

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Hope Community Council held at
the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on
Wednesday 4 November 2015.**

Present:

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, P Evans, Mrs L Griffiths, B Hughes, EA Parsonage, C Shone, P Smith and Mrs MD Williams. Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

137. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, IR Sumpter and Mrs A Williams.

138. Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Remembrance Day parade would be assembling at the junction of Hope Street and High Street Caergwrlle at 9.50am on Sunday 8 November 2015. He also announced that he would be holding a Civic Service on Sunday 13 March 2016 at Hope Parish Church at 11.00am

139. Visitors to Meeting.

(i) PCSO Andrea Ellis had been unable to attend the meeting but had submitted an incident report which the Clerk read out to Councillors.

(ii) The Chairman reported that unfortunately Mr Will Davies had been unable to visit Caergwrlle Castle today but would be meeting Council representatives on site on Friday 6 November 2015 at 2.00pm. The Chairman also reminded Councillors that the next meeting of the Caergwrlle Castle group would be held next Wednesday 11 November 2015 at 7.00pm at Heulwen Close Community Centre.

140. Minutes of Council.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed, by the Chairman.

141. Matters Arising.

(i) Park In the Past Site Visit – Fagl Lane Quarry – The Clerk reported that unfortunately he had been the only representative to attend the site visit which had taken place on Monday 12 October 2015. This had been a very interesting visit conducted by Mr Paul Harston and in the event of the project being successful would provide an exceptional amenity within the Community. He appreciated that some Councillors had already visited but urged any who had not to endeavour to do so.

Resolved:

that a letter be sent to Mr Paul Harston offering the Council's apologies for the

poor attendance for the above visit.

142. 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 – 7 October 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment – 7 October 2015.
- (iii) Finance – 7 October 2015.

143. County Library Hope.

This item had been included on the agenda following the visit last month of the Headteacher from Castel Alun High School Mr Graham Hughes and to discuss the practicalities of operating the library on a voluntary basis. The Clerk also circulated to Councillors a letter received the previous day from Flintshire County Council consulting on the feasibility of a community asset transfer (CAT) of Hope library with a response deadline of 11 December 2015 and with a requirement for a transfer if proposed to be up and running by 1 April 2016. Mr Hughes had already confirmed that it was the school's intention to apply for a CAT and offer public access to the library for a limited number of hours in the mornings. In order to provide additional public access some sort of voluntary staffing would need to be arranged and it was suggested that a volunteer co-ordinator would need to be identified to take this forward.

Councillors raised issues such future book stock provision and asked that a County Council representative be invited to attend the next meeting to clarify such issues.

Resolved:

that a County Council representative be requested to attend the next meeting of the Council to clarify various issues concerning the community asset transfer of Hope library.

144. Proposal to Close Ysgol Llanfynydd.

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Flintshire County Council advising of the formal consultation document relating to the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd as of 31 August 2016 with pupils transferring to other schools in the local area. The document was available on the County's website and hard copies could be obtained from the Directorate of Lifelong Learning County Hall Mold.

Resolved:

that the above be noted.

145. Hope Recycling Centre.

The Clerk reported emails from Mr B McManus concerning the future of the Hope Household Recycling Centre. Mr McManus would be meeting with Flintshire County Council together with County Councillor Tim Newhouse, Mr John Grey from FLVC and Mr Chris Leicester from Avenue Services on 6 November 2015. Given the timescale set by the County Council for any asset transfer Mr McManus was seeking support, guidance and involvement over the

next two months of any of the local Community Councils wishing to see this facility retained.

Resolved:

that Mr McManus be advised that if he wishes to arrange a meeting of town and Community Councils within the catchment area of Hope HRC, this Council would send a representative to such a meeting.

146. Streetscene Responses to Public.

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Mrs MD Williams. Her concern was that from personal experience she had not been satisfied with the responses and service received when contacting the Streetscene service. There had been examples when advice was not available or in some cases unhelpful. She also had feedback from members of the public to the same effect.

Resolved:

that Mr Steve Jones Flintshire Streetscene be invited to a future meeting to respond to these issues.

147. Post of Clerk and Financial Officer - Work Place Pension/Retirement Gratuity.

The Clerk reported that he was intending to retire on 30 April 2016 after just under 20 years in the post. Under the terms of his contract of employment he was required to give 2 months notice of termination. This would be submitted in due course. However to facilitate a smooth transition he would be updating the job description/contract of employment for the post for consideration and approval by the Council so that the post could be advertised in plenty of time for a replacement to be in post by no later than 1 May 2016. The Council if it so wished could approve an overlap of one Month thereby appointing a replacement with effect from 1 April 2016. This would of course incur an additional salary cost which would need to be approved and budgeted for.

As previously reported the Council's staging date for offering their employee a workplace pension was 1 March 2016. As the current post holder would still be in post on that date the Council was required to make such an offer. The response to this offer would need to be registered online with the Pensions Regulator after the 1 March 2016.

At the same time the Council would need to make an offer of a workplace pension as part of the recruitment package for the new postholder. The Clerk suggested that membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme be offered as part of that package and that appropriate budgetary provision be made. The new postholder could of course decline the offer if the/she so decided.

The Clerk also reminded the Council that at a special meeting of the Council held on 2 March 2005 Minute no 284. it had been resolved: 'that with effect from 1 April 2015 a lump sum retirement gratuity be paid to the current Clerk and Financial Officer in accordance with the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations 1996.' He was seeking clarification from NALC and the SLCC of the status of this following the revocation of the Regulations in 2012.

Resolved:

(i) that the above report of the Clerk and Financial Officer be received and noted.

(ii) that the Clerk prepare an updated job description/contract of employment and report back on proposed arrangements for advertising for and appointing a new Clerk and that consideration be given at that time as to whether to approve an overlap of one month to facilitate a smooth transition and whether to include the offer of membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme as part of the package.

(iii) that the current Clerk and Financial Officer be offered a workplace pension as required with effect from 1 March 2016.

(iv) that the Clerk include appropriate provision in the 2016/2017 budget estimates for the expenditure likely to be incurred in respect of the above proposals.

(v) that the Clerk report further on the situation with regard to the gratuity following clarification as reported above.

148. Future Agenda Items.

(i) Bus Services within the area – Item referred from member of the public Ms Denise Mc Govern. Invite Mr Steve Jones to discuss this issue.

(ii) Accessibility of some properties by the Fire and Rescue Service in emergencies.