

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Hope Community Council held at
the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on
Wednesday 3 June 2015.**

Present:

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

32. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs SL Davies, Mrs J Lucy, C Shone, and Mrs MD Williams.

33. Newly Co-opted Councillor.

The Chairman welcomed the newly co-opted Councillor Mrs Amanda Williams and the Council received her declaration of acceptance of office.

34. Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman announced that he had recently arranged a press photograph of the retiring Chairman Councillor Cliff Shone handing over the chain of office to him to mark the start of his new term of office. The Chairman had paid tribute to the long and distinguished service given by Councillor Shone to the local community.

35. Visitor to Meeting.

Mr Stephen Jones Chief Officer Streetscene and Transportation Flintshire County Council attended the meeting to discuss the future of the Hope recycling centre. Mr Jones was also accompanied by Councillor Kevin Jones member of Flintshire Cabinet with responsibility for waste management.

Mr Jones proceeded to set out in detail the background to the current proposal by the County Council to close the Hope HRC site. Flintshire provided more HRC facilities than any other local authority in Wales. As a consequence Flintshire's HRC provision was the most expensive in Wales in terms of overall cost and cost per household whilst at the same time failing to achieve the expected overall recycling rates at all of the sites. It was clear therefore that the level of HRC provision exceeded that provided by other councils in Wales and that the facilities provided at some of the sites did not reach the required standard and that this was particularly the case at Hope HRC site. A full review of HRC provision was therefore required with the saving identified by the closure of Hope HRC site alone estimated to be approximately £200,000 per annum.

In addition to reductions in revenue funding the County Council was facing year on year reductions in the level of sustainable waste management grant which it received each year from Welsh Government (WG) to assist in delivering the challenging recycling targets.

The future of Hope HRC was then considered at a series of member and other consultation

meetings and a proposal for Hope HRC to remain open as a recycling only facility operating at weekends was rejected for the following reasons:

- The site was too small to accommodate the level of recycling containers required to deliver a larger scale recycling service and there was no funding available to extend the site
- The record of the site in terms of recycling was poor with no indication that the situation might improve if the site were to remain open
- The cost of providing the service when compared to the amount of recycling material that would be brought to the site over the weekend would not be sustainable or justifiable
- The need to achieve the financial savings brought about by the budget settlement by WG.

Mr Jones then proceeded to give more up to date statistical information which appeared to indicate that the Hope HRC recycling levels were continuing to fall behind those of the other HRC's in the County.

In anticipation of certain questions Mr Jones continued by stating that he did not believe there would be an increase in fly-tipping as this was a criminal offence and the vast majority of the community were law abiding citizens. Any incidents of fly-tipping would be dealt with immediately. A weekend only service was not an affordable option. The alternative sites available were at Buckley – 5 miles and Mold – 6 miles. Finally kerbside rounds would continue to collect only the recycling material presented in the containers supplied to residents.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Mrs Cunnah to ask Mr Jones questions which she had received from local residents and the Community Action Group. She began by expressing concern that the evidence which appeared to support the closure of Hope HRC was seriously flawed and that local residents had found it difficult to obtain certain information concerning the method used for collecting the data supporting the statistics. As far as savings were concerned if staff were redeployed would this really create a saving? Mr Jones responded by stating that the stall would be moved to current unfilled posts which were presently occupied by agency staff.

A significant issue, however, which was also raised by the representative of the Community Action Group, was that the statistics did not reflect the fact that Hope HRC did not receive soil and rubble which the other HRC sites did and which according to Welsh Government guidance could make a difference of 27% to the recycling success of a facility. This would then place Hope above Connah's Quay and Flint in performance and on that basis one could argue the case for the closure of those HRC's instead of Hope. Councillor Cunnah also raised the fact that the percentage users at each site was not a fair comparison given that all the other sites were located close to large urban areas and that there was a significant difference in population density between the Hope area and the other sites being used for comparison. The cost implications of proposed improvements to the Mold facility in the current financial climate were also raised by Councillors although Mr Jones stated that this was an 'invest to save' strategy and that the intention was to significantly increase the recycling performance at the remaining HRC sites by splitting bags and that there was inadequate space at Hope HRC to offer this service. He did however undertake to check the Welsh Government statistic highlighted by the Community Action Group relating to the impact that the receipt of soil and

rubble had on the recycling success of such facilities.

Finally Councillor Cunnah raised the fact that Hope HRC was the only one in the County with an LL post code all other HRC's being within the CH post code. The general feeling within the area was that the villages in the south of the County made a significant contribution to council tax for Flintshire in return for minimal benefit. Councillor Cunnah also asked that the Community Action Group be thanked for all their efforts in trying to keep Hope HRC open. Councillors highlighted the strength of feeling about this issue as shown by the significant number of local residents demonstrating outside prior to the meeting.

Mr Jones concluded by stating that if a notice of intent (expression of interest) was received from one or more of the local Community Councils to proceed with an asset transfer with a view to continuing to operate the Hope HRC by 1 September 2015 with a target hand over date subject to asset transfer documentation of 1 January 2016 then the site would remain open (Saturday/Sunday recycling only) from 1 July 2015 to the hand over date of 1 January 2016. The site would close completely on 1 September 2015 if no notification was received from the community councils.

This proposal was not well received. Councillors were concerned that any health and safety issues had not been considered. Were they expected to ask council tax payers to volunteer to do a job they had already paid for through their council tax?

The Chairman and a number of Councillors made strong points as to the strategic position of the Hope HRC site and a number of further questions were asked. The feeling of Councillors was conveyed to Mr Jones that the area (Hope and South West Flintshire) had been chosen as a soft option where there would be least opposition to a closure. The general feeling in this area was that it would continue to suffer erosion of services arising from spending cuts because of its location and population density.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Jones and Mr Jones for attending the meeting.

Resolved:

that the above information be received and that an item be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting to discuss the issues further.

36. Minutes of Council.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 6 May 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed, by the Chairman.

37. Matters Arising.

(i) Mains Gas Supplies – The Clerk reported that he had been having difficulty in contacting the Clerk of Treuddyn Community Council on this issue but would be continuing to pursue the matter and report back in due course. Councillor Sumpter commented that current Welsh Government policy appeared to be to promote electricity rather than gas.

(ii) Wrexham – Birkenhead Railway Line – Annette Sandbach AM – The Clerk reported that Annette Sandbach was no longer an AM having recently been elected as an MP to Westminster. Councillor Shone and the Clerk were considering alternative options in this matter.

(iii) Hydro electricity schemes – Councillor Smith referred to the Corwen co-operative hydro electricity scheme which was continuing to seek investors. Anyone interested could get more information on line.

(iv) Railway stations – yellow safety lines – The Clerk reported a response from Network Rail stating that yellow lines at stations were a safety mitigation measure as part of a series of measures to warn against the aerodynamic effect of passing trains. This only applies to stations which have a potential passing speed for passenger trains of 100mph or greater or 60mph for freight trains. Hope and Caergwrle stations do not have trains passing at these speeds and therefore do not require yellow lines.

38. 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 – 6 May 2015.
- (ii) Leisure and Environment – 6 May 2015.
- (iii) Finance – 6 May 2015.

39. Internal and External Audits and Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015.

The Clerk reported progress on the arrangements for audit and processing the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2015. The annual return had been completed by the internal auditor JDH Business Services Ltd and certified prior to external audit by the Responsible Financial Officer. The internal audit report was also available for inspection by Councillors. The internal auditor had approved the return subject to three recommendations as follows:

- (i) the annual return should be amended to show ‘total other receipts = £10205 and staff costs = £6425 (this was as a consequence of a payroll cheque being refunded to the Council and then being reissued).
- (ii) monitoring of income and expenditure against the budget should be reported to the Council on a regular basis and this should be recorded in the Council minutes.
- (iii) the Council should ensure they meet any requirements of the Pensions Regulator.

The Council was now required to approve the return prior to external audit and authorise the Chairman to sign to that effect.

Resolved:

that the above report and annual return for the year ended 31 March 2015 be received and approved and the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return to that effect prior to its submission to the external auditor.

40. Access to Information on Community and Town Councils.

The Clerk reported that with effect from 1 May 2015 and within the terms of the Local Government(Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 the Council was now required to publish certain information concerning public notices, Council meetings and proceedings and register of members' interests on its website. This Act also required that any political affiliation of the members of the Council was published.

As Councillors were aware the Council website had been set up just over 12 months ago and much of this information was already available. The Clerk was continuing to update the website as necessary.

Resolved:

that the above report be received and approved.

41. The Pensions Regulator – Automatic Enrolment.

The Clerk reported that with effect from next year the Community Council would have a legal duty to automatically enrol those who met certain criteria into a work place pension scheme and contribute towards it. The staging date for the Council (date from which automatic enrolment applied) was 1 March 2016. The Clerk had already notified the Pensions Regulator of the contact details of the Community Council and would keep Councillors informed of the ongoing process as necessary.

Resolved:

that the above report be received and approved.

42. Future Agenda Items.

It was agreed that the following items be considered at the next meeting:

- (i) Hope HRC
- (ii) Traffic congestion at Hope junction.
- (iii) Speeding traffic
- (iv) Christmas lights.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee
held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on
Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Present:

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

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

43. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs SL Davies, Mrs J Lucy, C Shone and Mrs MD Williams.

44. Minutes.

Resolved:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 6 May 2015.

45. Matters Arising.

(i) Bryn y Gaer Quarry – The Clerk reported that he had contacted the planning department who had confirmed that they would explore further the suggestion that some form of recognition be given to the original hillfort which occupied this area.

(ii) Waen y Llyn Car Park – The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Flintshire Countryside section for a financial contribution of £300 towards improvements to this car park which straddled both Hope and Llanfynydd Community Councils. A similar request had been made to Llanfynydd.

Resolved:

that the Clerk request more detail with regard to this scheme.

46. Planning Applications.

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

(i) Application ADW/053520 – Erection of two storey extension and alterations at 40 Rhyddyn Hill Caergwrwle together with amended application for the same development received subsequently.

(ii) Application DGJ053445 – Outline application for the erection of 19 dwellings at Ty Carreg Stryt Isa Hope.

Resolved:

(i) that application ADW/053520 be supported.

(ii) that in respect of application DGJ053445 above the Council wishes to draw attention to the volume of traffic already exiting The Beeches onto Wrexham Road.

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

(i) Erection of two storey extension at 33 Bryn Yorkin Caergwrle – approved.

(ii) Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached garage at 26 Kingsway Hope - approved.

(iii) Extensions and alterations to dwelling at Fieldhouse Rhos Estyn Lane – approved.

(iv) Application to vary condition no 1 attached to planning permission 051585 to allow permanent use of childminding facility at 37 Bryn Yorkin Caergwrle – approved.

(v) Outline application for the erection of a dwelling at the Spinneys Huxleys Lane Wrexham Road Hope – approved.

47. Public Footpath Diversion Orders - Public Footpath no 17 in the Communities of Hope and Penyffordd and Public Footpath no 27 in the Community of Hope.

The Clerk reported receipt of the above Diversion Orders.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee
held at the Community Centre, Heulwen Close, Hope on
Wednesday 3 June 2015.

Present:

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

Also present Mr AF Rushton, Clerk and Financial Officer.

48. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs SL Davies, Mrs J Lucy, A Parry, C Shone and Mrs MD Williams.

49. Minutes.

Resolved:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 6 May 2015.

50. Matters Arising.

(i) Caergwrle Castle – Thinning of trees – Councillors commented that the castle ruin was still largely obscured from view because of the number of trees on Castle Hill. The Clerk advised that a representative of the Countryside section would be attending an early meeting at which this issue could be raised.

(ii) Queensway fencing – The was chasing repairs to the fencing at this play area.

51. Willow Playingfield.

The Clerk reported that Mr Roberts of Flintshire County Council still proceeding with the tenders for the skate park.

The Clerk also read out a further email which had been received from Mr Gareth Jones of Willow Avenue continuing to express expressing concern about the skate park proposal. Councillors noted Mr Jones' concerns but having already made the decision to support this scheme were satisfied that it was a much needed facility which would benefit local young people and would therefore be proceeding with the scheme.

Resolved:

(i) that the above report be noted and the Clerk respond to Mr Jones accordingly.

(ii) that the Clerk request provision of a larger litter bin on the Willow as the present one quickly overflows which in windy weather creates a litter problem.

52. 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.

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

Present:

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

53. Apologies for Absence.

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

54. Minutes.

Resolved:

that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 6 May 2015.

55. Payments.

Resolved:

that the payments up to and including 3 June 2015, as attached to these minutes and in the total sum of £3229.69 be approved.

56. Duration of Meetings.

The meetings began at 6.30pm and ended at 8.45pm.