

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Hope Community Council held at  
the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on  
Wednesday 6 January 2016.**

**Present:**

Councillor PR Pemberton (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, P Evans, Mrs L Griffiths, B Hughes, A Parry, EA Parsonage, C Shone, P Smith, IR Sumpter, Mrs A Williams and Mrs MD Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer

**202. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Lucy.

**203. Chairman's Announcements.**

(i) The Chairman wished all Councillors a healthy and happy new year.

(ii) The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Councillor Mrs J Lucy stating that she had found it necessary to resign from her position as Councillor for personal reasons. Councillors expressed their thanks to Councillor Lucy for her excellent work with the Council and offered their best wishes for the future.

(iii) The Chairman reminded Councillors that his Civic Service would be held at Hope Parish Church on Sunday 13 March at 11.00am.

(iv) The Chairman reported that he had spoken with Mr Brian McManus who having expressed an interest in operating the recycling centre in Hope was still awaiting a response from Flintshire County Council on the matter.

(v) The Chairman reported that he had sent an application to One Voice Wales to be included in the ballot to attend a Royal Garden Party in the summer.

(vi) The Chairman referred to the information he had circulated concerning the proposed new sports pavilion on the Castell Alun playingfield an application for which was being submitted for planning permission in the near future.

**204. Minutes of Council.**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 December 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed, by the Chairman.

**205. Matters Arising.**

PCSO Andrea Ellis attended the meeting to update Councillors on police activity within the community over the Christmas period answering Councillors questions as appropriate. It was announced that she had been given the PCSO of the year award for South Flintshire and Councillors congratulated her on the award.

## **206. Minutes of Committees.**

### **Resolved:**

that the minutes of the following standing committees be approved and adopted and confirmed as a correct record.

- (i) Planning and Highways – 2 December 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment – 2 December 2015.
- (iii) Finance – 2 December 2015.

## **207. Budget / Estimates 2016/2017.**

The Council considered the estimates schedule for 2016/2017, copies having been circulated with the agenda. Upon answering various questions from Councillors, the Clerk and Financial Officer drew Councillors' attention to the various options for the precept requirement for 2016/2017 ranging from 1.06% decrease by holding the precept at £51500 to a 3.74% increase by raising the precept to £54000. A proposition that the precept be kept at £51500 was moved and seconded. An amendment was moved and seconded that the precept be set at £54000. The amendment was carried and it was therefore:

### **Resolved:**

- (i) that the estimates schedule as submitted and referred to above be approved.
- (ii) that this Council's precept requirement for 2016/2017 be approved as £54,000 (Fifty four thousand pounds) and that Flintshire County Council be informed accordingly.
- (iii) that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the declaration of precept requirement for submission to Flintshire County Council.

## **208. Clerk and Financial Officer – Retirement – 30 April 2016.**

The Council received the letter of resignation/retirement from the Clerk and Financial Officer, a copy having been enclosed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Council accepted the notice of resignation/retirement and that the Clerk and Financial Officer would be leaving the employ of the Council on 30 April 2016.

### **Resolved:**

that the above report be received and the notice of resignation/retirement of the Clerk and Financial Officer on 30 April 2016 be accepted.

## **209. Post of Clerk and Financial Officer - Recruitment.**

It had been agreed at the previous meeting that an interviewing and short listing panel of 5 Councillors be appointed in respect of the recruitment of a new Clerk and Financial Officer.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) that the following Councillors be appointed to the interviewing and short listing panel for the recruitment to the post of Clerk and Financial Officer:

Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, B Hughes, PR Pemberton and C Shone.

(ii) that the dates for recruitment, short listing and interviews for the above post be as follows:

- (a) Closing date for applications Friday 5 February 2016.
- (b) Shortlisting applications Wednesday 17 February 2016 – 7.00pm.
- (c) Interviews Wednesday 24 February 2016 – 5.00pm.

### **210. Work Place Pensions.**

It was reported that in accordance with minute 147(iii) of the Council meeting held on 4 November 2015 a letter had been sent by the Chairman of the Council to the current Clerk and Financial Officer notifying him of his right to opt into a work place pension as provided for by the Pensions Act 2008. A letter had been received from the Clerk and Financial Officer confirming that he did not wish to opt in to a work place pension on the grounds that he was over pension age, his salary was below the threshold of £10000 and that he would be retiring on 30 April 2016.

**Resolved:**

that the above report be received and approved.

### **211. Draft Bill on Local Government Reform.**

The Clerk reported the main elements of the above Bill. These included a general power of competence requiring at least two thirds of community councillors to have been elected. Councils should employ a Clerk with a relevant professional qualification. Councils should display a good standard of governance in respect of accounting and auditing. Councillors should undertake appropriate training to be arranged by the County Council. The next Community Council elections were scheduled for May 2017 and the intention was that Councillors elected at that time would serve for 6 years until May 2023.

The intention of the Bill appeared to be to raise the profile of community councils so that they had a greater capacity to take on responsibility for local facilities and services. Community councils would be required to prepare annual reports for their local communities and ensure that some form of performance management was implemented. Capping the community council precept had been considered but this was likely to be a longer term consideration.

**Resolved:**

that the above report be noted.

### **212. Bus Services within the area**

The Clerk reported that this item had been referred from member of the public. It concerned the level of bus services from Hope to Chester and he had forwarded this to the transportation team at Flintshire County for a response.

**213. Accessibility of some properties by the Fire and Rescue Service in emergencies.**

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor P Smith who was concerned that in some areas some properties were not easily accessible by the fire and rescue service in emergencies. It was agreed that this item be included in the Parish newsletter reminding people that should they have any concerns about fire safety they should contact the **Fire and Rescue Service on 01745 535 250.**

**214. South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting.**

The Clerk reported an invitation to the above meeting to be held on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 6.00pm at Mold Council Chamber Earl Road Mold.

**Resolved:**

that Councillor P Smith be nominated to attend the above meeting.

**215. Future Agenda Items.**

Future agenda items were agreed as follows:

- (i) Car park Caergwrle – surfacing.
- (ii) Abermorddu Christmas lights – to discuss future arrangements.
- (iii) Year end statement.
- (iv) Meetings with the public.
- (v) Invite County Councillors to a future meeting.