

Hope Community Council

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

Present by Video: Councillors Mrs C Olsen (Chairman), Mrs M Williams, Mrs L Davies, Mr B Hughes, Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs C Sheibani, Dr R Parsonage, Mrs J Hilton and Mr A Parry. Youth Representative Mr M Taylor.

Present by Phone: Cllr A Parsonage

Also Present: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Ian Williams – FCC Streetscene and 3 x Members of the Public

149. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs H Manning, S Waterhouse and D Roberts.

It was also reported that Youth Representative Mr David Jones has formally submitted his resignation.

150. Declarations of Interest

Cllr L Davies declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 20 (min 168)– Annual Financial Assistance. A Declaration of Interest form will be submitted.

151. Visitors

Mr Ian Williams – FCC Streetscene provided the council with a report of recent works that have been undertaken in the community and of planned works.

The following issues were raised by members:

- Pot holes in Caergwrle car park – IW advised these are due to be addressed.
- An issue with a manhole on the footpath by lower Castle Cottages, Hawarden Rd – IW will add to the list of remedial works.
- Thanks was given for the cutting back of trees/hedges by the bridge on Fagl Lane, however, there are still lots of overgrowing nettles and debris causing issues for pedestrians.
- Question regarding the drainage outside of the White Lion Hawarden Rd – IW advised there is also an issue by Hope Motors and they are currently undertaking drainage investigations.
- Thanks was given for the work that has been done at the Pack Horse and Bridge.
- Faulty street light on Castle Street o/s the chapel and also a light o/s the Boys Brigade which is covered by overgrown trees – IW will address the issue of the overgrown trees and the clerk will report the faulty light.
- The 30mph sign in Abermorddu (coming from Caergwrle) has been damaged.
- The issue of congestion in the village due to the temporary traffic lights by the Holly Bush is having a significant effect on the pollution and especially for residents with asthma – IW will raise this with colleagues and advised that the work is due to be completed by the end of the week.
- IW was asked whether he would be able to assist with the concerns of the Café/Garage (Llwyn Eglwys) in regard to safety concerns of gas cylinders – IW advised that as this was private land he was restricted to what he could do. He will however raise this with his line manager.

The Chair thanked IW for attending the meeting, the update and for the work he is undertaking.

**6.50pm IW left the meeting.

152. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman on behalf of the council wished to congratulate the Clerk and recently gaining the SLCC – CiLCA qualification.

153. Minutes of Council and Standing Committees

A typo was reported under Min 122 – it should state (minute 144) and not (minute 143) in relation to the Declaration of Interest.

RESOLVED: with the above amendment, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th October 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.

154. **Matters Arising**

Each village will receive two additional Christmas lights as agreed when setting the budget. Also there were two faulty lights which required replacing – in agreement with Cllr Williams these have been ordered.

Min 133 - The portrait and condolence books have been ordered.

Min 145 ii - FCC confirmed that the 20mph mandatory speed limit will be permanent as opposed to school time only.

In regards to yellow lines, they will review the extents of the yellow lines. They have spoken to several residents raising this issue, so this is something they will look at after the consultation ends. They have said that restrictions will be advertised as per their TRO process, which will give members of the public an option to object through the formal process.

155. **Public Questions/Correspondence**

An email was received and read to members in relation to item 11 - Cenotaph Flag Application Process The contents of which will be considered when considering item 11.

A number of emails were received from residents submitting their strong concerns and objections to Item 25(ii) Youth Shelter on Queensway play area. Cllr Hilton clarified that this was not in fact her proposal, the request had been made to her by youths which she had said she would bring to the council. The item will be fully discussed and consider under agenda item 25(ii).

The Chairman asked the 3x members of the public present if they wished to speak? They did not.

156. **County Councillors Report**

There was no report submitted and no report will be submitted until further notice.

157. **Councillor Vacancy**

The Notice of Vacancy was advertised following the resignation of David Healey and FCC Elections have confirmed that no election has been requested. As no election has been requested the council will advertise for Co-option.

RESOLVED: the Co-option Notice will be displayed with a closing date of the 24th November 2021.

158. **Police & Crime**

- i. Cllr Davies provided a written and verbal report on a joint meeting held with Penyffordd Community Council, Police and FCC Youth Services regarding ASB and drug misuse, particularly nitrous oxide.

The following was submitted as proposed actions:

1. Write to Mark Tami and Jack Sargeant to ask for their support in re classifying nitrous oxide to make it illegal to use for recreational purposes.
2. Contact our local schools to express our concerns.
3. Information posters, website, social media and possibly leaflet drops
4. Contact local Youth Groups to share concerns and information
5. Arrange meeting with Claire Mortar - Flintshire Sorted (drug and alcohol team).
6. Request a meeting with PCSO and also possibly request the PCSO to hold community engagement days (such as Cuppa with a Coppa held in other communities).

Cllr Hilton questioned whether the police are able to impose a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) for the use of nitrous oxide? Cllr Davies will make enquires.

- ii. Cllr Williams provided information relating to sexual harassment in schools and recent BBC reports. There is also a website called 'Everyone's Invited' where victims of sexual harassment are able to anonymously share their stories, which Castell Alun HS is listed. She has been in contact with FCC and the school and has been informed following the Estyn Inspection being undertaken in December a report will be provided with guidance from Welsh Government.

Cllr R Parsonage reported that she is in the process a writing a book on county line drugs and is in contact with the Deputy Head and Head of English to engage with the youths.

RESOLVED:

- i. The council approved the proposed actions 1-6 above. Cllr Davies will make enquires with the police regarding a PSPO.
- ii. The council will wait to view the Estyn Report and revisit this matter at the January meeting. Information on sexual harassment in schools and county line drugs will be shared on the council website and social media.

159. Cenotaph Flag Application Process

Due to issues being raised regarding the appropriateness of certain flags being flown at the cenotaph, Cllr Olsen proposed for the council to implement an Application Process where any person/organisation wishing to fly a flag at the cenotaph would need to make. This process is common amongst other councils responsible for cenotaphs and flag poles.

Cllr Williams questioned the progress of registering the land and suggested for the council to consider appointing an independent solicitor to assist.

RESOLVED: Cllr Olsen and the Clerk will prepare a Flag Application which will be presented at the December council meeting. In respect of the public correspondence regarding concerns of the Liberation of Hope and the Owain Glyndwr flag, members felt that the Application Process needs to be in place before this can be considered further.

Enquires will be made regarding the appointment of an independent Solicitor to assist with registering the cenotaph and castle land.

160. Community Survey/Place Plan

Cllr Olsen reported on the Working Group Meeting and asked the council to support a survey to be undertaken for residents of Abermorddu regarding the issues of loss of identity and impact of that on deliveries, utilities and emergency services attendance.

The aim of survey is to collect evidence which can then be presented FCC to request them to investigate as their systems are the root of the issue in putting addresses in Abermorddu under Caergwrle. This issue has previously been raised by residents with FCC and with the County Councillor with no progress.

RESOLVED: the council fully supported the survey to be undertaken for the residents of Abermorddu.

161. Community Engagement

The council wished to hold a community engagement event and considered options of face to face, virtual or hybrid.

RESOLVED: the council will hold a Community Engagement Event within the next 2 months (date and times tbc) offering face to face and virtual appointments. These will be by way of booking a time slot with an individual Councillor to ensure privacy and social distancing. Cllrs Sheibani – face to face, Cllr Olsen – virtual, Cllrs Cunnah and Hilton will accommodate where needed.

162. Remembrance Day

The Boys Brigade have confirmed the following: The Boys Brigade will meet at the BB hall at 10:15 and prepare to set off for 10:30am march to the Half Way (Hope Road) where the Scouts and any others members can join the parade. They shall then proceed to the cenotaph where they shall have a small service. A minute's silence will be held at the cenotaph and conclude with a short parade back.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

163. HSBC

HSBC are making changes to their community bank accounts resulting in the following charges: monthly charge of £5; cash/chqs paid in £0.40 together with a 0.40% of the value deposited; Issuing chqs £0.40.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

164. Training

- i. A number of members are still yet to complete and return their training record and also to provide any training courses they wish to attend. The Chair again asked members to supply this to the Clerk even if they have not undertaken any training.
- 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 by December.

165. 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).

Cllr Hilton requested that the Noticeboard and Willows condition survey to be included on the December agenda for discussion.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted. The noticeboard and Willows condition survey will be included on the December agenda.

166. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses.
- The Local Government Pay Claim 2021/22 – Unions and National Employers are still in negotiations.
- OVW – Pilot of Community & Town Councils Self Evaluation Toolkit – Expression of Interest. The Clerk reported that in consultation with the Chairman an Expression of Interest has been submitted.
- FCC – Preparations for the Coming Winter.

RESOLVED: this will be included on the December agenda.

- Mega Electrical requested confirmation of the date for the Christmas light to be switched on?

RESOLVED: the Christmas lights will be switched on from Wednesday 1st December.

167. Future Agenda Items

- Chain of Office – costings were delayed in being provided. They have now been received and will be included on the December agenda.

Finance

168. Annual Financial Assistance

The Working Group met to review and consider all applications received and provided explanations to support the recommendations to the council.

RESOLVED: The recommendations be approved and the following grants will be awarded:

Nightingale House Hospice (Chairman's Charity)	£250.00
Jacksons Animal Rescue (Chairman's Charity)	£250.00
Friends of Abermorddu School	£700.00
Homegrown @ Park in the Past	£250.00
Ysgol Estyn Home & School Assoc	£700.00
Hope Dragons Youth FC	£500.00
Castell Alun Colts	£300.00
Hope Pre School	£300.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	£700.00

169. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Report 2022/23

The IRPW have issued their Draft Report, Section 13 relates to Town and Community Councils, together with Section 10 (Contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance). Comments on the draft report to be made by 26th November. The Clerk highlighted to members the change in Banding/Groups,

the reduction in how many senior role payments can be allocated and the addition of Members Allowance – Determination 48. The full draft report can be viewed here: [The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Report 2022/23](#)

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted. No comments were made.

170. Payments

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

Payable To	Details	Amount
Planning Aid wales	Training - C Olsen and J Hilton	£60.00
Richard Davies-Cooke	Piper - Queens Platinum Jubilee (30% deposit)	£72.00
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£197.50
Flintshire County Council	Street Light - Maintenance Repairs	£197.50
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (7 of 7)	£214.28
HCI Data Ltd	Domain Renewal (2yrs)	£102.00
Canda Copying	Photocopier Rental	£48.00
Staffing Cost	Oct-21	£1,641.31
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£36.23
Mrs S Hughes	Condolence Books and Image of the Queen	£159.54
SLCC	Training - S Hughes	£54.00
Nightingale House Hospice(C/C)	Grant	£250.00
Jacksons Animal Rescue (C/C)	Grant	£250.00
Friends of Abermorddu School	Grant	£700.00
Homegrown @ Park in the Past	Grant	£250.00
Ysgol Estyn Home & School Assoc	Grant	£700.00
Hope Dragons Youth FC	Grant	£500.00
Castell Alun Colts	Grant	£300.00
Hope Pre School	Grant	£300.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	Grant	£700.00

RESOLVED: 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 & countersigned by two bank signatories, however, in accordance with guidance from the Internal Auditor as the Accounts for Payments are approved at the meeting & itemised within the minutes this will be accepted.

Planning and Highways

171. Planning Applications

- i. The following planning applications were received for the Committee to consider:
 - a) [Ref: 063066](#). Amendments And/Or Additional Information - Garage conversion with bay to front and link to dwelling. Scarlett Manor, Huxleys Lane, Hope. **Supported**
 - b) [Ref: 063335](#). Part demolition of existing dwelling and residential development comprising of 8 detached dwellings and associated roads and drainage works. Land at Foxfield, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Object strongly due to over development with a proposal that is out of character with the surrounding properties. It would impact on neighbouring properties including the cemetery where activities should be carried out at a respectful distance. An environmental report needs to be undertaken as there is strong evidence of wildlife in and around the site. Also a highways survey would be desirable as it is considered that the increased traffic incurred by the proposed build would incur a danger to vehicles and pedestrians using the highway and pavement.**
 - c) [Ref: 063569](#). Erection of a single storey dwelling. 1 Ye Old Castle Inn, High Street, Caergwrle. **Objection as the proposed access is onto a narrow regularly used pedestrianised lane which would present a danger to pedestrians. The build would also be overdevelopment outside the LDP and within a conservation area.**

- d) [Ref: 063665](#). New enclosed garage with garden terrace in lieu of existing car port/garage. The terrace above the new garage is designed to very closely match the neighbouring garage terrace. 28 Rhyddyn Hill, Caergwrle. **Supported**
- e) [Ref: 063666](#). Single storey front porch and rear extension. Westwinds, Wrexham Road, Hope. **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) [Ref: 062951](#) Proposed Extensions & Alterations. Rhewl Cottage, Pentre Lane, Caergwrle. **Approved**
 - b) [Ref: 062862](#). Erection of a double garage and the erection of fencing (part retrospect). Station View, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. **Approved**
 - c) [Ref: 061795](#). Application for variation of condition no. 1 following grant of planning permission ref: 054531. Prospect House, Stryt Isa, Hope, Wrexham. **Approved**
 - d) [Ref: 063410](#). Erection of an extension to existing cottage with minor alterations. Shordley Bank Farm, Shordley Road, Hope. **Refused**.
 - e) [Ref: 063139](#). Single storey rear/side extension. 31 Windsor Avenue, Caergwrle. **Approved**
 - f) [Ref: 063179](#). Application for removal and variation of opening hours condition following grant of planning permission. (052143). Honey's Bakery, Hawarden Road, Hope. **Approved**
 - g) [Ref: 062952](#). Proposed Extension to form Parent Accommodation, addition of fence running adjacent to public footpath on land to South East of Yew Tree House. Yew Tree House, Stryt Isa, Hope. **Approved**.

Concern was raised that on reviewing the FCC Planning Decision and the Officers Report, it states that '.....the town council was reconulted on the final plans however no further comments were received'. This is in fact incorrect, the council received and reviewed the original planning application in July 2021 and submitted an objection. They have not been reconulted with any amended plans.

RESOLVED: a formal letter of complaint will be submitted to Andrew Farrow, FCC Chief Officer of Planning and copied to Neal Cockerton Chief Executive to express concern that as a statutory consultee the community council were not reconulted with the amended plans for planning ref: 062952 and that their formal Officers Report is untruthful.

172. Highway Matters

There were no matters to be raised.

Leisure and Environment

173. Play Areas

- i. A quote has been requested for the possibility of relocating the football goal further up the field and away from the zip wire. As an alternative option safety netting could be installed between the goals and the zip wire.
- ii. Cllr Hilton reported that she had been approached by youths playing at Queensway who asked for the provision of a Youth Shelter. Members took into consideration the objection letters from residents and the location of this particular play area and it was unanimous that a youth shelter at this local was not viable.
- iii. Cllr Williams reported that there had been a fire at Sarn Lane play area which the police were aware of. The garages in front of Porch Lane play area have been now been boarded up. There were no issues with any other play area.

RESOLVED:

- i. The quote will be chased to present to the council at the December meeting.
- ii. Unanimously agreed that Queensway play area is not a suitable location for a youth shelter.
- iii. The report was received and noted.

174. Allotments

The council wrote to FCC re Queensway land for allotments with a number of questions relating to suitability, surveys and alternative locations. They have responded with a limited response which needs to be followed up for more details.

RESOLVED: as no detailed response has been received the council are still unable to make an informed decision and FCC will be chased. FCC will be asked to give notice to the tenant so they can inspect the land and undertake the necessary survey if this has not already been actioned. The council will also ask FCC to provide information on any historical allotments within the community and confirm whether this piece(s) of land are still in their ownership.

**9.15pm Cllr R Parsonage left the meeting.

175. Christmas Lighting Competition

RESOLVED: The council will host only the residential competition this year. The judging will take place on Sunday 19 December @ 6pm. Cllrs Hilton, Sheibani and Olsen will undertake the judging. Resident prizes will be obtained from the participating local business of their choice. Prizes will be local business vouchers: 1st - £50, 2nd - £30 and 3rd - £20.

176. Caergwrle Castle

Enquires were sought from FCS regarding the liability of steps given that the council had raised concerns and they deemed them ok. After consulting with their Insurance company, they have confirmed that if FCS are undertaking these inspections on behalf of the Community Council and do not flag up something which could be a danger then an element of liability could rest with the FCS. If FCS advise of a danger which the Community Council do nothing about then they should have satisfied their obligations and the liability should rest with the Community Council as occupiers.

Since the above, FCS have now been asked to ensure they clearly state the steps have been routinely checked on each patrol. FCS are also now seeking costings for the replacement of the steps.

RESOLVED: Clarification will be sought to establish whether the steps fall within the Cadw boundary of responsibility and FCS will also be asked that if these steps do pose a health and safety risk to ensure that the access is closed off. The council will also chase FCS for the quote for repairs.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 9.30pm

Chairman: 1st December 2021