

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Ordinary (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Present: Councillors Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman), Mr D Roberts (Vice Chairman) Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mrs C Sheibani, Mrs J Arnold, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs E Oldham, Mr J Mead, Mrs J Tilston, Mr B Hughes and Mrs T Bowgett

Absent: Cllr A Parsonage

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

177. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

178. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

179. Police Report

The PCSO had confirmed attendance, however, unfortunately did not arrive. Members were disappointed that again the PCSO had not attended the meeting. Cllr Bowgett stated that as a local business owner she was not aware of who the PCSO's were and previous PCSO's have always visited local businesses.

It was reported that issues have been raised of police attending the local traveller site on a regular basis and it was questioned why these visits are not being disclosed in the police reports.

RESOLVED: the council will write to the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to raise concern of the lack of community interaction. The PCSO's will be asked to for data on visits to the traveller sites for the last 12 months and also request that they visit local businesses to introduce themselves.

180. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair wished to acknowledge the Remembrance Day Service and thanked those who attended, it was also lovely to see so many youth groups.

The Christmas lights were looking very good and positive comments from residents had been received.

She expressed her condolences to the Clerk for the loss of a family member and thanked her for ensuring council business continued.

181. Minutes of Council

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 2nd November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

182. 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 – 2nd November 2022
- ii. Leisure and Environment – 2nd November 2022
- iii. Finance – 2nd November 2022

183. Matters Arising

Min 142 – an invitation to attend the February council meeting has been sent to Mr Ellis (headteacher) and Claire Morter. Claire Morter no longer covers Castell Alun School but she has passed this on to her Manager and Area Worker.

Min 148 – an invitation to attend the January council meeting has been sent to Cty Cllr D Healey and he has accepted.

184. To receive any Public Questions/Correspondence.

There were no public questions received.

185. County Councillor Report

The Chair thanked Cty Cllrs David and Gladys Healey for their report which included information on:

- FCC Financial Challenges
- Introduction of Welsh Government 20 mph Issue
- Concerns of FCC residents not recycling and putting items in the black bins
- Flooding and Sewerage Issues
- Routine Ward Work
- Climate Change

Within the report they had asked the council if there are any roads in particular, within our community which should not have a speed limit of 20mph? and whether any members are still aware of any serious flooding issues which have been highlighted since the work undertaken by FCC Streetscene?

RESOLVED: St Cynfarch Avenue off Fagl Lane still remains a concern of flooding which will be passed to Cty Cllr Healey.

186. Community Council Draft Estimates for 2023/24

The Council reviewed and considered the draft estimates for 2023/24 together with a report detailing reasons of increases/decreases. The Chairman went through the budget where Councillors were invited to comment on the estimates before them and discuss any amendments which they would wish to be included in the final budget.

The Clerk advised that the 2023/24 Precept letter has been delayed from FCC and as a result, does not have the information on the current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties.

RESOLVED: the council approved in principle the budget (precept requirement of £117,243), however, the minor amendments will be made and re-submitted in January when it is hoped to have received the current Tax Base of equivalent Band D properties, allowing for an accurate calculation.

With regard to held reserves, the council approved:

- to relocate £2000 from 2020/21 Summer Playscheme/Youth to the reserved Porch Lane/Willows match funding.
- to cancel the £510 reserved for the VE Celebration/Village celebration as there has now been a specific budget created.

187. Civility and Respect Pledge

Members were provided with a copy of the pledge to review and consider. SLCC, NALC & OVW believe is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector and are asking local Community & Town Councils to take the pledge.

RESOLVED: the council fully supports and signs the Civility and Respect Pledge:

- Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk & all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
- Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors
- Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
- Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

188. Bullying and Harassment in Councils

Members were provided with a copy of the guide for their information and consideration. The purpose of this guide is to help Councils and their employees develop a greater awareness and understanding of what

constitutes unacceptable behaviour, the impact it can have on individuals and the Council as a whole and above all, what steps can be taken to address such issues when they occur

RESOLVED: the guide was received, approved and adopted.

189. Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED: the Council approved the engagement of JDH Business Services Ltd as the Council's internal auditor for 2022/23 and confirm that the internal auditor is a suitable person to carry out the work in accordance with proper practice guidance. The Letter of Engagement will be electronically signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk.

190. National Pay Award 2022-23 and Home Office Allowance

Last month it was reported under correspondence that the National Association of Local Council (NALC) have been informed that the National Joint Council (NJC) Salary Award 2022/23 have agreed the new rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2022 of £1925 to all scale points which is to be back dated as soon as possible. In accordance with the clerk's contract, this was processed in the November payroll. Also, with effect from 1st April 2023 all employees to receive an additional one days holiday.

The Home Office Allowance which is also reviewed at this time by the council usually increases in line with the salary %, however, as an annual increase is not written into the contract this requires the council's approval - 5.6% = £1.57 per week - £81.64 per annum.

RESOLVED: the pay award and increase to Home Office Allowance was approved and will be back dated to 1st April 2022.

191. 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.

192. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- OVW & Planning Aid Wales Training Courses and events.
- FCC County Forum – 1st December 2022.
- Alyn Villages – Letter of Support and notification of a festive coffee morning being held at Heulwen Close Community Centre on Tuesday 13th December 10.00am – 12.00pm
- FCC Standards Committee – Feedback from visits to Town & Community Councils. **RESOLVED:** the council will request a copy of the concise guidance on what constitutes a personal and prejudicial interest.
- Letter regarding the Appropriate Sum under Section 137(4) (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2023-24. The appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for increases from £8.82 to £9.93 per elector for 2023-24.
- Flintshire County Council – Preparations for the coming winter. **RESOLVED:** no action.
- Welsh NHS Confederation – Webinar: Cost of living crisis: How to protect people's health and save lives – 16th December, 13.30 – 15.00.
- Clwyd Pension Fund – details of the 2022 actuarial valuation results and of the Funding Strategy Statement Consultation which has now commenced. Closing date - 13th January 2023. **RESOLVED:** this will be included on the January agenda.
- Consultation on the Draft Well-being Plan 2023-2028. **RESOLVED:** no action.

193. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items requested.

The meeting of the Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 7.25pm

Chairman: 4th January 2023.

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Finance Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Present: Councillors Mr D Roberts (Chair of Committee) Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mrs C Sheibani, Mrs J Arnold, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs E Oldham. Mr J Mead, Mrs J Tilston, Mr B Hughes and Mrs T Bowgett

Absent: Cllr A Parsonage

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

194. To Receive Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

195. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

196. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

197. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

198. Annual Financial Assistance

The Working Group (Cllrs Cunnah, Bowgett, Hughes and Arnold) met to review and consider all applications received and submitted a recommendation to the council. A couple of the recommendations were questioned and the Working Group provided the reasonings.

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

1st Hope Brownies	£400.00
1st Hope Rainbows	£400.00
1st Hope Scout Cubs	£400.00
1st Hope Scouts	£400.00
Caergwrle Social Club	£500.00
Castell Alun Bowling Club	£100.00
Castell Alun colts	£300.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	£200.00
Hope Dragon Youth FC	£500.00
Hope Pre-school playgroup	£200.00
Pontblyddyn Cricket Club	£300.00
Samaritans	£50.00
Nightingale house Wrexham	£200.00

199. Payments

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 7th December 2022.

Payable To	Details	Amount
HSBC	Monthly Bank Fee (sept-Oct)	£5.00
Planning Aid Wales	Training - Cllr J Arnold	£35.00
Flintshire County Council	Street Lighting Repairs	£592.50
Flintshire County Council	Caergwrle Castle - Bracken Spraying	£326.00
Staffing Cost	01/11/2022 (inc backpay to April 2022)	£2,016.07
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£49.68
Flintshire County Council	Caergwrle Management 2021/22	£4,750.00
One Voice Wales	Training - Jenny Arnold	£35.00
1st Hope Brownies	Grant	£400.00

Payable To	Details	Amount
1st Hope Rainbows	Grant	£400.00
1st Hope Scout Cubs	Grant	£400.00
1st Hope Scouts	Grant	£400.00
Caergwrle Social Club	Grant	£500.00
Castell Alun Bowling Club	Grant	£100.00
Castell Alun colts	Grant	£300.00
Castell Alun Friends Assoc	Grant	£200.00
Hope Dragon Youth FC	Grant	£500.00
Hope Pre-school playgroup	Grant	£200.00
Pontblyddyn Cricket Club	Grant	£300.00
Samaritans	Grant	£50.00
Nightingale house Wrexham	Grant	£200.00

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 7.25pm and ended 7.35pm

Chairman: 4th January 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Chair of Committee) Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mr D Roberts, Mrs M Williams, Mrs C Sheibani, Mrs J Arnold, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs E Oldham. Mr J Mead, Mrs J Tilston, Mr B Hughes and Mrs T Bowgett

Absent: Cllr A Parsonage

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

200. To Receive Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

201. To Receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

202. Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

203. To review any Matters Arising from the Minutes

Min 166/124 – Due to unforeseen circumstances the meeting with FCC to go through the Planning Portal issue was postponed. This will be rescheduled.

Min 168/169 – street light upgrades at Sarn Lane and Fellows Lane have been requested. Network Rail have been asked about additional/improved lighting and CCTV at Sarn Lane (Hope Station) and they have advised this will be looked at, but a response may take some time.

204. Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

- a) [Ref 064077](#). NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION - Amendments to submitted application 064077. Erection of three new dwellings and associated access and landscaping. Laurel Grove, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. **A response was due before the council meeting and therefore a delegated decision for the four chairs were made. Objection**
- b) [Ref: 000638](#). New porch and canopy to the rear. 2 Willow Avenue, Hope. **Supported**
- c) [Ref: 000634](#). Conversion of existing stables to a dwelling. Rhewl Cottage, Pentre Lane, Caergwrle. **Supported**

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

- a) [Ref: 064173](#). Removal of Conditions 26 & 27 for planning application 054863. Park In The Past Fagl Lane, Hope, Wrexham. **Approved**

205. Highway Matters

- A report that under the Sarn Lane bridge had been very muddy, leaf coverage and slippery – this has now been addressed and cleared.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.35pm and ended at 7.52pm

Chairman: 4th January 2023

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Leisure & Environment Committee (Multi Location) Meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2022

Present: Councillors Mrs M Williams (Chair of Committee) Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mr D Roberts, Mrs L Davies, Mrs C Sheibani, Mrs J Arnold, Mr N Jones, Mr M Taylor, Mrs E Oldham. Mr J Mead, Mrs J Tilston, Mr B Hughes and Mrs T Bowgett

Absent: Cllr A Parsonage

Also Present Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

206. **To Receive Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies received.

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

There were no declarations of interest received.

208. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Min 173/130 – Old Mill garden improvements - Ian Williams FCC advised that he will be meeting with his Manager in December where this will be discussed.

Min 175 -Stuart Body, FCC and Alistair Hemphill, FCS together with Cllrs Parsonage and Arnold will be undertaking tree work at the Willows play area on 14th December.

210. **Telephone Kiosk – Abermorddu**

FCC confirmed a cost of £550 for the Scottish Power disconnection, removal and disposal of the kiosk.

Last month it was also reported that a resident had contacted Cllr Cunnah and the Clerk to express concern that the kiosk was being disposed and offered to refurbish the kiosk and would also consider adopting the kiosk. FCC advised that it would not be possible for the kiosk to be relocated or if it to remain in position could not be adopted by a member of the public.

RESOLVED: the council approved for the kiosk to be disposed by FCC.

211. **Summer Playscheme 2023**

FCC are again looking to provide a summer playscheme, however, they have not yet received notification of the level of grant-funding from Welsh Government for 2023/24. In order to commence recruitment for the summer FCC have requested an 'in principle' response from the council for participation.

The estimated costs are based on the level of grant funding received from Welsh Government for 2022.

Cost of a 3 week playscheme from 24th July, 2023 is £1,595.80 and includes team on site; training hours and supervision. Additional weeks can be purchased at a cost of £531.00 for each site location.

RESOLVED: the council will provide an 'in principle' response to participate in a 4 week scheme and will increase the budget accordingly.

212. **Match Funding 2022/23**

The council has previously approved a budget for play improvements to either Porch lane or the Willows play areas, however, these have been delayed due to pending demolition of the garages at Porch lane and a ground survey at the Willows.

A site meeting was held at the Willows with Aura and the FCC Land Contamination Officer on Monday 28th November, in which suggested improvement work have been approved by the Land Contamination Officer. Members were provided with suggested equipment & estimated costs of £26,000 from Richard Roberts.

The following was raised:

- what about the S106 money due for the Willows? The Chair advised that due to adoption issues, it is unlikely that this money would be received anytime soon.
- Porch Lane was initially identified by FCC as most need of improvement? The Chair advised that Richard Roberts has stated that this play area would only need in the region of £10,000.
- Concerns of installing new equipment at the Willows when dogs are still roaming freely and the equipment should be enclosed with fencing.

RESOLVED: the council approved the proposal for the Willows from Richard Roberts which will be funded together with FCC match funding, however, they do wish to have the area enclosed for safety of the users. A quote will be requested for fencing to be installed 1) around the play equipment only and 2) to include the skate ramp within the fencing area. Should the budget this year not allow for this work, the council will apply for match funding in 2023/24.

Richard Roberts will also be asked to improve no dogs/dogs on lead signage so that Enforcement can then be requested to attend the site.

213. Play Areas

Nothing to report.

214. Caergwrle Castle

- The council received the notes of the Working Group Meeting held on 8th November 2022 and considered the recommendations stated in item 4.
- Nothing further to report.

RESOLVED:

- The council approved for the Working to hold a meeting with Alastair Hemphill, FCS to discuss the points raised:
 - Reinstate green swathe (compartment 10) between Castle (compartment 9) and wooded area.
 - Woodland below summit requires topping to open up and expand view of and from the Castle, especially from Caergwrle.
 - The steps accessing the Castle interior require repair/replacement.
 - Main path from A541 is well maintained, however:
 - Steps from compartment 1 entering compartment 10 need to be lowered. To this end an extra step needs to be added below the first step and a further step added at the fifth step.
 - Path to the left of these steps and the paths leading to the steps entering the Castle, require some maintenance, to ensure they are clear of debris, defined, open and safe.
 - The notice-board to the right of the War Memorial off the A541, at the base of the formal footpath to the monument, requires renewal.
 - The inscriptions on the metal plates capping two posts, located on the north east border of compartment 10, are unreadable and need to be re-engraved.

The meeting of the Committee began at 7.52pm and ended at 8.40pm

Chairman: 4th January 2023