

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Hope Community Council held at  
the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on  
Wednesday 2 September 2015.**

**Present:**

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

**83. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, P Smith and Mrs A Williams.

**84. Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman discussed with Councillors the possibility of holding a Civic Service. He would consider the matter and make a decision in due course.

**85. Visitors to Meeting.**

(i) The Chairman introduced Mr Brian McManus who runs the Liam Foundation Charity Shop in Shotton and who has submitted an expression of interest in operating the Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC) on a recycling-only weekend- only basis to Flintshire County Council. Mr McManus was attending the meeting to inform Councillors of his proposals.

Mr McManus was seeking the Community Council's support for his proposal to prepare a business plan which would enable him to continue to operate the Hope recycling centre with the emphasis being on recycling. He had a background in waste and social enterprise operations and was of the opinion that there was a viable opportunity to retain this service.

Councillors were supportive of this proposal in principle but were mindful that the Community Council was not in a position to make any financial or human resource commitment.

Mr McManus thanked the Council for its expression of support and would now move forward with further discussions with the County Council on the viability of his proposal and report back to the Community Council in due course.

The Chairman thanked Mr McManus for attending the meeting.

(ii) Mr Mike Eastwood Area Co-ordinator for Flintshire Streetscene attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Council. He explained his role and assured Councillors that he would attend to any relevant issues that came within the purview of Streetscene services. Councillors raised a number of issues with Mr Eastwood which he undertook to look in to. **Mr Eastwood informed Councillors that he could be contacted on 01352 704768 or 07711437853 (mobile).**

The Chairman thanked Mr Eastwood for attending the meeting.

(iii) The Clerk reported that Mr Steve Jones Chief Officer Streetscene Flintshire County

Council had now advised that following discussions with the Cabinet Member, it had been agreed that the visits of the Transportation Team to Town and Community Council meetings which had been planned for September and October would now be put back to a meeting later in the year. The decision would allow more time for officers from all service areas of the County Council to work on a more joined up proposal, which we could then be presented to the Town and Community Councils for their consideration

He apologised for the short notice of the postponement but was sure that the proposed alternative meeting would provide a more holistic view point and allow each of the Town and Community Councils to better understand the full scope of the communities role in delivering services into the future.

#### **86. Minutes of Council.**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 1 July 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed, by the Chairman.

#### **87. Matters Arising.**

(i) Caergwrle Castle – The Clerk reported that he had handed to Councillors that evening a copy of a letter from the Caergwrle and District Community Action Group which had unfortunately been received too late to go out with the agenda for this meeting. They were seeking permission to carry out clearance work on Castle hill in respect of which they were hoping to apply for a grant by 11 September 2015.

The Clerk had passed a copy of this letter to Mr Tom Woodall of the County Countryside Department and to the local County Councillor for their observations. Mr Woodall had responded by stating that the letter was unclear on how many trees were to be removed and did not indicate enough detail to assess the scope of this request. The phrase 'unnecessary trees' concerned, as it meant many things to many people.

Over the years there had many calls to 'return the hill' to a time without trees, and there is no doubt that this site had had a changing appearance over the centuries and at some stages would have been tree covered. We should not to go back to a particular moment in time to 'recreate' something. The trees and woodland which were there now had a particular wildlife value which needed consideration. His position had been to try to maintain a balance between the view and the need to retain the habitat.

On a legal perspective, the site was within the conservation area, and therefore an application to Flintshire's planning dept. and the Forestry Officer was needed. Also depending on the quantity proposed to be removed, the group may also need a felling licence from Natural Resources Wales.

He recommend that the group continue to work with the ranger and take advice from the Forestry Officer or Coed Cymru Officer and develop an appropriate and detailed scheme which could then be put before and agreed by the Community Council.

The local County Councillor Dave Healey had responded by suggesting setting up a consultation group to consider all the options and report back to the Council.

**Resolved:**

that a meeting be convened for Wednesday 16 September 2015 at 7.00pm at Heulwen Close Community Centre to discuss these issues further to be attended by relevant Councillors and representatives of the Countryside service, Hope and District Community Action Group and the local County Councillor.

**88. 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 – 1 July 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment – 1 July 2015.
- (iii) Finance – 1 July 2015.

**89. Hope HRC**

The Council discussed the future of Hope household recycling centre following the visit of Mr Brian McManus who had made an expression of interest to Flintshire County Council to continue an operation on this site.

As stated earlier the Council was supportive in principle of Mr McManus's proposal and were awaiting the outcome of his asset transfer submission to the County Council.

**90. Telephone Kiosk Abermorddu.**

The Clerk reported that the red telephone kiosk located on Wrexham Road Abermorddu had now been acquired from British Telecom. The Council now needed to consider maintenance works to the kiosk and decide how it would be managed. The Clerk also asked Councillors to consider a representation from a local resident complaining of nuisance from vandalism and noise associated with the kiosk.

In an effort to prevent the kiosk being a nuisance it was agreed that the door should be locked and Councillor Parsonage undertook to deal with this. As far as painting was concerned the Clerk would look in to this and report back to Council.

**Resolved:**

that the above be noted.

**91. Audit of Accounts for the Financial Year 2014/2015.**

The Clerk reported that the Audit of Accounts for the Financial Year 2014/2015 had now been completed and signed off by the external Auditor UHY Hacker Young Chartered Accountants Chester. A Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been duly displayed in public and a Statement of Assurance communicated to the Auditor.

**Resolved:**

that the above report be received and approved.

## **92. Flintshire New Housing Occupancy Survey.**

The Clerk reported an email from Flintshire County Council.

The County Council had commissioned specialist housing consultants Arc4 to undertake a **New Housing Occupancy Survey**. This Study would help the Council understand the occupation of new houses in the County which would help to inform both housing and planning policies.

The Study was a postal survey whereby over 1,800 households from across the County would receive a questionnaire asking for information about their household. The questionnaires were anticipated to be posted out by the consultants during July 2015. Those households receiving a questionnaire could either submit a hard copy questionnaire using the freepost envelope provided or may complete the questionnaire on-line.

The information collected from the questionnaires would be treated as confidential and the Council would only receive summary information.

It may be the case that local residents seek to check that the survey was legitimate and may contact either their elected Member or Town and Community Council. It was hoped that with the information on the Council's website about the survey, residents would be assured that the survey was genuine. It was extremely important that a good rate of return of completed questionnaires was achieved as this would improve the quality of the information obtained.

## **93. Park in the Past Project Fagl Lane Hope.**

The Clerk reported a copy letter received from Lord Barry Jones confirming that the former quarry workings at Fagl Lane Hope had been transferred to the Park in the Past Community Interest Group.

He had also been contacted by Mr Paul Harston who had been approached at the carnival by community councillors who asked if he would be prepared to announce/answer questions at a community council meeting. He would be very happy to attend at the earliest possible time though he would soon be submitting a change of use planning application and would like to speak to the councillors before that was put before them.

I wonder if a site visit specifically for community councillors would be preferable and allow them to grasp the scale and scope of the project and its impact on the local community. If there were physical mobility issues then he could provide a minibus to transport them around various parts of the site.

### **Resolved:**

that Mr Harston's proposal for a site visit be accepted and arranged accordingly.

## **94. Future Agenda Items.**

Invite PCSO Andrea Ellis to the next meeting.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 2 September 2015.**

Present:

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

**95. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, C Shone, P Smith and Mrs A Williams.

**96. Minutes.**

Resolved:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 1 July 2015.

**97. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**98. Planning Applications.**

(a) Observations submitted in accordance with delegated powers in respect of planning applications received during summer recess were reported as follows:

(i) Application PXR/053873 – Construction of balcony to gable end at Ty Horeb Hope Mountain Caergwrle – supported.

(ii) Application LEJ/053849 – Erection of 1 dwelling and detached garage including the provision of access on land at Lower Mountain Road Hope – the Council notes that this is a departure from the Development Plan and as such would have difficulty supporting it.

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

(i) Application Amended application DGJ053445 – Outline application for the erection of 19 dwellings at Ty Carreg Stryt Isa Hope. The Council had previously drawn attention to the volume of traffic already exiting The Beeches onto Wrexham Road. As a consequence the Council had been invited to send a representative to speak at the next County Planning Committee on 9 September 2015

(ii) Application LEJ/053914 – Alterations and extensions to dwelling at 22 Windsor Avenue Caergwrle.

(iii) Application ECH/054087 – Construction of 500mm raised external seating area at Bridge Inn Hawarden Road Hope.

**Resolved:**

(i) that in respect of application DGJ053445 the Council once again draws attention to the volume of traffic already exiting The Beeches onto Wrexham Road.

(ii) that in respect of application LEJ/053914 the Council had no observations.

(iii) that in respect of application ECH/054087 the design should reflect the fact that this structure is within the conservation area.

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

(i) Renewal of planning permission ref: 049871 to allow siting of temporary classroom at Castell Alun High School Fagl Lane Hope – approved.

(ii) Renewal of planning permission ref: 049872 to allow siting of temporary classroom at Castell Alun High School Fagl Lane Hope – approved.

(iii) Construction of balcony to gable end at Ty Horeb Hope Mountain Caergwrle – approved.

(iv) Erection of dwelling and detached garage including the provision of access on land at Lower Mountain Road Hope – refused.

**99. Highways Matters.**

(i) Parking issues generally – Councillors expressed concern over parking and traffic congestion along Fagl Lane and Stryt Isa Hope particularly at busy times and when the school opened and closed. Councillor Evans undertook to discuss the issues with fellow parents and report back any suggestions for improvement. The Clerk was also asked to contact the County Council expressing this Council's concerns with a view to having further discussions on this matter.

(ii) Proposed 40mph speed limit (B5373 Gresford Road Hope) – The Clerk reported that the Order relating to this speed limit review had now been publicised and would continue through the legal process.

**Resolved:**

that the above be noted.

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee**  
**held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on**  
**Wednesday 2 September 2015.**

**Present:**

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

**100. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs C Cunnah, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, C Shone, P Smith and Mrs A Williams.

**101. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 1 July 2015.

**102. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**103. Willow Playingfield.**

The Clerk reported that tenders for the skatepark had now been returned and evaluated and were within budget. The County Council's Procurement Section had supervised and evaluated the tender process receiving tenders from the following two contractors:

(a) Bendcrete Leisure £46,235.00 (£49,885.00)\*

(b) Hags-SMP £49,711.00

\* This is an alternative slightly enhanced scheme.

These companies had already installed skateparks in two locations in the area, at Llay for Wrexham Borough Council and Holywell for Flintshire County Council. They had both been inspected and the installation at Holywell appeared to be of a very good quality.

The Clerk also informed the Council that whilst the County Council would manage the facility insofar as providing regular checks for safety and including the facility within their public liability insurance it was expected that the Community Council would meet any future maintenance costs.

Bendcrete offered a 20 year guarantee and from experience had made installations over 18 years ago which had not required any maintenance. There could however be some additional installation cost given that the location was on or adjacent to landfill.

The County Council was now asking this Council whether it wished to proceed with the recommended tender either the basic scheme or enhanced scheme.

**Resolved:**

that approval be granted to acceptance of the tender submitted by Bendcrete for the enhanced scheme in the sum of £49885.00 and that the County Council be requested to approach the contractor to ascertain whether they would be prepared to negotiate on that price.

**104. Play Area Crossways Abermorddu.**

The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr Peter Guest of the residents group concerning the provision of a bench on this play area in memory of Councillor Stella Jones.

**105. Queensway Play Area Fencing.**

The Clerk reported that the fencing at this play area had deteriorated and sections required replacing urgently. The County Council had obtained a quote of £580 for this work and the Council was asked to approve this expenditure.

**Resolved:**

that approval be granted to carrying out the above repairs in the sum of £580 as quoted.



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

**Present:**

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

**106. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cunnah, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, C Shone, P Smith, and Mrs A Williams.

**107. Minutes.**

**Resolved:**

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

**108. Payments.**

**Resolved:**

that the payments up to and including 2 September 2015, as attached to these minutes and in the total sum of £3522.42 be approved.

**109. Duration of Meetings.**

The meetings began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.55pm.