

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Virtual (Zoom) Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

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

Absent:

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

170. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Waterhouse and Youth Rep Mr D Jones. Cllrs B Hughes and A Parsonage also submitted apologies due to not being able to access virtual meetings.

171. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cunnah declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 6 (min 175).

172. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed and thanked members for attending. This past month has certainly been a quieter month, however, she is aware that FCC are still extremely busy dealing with the aftermath of the storm and flooding. She wished to acknowledge and thank Cty Cllrs David and Gladys Healey for their involvement with FCC in dealing with the flooding issues. Cllr A Parsonage has raised his concerns with the Chair regarding future flooding risk at bridge end.

173. Minutes of Council and Standing Committees

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd February 2021 and the Personnel (Advisory) Committee meeting held 18th February 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.

174. Matters Arising

Min 147/137i - The council wrote again to Steve Jones 10.02.2021 regarding the council not being satisfied by his initial response and that it should not be for one individual to deem obstructions as a danger. Such materials on the highway should not be open to individual interpretation. Ian Williams contacted the council today and advised that the area has been inspected and there were no obstructions on the highway. Cllr Hilton agreed with this response as she too had been to review the area. FCC will continue to monitor.

Min 152 - Since the Produce Show was confirmed to be included on the council calendar of events, Cllr Olsen would like to ask whether the scarecrow and best kept hanging basket will/should/ or could be announced at the produce show?

RESOLVED: the council agreed that the prizes for the scarecrow and best kept hanging basket will be awarded at the produce show. The councils calendar of events will be amended accordingly.

175. Public Questions

Q1. What was decided about the VE Day celebrations due to Covid?

A1. *Due to covid the event was cancelled, however, the council had hoped that an event could have been held in early 2021 which also is now not possible. The council agreed that as the celebration of the 100years has passed they will not be holding any event.*

- Q2. Would the council consider when they replace street signs to make them bilingual please?
- A2. *Flintshire County Council are responsible for street signs. The Clerk will provide the relevant information for FCC.*
- Q3. I work away for extended periods but reside in the village of Hope. As I work away I have the 'ring' security camera installed and have picked up on children walking up my drive and playing with the cameras and a cat scarer that is out there. I was wondering if this is something you could help with or indeed offer guidance.
- A3. *The resident was advised to report the issue to 101 and if they wished to share their address the council would follow this up with a report to the PCSO.*
- Q4a. The flags on the High St, please can they be replaced? Can we have just Welsh please, or is there a reason we have the union flag as well?
- Q4b. The flags have been changed again at the Caergwrle cenotaph this year. Have the parade organisers been given permission for this? Personally I don't think this is correct for such an event to use the cenotaph grounds for their nationalist rally. They should just stick to the castle instead. WW1 & 2 is not really appropriate. I see the flag they put up has now been taken down with what looks like a brand new union flag? Where does the money come from for all these flags?
- A4a/b. *To date the council has not had any involvement with the purchasing of flags, flying of flags or changing of flags. It is also unclear at this time of the ownership of the flagpoles. Enquires are underway. It has been identified that the cenotaph is within the boundary of the castle deeds so therefore falls within the ownership and responsibility of the council.*

RESOLVED: the council acknowledges that the cenotaph is within the castle boundaries and this will be included on the April agenda to allow for further investigations and discussion. As this has been brought to the council's attention, the council also needs to consider going forward that there is a suitable protocol in place.

- Q5. Cllr Davies reported that she had been contacted regarding the issue of stiles on public rights of way not being accessible for older or disabled users.
- A5. *Cllr Davies has spoken with FCC who agreed there are some access difficulties and their current policy is to replace damaged or poor access styles with kissing gates. The footpaths are checked regularly, however, FCC would welcome any reports of issues from residents. For any problem relating to a public right of way whether it is an obstruction, aggressive animals, missing signposts, damaged or out of repair stiles or damaged or unsatisfactory surface then please publicrightsofway@flintshire.gov.uk or telephone 01352 704612.*

Cllr Manning reported that he had been approached by a resident raising concern of speeding and parking issues on Hawarden Road, Abermorddu. Cllr Manning supported this concern as he witnessed cars travelling at excessive speed. The council are aware of these issues; speed surveys have been undertaken which are now with Go-Safe. Further reports are being awaited.

176. County Councillors Report

A written report was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

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

177. NHS Day, Social Care, & Frontline Workers Day

Cllrs Olsen and Hilton tabled a detailed proposal for how the council could acknowledge and celebrate the event and recognise members of the community. In brief this was by way of encouraging residents to celebrate and decorate their homes and also asking residents to submit nominations from each frontline worker category, a selection of which would be awarded an Afternoon Tea for Two voucher.

The proposal was discussed at length, however, concerns were raised that there are 'teams' of workers/volunteers who could/should be recognised and it should not be limited to individuals from each frontline worker category.

RESOLVED: the proposal needs to be reconsidered and Cllrs Olsen, Hilton, Manning and R. Parsonage will form a Working Group to prepare a revised proposal.

178. Consultations

- i. [New draft Guidance on the Code of Conduct for members of County and Community/Town Councils](#)
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales draft guidance to be reviewed and any comments to be submitted by 21 March 2021.
- ii. [Litter & Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales](#). The Welsh Government is currently consulting on its new Litter & Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales. The consultation will close on 22 April 2021 and One Voice Wales will be submitting a response and would be grateful to receive the views of the Community Council by the end of March.

RESOLVED: the above consultations were received and noted. The council will not be submitting any response, however, members may submit individual responses.

179. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The IRPW are undertaking a review of the framework for the remuneration of community and town councils. The intention is to complete the review by early autumn so that any changes can be incorporated into the Annual Report for 2022/2023 and will be effective following the elections to new councils in May 2022. They will work closely with the sector in the process of the review and they have agreed this approach with OVW and SLCC. They will be inviting other representative organisations to participate. However, the Panel considers that it is important to have an input from a range of councils reflecting size, geography, rural and urban. Therefore, they were looking for expressions of interest from individual councils to participate in the process of the review so that they can select an inclusive range.

As they needed a response by the 1st March the clerk liaised with Cllrs Hilton, Olsen, Davies and Williams. It was agreed that the council will submit an expression of interest to participate. Cllr Davies advised that should the council be selected it is important to ensure that any representation is of the full and not individual opinions.

They will be consulting on the outcome of the review so all councils will have the opportunity to comment before the revised arrangements are put in place.

RESOLVED: the council has submitted an expression of interest to participate and should the council be selected it is important to ensure that any representation is of the full council and not individual opinions.

180. Personnel (Advisory) Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February has been circulated to all members. The Committee submitted a proposal to increase the Clerks hours by 1.5 hours per week.

RESOLVED: the Clerks hours will be increased to 13.5hours per week with immediate effect. Future meeting dates of the Committee for the coming year will be scheduled.

181. Payroll Agent

Due to the current payroll provider advising of a new payroll system and increased costs, the Clerk advised she has undertaken a review and presented alternative providers and costs for the council to consider.

RESOLVED: the council will make the necessary arrangement to appoint AVOW (Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham) to provide the council's payroll services.

182. Training

- i. The Clerk circulated to member's information on available training. Should anyone be interested in attending any course they could contact the clerk.
- ii. The Clerk reported that she had recently attended two training courses: Dealing with Challenging People and Creating Accessible Word & PDF. Last week she also attended the 3 day Virtual Practitioners Conference which she found extremely informative on a professional and personal level.

183. Clerks Report

The Clerk prepared and circulated as requested an Issue Log detailing any outstanding issues and details of progress.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for this report and that it will be a valuable monthly report.

184. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses.
- Macmillan and Hope House – requesting funding. I have relied to advise to contact the council again in October.
- Due to unavoidable changes to Inspector availability, the LDP Examination hearing sessions will now commence on Tuesday 13th April 2021. An updated timetable and programme will be published shortly on the Examination website.
- IRPW – Annual Report 2021/22.
- Age and Dementia Friendly Alyn Villages newsletter – a copy will be circulated to members.
- Email from Steve Jones to request a meeting with the council to discuss the councils TTTS.
RESOLVED: a selection of dates will be requested from the Officer and the clerk will co-ordinate a mutually convenient date for the meeting.

** 8.00pm Cllr Manning left

185. Future Agenda Items

- Cllr Olsen requested allotments to be included on the April agenda and will present the results from a recent community survey.

Planning and Highways

186. Planning Applications

- i. The following planning applications were received for the Committee to considered:
 - a) [Planning Ref: 062213](#). Proposed Replacement Dwelling and Construction of Detached Double Garage. Fairview, Porch Lane, Hope Mountain, Caergwrle. **Supported**

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: 060640](#). Extension to existing property and the erection of three new dwellings and associated access and landscaping. Laurel Grove, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. **Refused**
 - b) [Planning Ref: 061621](#). Proposed Erection of Side Extension and Proposed Internal Remodel and retrospective detached garage. Stone Cottage, 63 Derby Road, Caergwrle. **Approved**

187. Highway Matters

- i. Regular follow ups have been made with Lee Shone with regard to the speed survey's that were escalated to Go-Safe. He advised earlier in the day that he was in the process of having an email exchange with Go-safe and he would forward the response asap, this is yet to be received.
- ii. Cllr Davies reported that she had spoken with Ian Williams – FCC Streetscene who advised of recent work undertaken to address drainage and flood risks; clearing gullies, blockages, scheduling work for broken pipes. There has been work undertaken in the villages this week and will be ongoing.

RESOLVED:

- i. The Clerk will continue to chase Lee Shone for an update on these speed issues and the outcome of the escalation to Go Safe.
- ii. The report was received and noted.

Leisure and Environment

188. Caergwrle Castle

FCS have organised tree work to remove hung up limb. A. Hemphill also advised that the owner of a property on Castle Street has removed 85% of the vegetation tipping, but suggests that the resident should receive a letter to tell him to stop cutting the trees at the back of his property which are on the castle side of the wall.

Cadw have advised they are currently working on the interpretation boards and they will liaise with council as the design evolves. As regards the 'see-through' panel they do have concerns about daily maintenance with this type of sign at unstaffed monuments but will discuss the idea with their contractors.

RESOLVED: the council will make arrangements for a letter to be sent to the resident of Castle Street.

189. Play Areas

- i. The Queensway play area Consultation has been very well received with just under 100 responses. The data has been collated and results provided to members.

There were two pieces of equipment that were ranked the favourite; Zip Wire (30 votes) and Toddler Climbing Frame (22) and a slide (20) coming in third.

- ii. The council considered decided that they would not go out for further consultation once the designs and quotes were received. The final decision will be made by the council.
- iii. Cllr Williams reported that the small section of fencing at the top end of the play area is damaged and will need replacing.

RESOLVED:

- i. The council approved that suppliers will be asked to provide designs and quotes for a zip wire and a toddler climbing frame, if possible with a slide off the climbing frame.
- ii. The council will make the final decision on which design which supplier to appoint.
- iii. The council approved to obtain a quote for the replacement fencing.

Finance

190. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 3rd March 2021.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Light Inspections (June - Dec 2020)	£1,225.00
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£111.55
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£124.55
Flintshire County Council	Street Light -Energy Oct - Dec 2020	£1,195.05
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£90.05
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£156.05
Staffing Costs	Feb Wages	£1,153.50
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£67.44

Payable To	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	*30 x new street light columns ready for handover - does not included commuted sum	£37,500.00
One Voice Wales	*Annual Membership	£650.00
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£90.05

To approve 5.9 hours overtime for the Clerk (December - February) which would be processed in the March Payroll.

RESOLVED: the above payments be approved and processed for payment, including 5.9hour overtime for the clerk. 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 during the constraints of virtual meetings.

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

Chairman: 7th April 2021