

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman), Mr D Roberts (Vice Chairman) Mrs L Davies, Mrs J Arnold, Mr M Taylor, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes. Mr A Parsonage and Mrs T Bowgett.

By Video: Cllr M Williams

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
PCSO's Victoria Davies & Lucy Davies and Cty Cllr David Healey

215. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Sheibani, E Oldham, J Tilston and N Jones.

Due to the police attendance, the Chairman proposed, which was agreed, to bring forward agenda item 4 – Police Report.

216. Police Report

PCSO V Davies reported that the past month had been quiet with no ASB or low level reports.

Members raised concerns of possible county line drugs at Hope Station at peak school times. VD advised that she had not received any reports of this, but would monitor and liaise with the school.

They were asked whether they could assist with the issues of speeding on Hawarden Road, Abermorddu and Fagl Lane? VD advised that she will liaise with the relevant department and undertake checks in these areas.

VD informed the council that PCSO Adeline Olaru will be moving on to a Police Officer position in the coming weeks.

The Chair asked about the new CCTV ipad and VD advised that Adeline Olaru had been trained and will ensure this is shared before she leaves. VD also advised that they do undertake regular walkabouts in the villages, however, this will depend on staffing and other operations/priorities.

The Chair thanked PCSO V Davies for her attendance and the report.

**PCSO's VD & LD left the meeting at 6.40pm

217. Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Taylor declared an interest in relation to agenda item 13 (min 227).

218. Visitor – Cty Cllr David Healey

Cty Cllr Healey attended the meeting to provide an overview of the financial issues faced by FCC. He referred back to the number of years of austerity and the efficiencies that were made, including loss of staff, going forward there will now have to be rationing of services.

On a positive note FCC were surprised with the Welsh Government budget settlement. Previously FCC have been ranked 20 out of 22 – receiving £8m, this year ranking at 8 – receiving £19.5m. This still does not meet the gap of £32m and therefore there will still need to be cuts and unfortunately this year education and social care can not be protected as they have been in previous years.

FCC Cabinet are meeting on the 17th January to discuss the budget and until then he is unable to advise on the % increase and how any cuts will affect our community.

Reference was made to services that could potentially be passed to community councils to assist with the FCC budget. Cllr Parsonage questioned whether the community council should have a contingency fund for any services that may be passed to the community council?

With regard to the planning application recently submitted for Bluebell Fields, he advised that this plot of land is included within the LDP and was not questioned by the Inspector. Recently, Natural Resources Wales has raised concerns regarding phosphates being released from the land with new developments and applications have been refused on this basis. On investigating, there is in fact a water course on the Bluebell Fields and there is a line of travel to the River Alun/River Dee. He has included information on the

planning application in his HeartBeat newsletter to encourage residents to respond. He will also liaise and share any information on this application with the Chair of Planning and Highways to assist with the council's response.

Cllr Parsonage wished to thank Cty Cllr Healey and the committee for all their work on the Hwb, a lot of work had been put into this and it was a disappointing conclusion.

**Cty Cllr Healey left the meeting at 7.05pm and due to technical issues Cllr Williams connection was lost.

219. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair hoped that everyone had a happy Christmas and wished all a happy and healthy new year.

220. Minutes of Council

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7th December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

221. 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 – 7th December 2022
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 7th December 2022
- iii. Finance – 7th December 2022

222. To Review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 179 – a response was received from the PCSO advising that they have been in communication with the Clerk and do endeavour to attend the council meetings, however due to unforeseen circumstance and commitments, this is not always possible. They are regularly in the community whether it be foot patrols, attending schools or conducting community engagement events. With regard to the request on data for traveller sites, they are unable to share this due to data protection.

A response was also received from Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner to say that he supports the attendance of local PCSO's at community meetings but ultimately this is a matter for the local Inspector to decide and he has shared the email for them to consider. He is also more than willing to attend a Hope Community Council meeting if required and available.

223. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence.

An email was received from a resident expressing disappointment at the council not preserving the telephone kiosk and the clerk advised that she has responded providing information on the councils decision.

224. County Councillor Report

The report was provided above. The Chair wished to again thank Cty Cllr D Healey for the verbal report and for the support for the local community.

225. Community Council Draft Estimates for 2023/24

The Council reviewed and considered the amended draft estimates for 2023/24. Given that the Working Balance is lower than expected (usually a value of one precept payment) the Chair proposed to increase this by £5k and proposed a precept of £122,800.

The Clerk advised that the 2023/24 Precept letter has been received from FCC and they have advised that the current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties has slightly increased from 1850.10 to 1853.48

RESOLVED: members fully considered the budget and approved this Council's precept requirement for 2023/2024 as £122,800 (one hundred & twenty two thousand, eight hundred pounds) which equates to the Band D sum of £66.25 per year. Compared to last year this is an increase of £5.09 per year for a band D property (+8.32%).

The Chairman and Clerk was authorised to sign the declaration of precept requirement for submission to Flintshire County Council.

226. Council Calendar of Events

RESOLVED: due to a poor response for the Scarecrow competition, this will now be removed and replaced with a Halloween Decoration Competition. The Grant Applications will be open from early October to late November. The council will also ensure the promotion of the events are shared as wide as possible. Cty Cllr D & G Healey will be asked if they are able to share in the HeartBeat newsletter.

227. LGPS – Clwyd Pension Fund

- i. To report the details of the 2022 actuarial valuation results and
- ii. Consider the Funding Strategy Statement Consultation. Closing date - 13th January 2023.

RESOLVED: both reports were received and noted. The council does not wish to respond to the consultation.

228. Dignity at Work – Bullying and Harassment Policy

RESOLVED: the council approved and adopted the new policy.

229. Council Vision Statement

RESOLVED: Members shared ideas for a Council Vision Statement which the Chair and Clerk will now work on to submit suggestions to full council.

230. Clerks Report

The Clerk provided a verbal report. 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 and will be updated accordingly.

231. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events.
- FCC Standards Committee – Feedback from visits to Town & Community Councils Dec 2022
- Notification of the Single Use Plastic Bill being passed by the Senedd on the 6 December
- Information from FCC on the Budget and Council Services 2023/24
- Network Rail – Update on Hope Station
- Hwb Caergwrle – Letter to Supporters
- FCC Streetscene regarding drains outside the White Lion - Once the Cycleway improvement works have been completed they will carry out a drainage investigation and dependant on the findings they may have to liaise with Welsh Water.
- OVW Wrexham and Flintshire Area Committee meeting – Tuesday 10th January @ 7.00pm.
- In view of the council restarting of the Castle Working Group, a resident has shared information which may be of interest - Flintshire Historical Society have a lecture programme. One of the lectures is by Jo Lane who is the project officer for the Bailey Hill Project in Mold. The lecture is at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Mold at 2.30 p.m. on 28th January 2023.

RESOLVED: these details will be shared with the Castel Working Group should they wish to attend.

232. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items requested.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 7.45pm

Chairman: 1st February 2023.

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Present: Councillors Mr D Roberts (Chair of Committee) Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mrs L Davies, Mrs J Arnold, Mr M Taylor, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parsonage and Mrs T Bowgett.

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

233. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Sheibani, E Oldham, J Tilston, N Jones and M Williams.

234. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

235. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th December 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

236. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 199 – the clerk advised that there is a potential issue making the grant payment to the Bowling Club. They have changed their bank accounts and it is now in the name of two club members and is not in the name of the club. A request has been made if they can provide official minutes from a meeting which states the club will be making this change and who will be named on the bank account. The Clerk stated that if this information is received the council will need to consider if this is accepted or whether the grant needs to be withdrawn. Cllr Roberts will liaise with the club and report back to the council.

A number of thank you emails have been received in relation to the grants awarded.

237. Quarterly Budget Review

- i. The Clerk provided the Council with copies of the quarterly year summary, budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation (Appendix A1-A3). The documents had been reviewed prior to the meeting and no issues were raised.
- ii. In order to meet the requirements of the financial regulations and internet banking, it is necessary for a programme of regular checks of standing data with suppliers to be followed.

RESOLVED:

- i. The quarterly budget/accounts were approved by the Council.
- ii. The requirement to undertake regular checks of standing data with suppliers will be completed by Cllr J Mead electronically.

238. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 4th January 2023.

Payable To	Details	Amount
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee	£5.00
Staffing Cost	Dec-22	£1,562.59
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£105.35
AVOW	Payroll Charges Oct - Dec 2022	£47.85
Mrs S Hughes	Christmas Lights Competition Prizes	£100.00

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 7.45pm and ended 7.55pm

Chairman: 1st February 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chair of Committee) Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mr D Roberts, Mrs J Arnold, Mr M Taylor, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parsonage and Mrs T Bowgett

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

239. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Sheibani, E Oldham, J Tilston, N Jones and M Williams.

240. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

241. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th December 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

242. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 203/166/124 – the meeting with FCC Planning has been rescheduled for 9th January.

243. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

a) [Ref 000769](#). Erection of 70 dwellings, construction of a new vehicular access, landscaping and associated works. Land at Wrexham Road, Abermorddu, Hope. ***The council strongly object to this application and will submit an objection on the following matters: this is the only green space in Abermorddu; increased risk of flooding; drainage; phosphate concerns; capacity of doctors & schools; traffic; bronze aged burial ground.***

ii. Applications received which have been determined by Flintshire County Council.

- a) [Ref: 000699](#). Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 060792 Condition 2 (list of approved drawings) Exchange site plan with a new drawing that retains the existing outbuilding. Oaklea Grange, Sandy Lane, Higher Kinnerton. ***Approved***
- b) [Ref: 000576](#). Single storey rear extension, garage conversion and loft conversion. Rowena, Stryt Isa, Hope. ***Approved***
- c) [Ref: 000454](#). Application to move the garden fence out as far as the lamppost and run it the length of the house to create additional space. 14, Tudor Court, Hope. ***Approved***

244. Highway Matters

Nothing further to report.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.55pm and ended at 8.10pm

Chairman: 1st February 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Present: Councillors Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mr D Roberts, Mrs L Davies, Mrs J Arnold, Mr M Taylor, Mr J Mead, Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parsonage and Mrs T Bowgett

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

245. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from the Chair of Committee Cllr M Williams and Cllrs C Sheibani, E Oldham, J Tilston and N Jones.

246. **To Receive any Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

247. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 7th December 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

248. **To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Min 209/173/130 – attempts have been made to chase Ian Williams re: Old Mill Garden improvements as he was due to meet with his manager in December where this was to be discussed.

Min 209/175 – thanks to Cllrs Parsonage and Arnold for volunteering for the tree works at the Willows. Stuart Body said their support was excellent and they have nearly completed the main planting block. He will circulate a couple of dates in the new year to do the same again.

Min 212 – Richard Roberts has placed an order for the equipment at the Willows and has his first meeting with a contractor to obtain prices for the fencing.

249. **Christmas Lights Competition 2022**

RESOLVED: there was a joint first prize awarded to Mrs A Cresswell and Mr S Morris.

250. **Play Areas**

Nothing to report.

251. **Caergwrle Castle**

As reported under Correspondence of the Ordinary meeting, an email was received from a resident with information on the Flintshire Historical Society upcoming lectures which will be shared with the Castle Working Group should they wish to attend.

A meeting is being co-ordinated with Flintshire Countryside Services and the Castle Working Group to discuss future plans for the castle.

The meeting of the Committee began at 8.10pm and ended at 8.20pm

Chairman: 1st February 2023

Hope Community Council - Summary Accounts			
2022/23 Financial Year			
Income			
	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Precept	113,155.00	113,155.00	0.00
Bank Interest	201.09	13.00	188.09
Refunds/Other (inc Match Funding)	35.00	10,000.00	-9,965.00
CADW - Castle Maintenance Grant	0.00	4,450.00	-4,450.00
VAT Refund	6,892.16	6,892.16	0.00
Total	120,283.25	134,510.16	-14,226.91
Expenditure			
	Actual	Agreed Spend	Balance
Leisure & Environment	8,017.68	23,450.00	15,432.32
Planning & Highways	6,014.35	46,580.00	40,565.65
Finance & General Admin	23,296.51	41,705.00	18,408.49
Reserves			
Reserved - 20/21 playscheme to be spent on youth	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle (grant)	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Reserved - Caergwrie Castle	4,176.00	22,933.00	18,757.00
Reserved - Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (2021)	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Reserved - Street Lighting	0.00	25,804.65	25,804.65
Reserved - VE Celebration/Community Celebration	120.00	750.00	630.00
Total	41,624.54	178,222.65	136,598.11
Current Summary			
Bank Balance as at 30 June 2022	102,806.47		
Total Expenditure	41,624.54		
Total Income	120,283.25		
Balance as at 31 December 2022	181,465.18		
VAT Costs for 2022/23 Financial Year	1,252.57		

HOPE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET MONITORING 2022/23					
Committee/Budget Heading	Budget 2022-23	Actual to Date	Available		
Leisure and Environment Committee					
1.1	Summer play scheme/Youth	£2,200.00	£1,540.00	£660.00	Inv due Oct
1.2	Environ imp/plygrnd	£15,000.00	£1,189.68	£13,810.32	Will be paid before yr end
1.3	Caergwrle Castle	£3,500.00	£5,088.00	-£1,588.00	
1.4	Community Competitions/Engagement	£750.00	£200.00	£550.00	
1.5	Village Improvements	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	
L & E Reserves					
1.6	Unspent Playscheme Youth Provision (20/21)	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Unspent & to be removed
1.7	Caergwrle Castle (grant)	£5,000.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	
1.8	Caergwrle Castle	£22,933.00	£4,176.00	£18,757.00	
1.9	Willow or Porch Lane Match Funding (21/22)	£10,000.00	£0.00	£10,000.00	Will be paid before yr end
	Total	£63,383.00	£12,193.68	£51,189.32	
Planning and Highways Committee					
2.1	Bus shelters	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	
2.2	Street lighting – supply	£3,580.00	£895.05	£2,684.95	
2.3	Street lighting – maint (inspections & repairs)	£30,300.00	£1,382.50	£28,917.50	
2.4	Christmas lights	£8,000.00	£0.00	£8,000.00	Invs due before yr end
2.5	CCTV Cameras	£1,000.00	£3,736.80	-£2,736.80	Over due to replacement camera
2.6	Road & Highway Improvements	£3,500.00	£0.00	£3,500.00	
P & H Reserves					
2.7	P&H Misc/Reserved - Street Light Upgrade	£25,804.65	£0.00	£25,804.65	Invs due before yr end
	Total	£72,384.65	£6,014.35	£66,370.30	
Finance Committee					
3.1	Salaries and N.I. (& payroll fees)	£13,500.00	£10,981.48	£2,518.52	
3.2	Pension/gratuity	£2,160.00	£1,892.65	£267.35	
3.3	Expenses - Clerk Travel (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£195.90	£4.10	
3.4	Bank Fees (NEW)	£80.00	£45.80	£34.20	
3.5	Audit fees (Gen Admin)	£790.00	£560.00	£230.00	Awaiting external audit
3.6	Chain / honours board (Gen Admin)	£100.00	£126.00	-£26.00	
3.7	Stationery & equipment (Gen Admin)	£450.00	£304.73	£145.27	
3.8	Computer, Maint, Hosting, Emails & GDPR(Gen Admin)	£950.00	£1,768.66	-£818.66	over as only increase by £100 and not £1000
3.9	Postage (NEW)	£220.00	£101.99	£118.01	
3.11	Insurance (Gen Admin)	£1,350.00	£1,376.54	-£26.54	
3.12	Subscriptions (Gen Admin)	£780.00	£65.00	£715.00	
3.13	Photocopier (Gen Admin)	£250.00	£144.00	£106.00	
3.14	Election expenses	£5,000.00	£406.58	£4,593.42	Election uncontested
3.15	Office costs (Gen Admin)	£1,475.00	£1,115.68	£359.32	
3.16	Grants	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0.00	
3.17	Chairman's allowance/CIlr Exp	£6,700.00	£0.00	£6,700.00	To be paid last quarter
3.18	Council website (Gen Admin)	£200.00	£84.00	£116.00	
3.19	Training	£2,250.00	£127.50	£2,122.50	
3.21	Noticeboard/Millennium Maps	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	
3.22	Defib	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	
3.23	Working Balance	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	
Finance Reserves					
3.24	Reserves for Village Celebration (VE Day)	£750.00	£120.00	£630.00	Will not be spent - Jubilee celebrations cancelled
	Total	£42,455.00	£23,416.51	£19,038.49	
Summary					
	Leisure and environment	£63,383.00	£12,193.68	£51,189.32	
	Planning and Highways	£72,384.65	£6,014.35	£66,370.30	
	Finance	£42,455.00	£23,416.51	£19,038.49	
	Total	£178,222.65	£41,624.54	£136,598.11	
** All above figures include VAT which will be reclaimed					

