

# Hope Community Council

## Minutes of the Virtual (Zoom) Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**Present by Video:** Councillors Mrs J Hilton (Chairman), Mrs C Olsen (Vice Chairman), Mrs L Davies, Mrs M Williams, Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr H Manning, Mr D Roberts, Mr A Parry and Mrs S Waterhouse. Youth Representatives David Jones and Matthew Taylor.

**Absent:**

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

### 78. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Healey and R Parsonage. Cllrs Mr B Hughes and Mr A Parsonage also submitted apologies due to not being able to access virtual meetings.

**RESOLVED:** Due to Cllrs Hughes and A Parsonage not having the technology or capability to attend virtual meetings the council approved their absences for a further 6 months.

### 79. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

### 80. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reflected on the unprecedented times and the current Firebreak lockdown. She hopes that everyone is all managing to stay safe and well.

The community has now been appointed two PCSO's and members should be aware of their contact details.

She was pleased to say that the virtual Zoom meetings have been working well and this has allowed the council to continue to function.

Park in the Past is now official closed for winter although she is aware that there are paths still accessible and would ask and hope that everyone stays safe. Caergwrle Castle is looking good and especially the new steps that have been installed.

Cllr Hilton will be representing the council for Remembrance Day.

### 81. Minutes of Council and Standing Committees

**RESOLVED:** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be approved as a correct record. The minutes will be formally signed by the Chairmen at the first face to face meeting of the council.

### 82. Matters Arising

On advice received regarding the AGM, although there was no change in Chair, they are required to re-sign a Declaration of Acceptance. As soon as this information was received the clerk communicated with the Chair, Cllr Hilton and this has now been signed and recorded. There is no requirement for Chair of Committees to re-sign.

**Min 60/47** - Ian Williams was chased again regarding the issues on Mold Road.

**Min 65** - The caterer has confirmed that she will hold the VE Day Celebration booking deposit for as long as the council needs.

**Min 69 (i/b)** - Additional comments were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 19.10.2020

**Min 70 (iv)** - A confirmation email has been received from Neal Cockerton on 23.10.2020. He has advised that it is unlikely they will respond with the 10 working day standard due to the potential need to review legal documentation and seek advice on this issue.

**Min 70(v)**- Cllr Davies reported that although the Co-op do seem to have taken on board the councils request to locating their noticeboards in a safe manner, there is still an excessive amount of advertising which she feels is not sensitive to the surroundings. Cllr Hilton highlighted that the council did express the concern of advertising in their planning application response.

**RESOLVED:** the Council again will write to the Co-op to express their concern of the excessive amount of advertisements on the exterior of the premises which is not sensitive and in keeping with the local surrounding. A request will be made to ask them to review and limit the number of exterior advertisements.

**Min 73 (i)** - The access concern at Crossways play area was raised with FCC Streetscene and Aura. Subsequently, Cllr Olsen witnessed the open access whereby the resident was allowing their dog to run freely and foul in the play area. The council also received a complaint from a resident who witnessed the use of the access. Cty Cllr Healey has also raised this concern with FCC.

### 83. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

### 84. 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 following up with Castell Alun regarding Yr 7 students having to leave from the rear of the school, assisted a family who have suffered flooding for a number of years due to a low pavement has finally been resolved and continuing to work with residents and FCC officers.

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

### 85. External Audit of Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2020

The Clerk reported that the audit is awaiting to be reviewed by the final partner and signed off. She has spoken to the council contact Louise Caplin from BDO who has verbally informed here that the only issue raised was to support the comments submitted by the Internal Auditors which related to the Financial Regulations and which the council have since implemented.

Once the Annual Return and Report is received the Notice of Conclusion will be displayed.

**RESOLVED:** the Council accepted the report from the Clerk. The Notice of Conclusion will be displayed and will remain for a period of 14 days and the full Annual Return will be placed on the Council website.

### 86. Child/Family Poverty

Cllr Olsen asked the council to consider offering financial support to families who may be struggling in these very difficult times, such as donating to a local foodbank.

\*\*Cllr Parry arrived 6.55pm

It was reported that the Brownies are currently undertaking a collection for Flintshire Foodbank and the Clerk advised of the Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar.

A number of alternative options were considered and Cllr Hilton proposed rather than a financial donation to the foodbank the council should purchase the items to donate. Cllr Olsen asked if these purchases could be made locally to support local businesses.

The Chair advised that she will be choosing Flintshire Foodbank as her chosen charity to receive a grant.

**RESOLVED:** the council approved £200 towards purchasing items to donate to Flintshire Foodbank. The Clerk will make enquires and endeavour to purchase locally.

The Council will also promote the work of the Brownies and the Reverse Advent Calendar on Facebook and the website.

## 87. Community Centre

Cllr Hilton ask the council to consider submitting a formal expression of interest to Flintshire County Council for premises that may become available for a Community Centre.

At present the council are not aware of any vacant premises but feel that an interest should be expressed to ensure that it is recorded with FCC should suitable premises become available in the future.

Cllr Waterhouse provided a brief summary of Flintshire's Asset Transfer scheme and suggested that the council would benefit from preparing a business plan.

**RESOLVED:** the Council approved that a formal Expression of Interest will be submitted to Flintshire County Council for any suitable premises for a community centre. Cllrs Manning, Olsen, Hilton, Parry and Cunnah will form a Working Group to prepare a draft business plan.

## 88. Welsh Government Consultations

The following consultations were received from Welsh Government with a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It was proposed that this should be included on the December agenda to allow members additional time to consider.

[Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees](#)  
[Establishing Town and Country Planning \(Strategic Development Plan\) \(Wales\) Regulations-2021](#)

**RESOLVED:** these consultations will be included on the December agenda.

## 89. Training

The Clerk circulated to member's information on the One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales training courses.

## 90. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted:

- Email from Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm who will be hosting its first round of informal Public Engagement Days. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, these sessions will be hosted via an online virtual platform on their dedicated website (www.awelymor.cymru) between 3 - 30 November.
- Wrexham-Bidston Rail Users' Association - Newsletter and AGM. Details circulated to members on 13.10.2020
- Flintshire Corridor Stakeholder Briefing Note.
- Flintshire County Council – Street Lighting Maintenance Agreement. The Clerk informed the council that this is being reviewed with discrepancies being raised before bringing to the council.
- Audit Wales - Future Audit Arrangements for Community and Town Councils in Wales.
- Police Report which detailed a number of ASB issues.

## 91. Future Agenda Items

- Cllr Olsen requested Potential loss of Public Rights of Way.

## Planning and Highways

### 92. Planning Applications

- i. The following planning applications were received for the Committee to considered.
  - a) [Ref: 061848](#). Proposed Extension and Internal Alterations. Woodlands, Wrexham Road, Hope. **Objection due to the overdevelopment of this plot.**
  - b) [Ref: 061842](#). Change of use of land for 2 traveller pitches to include 2 no. amenity block / dayrooms (part retrospective) Land near Brier Lodge, Rhyddyn Hill, Caergwrle. **Objection. Concerns were raised on matters such as; retrosepective planning; development in open countryside; bridle path; depth and safety of gas main; location of the septic tanks and rain water feed into this; LDP already has a plan for traveller spaces. A full detailed response will be prepared and submitted. Additionally, the appropriate concerns will be raised with the Flintshire County Council Footpath Officer, Wales & West and Natural Resources Wales.**
  - c) [Ref: 061697](#). Notification of Amendment and or/Addition. Demolition of current stable building and replaced with two floor detached building with garage and hobby room facilities. Hillside, Fellows Lane, Caergwrle. **Supported**
  - d) [Ref: 061772](#). Proposed bay window. Bryntirion Hall Nursing Home, Mold Road, Caergwrle. **Supported**
  - e) [Ref: 061300](#). Application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission. (Planning permission ref. no. 054863). Hanson Fagl Lane Quarry, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Supported**
  - f) [Ref: 061908](#). Demolition of Sun Room and Ground Floor Extension to rear. 4 Kiln Bungalows, Kiln Lane, Hope. **Supported**

**RESOLVED:** the above response will be submitted to Flintshire County Council. Additionally, the appropriate concerns related to ref: 061842 will be raised with the Flintshire County Council Footpath Officer, Wales & West and Natural Resources Wales.

- ii. There were no applications received which have been determined by Flintshire County Council.

### 93. Highway Matters

- i. The updated draft strategy was circulated to all members and proposed that the council should liaise with Cty Cllrs David and Gladys Healey to determine the priorities to submit to Flintshire County Council.
- ii. Speed Surveys were received for Hawarden Road (south) Caergwrle, Hawarden Road (north) Caergwrle, Fagl Lane and Wrexham Road. The Clerk has liaised with Lee Shone and provided a summary of the results.

All locations showed the average (85<sup>th</sup> percentile) speed in excess of the limit and Lee Shone will be submitting all survey results to Go Safe for consideration. These will be reviewed by Go Safe and if meets their criteria a Go Safe Van will attend the locations.

The additional request of a survey for Hawarden Road, Hope (Co-op to Willows) has been submitted and will be undertaken as soon as possible. There is currently a delay due to the backlog caused by the Firebreak.

- iii. Cllr Davies reported that she had received complaints regarding the Hwb having to remove their two advertising signs and that they were under the assumption that this was at the request of the Community Council. Cllr Davies wished to ensure that it was made clear that as Chair of Planning and Highways she did not make this request and neither did the Community Council.

Cllr Hilton advised that FCC does have a policy and an issue with advertising signage on street furniture.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. The council together with Cty Cllrs David & Gladys Healey will review and determine the main priorities of the strategy to submit to FCC. This will be included on the December agenda.
- ii. The report was received and noted.
- iii. The report was received and noted.

Leisure and Environment

**94. Caergwrle Castle**

The Clerk reported that she has contacted Cadw following the council approving the agreement and is awaiting information from them to proceed with the signing. She also informed E.John that the council will be doing a photograph of signing the documents to capture the moment and he was going to run this past the Media dept. This has been chased but no response has been received.

**RESOLVED:** the report was received and noted.

**95. Christmas Lighting Competition**

The Clerk prepared and presented two posters and application forms the completion, one for residents and one for businesses which was approved. The judging will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December @ 4pm for business and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm for residents.

Prizes will be:     1<sup>st</sup> - £50 local business voucher  
                          2<sup>nd</sup> - £30 local business voucher  
                          3<sup>rd</sup> - £20 local business voucher  
                          Business Winner – Trophy/plaque

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs Hilton, Olsen and Sheibani will undertake the judging. Resident prizes will be obtained from a local business of their choice that is able to offer vouchers. Cllr Olsen will assist the Clerk.

**96. Play Areas**

- i. Further reports of damage/wear & tear to the wet pour under the swings at Queensway has been received. The council previously received a quote for this work for approx. £3000 but at the time as this was not classed as a health and safety issue was put on hold.

The planned improvements to Queensway has obviously been delayed due to covid and the clerk advised ideally these works could have been combined, however, due to supplier delays even if the council approved the improvement works now, it could be months before the equipment would be received. The council may now wish to consider undertaking the wet pour repair work before further damage occurs and the equipment may need to be closed.

- ii. Cllr Williams advised that FCC have been asked to cut and tidy the wild flower beds at the Willows.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. The council approved that due to a potential health and safety risk, the wet pour should be replaced as soon as possible.
- ii. The report was received and noted.

**97. Allotments**

Cllr Hilton reported that a number of residents have expressed interest to her regarding an allotment and she asked if the council would support her request to write to FCC to provide these. Cllr Williams advised that residents who are interested in an allotment should personally raise this directly with FCC.

**RESOLVED:** the council will encourage residents who express an interest in having an allotment to formally log their request with Flintshire County Council.

Finance

**98. Annual Financial Assistance**

The Working Group have met to review and consider all applications received and made the below recommendation to the council. Cllr Olsen advised that one application was received that was felt did not meet the criteria. Further information was requested and received, however, on further review they still felt that it did not meet the criteria.

Hope Brownies	£300
Castell Alun Bowling Club	£200
Hope Pre School	£345
Castell Alun Colts	£195
Hope Dragons	£350
Hope Beavers	£270
Hope Cubs	£270
Hope Scouts	£270
Hope Rainbows	£300
Flintshire Foodbank	£250

**RESOLVED:** The above recommendation be approved and grants awarded.

**99. Payments**

To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street light maintenance & Inspect - May 2020 (credit received as per V.32)	£59.69
Flintshire County Council	Street Light Energy - July -Sept 2020	£1,195.05
Greenfingers	Queensway Play Area Ground Maintenance (8 of8)	£164.40
Staffing Costs	Oct Wages (inc overtime)	£1,402.37
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£45.89
iHTTP://	Office 365 - Email Account	£92.83
Canda Copying	Photocopier Rental	£48.00
		<b>£3008.23</b>

**RESOLVED:** That the above payments up to and including 4<sup>th</sup> November 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.

The meeting of the Full Council began at 6.30pm and ended at 9.00pm.

Chairman: ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020