards, the council has also approved a budget for benches/picnic benches for the play areas and a budget for cleaning of the cenotaph.

The Chair and Clerk was authorised to sign the declaration of precept requirement for submission to Flintshire County Council.

210. Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk advised that in accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972 (Section 87(2)) the council advertised the Casual Vacancy for a period of 14 days, which did not result in an election being requested and as a result the council are now required to advertise for co-option.

RESOLVED: the Notice of Co-option will be advertised on the noticeboards, website and facebook with a closing date of 27th January 2024.

211. Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED: the Council approved the engagement of JDH Business Services Ltd as the Council's internal auditor for the year ending March 2023 and confirm that the internal auditor is a suitable person to carry out the work in accordance with proper practice guidance. The Letter of Engagement was signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk.

212. National Pay Award 2023-24 and Home Office Allowance

The National Association of Local Council (NALC) have been informed that the National Joint Council (NJC) Salary Award 2023/24 have agreed the new rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2023 of £1925(pro rota) to all scale points which is to be back dated as soon as possible. In accordance with the clerk's contract, this was processed in the November payroll. The Home Office Allowance was also reviewed by the council.

RESOLVED: the pay award was received and noted. The council approved 5.17% (£1.53 p/wk) increase to the Home Office Allowance which is to be back dated to 1st April 2023.

213. Personnel (Advisory) Committee

RESOLVED: the council approved to forgo the requirement of a meeting unless one is required.

214. 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).

It was reported that 3x lights are out along the station pathway from Fagl Lane to Hope Station.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted and will be updated accordingly.

215. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events
- Letter regarding the Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4) (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024-25. The appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for increases from £9.93 to £10.81 per elector for 2024-25.
- FCC Standards Committee – Visits to Town & Community Councils.
- One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Team.
- FCC – 20mph Exemptions
- FCC Pre Settlement Budget Infographic.
- Urdd National Eisteddfod Maldwyn 2024.
- Urdd – Fund for All. **RESOLVED:** will be considered under the Financial Applications.
- FCC consultation on the Draft Resource and waste Strategy. **RESOLVED:** will be shared with residents on social media.
- Flintshire LDP – Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- Consultation on the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill. **RESOLVED:** the above two consultations will be shared with the Chairs and dealt with under delegated powers.
- Invitation from FCC to attend a meeting regarding the A55 J36 Warren Interchange to Wales / England Border (WB & EB) - Concrete Carriageway Resurfacing Works.
- OVW Wrexham and Flintshire Are Committee meeting will be held 12th December @ 7pm.
- SLCC Clerks Practitioners Conference. **RESOLVED:** the council agreed to the training and will fund 50% if also agreed with Penyffordd Council.

216. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items requested.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.00pm

Chairman: 7th February 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

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

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

217. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Williams.

218. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Davies declared and submitted an interest in relation to agenda item 5 – Annual Financial Assistance.

219. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1st November 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

220. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

221. Annual Financial Assistance

The Working Group met to review and consider all applications received and submitted a recommendation to the council. All members were provided with a copy of all applications received and a copy of the recommendation. A couple of the recommendations were questioned by members and the Working Group provided the reasonings which were then discussed further.

The council also considered Urdd Fund for All, but determined that it did not meet the grant criteria.

RESOLVED: the following grants will be awarded:

Castell Alun Bowling Club	£550.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	£300.00
Hope Dragon Youth FC	£400.00
Hope Pre-school playgroup	£400.00
Ysgol Estyn - HAS	£400.00
1st Hope Brownies	£600.00
Abermorddu Residents Committee	£300.00(*)
Hope Parent & Toddler	£400.00
Chairs Charity – Caergwrle Boys Brigade	£250.00

(*) the funding request is for phase 2 of the refurbishment (internal works of the kiosk). The council are aware the Committee are in the process of sourcing grants for phase 1 (external works) and therefore this grant for phase 2 will be held and awarded once they have been successful in receiving grant funding for phase 1.

The remaining Grant Budget of £350 will be carried over to 2024/25.

222. Payments

i. To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 6th December 2023.

Payable to	Details	Amount
Fielder Green Associates	Castle - repairs to Interpretation Boards	£4,178.40
Mega Electrical	Installation Xmas Lights - Caergwrle	£663.00
Mega Electrical	Installation Xmas Lights - Hope	£663.00
Mega Electrical	Installation Xmas Lights - Fagl Lane (+ 1 new light)	£1,014.00
Mega Electrical	Installation Xmas Lights - Abermorddu (+ 7 new light)	£5,775.00
Flintshire County Council	4no street light upgrades & commuted sums	£8,600.00
Staffing Cost	Nov 2023 (inc back pay)	£2,190.28
Mrs S Hughes	Tesco Mobile - Monthly data package	£10.00

Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£61.45
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£6.60
One Voice Wales	Training - T Bowgett	£38.00
Castell Alun Bowling Club	Grant	£550.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	Grant	£300.00
Hope Dragon Youth FC	Grant	£400.00
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 Resident Committee	Grant	£300.00(*)

ii. To authorise delegated powers for payments during the summer recess.

RESOLVED:

- i. 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. (*) Grant to Abermorddu Resident Committee has been approved, but will be held until they have received funding for phase 1 of the project.
- ii. The council authorised delegated powers for payments to be made during the summer recess. The Clerk will obtain the required two bank signatories in accordance with the bank mandate for payments, these will then be reported in the February Meeting.

The meeting of the Committee began at 8.00pm and ended at 8.20pm

Chairman: 7th February 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

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

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

223. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Williams.

224. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

225. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1st November 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

226. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

227. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

- a) Notification that the following application was due to be heard at the FCC Hybrid Planning Committee on 22nd November 2023 and 13th December. FUL/000523/23. Part demolition of existing dwelling and residential development comprising of 7 no detached dwellings and associated roads and drainage works. Foxfield, Fagl Lane, Hope.
- b) [FUL/000989/23](#). Rear and side extension. 33, Willow Avenue, Hope. **Supported**
- c) [FUL/000999/23](#). Retention of portacabins for use as a temporary classroom and toilets for a three year period. Bryn Tirion Hall, Mold Road, Caergwrle. **Supported**

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

- a) [ADV/000851/23](#). Single Storey Extension. Brooklyn, Sarn Lane, Hope. **Refused**

228. Highway Matters

There were no highway matters to report.

The meeting of the Committee began at 8.20pm and ended at 8.25pm

Chairman: 7th February 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

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

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

229. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Williams.

230. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

231. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 1st November 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Bowgett Chair of the Council.

232. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 151 – Ian Williams has confirmed he is happy for the community council to be involved with the village planters, but requested for sustainable plants. When it comes to painting of the planters, the council would need to liaise with FCC for insurance purposes.

233. Summer Playscheme 2024 - 2026

Members considered the contents of the correspondence regarding the 2024 – 2026 summer playschemes and also took into consideration the 2023 Summer Playscheme report which noted a recommendation of 3 weeks rather than 4.

RESOLVED: the council agreed in principle to align with FCC's 3 year cycle and preferred scheme for participation will be 3 weeks at a cost of: 2024 - £1915.80, 2025 - £2203.20 and 2026 - £2533.70.

234. Play Areas

i. Willows Play Area - Richard Roberts had advised that due to the land, a site survey will be required to assess the best location for the goals and the condition/level of the land. Should potential groundworks/ levelling/import topsoil be required for the installation of the small football goals, this is to be funded from the S106 money.

ii. Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

235. Allotments

The council considered the request of support from the resident currently leasing the land at Queensway to retain the land which FCC will be developing into allotments.

Cllrs Davies and Oldham visited the resident's home to view the land in question and reported back to members.

The clerk also reported that she had contacted Lisa McClellan, FCC regarding the possibility of using the land at Pigeon House Lane and was advised that due to financial issues, FCC are in the process of advertising the land for lease to generate income. Therefore, at this time, there would be no possibility of using this land as allotments and that as there was a need for allotments they will be reclaiming the leased land at Queensway.

After a lengthy discussion, the council voted whether to support the resident in retaining the land.

RESOLVED: with a majority vote, the council will not be supporting the resident in retaining the land and will support FCC in reclaiming the land to provide community allotments.

236. Caergwrle Castle

Nothing to report.

The meeting of the Committee began at 8.25 and ended at 8.40pm

Chairman: 7th February 2024