

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Virtual (Zoom) Meeting held on Wednesday 1st September 2021.

Present by Video: Councillors Mrs C Olsen (Chairman), Mr H Manning (Vice Chairman), Mrs M Williams, Mrs L Davies, Mrs J Hilton, Mr D Roberts, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Cunnah and Mr A Parry. Youth Representative Mr M Taylor

Absent: Cllr A Parsonage and Youth Representative Mr D Jones.

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mr Paul Harston – Park in The Past

95. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Waterhouse, R Parsonage and C Sheibani.

The Clerk also reported that Cllr David Healey has submitted his resignation with immediate effect.

RESOLVED: the vacancy will be reported to FCC Elections and included on the October agenda.

96. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

97. **Visitors**

Mr Paul Harston gave a brief overview of the work that has been undertaken at Park in the Past:

- Difficulties in moving the materials from Smurfit Kappa, Mold and delays due to the weather
- The last of the soil is due to be moved – approx. 2 days' worth of work
- Hydro seeded 75,000sqm of ground, which is starting to grow
- Looking to introduce 'Pop Up Openings' through the winter months
- Currently open for kayaking and swimming – with strict criteria whilst developers are still on site
- Snagging work should be finished by the end of next week
- An unexpected tunnel found during the works which had not previously been dealt with by Hanson
- All four ramparts have been raised, seeded and grassed
- All Councillors were invited to attend a site visit

The Chair acknowledge this is a great asset to the community and looks forward to seeing the developments. She asked if they would be offering any concessions to local residents if payment is required to enter. PH advised they have considered this and it would be very difficult to determine a boundary line to who would be entitled to a concession. They also considered parking charges which they decided against as this just creates parking issues outside of the park. Currently the charges are minimal at only £1 for 12's and over. Fees will continually be reviewed due to ongoing costs.

PH advised 100,000 cubic metres soil was actually moved from Smurfit Kappa

Opening and closing times - PH advised FCC have stated that they will be required to have specific times as opposed to dusk till dawn and therefore in general it will be 8.00am – 6.00pm.

PH encouraged members to view the update videos on the website www.parkinthevast.org.uk/. He also said that Smurfit Kappa supportive and investment has been very appreciated and hopes that this will continue for the village.

The Chair thanked PH for attending the meeting and the very informative presentation, together with the invitation to attend a site meeting to view the park.

** PH left the meeting 6.48pm

98. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair wished to address the resignation of Cllr David Healey and to thank him for his work and support. She has contacted him on behalf of the council to express the councils appreciation and that this knowledge and experience will be missed.

99. Minutes of Council and Standing Committees

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7th July 2021 and the Extraordinary Planning Committee meeting held on 26th July 2021 be approved as a correct record. In accordance with guidance from the Internal Auditor, it is acceptable for the minutes to be formally signed by way of an electronic signature from the Chairman.

100. Matters Arising

Min 66/ 41 - Councillor/Youth Rep Email Accounts have now been set up and all provided with the instructions to active. The majority have now activated the new account and only a small number remaining. The Clerk asked for the remaining members to activate the council email accounts asap. If any help is needed to please let herself or David Astwood (Microshade) know.

Min 69 – the Chair requested clarification on the delegated powers and whether the clerk should be included in the decision making/votes?

RESOLVED: during delegated powers the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of each Committee will deal individually with matters within their remit of the committee. The Clerk does not have a vote but will be consulted with by the relevant Chairman. Any matters dealt with will be reported at the next council meeting.

Min 71 - Due to illness and annual leave the Clerk and Cllr Manning have not had the opportunity to trials of the hybrid system and it is hoped that this can be completed by the October meeting. It has been confirmed by FCC to Cllr Williams that the Community Centre is now open for use.

Min 82/94 – CCTV at the Willows has all been installed and working.

Min 88 - Cllr Williams reported that Lisa McClellan - FCC has advised that they would not be progressing the matter of allotments further until 2023 when they will then have received funding from WG.

101. Public Questions/Correspondence

An email was received from a resident who rents, on license, land from FCC. He advised that on approaching FCC to purchase the land was subsequently issued an eviction notice for this land and he is asking for the councils support on this matter.

The council fully considered the contents of the letter and whilst very sympathetic to the situation, as a council they are unable to offer support as the land in question is in ownership of FCC.

RESOLVED: the council will write to the resident to advise that they unfortunately would not be able to offer support on this matter.

102. County Councillors Report

The written report provided information of Flintshire County Council's current strategy with regard to the provision of Integrated Youth Provision across the County.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted and the Chair thanked the County Councillors.

103. Delegated Powers – Summer Recess

The following was reported as being dealt with during the summer recess under delated powers by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairmen of the Committees and Clerk:

Consultation:

Review of the Remuneration Framework for Community and Town Councils – no comments were made.

Planning:

[Planning Ref: 063066](#). Garage conversion with bay to front and link to dwelling. Scarlett Manor, Huxleys Lane, Hope. (27.7.21 – emailed to chairs) **Supported with one observation/caveat: - the council considers the roof lights on the garage should be on the other side (on the side of the existing dwelling rather than the outer side). The decision report on the previous application was at pains to ensure that overlooking of neighbouring properties was removed eg. Bedroom windows repositioned to the side.**

Leisure & Environment:

Queensway Play Area Improvements - Contractor advise further delays and now estimate installation w/c 6th Sept. The council responded expressing extreme disappointment that this would be 21 weeks from order not considered to be acceptable. Due to the council initially requesting a guarantee of the installation date for mid July they did request some form of compensations. Wicksteed offered to provide a bench and the Chairs have agreed that this is acceptable.

RESOLVED: the above was received and noted.

104. Youth Working Group

Notes from the Youth Working Group meeting held on 22nd June together with their first proposal and a survey for Porch Lane play area was circulated to all members. Mr Taylor gave a brief report on the proposal of the survey which will assist in gaining information on the play area from the local residents. This would be delivered to local residents and included on the council website.

At this time no dialogue has been made with Richard Roberts due to this being a very early survey to gauge the local residents thoughts. Should there be any plans to improve the play area a further survey would be undertaken and Richard Roberts would be included.

The clerk reported FCC have advised the Porch Lane garages are due to be demolished this financial year.

RESOLVED: the council approved for the Youth Working Group to launch the Porch Lane Play area survey.

105. Consultations

- i. Welsh Government consultation: [‘Eligible Community Councils \(General Power of Competence\) \(Qualifications of Clerks\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021’](#). Comments required by 24 September 2021.
- ii. Consultation on the draft Local Elections ([Principal Areas](#)) (Wales) Rules 2021 and draft Local Elections ([Communities](#)) (Wales) Rules 2021. Comments required by 24 September 2021.
- iii. Flintshire County Council – [Review of their Statement of Licensing Policy](#). Comments required by 30th September 2021.
- iv. Flintshire County Council [Statutory Consultation - Active Travel Network Map](#). Comments required by 1st November 2021.

RESOLVED: the council reviewed consultations i, ii, iii and advised no comment. Members will further review consultation iv which will then be included on the October agenda.

106. Operation London Bridge

A guidance note has been produced to assist Community & Town Councils to consider in advance the implications the passing of H M Queen would have on the activities of the Council and to help the Council plan what actions it wishes to take when the event occurs.

RESOLVED: the Chair requested members to consider the guidance further and it was agreed for this to be included on the October agenda for further discussion.

107. Training

- i. The Clerk reported that only a couple of members have completed and returned their training record and also to provide her with any training courses they wish to attend, to date only four have been received back. She asked members to please provide this information as soon as possible. A copy of the OVW Training Courses and Overview of the Courses will be circulated.
- ii. In order for the council to consider appropriate group training, the clerk will require the above to be completed.

RESOLVED: members to endeavour to return their Training Records in advance of the October meeting and the Clerk will circulate the OVW Training Course Overview.

108. 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.

109. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses.
- Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - updated guidance in support of the 2016 Model Code of Conduct.
- A copy of the minutes from the latest Hanson Liaison Committee Meeting. The Clerk asked whether anyone from the council would wish to attend future meetings of the Liaison Committee?
RESOLVED: Cllr Hilton will represent the council on the Hanson Liaison Committee.
- One Voice Wales & Keep Wales Tidy Free Webinar 2pm - 3.30pm Wednesday 15th September 2021. "Keep Wales Tidy Caru Cymru programme – how Community and Town Councils can get engaged..."
- Welsh Government Briefing for T&CC. Multi-location meetings and meeting notices – August 2021.
- Civic Service Invitations from the Chairman of FCC and the Chairman of Connah's Quay TC.
- Invitation to the Open Space Society AGM – Monday 20th September.
- Invitation to the FLVC AGM – Thursday 9th September.
- Flintshire Armed Forces Covenant – an offer to invite Tony Fish, the Regional Employer Engagement Director of the MOD to a future council meeting to provide information on supporting Flintshire County Council to move forward with the commitments of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Information from WBRUA regarding the [Transport for Wales Public Survey](#). This was shared with members and has been included on the council website.
- Information from OVW regarding their response to the IRPW Review Consultation.
- Information from FCC regarding the Reintroduction of Side Waste Enforcement from the 6th September 2021.
- Information on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2nd June 2022.
RESOLVED: this will be included on the October agenda. FCS will be asked whether the previous beacon purchased is still available?

110. Future Agenda Items

- The Chain of Office has been requested as an agenda item due to the ribbon now being full with name bars. Options and costing will be obtained and presented at the October meeting.
- Cllr Williams asked whether Ian Williams could be invited to attend a future meeting before the end of the year?
RESOLVED: Ian Williams will be invited to attend a meeting before the end of the year.
- The Clerk reported that Rev Adam Pawley has been moved to Welshpool and his last service at Hope Parish Church will be Sunday 5th September.
RESOLVED: A letter of thanks and best wishes will be sent to Rev Pawley.
- The Clerk again requested those members who still receive paper agenda packs to please consider going paperless where possible.

Finance

111. Payments

- i. To report on payments authorised during the summer recess.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Energy (April, May, June)	£895.05
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (4 of7)	£214.28
Cascade	Website Annual Renewal	£84.00
Staffing Cost	Jul-21	£1,455.93
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£41.54
Canda Copying	Photocopier Rental	£50.69

ii. To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 1st September 2021.

Payable To	Details	Amount
One Voice Wales	Training - C Cunnah and H Manning	£60.00
Jones Brothers Leeswood Ltd	Fencing - Queensway	£960.00
Planning Aid Wales	Training - L Davies	£30.00
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (5 of 7)	£214.28
Staffing Cost	Aug-21	£1,308.73
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£50.00
RN Electrical & Security	CCTV - Replacement/upgrade for Willows	£2,182.80

RESOLVED:

- i. The above payments were noted.
- ii. The above payments be approved. In usual times the payment schedule would be formally signed by the Chairman of Finance and/or the Chairman of the Council and countersigned by two bank signatories, however, in accordance with guidance from the Internal Auditor as the Accounts for Payments are approved at the meeting and itemised within the minutes this will be accepted.

Planning and Highways

112. Responding to Planning Objections from Residents

Members were provided with the updated written process for the council on how to respond to planning objections received from residents, together with information for a proposed planning website page for the council to consider.

RESOLVED: the above was approved by the council and a new Planning webpage will be created.

113. Planning Process for the Council in responding to Planning Applications

Cllr Davies wished to question the desire to continue to use the Response Form introduced in 2019?

Whilst members are not currently using the form, it was considered that this should be used when submitting the response to FCC as it will show the councils methodology.

Cllr Cunnah asked the council to consider writing to FCC to request that they included within their standard letter sent to planning consultees to include that they can also contact their local Town/Community Council.

RESOLVED: members can use the forms to help them individually when reviewing planning applications, however, it will be the responsibility of the Planning & Highways Chairman to complete the form ready for the clerk to submit to FCC Planning.

The council also agreed to write to FCC to request that within the standard planning consultee letter that a paragraph is added stating that they can also share their support/objection with the local Town/Community Council.

114. Planning Applications

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

- a) [Planning Ref: 063410](#). Erection of an extension to existing cottage with minor alterations. Shordley Bank Farm, Shordley Road, Hope. **Objection due to the size, scale and characteristics of the design.**

RESOLVED: the above responses will be submitted to Flintshire County Council.

- ii. The following applications received which have been determined by Flintshire County Council.
- a) [Planning Ref: 062907](#). Renewal of temporary planning permission ref 055000 for the erection of a propagation shed for growing and cultivating rare plants for recreational purposes. New Farm Cottage, Rhyddyn Hill, Caergwrle. **Approved**
- b) [Planning Ref: 062647](#). Erection of a Ground Floor Single Storey Extension to the Rear (Shower Room). 50 High Street, Caergwrle. **Approved**

115. Aesthetics of the Village

Cllr Davies provided the following update:

- Café/Garage (Llwyn Eglwys) – FCC advised to contact the Arson Reduction Team (ART). The ART have deemed the site as dangerous and a potential fire hazard, they have since written to FCC and the land owner, without success. Cllr Davies has also written to FCC Enforcement, they too have written to the land owner again, without success.
- Riverside Cottage – contact with FCC Empty Home and with the current Estate Agent. There seems to have been a lot of interest in the property, but due the condition of the building it is unsafe to view which is causing delays.
- Porch Lane Garages, 93 & 95 Hawarden Road and Indian Restaurant – Neal Cockerton, FCC has advised that he is unable to comment at present in relation to 93 & 95 Hawarden Road and Indian Restaurant, however, the garages at Porch Lane were in the Housing programme for demolition next financial year but they have brought aspects of this forward and demolition will now be carried out during the current financial year. The plans for this area has not been confirmed.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

116. Highway Matters

- i. The meeting with FCC re the TTTS and Safer Routers was postponed. It was due to be rescheduled however due to FCC requesting additional funding from FCC it has been further postponed until they receive the outcome of the funding. The meeting is now due to take place w/c 6th September and both Cty Cllrs David and Gladys Healey will be invited to attend.
- ii. Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

Leisure and Environment

117. Play Areas

Queensway - As reported under Minute 103 - The contractor has advised that there has been a delay with the supply of materials and equipment for the improvements. They have advised that work should now commence w/c 6th September. Wicksteed will also be providing a bench free of charge as a good will gesture.

Cllrs Williams reported that together with Cllr Hughes they met with Mr Jones, Ysgol Estyn regarding the fence work they wish to undertake.

All other Play Areas – all sites have been visited and are looking good. No issues to report.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

118. Caergwrle Castle

Cadw have been contacted on a number of occasions to follow up the progress of the interpretation board. This will continue to be chased.

FCS have attended the site following reports of a party at the castle to ensure the area is clear and free from any hazards eg broken glass.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

119. Best Kept Hanging Basket Competition 2021

The response to the competition (6 entries) was not as good compared to previous years, although the judges Cllrs Hughes and Roberts did enjoy viewing the entries which were of high standard.

The awards were due to be made at the Produce Show, however, confirmation has been received that this event is now not being held.

RESOLVED: The winners below will be awarded a certificate and their prize. A certificate of participation will also be sent to the other entrants.

1st Graham Wood - £50

2nd Suzanne Riley - £30

3rd Jenny Hurst - £20

120. Village Scarecrow Competition 2021

A disappointing response to the Scarecrow Competition this year with only three entries and one withdrawal, therefore, only 2 entries to judge.

As above, the awards were due to be made at the Produce Show, however, confirmation has been received that this event is now not being held.

RESOLVED: The winners below will be awarded a certificate and their prize.

1. Sarah Darlington (Jack & Matilda) – £50 Gardening Voucher. Scarecrow Name: ET Phone Home

2. Kelly Dunn – £30 Gardening Voucher. Scarecrow Name: There's Always Time for Tea

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.50pm

Chairman: 6th October 2021