

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023

Present: Councillors Mr D Roberts (Vice Chairman) Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mrs T Bowgett, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr N Jones

Absent: Councillor A Parsonage.

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

By Video: Mr Ian Papworth – FCC Standards Committee

287. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman), Mrs E Oldham and Mrs J Tilston.

288. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

289. **Visitor – Ian Williams, FCC Streetscene**

RESOLVED: Mr Williams was unable to attend the meeting and will be invited to the April meeting.

290. **Police Report**

- i. There was no police report received.
- ii. Cllr Williams and the Clerk met with PS Kerry Nash and Inspector Iwan Jones on 8th Feb. The meeting was very useful and informative and gave an understanding of the structure of the policing team and our PCSO's.
 - In total they have 6.75 full time equivalent PCSO's and 4 Neighbourhood Police Officers. They work in line with the Police Response Team: 4 on 4 off. Days 7am – 6pm and Lates 10am – 10pm
 - This gave a clear understanding to the restrictions and demands on the PCSO's covering all of Flintshire South and why they are not always able to attend council meeting.
 - Specific questions or concerns can be raised with the PCSO's, PS Nash or Insp Jones.
 - Due to GDPR, safety of victims, court proceedings and criminals, they are restricted to what information can be shared. If there was a need for the council to know e,g safety issues for the community, they certainly would let us know.
 - They have approx. 200 criminal offences per week and approx. 500 calls per week.
 - They have a dedicated Sex Offenders Team.
 - Any alerts they want the public to know they will share on the police facebook and twitter.
 - They will liaise with British Transport Police about concerns of drug issues at Hope Station
 - Council and residents can register from the Community Alerts
 - They will, where possible, communicate the Cuppa with a Coppa so that we can share and promote
 - The Inspector and PS Nash advised that should Council members wish to speak with them, they would be happy to assist and contact details were shared.

291. **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

292. **Minutes of Council**

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

293. **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 February 2023
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 1st February 2023
- iii. Finance – 1st February 2023

294. To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 216 – Hawarden Road Speed Check - The police reported the results from the last speed watch were good, road users kept to the speed and members of the public were happy to see them out. They were going again on Monday 13th, together with Pigeon House Lane and Stryt Isa.

295. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence.

- i. A resident emailed to ask if the council will be putting up St Davids flags? The Clerk responded to advise that the council do not own any flags and she subsequently emailed proposing to the community council that they purchase and take responsibility for flying the flags on our national holiday.
RESOLVED: the council will liaise with Mr Holroyd who has previously managed and maintained the flags and will include on the April agenda for further discussion.
- ii. Two emails were received regarding the telephone kiosk – requesting to have the kiosk relocated to their property. One has since withdrawn their request and the clerk replied to the other informing them of the advice from FCC and that the council can not amend the resolution within a 6mth period.
RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.
- iii. An email was received regarding the speed limits on Gresford Road (road from Llay is a 40mph, to a 50mph, back down to 40mph, up to 60mph and then back down again to 40mph). It is the 60mph part of the road where they have concerns and wishes to propose this part of the road, once changed to 40mph at Caer Estyn junction, is kept at 40mph.
RESOLVED: this will be included on the April agenda for consideration.

296. County Councillor Report

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

- i. **Aura** - has been faced with rising costs and is having to make 'efficiencies' and the Cty Cllrs have been made aware of a statement that Aura will be closing Hope Sports' Centre on April 1st.
Members obviously expressed concern that this facility could be lost and that the closing date is imminent. The Clerk advised that other than the Cty Cllr Report, she has not received any information on this.
- ii. **FCC Financial Challenge** – in a previous meeting in which Cty Cllr D Healey attended he reported on the financial challenge facing FCC in balancing the Budget this year. The budget gap stood at £32M at that time but there was some relief because Welsh Government has agreed to give FCC £19.5M. Since then additional pressures have caused the budget gap to rise to £37.09M.
FCC meets on 23rd February to try to arrive at a means of fulfilling the legal requirement to produce a balanced budget. In order to partly bridge the gap the current proposal is for FCC to introduce a 3.99% annual increase on Council Tax. There is also an additional 0.96% required to meet the contributions to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Regional Coroners Service and the Regional Education Consortium, GwE. This equates to an overall increase of 4.95% and it will provide an estimated yield of £5.622M in 2023-24.
The online agenda for the Council meeting contains some other 'efficiencies' which are being put forward for the meeting on 23rd February. There are a number which will impact upon services and residents.
- iii. **Biodiversity** - Although these are extremely challenging times, Flintshire has been successful in securing funding to support further work to encourage Biodiversity across the county.
Cllr Williams reported that she has been in contact with Sarah Slater the Biodiversity Officer and they have a number of plans for the Willows and firstly she has suggested that the existing wildflower beds could be combined into one long strip which could be re-seeded and managed alongside their other county wildflower sites, not requiring any local volunteer action. The management for these areas across the county is to let them grow through the summer and then

cut and remove the cuttings between August and November. They now have specialist equipment for cutting and collecting wildflower areas and are much more experienced at the correct management with over 100 sites County wide.

RESOLVED:

- i. The council will write to Cty Cllrs D & G Healey together with Aura to request more information and also information on the reasonings as to why the decision was made to close the facility. Once this has been received and clarification of the closure, the clerk will share with members and public.
- iii. The council are in support of extending the wildflower beds at the Willows.

297. School Governor – Abermorddu CP School

Following the resignation from Cllr Roberts from this position, the council was required to submit nomination. The Chair advised that Cllr Tilston has made an expression of interest in the vacancy and asked if there was any other interest?

RESOLVED: the council approved to submit a nomination to Abermorddu CP School for Cllr Tilston to be a School Governor.

298. Kings Coronation

As the council has allocated a budget for the Kings Coronation they considered how this will be utilised. A number of options were put forward and discussed.

RESOLVED: to support community events by launching a Kings Coronation Grant Application. Local Clubs or Organisations can apply to the council for funding to assist with their events. It will be launched as soon as possible with a closing date to allow for all applications to be reviewed at the April meeting.

299. Penyffordd Community Council and Citizen Advice – Outreach Event

The Chief Exec from Citizens Advice, Salli Edwards attended the Penyffordd Community Council meeting and they have jointly agreed to host an Outreach Event in Penyffordd (expected date - Saturday 22nd April).

This event will be a host of organisations, charities etc offering information and advice on matters such as cost of living and energy. Penyffordd Council thought that they could extend this event to the neighbouring communities, Hope and Kinnerton. Penyffordd would provide the venue, poster etc, they would just ask for your support in promoting the event to your community.

This request came in mid month and was originally anticipated for a date in March so needed an immediate response. The Clerk liaised with the Chairs who all agreed to be involved.

RESOLVED: the council are supportive of this event and will assist with the promotion.

300. Cenotaph – Flag Application

The council received a Flag Application for the cenotaph the day after the February council meeting.

As the request was for a change in flags before the next council meeting, a delegated decision was taken by the four Chairs who approved the changing of flags. A copy of the application was shared with all members for information.

RESOLVED: received, noted and ratified.

301. 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).

Members asked the clerk to minimise the report where possible.

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

302. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events.
- Mayor of Mold Concert – Friday 24th March at 7.00pm. Tickets available from Mold Town Council.
- A Thank You card from Hope Rainbows for the annual grant awarded.

- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2023/24 has been published.
RESOLVED: this will be included on the April agenda.
- FCC Highways - the construction of the final section of the Hope A550 shared use path will resume in 4-6 weeks.
- Sara Crombie, Communications Manager, Network Rail has advised that from speaking with both Network Rail and Transport for Wales, unfortunately, there are no plans at this current time to make improvements to Hope station. The query the council raised regarding has been passed on to TFW's stations team so they can include for future consideration if funding becomes available.
- The Clerk reported that correspondence has been received from FCC Accounts regarding a VAT treatment error. Unfortunately, it has been brought to their attention that invoices raised for the supply and maintenance of our street lighting excluded VAT, where in fact VAT should have been included. To comply with HMRC guidelines, they need to charge the outstanding VAT on these invoices backdated for 4 years. Although the council is able to claim VAT back, the Clerk has gone back to 2018-19 and invoices to date could potentially equate to a VAT charge of +£23k.

303. Future Agenda Items

- Cllr Davies requested for lighting and CCTV at Hope Station to be included on the April agenda.
RESOLVED: Cllr Arnold will visit the site and provide a report of the current lighting.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 7.20pm

Chairman: 5th April 2023.

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023

Present: Councillors Mr D Roberts (Chairman of Committee) Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mrs T Bowgett, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr N Jones

Absent: Councillor A Parsonage.

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

By Video: Mr Ian Papworth – FCC Standards Committee

304. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Cunnah, E Oldham and J Tilston.

305. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

306. Minutes

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

307. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

308. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 1st March 2023.

Payable to	Details	Amount
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£5.00
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£237.00
Dave Roberts	Members Allowance	£1,064.00
Christine Sheibani	Members Allowances	£264.00
Jane Tilston	Members Allowances	£200.00
Elaine Oldham	Members Allowances	£160.00
Staffing Cost	Feb-23	£1,491.76
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£71.24
HMRC	PAYE & National Insurance - Members Allowances	£450.94
Mrs S Hughes	Reimbursement - Mobile Phone & equipment	£82.98
One Voice Wales	Annual Membership	£735.00

Cllr Williams did question the cost of the OVW Membership and the Clerk advised that a letter accompanied the invoice which will be circulated to all members.

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 7.20pm and ended 7.25pm

Chairman: 5th April 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chairman of Committee), Mr D Roberts, Mrs M Williams, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mrs T Bowgett, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr N Jones

Absent: Councillor A Parsonage.

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

By Video: Mr Ian Papworth – FCC Standards Committee

309. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Cunnah, E Oldham and J Tilston.

310. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

311. Minutes

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

312. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

313. Planning Applications

- i. There were no planning applications received for the Committee to consider.
- ii. There were no applications received which have been determined by Flintshire County Council.

314. FCC Housing

Due to a concern as to why F.C.C. are housing a range of people from other areas in O.A.P accommodation in Hope and Caergwrle, Cllr Davies had sourced information from FCC regarding 'Applying for Social Housing' which provides information on how to apply and how accommodation is allocated.

RESOLVED: this information will be included on the councils website.

315. Highway Matters

- Cllr Davies reported that she had spoken with Cty Cllr G Healey regarding traffic around Hope Church during school pick up. At this time there are no planned improvements and it is hoped that once the 20mph limit is introduced, that this will help.
- Traffic and speeding on Pigeon House Lane still remains an ongoing issue as this route is being used as a cut through during peak times.
RESOLVED: this will again be shared with the police.
- Reports of potential suspicious activity in the layby of Pigeon House Lane.
RESOLVED: details will be shared with the police.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.25pm and ended at 7.35pm

Chairman: 5th April 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs M Williams (Chairman of Committee), Mr D Roberts, Mrs L Davies, Mr M Taylor, Mrs J Arnold, Mrs T Bowgett, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr N Jones

Absent: Councillor A Parsonage.

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

316. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Cunnah, E Oldham and J Tilston.

317. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

318. Minutes

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

319. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

320. Play Areas

- i. Stacey Wynne, FCC has now confirmed that the developers have agreed to pay the \$106 money due for the Willows play area. This is with the FCC Accounts Dept to process.
- ii. Cllr Williams will be meeting Richard Roberts on 7th March regarding the planned play equipment improvements at the Willows.
- iii. As mentioned under Min 261, Sarah Slater, FCC Biodiversity Officer has future plans for the Willows and will be looking to plant more trees, wildflowers etc.

RESOLVED: the reports were received and noted.

321. Caergwrle Castle

- i. Cadw have provided the draft design and content for the Interpretation Boards. They are hoping to have these installed before 31st March. Panel 1 is to be located at the top of the path leading up from the village at the point where the path crosses the moat and enters the castle. Panel 2 will be located where the existing panel sits.

Cllr Williams asked if they have any plans for the update of the main entrance board?

RESOLVED: the council approved the draft Interpretation Boards. Cadw will be asked if they have any plans to upgrade the main entrance board, and if not, the council will liaise with FCS to get this board updated and refurbished.

- ii. Nothing further to report.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.35pm and ended at 7.45pm

Chairman: 5th April 2023