

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Hope Community Council held at  
the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on  
Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors P Evans, L Griffiths, B Hughes, C Shone, P Smith, IR Sumpter and Mrs A Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**57. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage and Mrs MD Williams.

**58. Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman suggested that a representative of the Community Action Group be invited to the meeting from time to time to report on their activities and enable a complimentary liaison with the Community Council. This was agreed.

**59. Visitors to Meeting.**

Mr Mike Taylor, Senior Ranger, and Mr Steve Lewis Ranger, Flintshire County Council attended the meeting to discuss various matter. In particular Mr Taylor wished to apprise the Council of an initiative to complete a full Wales circular footpath route which would link the Deeside section of the coastal path back into the Offa's Dyke path at Llandegla. The proposal was to identify a route using existing footpaths to enable the coastal path running along the Dee estuary to pass through Chester then through Bretton eventually passing through Caergwrlle then to Ffrith and on to Llandegla. This would clearly put Caergwrlle and the Castle on the tourist map affording opportunities for both walkers and those arriving by train to visit this ancient monument. It would also offer commercial opportunities with increased visitor numbers.

This project would provide both improved access to the local countryside and would have conservation benefits and hopefully attract additional funding from various grant sources which would enable the heritage aspects of Caergwrlle castle to be further promoted. The countryside section was currently working on a logo to be identified with this project and work would be commencing on upgrading the footpath network and replacing styles as necessary along the route.

Councillors were supportive of this project and were mindful that the Roman village scheme proposed for Fagl Lane quarry appeared also to be making progress and could also be an associated visitor attraction.

Councillors were concerned that the castle ruins could perhaps be made more accessible as the existing path was quite steep in sections. Messrs Taylor and Lewis indicated that this would not be possible within the time scale prior to the Community Council resuming responsibility for the castle in September. It could however perhaps be looked at in the longer term. The issue of further tree work to improve the view of the castle was also raised and it was

suggested that this be done over a period of time in a sympathetic way.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Taylor and Lewis for attending the meeting and explaining all about what will hopefully be a very exciting project.

#### **60. Minutes of Council.**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed, by the Chairman.

#### **61. Matters Arising.**

(i) The Clerk reported an email from PCSO Andrea Ellis advising that there had been no reported crime in Hope over the last month. There had been a theft of a cement mixer from the new health centre site but this had been recovered. There had also been a minor arson whereby youths had set a small fire in a field. This had been dealt with by the Fire Service.

(ii) New bench Cenotaph Caergwrle – The Clerk reported that a bench had now been provided and installed by Mr David Palmer in memory of his mother Thelma Parsonage who had lived for many years in Abermorddu. It had been located outside the Cenotaph Wrexham Road Caergwrle. This bench would now be included in the Council's inventory.

(iii) Connection to mains gas – Councillor Smith reported that to achieve an extension to existing mains gas supplies would involve householders committing a significant up front financial outlay which would probably be difficult to justify.

#### **62. 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 – 3 June 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment – 3 June 2015.
- (iii) Finance – 3 June 2015.

#### **63. Hope HRC**

Following the visit to the June Council meeting by Mr Steve Jones of Flintshire County Council this item had been included on the agenda to discuss the future of Hope recycling centre. It was reported that the decision to close the Hope HRC had now been called in by the requisite number of County Councillors and would now be discussed further at a meeting in County Hall on 10 July 2015. In addition it was reported that the Welsh Government had made an additional grant of £3m to certain local authorities including Flintshire to be spent specifically on improving recycling targets.

Councillors once again raised the issue of the inaccurate County data used to justify closing the Hope site which was still being challenged by the Community Action Group. Furthermore the fact that Wrexham residents were bringing black sacks to Hope in preference to Wrexham

sites where the contents would be challenged was also adversely affecting the performance of the Hope site from a recycling point of view. The geographical spread of sites throughout Flintshire was also an important consideration insofar as residents living in the more sparsely populated southern end of the County should not be required to travel too far both from an economic and environmental point of view.

Councillors were reminded of the ultimatum given by the County representatives at the last meeting that in the event of an expression of interest in the asset transfer of this facility before 1 September the facility would close on that date. The Chairman expressed the view that to operate a facility such as this on a voluntary basis was not feasible on a number of counts including health and safety and lack of technical expertise, apart from identifying a reliable continuous supply of volunteers to operate the facility every week end.

**Resolved:**

that the Clerk write to Flintshire County Council prior to the matter being considered on 10 July 2015, expressing this Council's concerns about the whole process being followed over the proposed closure of the Hope HRC and discussing as appropriate with neighbouring Community Councils the various issues of concern.

**64. Telephone Kiosk Abermorddu.**

The Council had previously decided to consider acquiring the red telephone kiosk located on Wrexham Road Abermorddu from British Telecom. The Clerk reported that he had received a sale agreement document from British Telecom offering the kiosk to the Council for the sum of one pound inclusive of VAT. The kiosk would be disconnected from the telephone network and would become the responsibility of the Council for maintenance, security, etc. It would also be included in the Council's inventory.

**Resolved:**

that the above purchase be approved and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the purchase agreement on behalf of the Community Council

**65. Christmas Lights.**

The Council discussed this year's arrangements for Christmas lights. The Clerk undertook to check with the contractors whether there were sufficient of the old lights left for Abermorddu for a further year. Councillor Sumpter advised that additional lights would be beneficial for Hope and Caergwrle.

**Resolved:**

that approval be granted to the purchase of up to £800 worth of additional Christmas lights for 2015.

**66. Summer Recess – Delegated Powers.**

The Council was requested to authorise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Planning and Leisure Committees to deal with any urgent matters during the summer recess subject those matters being reported back to Council at the September meeting.

**Resolved:** accordingly

**67. Future Agenda Items.**

The Council agreed the following future agenda items:

- (i) Parking generally.
- (ii) Invite Mr Paul Harston to the next meeting to update Councillors on the Roman village project.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

Present:

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors P Evans, B Hughes, C Shone, P Smith, IR Sumpter and Mrs A Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**68. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage and Mrs MD Williams.

**69. Minutes.**

Resolved:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 3 June 2015.

**70. Matters Arising.**

(i) Waen y Llyn Car Park – The Committee considered once again the request from the Countryside section for a contribution of £300 towards improvements at this car park. The majority of Councillors were of the view that as this was a County owned facility the County should meet the cost.

**Resolved:**

that the above request for a contribution of £300 be not acceded to.

**71. Planning Applications.**

(a) The Committee considered planning applications received as follows:

(i) Application SCB/DS/053679 – Notification to fell 2 no. Cypress, 1 no. Birch, 2 no. Willow and 3 no. Sycamore within conservation area at 6 Castle View Fellows Lane Caergwrle.

(ii) Application KCS/053743 – Renewal of planning permission ref: 049871 to allow siting of temporary classroom at Castell Alun High School Fagl Lane Hope.

(iii) Application KCS/053743 – Renewal of planning permission ref: 049872 to allow siting of temporary classroom at Castell Alun High School Fagl Lane Hope.

(iv) Application PXR/053808 – Erection of replacement garage at Hillside Pentre Lane Hope Mountain Caergwrle.

**Resolved:**

(i) that it be noted that the felling of trees in respect of application SCB/DS/053679 had already been carried out.

(ii) that the Council supports applications KCS/053743, KCS/053743 and PXR/053808 above with the comment that consideration be given to the replacement of the temporary classrooms at Castell Alun by permanent structures

(b) Applications which had been determined by Flintshire County Council were reported as follows:

(i) Erection of double garage with office accommodation at Meadowside Gresford Road Caergwrle – approved.

(ii) Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings at 2 Windsor Avenue Caergwrle – refused.

## **72. Highways Matters.**

The Committee discussed ongoing traffic congestion at Hope junction and speeding traffic. This had however to some extent been alleviated following the reopening of the Wrexham junction of the Chester southerly by-pass. Speed activation 30mph signs for Wrexham Road Abermorddu were in the pipeline for provision.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

**Present:**

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors P Evans, B Hughes, C Shone, P Smith, IR Sumpter and Mrs A Williams.

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**73. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, and Mrs MD Williams.

**74. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 3 June 2015.

**75. Matters Arising.**

(i) Tree planting the Willow Hope – The Clerk reported an update from Stuart Body Flintshire CC stating that some maintenance work was currently being undertaken to ensure that as many of the new trees that had been planted survived. This included a watering programme given that recent weather had been so dry.

**76. Willow Playingfield.**

The Clerk reported that Mr Roberts of Flintshire County Council had now gone out to tender for the skate park. Tenders were to be returned by 10 July 2015 and the Council would be kept informed of progress.

**Resolved:**

that the above report be noted.

**77. Play Area Crossways Abermorddu.**

Local residents were in the process of sourcing a suitable bench in memory of Stella Jones and would be in contact in due course.

**Resolved:**

that the above report be noted.

**78. Flintshire County Council Match Funding Scheme Improvements to Play Areas 2015/2016.**

The Clerk reported a letter received from Flintshire County Council regarding the above. A maximum of £10000 was being offered to the Council on a match funded basis with suggested

priority being given to Crossways, High Street and Porch Lane play areas.

**Resolved:**

that approved be granted to the submission of Crossways play area under the above programme and that the County Council be requested to match fund the £10000 currently allocated for this area to enable a more comprehensive improvement of this site.



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held at the  
Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on Wednesday  
1 July 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor PR Pemberton, (Chairman) and Councillors P Evans, B Hughes, C Shone, P Smith, IR Sumpter and Mrs A Williams.  
Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

**79. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cunnah, Mrs SL Davies, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, EA Parsonage, and Mrs MD Williams.

**80. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 3 June 2015.

**81. Payments.**

**Resolved:**

that the payments up to and including 1 July 2015, as attached to these minutes and in the total sum of £1144.13 be approved.

**82. Duration of Meetings.**

The meetings began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.20pm.