

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Virtual (Zoom) Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

Present by Video: Councillors Mrs J Hilton (Chairman), Mrs C Olsen (Vice Chairman), Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mr D Healey, Mr D Roberts, Dr R Parsonage, Mrs C Sheibani and Mr A Parry. Youth Representative David Jones.

Present by Phone:

Absent:

In attendance by Video: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

38. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs H Manning and S Waterhouse. Cllrs Mr B Hughes and Mr A Parsonage also submitted their apologies due to not being able to access virtual meetings.

39. Declarations Of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

40. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair wished to thank all members for their faith in the reappointment as Chairman. She congratulated and thanked the Committee Chairmen in what has been a difficult year together with the work and professionalism of the Clerk in challenging times.

A further welcome was made to Mr David Jones – Youth Representative. The council are looking forward to hearing new youth perspectives.

The Chair thanked Cllr R Parsonage for the work undertaken in the Scarecrow Competition which was a great success. She thoroughly enjoyed visiting and judging all the entries.

The Schools are reopening, the new Co-op has opened, the councils new website is due to be launched – there is exciting times ahead.

41. Minutes of Council and Standing Committees

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1st July 2020 and the extraordinary meeting held on 15th July 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

42. Matters Arising

Min 6 - A response was received from Arfon Jones and circulated to all members on 08/07/2020.

Min 15 - A quote for the wetpour was received from Richard Roberts for £2856+vat. The repairs are not classed as urgent, so this work could be incorporated with the match funding improvements that will be undertaken this year. Also following a routine inspection there were issues with the roundabout which was temporarily out of use. After further inspection, which involved lifting off the roundabout it was discovered that it required a new bearing, to save time FCC/Aura took the decision to go ahead and replace with a new bearing, the cost of this work from Brian Davies was £550.00 for parts and labour and it was completed on Friday 28th August. RR suggested consideration of this work being part of the Match funding work.

RESOLVED: the roundabout works were approved and the report was received and noted.

Min 24 – Cllr Sheibani asked Cty Cllr Healey how his petition has progressed regarding the Review of the Electoral Arrangements for Flintshire? Cllr Healey advised that they received over 200 signatures and it was now under consideration. He was also aware that a number of residents had also submitted their own response to the review.

43. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

44. Delegated Powers – Summer Recess

Details of decision made during the summer recess were circulated to all members:

- i. Tree Works at Queenways – under delegated powers necessary tree work was undertaken on the boundary trees at a cost of £450+vat
- ii. Caergwrle Castle – a neighbouring resident had installed metal fencing at the back of their home, however, they had installed on the castle land owned by the council. The Council liaised with Flintshire Countryside Services who hand delivered a letter stating that they had 14 days to remove the fencing otherwise it would be removed by FCS and any costs invoiced to the resident. FCS have advised this has now been relocated onto their own land.
- iii. Responses were submitted to both consultations which were by way of a basis online survey for Consultation on the Extension of a Dog Control Public Space Protection Order in Flintshire and Consultation on the Extension of an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Flintshire. These surveys were also circulated to all members should they wished to have submitted on individual response.

RESOLVED: the above was received, noted and approved.

45. County Councillors Report

A written report in advance of the meeting prepared by County Councillors David and Gladys Healey was provided to all members. Topics included:

- Work undertaken during Covid19, including work by The Hope, Caergwrle & District Voluntary Action Group who undertook; Food deliveries 311, Meds deliveries 578, Dog walks 39
- Continuing to liaise with FCC Streetscene.
- Liaising where necessary with FCC services including Social Care, Housing, Pollution Control and Environmental Health, Child Protection as well as the Police.
- Responding to planning applications.

Cllr Healey advised that the Oaklea Grange planning application (060792) had gone to a virtual planning committee meeting earlier today, however, he was not yet aware of the decision.

With regard to the development of a stable facility at Pant Farm (0549407) which received planning permission, concerns have been raised with FCC Planning that this could be an emerging residential property. FCC Planning Enforcement have been to view the development and whilst they are satisfied that the development is of a stable facility, there are some variances from the original planning application and have asked for a further application to resubmitted.

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

46. Planning Applications

a) The following planning applications were received for the Committee to considered.

- i. [Ref: 061271](#). Change of use of land for extension of existing site to provide up to 6 Gypsy Traveller Pitches. White Acres Caravan Site, Gwern Lane, Hope.

Cllr Davies as Chairman of Planning provided an in depth report and the following was considered:

PROPORTIONALITY - ‘Sites should be considered in context and relation to the local infrastructure, population size and density to ensure they are in proportion to local settled communities’. (Welsh Government planning guidance - Good Practice para 5). Any further development of this permanent

occupied authorised site would incur the occupants of White Acres outnumbering the local residents of Caer Estyn and must be considered as overdevelopment of the site. Cllr Healey raised that FCC may view this application as the area of Hope rather than Caer Estyn. Cllr Hilton commented that Caer Estyn historical has always been a hamlet and has its own identity and we need to ensure that this is not lost.

Cllr Olsen stated that this is would be an over development of the site itself.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - On numerous occasions local residents have endured loud noise derived from raucous behaviour going on until early hours of the morning. On some occasions Police have needed to attend in order to calm the situation.

In December 2013 following up noise issues expressed by local residents Mark Jones from County Planning Enforcement attended a council meeting where he gave assurance he would continue to monitor the site but clearly there are still noise issues. Some local residents have said they have learned to live with the situation but any further growth to the site has the potential to create further anti-social behaviour and cause them added stress which would threaten their mental wellbeing.

SEPTIC TANK/ SEWAGE SEEPING - There have already been alleged instances of sewage seeping on to land and adding more caravans would exacerbate the potential for seepage leading to undesirable environmental consequences. Regardless of any further development this is a concern that needs to be monitored by FCC.

EVIDENCE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES - *'Permanent pitches should be for residential purposes only'* (Welsh Government Planning guidance para 42) There is evidence of business activity. Over twenty vehicles on site (images shown and will be included with the Councils response). Known to be horse dealers, dealing in scrap metal. They have stated they legitimately do general garden work and landscaping.

Cllr Olsen advised that concerns had previously been raised with her during the last council Public Drop In Event from residents that males from the site were issuing business cards for a caravan site.

INCREASED TRAFFIC - An expansion of the site would lead to a further increase in traffic along a narrow lane causing a danger to other road users and disturbance to local residents.

OVER DEVELOPMENT - Cllr Olsen advised that the site at present is not actually full to capacity so what is the need for expansion?

Cllr Hilton stated that there is a Travellers site in Llay which is less than 1 mile away, so is there a justified need for an expansion White Acres?

Cllr Healey advised that Cty Cllr G Healey will also be putting emphasis on the over development of the site from the perspective of any expansion of this size in this location and with the narrow road and traffic is a concern.

Cllr Olsen suggested that the comments submitted by FCC on the Candidate Sites within this location should be reviewed.

Cllr Davies advised she had received corresponsance from Mrs Edwards regarding her concerns of this development. 'Since 2011 the yard has been extended without first securing planning permission to provide more space for the storage of vehicles. Permission is now sort retrospectively to retain this and enlarge it more, to provide more space for the existing site'. The scale of the extension almost doubles the scope of the site.

Retrospective planning permission was first put forward in 2010 for siting 2 static and 2 tourer caravans but it has been extended to include storage space for numerous vehicles. Now planning has been put forward for change of usage of adjacent land to further increase the site to provide more space to accommodate 6 more caravans.

Cllr R Parsonage advised that during the previous councils Drop In Event, she had received a number of complaints from residents who had raised issues with FCC Planning Enforcement which had not be dealt with and they were obviously concerned that if FCC could not deal with issues now, how and would FCC deal with any issues/breaches if the site was extended?

Cllr Cunnah questioned the illegal settlement which seems to have appeared on Rhyddyn Hill? Cllr Healey advised he has had communication with them and all seem very amicable. Cllr Roberts reported that there are also issues relating crossing residents land to gain entrance to the settlement. Cllr Davies advised this was reported to FCC Planning Enforcement during lockdown and a response is yet to be received. The Clerk will continue to pursue a response.

It was proposed and agreed that that the application for change of usage of land to further expand White Acres Caravan Site be rejected because of the outnumbering of local residents of Caer Estyn, the continued anti-social behaviour, instances of sewage seepage, evidence of business activity, and the increased traffic on a country lane.

- ii. [Ref: 061621](#). Proposed Erection of Side Extension and Proposed Internal Remodel. Stone Cottage, 63 Derby Road, Caergwrle. Cllr Healey raised concerns of the materials (as no mention of what materials would be used in the application) that would be used on this extension as the property is within a conservation area, together with concern that the extension could interfere with the water cause to the pistyll. Cllr R Parsonage stated that there already is an approved application on this land for an additional dwelling. *An objection will be submitted for this application on the grounds of overdevelopment as there is already planning permission for one additional dwelling on this site. Also there are concerns that the overdevelopment will have a damaging effect on the water cause/pistyll.*

** 7.30pm Cllr R Parsonage left the meeting

- iii. [Ref: 061550](#). First floor extension over existing. 20 Kingsway, Hope. *Supported provided that there are not concerns or issues raised by neighbouring properties.*

RESOLVED: the above comments will be reported to Flintshire County Council Planning.

b) To report applications which have been determined by Flintshire County Council:

- i. Ref: 061370. Change of use of Garage to a Dog Grooming Salon. Hours of work will be between 8.30-5.30 (Mon-Fri) and 9-4 (Sat). Maes Gwyn, 65 Rhyddyn Hill, Caergwrle. *Supported.*

47. Road and Footpath Safety

- a) Cllr Parry reported the continued concerns of safety of speeding and public footpaths which a number are diminishing, unsightly and unsafe, Caergwrle in particular.
 - Concern of a stone wall along Fagl Lane (possibly the responsibility of the farm) is coming away, crumbling and unsafe together with overhanging trees/shrubs etc. This issue of the stone wall on Fagl Lane will be reported to FCC Streetscene.
 - Parking of vehicles outside of the sandwich shop in Caergwrle where pedestrians are having to step in the highway to pass. He would be happy to meet with a representative from FCC to assess these concerns and what strategy they have for improvements.
 - Cllr Waterhouse had written to the clerk to ask the council to consider requesting a speed assessment on Fagl Lane.
 - Speeding issues of Hawarden Road, Abermorddu. There is no speed signage in Abermorddu. Cllr Olsen reported speed issues across all villages and currently there are concerns of boy races congregation in Crossways play area car park and speeding through Hawarden Road and Wrexham Road.

There is also outstanding speed surveys that the council requested over 12 months ago which was initially delayed before covid due to FCC undertaking a necessary procurement.

- b) Cllr Olsen requested that following an accident at the Abermorddu traffic lights that the council should request of additional road signage at the Abermorddu traffic lights, together with repainting of the road markings.
- c) The Clerk advised that she together with Cty Cllr Healey have regularly been chasing FCC regarding the outcome of the Road Safety Grant and Cllr Healey has recently received information that the grant was unsuccessful for a 2nd year. At the time of the grant the council had prepared a Transport, Travel and Traffic Strategy which now needs to be revisited, reviewed with any additional new issues/concerns. This was fully supported by Cllr Healey who identified issues such as the new Co-op opening, issues with school transport etc Cllr Healey will be requested Claire Parry, FCC Transportation to provide feedback to the council on where the shortfall was with the grant.

RESOLVED: FCC Streetscene will be informed of the safety concerns of the stone wall and overgrown hedges on Fagl Lane.

As soon as possible the clerk will circulate the latest Transport, Travel and Traffic Strategy, together with the locations of the original Speed Survey requests to all members to allow these to be reviewed and any additional issues/concerns identified, such as Cllrs Olsen request above (b). Any additions should then be forwarded to the Clerk in advance of the October meeting so all the new suggestions can be collated and circulated with the October agenda.

48. Village Scarecrow Competition

Cllr Hilton reported that this year's competition had been a great success with some wonderful entries. Both she and Cllr R Parsonage thoroughly enjoyed visiting and judging them all. She looks forward to next year.

The winners were announced as follows: 1st place: Heather Cunnah - 'Dig for Victory'
 2nd place: Phil Monslow – 'Ffil'
 3rd place: Will Thomas - 'A Bugs Life'

RESOLVED:. Cllr R Parsonage will hand deliver the winners certificates and prizes.

49. Caergwrle Castle

The Working Group had a meeting on Tuesday 25th August 2020 with Flintshire Countryside Services and Cadw a copy of the notes was provided to all members. There were a few minor queries on the agreement and management plan which needs further clarification. A further meeting has been scheduled for the 22nd September and it is then hoped that the Working Group will be able to provide a recommendation to the full council at the October meeting.

The Chair wished to thank the Working Group for all their time and effort working with FCS and Cadw and also thanked FCS for their support.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

50. Website

The Clerk advised that the new website is progressing well and will provide all members with a link to the draft website and would welcome any comments. The site is due to be launched within the next couple of weeks.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Davies for all her efforts in providing additional information for the website and to Cllr Healey for his information on Caergwrle Castle. She reminded members that this is an ongoing project and new information can be added at any time.

RESOLVED:. The clerk will provide all members with the link to review the draft website.

51. Community Citizenship

The council was asked to consider if and how they could identify and recognise individuals who have gone above and beyond to assist their community during covid19. The Chair advised that whilst she would like the opportunity to celebrating the outstanding citizenship she is concerned that we are not through covid9 just yet.

Cllr Olsen proposed that the council temporarily put this on hold to see what happens over the next few months.

Cllr Davies suggested a way of recognition could be engraved medals.

Cllr Healey expressed the great work undertaken by the Community Action Group and in particular Gill Pearson for immense work in coordinating the Action Group.

The Clerk suggested adding a 'Thank You' post on the new website.

RESOLVED: due to the uncertainty of Covid19, this will be temporarily deferred. A Thank You post to our residents will be included on the new website.

52. National Salary Award April 2020 & Home Office Allowance

The National Salary Award for 2020 has now been agreed for a 2.75% increase together with one additional days holiday for anyone under 5 years service. This increase will be backdated to 1st April 2020 and equates to £0.45p per hour increase. The Home Allowance will increase by £2.84 per month. This will be processed in the September payroll.

RESOLVED: the above was received and approved and the 2.75% increases and 1 additional day's holiday will be backdated to the 1st April 2020 and processed in the September payroll.

53. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 5th August 2020.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Cascade Productions Int Ltd	** 50% Deposit for New Website	£1,500.00
Staffing Costs	July Wages	£1,118.31
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£42.89
Bagillt Web Design	Monthly Fee for Website Services (August)	£60.00
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (5 of8)	£164.40
	Total:	£2,885.60

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 2nd September 2020.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (6 of8)	£164.40
RN Electrical & Security	CCTV Cameras Servicing	£992.00
Dr R Parsonage	Scarecrow 2020 Competition Prizes	£100.00
Staffing Costs	Aug Wages	£1,118.31
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£30.79
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Tree Works	£540.00
Canda Copying	Photocopier Rental	£48.00
	Total:	£2,993.50

RESOLVED: That the above payments up to and including 2nd September 2020 be approved and processed for payment. All Accounts for Payments will be formally signed by the Chairman of Finance and/or the Chairman of the Council and countersigned by two bank signatories at the first face to face meeting of the council.

54. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- Email dated 15/7/20 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner with a survey to gain views on the Welsh Governments proposal to make changes to road legislation in Wales. This was circulated to members.
- Email from FCC re: Amendments to the Flintshire LDP Delivery Agreement and Availability of Deposit LDP Representations, in line with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. This was circulated to all members 29/7/20
- Email from FCC re: Consultation on the Extension of a Dog Control Public Space Protection Order in Flintshire. Circulated to Chairs to request a response. 11.08.2020.
- Invitation to the FLVC AGM – Thursday 10th Sept.
- OVW Training and bursary for Chair and Chair of Finance.
- Email from FCC re: Consultation on the Extension of an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Flintshire. This was circulated to Chairs to request a response and was also circulated to all members 11.08.2020 who can provide individual responses to the survey.

- Telephone call from Miss E Burkes, Aura advising that they are due to be holding various activities on the Willows for children from September through to the October school holidays:
 - Yrs 7/8/9 Community Multi Sports Activities Tuesdays 3.30pm – 6.30pm
 - 0 – 4 yrs Child Development Sundays 9.15am – 10.00am
 - 4 – 7 yrs Multi Sports Activities Sundays 10.15am – 11.00am
Sundays 11.15am – 12.00pm

Cllr Hilton expressed concerns as to whether FCC Environment were aware of this due to the previous restrictions placed here? Cllr Healey advised that he had been in communication with Rachel Davies, Contamination Officer who advised that surveys were due to take place and possibly remedial works in October. He also informed the council whilst referencing the Willows that there have been reports of Japanese Knotweed along the railway line and dog walking field.

RESOLVED: the Clerk will contact Rachel Davies to ensure that they are aware of the potential use of the facility.

55. Future Agenda Items

- Cllr Healey asked if the council would agree that he can review the Schedule of Ancient Monuments and prepare a list of future works that will be required at Caergwrle Castle. This was agreed and will be included on the agenda once the report is ready.
- The Chair requested that Training return as a routine agenda item. She also asked whether there was any specific training that would benefit the Youth Representatives.
- Cllr Olsen asked for VE Day Celebrations to be included on the next agenda as the celebrations were put on hold and that bookings were postponed and a catering deposit made.

The meeting of the Full Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.30pm.

Chairman: 7th October 2020