

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs T Bowgett (Chair), Mrs C Cunnah (Vice), Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mrs E Oldham, Mr N Jones, 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 and Dr Bevan

237. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Williams and Tilston.

238. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

239. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed members and Dr Bevan to the meeting wishing them all a happy new year after the winter recess.

240. Minutes of Council

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

241. 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 December 2023
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 6th December 2023
- iii. Finance – 6th December 2023

242. To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 202 – Paul Reeves emailed helpful information on flooding which has been shared on the website.

Min 215 – the clerk was unable to attend the SLCC Clerks Practitioners Conference as it was fully booked.

243. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence

- i. Flag Application – the clerk reported an application was received on 31.01.2024 for permission to the fly a draig goch and flag of Glyndwr in recognition of the annual parade.

RESOLVED: the application was approved.

244. 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:

Thank you – they thanked HCC for the sympathy card and messages of support which they received following the sudden loss of their daughter, Sarah.

Castle Interpretation Panels – thanks to HCC on the work done to re-establish the CADW interpretation panels at Caergwrle Castle.

Bluebell Field Planning Application – it is expected this will come to Planning Committee sometime soon. Cllr D Healey has made a freedom of information request to Welsh Water which has revealed interesting information. The details feature in the latest issue of Heartbeat.

Abermorddu Bus Shelter – this has now been demolished and a new one to be installed imminently.

Double Yellow Lines – outside the Chip O'Dee Chip shop in Caergwrle have now been removed.

Dime One Mural Artists and Ysgol Estyn - Hopefully, on 20th February, Dime One will be working with pupils from Ysgol Estyn to produce a mural for one of the walls within the school. On 21st February,

weather permitting, the school will be involved in a further art project at the Willow Skateboard Park. This work is being sponsored by Hwb Caergwrle.

FCC Budget Issues - Although we say this every year, the budget situation at FCC is grim. The same applies to several councils across England and Wales and is caused by the increases brought about by unfunded nationally agreed pay settlements, inflation, the increasing demand for Out of County Placements for young people with severe needs, the increase in homelessness, increased demands of adult social care and the increased costs of Highways.

Whilst the root cause of the financial difficulties lies in the prolonged failure of the Westminster Government to provide adequate funding to local authorities (and an adequate consequential to Wales) we have been extremely disappointed in the funding settlement which Flintshire had received from the Welsh Government. County Councillors are actively involved in complaining about this and are working with their Members of the Senedd to try to secure a better deal in the future. Any further funding which may come into Wales as a result of protests made by English local authorities will be too late to ease the pressure this year.

A failure to set a legally balanced budget would result in the Council filing a Section 114 Notice which could bring in a Welsh Government Commissioner to make the cuts to services which the Council itself is not willing to make. Flintshire's Budget day is 20th February.

Cllr Davies advised that the council did submit a comprehensive objection to planning application on the Bluebell Fields and are now awaiting further information on the application.

In relation to the report regarding the Cycle Path in the Heartbeat Newsletter, Cllr Bowgett requested that this be included on the March agenda for further discussion.

245. Delegated Powers

Planning

1. [FUL/000419/23](#) - Notification of Amendments. Replacement dwelling. St Kilda, Fagl Lane, Hope.
Supported
2. [FUL/001079/23](#) - Installation of Air Source Heat Pumps. Sands Farm, Bannisters Lane, Caergwrle.
Supported

Christmas Lights Competition

- 1st Place 15 Alyndale Hope
- 2nd place 27 The Beeches Hope
- 3rd place 30 Bryn Yorkin Caergwrle

Consultations

1. Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill.
Received and noted. No comments made.
2. Flintshire Local Development Plan – Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance – SPG
Received and noted. No comments made.

RESOLVED: the report was received and ratified.

**6.36pm – Dr Bevan chose to leave the meeting whilst the next item was discussed

246. Councillor Vacancy

Member reviewed, considered and discussed the two applications received, both of which were of high standards and both of which would be an asset to the council.

RESOLVED: Dr Paul Bevan be co-opted for the vacancy and will be invited to join the meeting immediately on signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**6.42pm – Dr Bevan returned to the meeting and chose to continue to observe the meeting and will join the council in March.

247. Personnel (Advisory) Committee

Due to the change in Chair and Vice Chair of the council, this has impacted the membership of the Committee as we are unable to have both the Chair and Vice Chair on this committee.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cunnah stepped down from this committee and Cllr Parsonage was appointed. The committee now consists of Cllrs Sheibani, Williams, Davies, Bowgett, Oldham, Arnold and Parsonage.

A meeting will be co-ordinated to prepare the advertisement for the Groundsman Vacancy and to appoint 2x members to undertake the Clerks annual appraisal.

248. Future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales

Members considered the Welsh Government [consultation](#) on future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales.

RESOLVED: the consultation was received and noted. Members will provide individual responses.

249. Council Calendar of Events

RESOLVED: the calendar of events was approved with the addition of flying the St David's Day Flags.

250. Local Government Pension Scheme Discretionary Policy

RESOLVED: the current policy was reviewed and approved.

251. 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 the path from Alyndale to Hawarden Road is very muddy and requires clearing and also there is a start of build up of wood at the Pack Horse Bridge (Caergwrle upper side).

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

252. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events
- FCC Nomination for the Standards Committee Town & CC Representatives.
RESOLVED: this will be included on the March agenda.
- Joint Event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales – 7th March.

253. Future Agenda Items

- Hope – Penyffordd Cycle Path Safety.
- FCC Nomination for the Standards Committee Town & CC Representatives.
- Members Allowances – advice currently being sought regarding the payment due to the late Cllr D Roberts.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 6.58pm

Chairman: 6th March 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs C Cunnah (Chair of Committee), Mrs T Bowgett, Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mrs E Oldham, Mr N Jones, 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 and Dr Bevan

254. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Williams and Tilston.

255. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

256. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

257. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 221 - The Abermorddu Residents Committee have been informed that as soon as they are in receipt of their phase 1 grant, they are to provide confirmation to the Clerk who will then make the grant payment of £300. This grant will be held by the council for a period of 12 months.

258. Quarterly Budget Review

- i. The Clerk provided the Council with copies of the quarterly year summary, budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation (Appendix A). The documents had been reviewed prior to the meeting and no issues were raised.
- ii. 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.

RESOLVED:

- i. The quarterly budget/accounts were approved by the Council.
- ii. The requirement to undertake regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be completed by Cllr Bowgett electronically.

259. Payments

- i. To report and ratify payments made during the winter recess:

Payable to	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs (rhyddyn hill)	£237.00
Staffing Cost	01/12/2023 (inc tax rebate)	£1,873.46
Mrs S Hughes	Tesco Mobile - Monthly data package	£10.00
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£32.13
AVOW	Payroll Charges Oct - Dec	£47.85
HSBC Monthly	Bank Fee	£5.00
	1st Prize Christmas Lights Comp	£50.00
	2nd Prize Christmas Lights Comp	£30.00
	3rd Prize Christmas Lights Comp	£20.00

- ii. To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 7th February 2024.

Payable to	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs (kiln lane)	£237.00
Mega Electrical	Remove & Store Xmas Lights - Caergwrle	£850.20
Mega Electrical	Remove & Store Xmas Lights - Hope	£970.20
Mega Electrical	Remove & Store Xmas Lights - Fagl Lane	£392.40
Mega Electrical	Remove & Store Xmas Lights - Abermorddu	£1,373.40

Staffing Cost	Jan-24	£1,504.49
Mrs S Hughes	Tesco Mobile - Monthly data package	£10.00
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£31.43
Barry Hughes	Members Allowance	£336.00
Christine Cunnah	Members Allowance	£802.74
Christine Sheibani	Members Allowance	£408.00
Jane (Helenor) Tilston	Members Allowance	£304.00
Jenny Arnold	Members Allowance	£352.00
Elaine (Joan) Oldham	Members Allowance	£288.80
Myra Williams	Members Allowance	£868.00
Norman Jones	Members Allowance	£208.00
Lynn (Shelia) Davies	Members Allowance	£768.00
Tracey Bowgett	Members Allowance	£1,329.09
HMRC	Members Allowance - Tax & NI	£866.09
Canda Copying	Photocopier Rental	£48.00
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£5.40

RESOLVED:

- i. The payments made during the winter recess were received and ratified.
- ii. 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 6.58pm and ended at 7.05pm

Chairman: 6th March 2024

Hope Community Council - Summary Accounts
2023/24 Financial Year

Income

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Precept	122,800.00	122,800.00	0.00
Bank Interest	1,894.98	400.00	1,494.98
Refunds/Other (inc Match Funding)	3,382.00	0.00	3,382.00
CADW - Castle Maintenance Grant	4,450.00	4,450.00	0.00
VAT Refund	6,217.45	5,151.24	1,066.21
Total	138,744.43	132,801.24	5,943.19

Expenditure

	Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Leisure & Environment	16,652.22	39,950.00	23,297.78
Planning & Highways	31,237.58	63,000.00	31,762.42
Finance & General Admin	25,134.77	45,099.00	19,964.23
Reserves			
Reserved - Caergwrle Castle (grant)	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Reserved - Caergwrle 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
Total	86,038.47	238,880.15	152,841.68

Current Summary

Bank Balance as at 31 March 2023	146,030.16
Total Expenditure	86,038.47
Total Income	138,744.43
Balance as at 31 Dec 2023	198,736.12
VAT Costs for 2023/24 Financial Year	10,785.40

HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24					
Committee/Budget Heading	Budget 2023-24	Actual to Date	Of which is VAT	Available	
Leisure and Environment Committee					
Summer play scheme/Youth	£2,200.00	£2,126.80	£0.00	£73.20	
Environ imp/plygrnd	£16,000.00	£1,597.02	£249.20	£14,402.98	£10k allocated match fund for Willows
Caergwrl Castle	£6,000.00	£12,728.40	£696.40	-£6,728.40	Annual Management (incls Cadw fees which have been paid)
Community Competitions/Engagement	£750.00	£200.00	£0.00	£550.00	Still have Halloween & Xmas Comps
Village Improvements	£15,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£15,000.00	Mill Garden project with FCC cancelled Sept 23
L & E Reserves					
Caergwrl Castle (grant)	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	
Caergwrl Castle	£18,757.00	£13.90	£2.32	£18,743.10	
Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (21/22)	£25,000.00	£13,000.00	£0.00	£12,000.00	work approved awaiting invoice
Total	£88,707.00	£29,666.12	£947.92	£59,040.88	
Planning and Highways Committee					
Bus shelters	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	
Street lighting – supply	£15,500.00	£3,007.16	£501.20	£12,492.84	Invoices issued quarterly
Street lighting – maint (inspections & repairs)	£30,300.00	£17,985.42	£7,212.92	£12,314.58	FCC confirmed columns will be upgraded before yr end
Christmas lights	£12,500.00	£8,115.00	£1,352.50	£4,385.00	final invoices due Jan 24
CCTV Cameras	£4,500.00	£2,130.00	£355.00	£2,370.00	Additional camera currently on hold
Road & Highway Improvements	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
P & H Reserves					
P&H Misc/Reserved - Street Light Upgrade	£42,074.15	£0.00	£0.00	£42,074.15	FCC confirmed columns will be upgraded before yr end
Total	£105,074.15	£31,237.58	£9,421.62	£73,836.57	
Finance Committee					
Salaries and N.I. (& payroll fees)	£15,130.00	£11,964.33	£0.00	£3,165.67	
Pension/gratuity	£2,962.00	£2,658.50	£0.00	£303.50	
Expenses - Clerk Travel (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£115.99	£0.00	£84.01	
Bank Fees (NEW)	£60.00	£48.20	£0.00	£11.80	
Audit fees (Gen Admin)	£825.00	£494.00	£49.00	£331.00	Only received 2021/22 External Audit fee in April 23. Awaiting 2022/23 External Audit
Chain / honours board (Gen Admin)	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	
Stationery & equipment (Gen Admin)	£450.00	£246.90	£41.17	£203.10	
Computer, Maint, Hosting, Emails & GDPR(Gen Admin)	£2,000.00	£1,725.19	£287.53	£274.81	
Postage (NEW)	£200.00	£163.05	£0.00	£36.95	
Insurance (Gen Admin)	£1,427.00	£1,666.34	£0.00	-£239.34	Increase due to index linking OVV invoice o/s which will take over budget
Subscriptions (Gen Admin)	£790.00	£115.00	£0.00	£675.00	
Photocopier (Gen Admin)	£250.00	£144.94	£24.16	£105.06	
Election expenses	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	
Office costs (Gen Admin)	£1,585.00	£1,243.89	£0.00	£341.11	
Grants	£4,000.00	£3,350.00	£0.00	£650.00	
Chairman's allowance/Clr Exp	£9,920.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,920.00	Due final quarter
Council website (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£84.00	£14.00	£116.00	
Training	£2,250.00	£73.00	£0.00	£2,177.00	
Noticeboard/Millennium Maps	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£550 allocated for Kiosk removal - FOC
Defib	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£250.00	
Village Celebration (Kings Coronation)	£1,000.00	£1,041.44	£0.00	-£41.44	
Working Balance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Total	£45,099.00	£25,134.77	£415.86	£19,964.23	
Summary					
Leisure and environment	£88,707.00	£29,666.12	£947.92	£59,040.88	
Planning and Highways	£105,074.15	£31,237.58	£9,421.62	£73,836.57	
Finance	£45,099.00	£25,134.77	£415.86	£19,964.23	
Total	£238,880.15	£86,038.47	£10,785.40	£152,841.68	
** All above figures include VAT which will be reclaimed					

Finance Committee - Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 December 2023

Finance Committee - Quarterly Budget Review as at 31 December 2023						
Current Acc Bal B/f					8,606.22	
Date Cashed	Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount	Unpresented Chq/Payment	
					£250.00	Boys Brigade
				Total	£250.00	
				Actual Balance Carried Forward	8,606.22	
					£8,856.22	Bank Statement Balance
				190,129.90		
Deposit Acc Bal B/f						
Date	Type	Details		Amount		
				Total		
				Balance Carried Forward	190,129.90	
					£190,129.90	Bank Statement Balance
				Total Balance of All Accounts	198,736.12	
					£198,986.12	Total Balance inc Unpaid Chqs

Account	Balance ?
40-16-01 11084046 Bmm Account - Hope Cc	GBP 0.00 >
40-16-01 31082426 Charitable - Hope C C	GBP 8,856.22 >
40-16-01 51084054 Bmm Account - Hope Cc	GBP 190,129.90 >

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chair of Committee), Mrs T Bowgett, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs E Oldham, Mr N Jones, 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 and Dr Bevan

260. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Williams and Tilston.

261. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

A Declaration of Interest was received from Cllr Parsonage in relation to Min 264 I (c).

262. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

263. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

264. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

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

b) [FUL/000027/24](#). Proposed rear extensions and internal layout remodel. Golygfa Ddol, Gwern Lane, Caer Estyn, Hope. **Supported.**

**7.10pm Cllr Parsonage left the meeting

c) [FUL/000061/24](#). Proposed single storey extension. Haulfryn, Fellows Lane, Caergwrle.
Supported.

**7.12pm Cllr Parsonage returned to the meeting

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

a) [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. **Approved**

265. Highway Matters

Cllr Parsonage reported that following complaints to Network Rail regarding overgrown trees at Caergwrle Train Station, they have been out to assess the work, but to date work has not been undertaken.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.05pm and ended at 7.15pm

Chairman: 6th March 2024

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

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

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and Dr Bevan

266. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Williams (Chair of Committee) and Tilston.

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

There were no declarations of interest received.

268. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Bowgett Chair of the Council.

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

There were no matters arising to report.

270. **Play Areas**

Nothing to report.

271. **Caergwrle Castle**

After waiting sometime for Cadw to approve the wording and layout, the new entrance board has now been ordered by FCS.

FCS reported that there was minimal damage follow the recent storms.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

272. **Christmas Lights Competition 2023**

The competition was very successful this year receiving 17 entries. The judging was undertaken by Cllrs Bowgett and Sheibani who said it was a pleasure to judge.

RESOLVED: as reported under Delegated Powers, the winners were:

1st Place	15 Alyndale Hope
2nd place	27 The Beeches Hope
3rd place	30 Bryn Yorkin Caergwrle

273. **Willows Play Area**

The council were presented with a design and quote received from Aura, providing an example of what can be achieved with the additional play equipment to be installed later this year. Further designs and quotes will be obtained in the coming months.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.15pm and ended at 7.21pm

Chairman: 6th March 2024