

Minutes of the Meeting held in Ysgol Penyffordd on Wednesday 11th March 2020

Present: Councillors Mr A Wight (Chairman), Mr R Bestwick (Vice Chairman), Mr J Priddin, Mr D Walker, Mr D Williams, Mr R Wakelam, Mrs M Jones, Mrs P Ransome, Mr P Blackman, Ms C Hinds. Dr J Smith-Bellis and Mr A Bakewell (Youth Representative)

Absent:

In attendance: Mrs S Hughes, Clerk & RFO to the Council
Sue Price and Rob Nursaw – FCC Transportation

302. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs E Davies and Mr M Rothero.

303. Visitors

- i. PCSO Andrea Ellis – did not attend the meeting but provided a written report.
- ii. Sue Price and Rob Nursaw – FCC Transportation

Flintshire Integrated Transport Strategy links all modes of transport across the Council and includes improved active travel routes to major centres of employment.

A number of transport studies undertaken over recent years identified the need to deliver sustainable and integrated access into the Deeside Enterprise Zone as part of a North East Wales Metro development.

In addition to the various studies throughout various Transport consultations over the last several years it has become clear that there is still public demand for a cycling link between Mold and Broughton/ Saltney/Sandycroft and Deeside Industrial Park.

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 “The Act” came into force in September 2014 requiring Local Authorities to produce an Integrated Network Map (INM) of proposals for new and improved walking and cycling routes and to deliver year on year infrastructure improvements for Active Travel.

The corridor being studied was included on the INM as a strategic link and formed part of the stakeholder engagement process and 12 week statutory consultation period and received strong support and demand. The INM has since been approved by Welsh Ministers.

Flintshire County Council subsequently commissioned consultants Local Transport Projects to undertake route appraisal and design of strategic cycling routes from Mold into Deeside Enterprise Zone.

The Study comprises of route appraisal, preliminary design, utility searches and constraint searches. The proposal will link the communities of Mold, Buckley, Penyffordd and Broughton, Saltney, Sandycroft and links into existing railway stations Buckley, Penyffordd and Hope.

The scheme will comprise of some off road facilities, utilisation of highway verges, road realignment, point closures and other Traffic Management solutions in accordance with Welsh Governments Active Travel Design Guidance.

Widening existing footways or providing new shared-use paths.

Work will be undertaken over a 4 year period but will be looking at the majority of the work being undertaken in year 1 which hopefully would include the link from Penymynydd, Penyffordd and Hope station. They do not have a definite date confirmed as when they will hear whether the bid for the improvements have been successful, but hope to hear in April 2020.

The 2nd Integrated Network Map will go to consultation later in 2020/21 and can be found on the FCC website under Active Travel.

The intention is to eventually provide links from Mold through to Chester. They may also and possibly Wrexham.

There will be Public Drop In Events at:

- Broughton C.P. School Broughton Hall Road - 26th March 4-7pm
- **Penyffordd Youth Centre - 1st April 2-7pm**
- Mold Library - 2nd April 2-7PM

There will also be an opportunity for comments to be submitted online from the FCC website. This has not yet been launched, but FCC will inform the Clerk when it is available.

The Chair asked who in Welsh Government could the council write to, to show support of the scheme. SP advised Ken Skates.

Cllr Williams questioned the link going through Penymynydd Road and suggested using Chester Road which offers better verges etc. SP advised that this route is already in the INM which has been approved, however, there is no reason why Chester Road could not be considered as an additional route at a later date,

Cllr Blackman raised the safety concern for the access to Penyffordd Station. SP advised that there will be a toucan crossing and further details could be found and discussed at the Drop In Event. This information was the first the council had been made aware of the toucan crossing as they have been canvassing FCC for sometime.

The Chairman thanked them both for their time and the presentation. Cllr Blackman asked for posters for the Drop In Event so that they could be displayed around the village. SP advised she will provide these.

**SP & RN left the meeting at 6.55pm

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman wished acknowledge the increased risks of the COVID-19. Earlier in the day high risk members were given the opportunity of refraining from the meeting. All members who entered the meeting where asked to use the antibacterial hand sanitizer. Collectively we need to be taking precautions and adopt a different behaviour. There has been information and links added to the website on the COVID-19.

304. To Receive any Declaration of Interest – Members Code of Conduct

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

305. Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 12th February 2020

Cllr Ransome reported that the minute 276 states that the WI will be holding a VE Day event which is incorrect. She wished to clarify that they are not holding an event but are involved by way of making bunting and decorating the village.

Also Cllr Ransome wished to clarify her comment in min 290(ii) relating to the land being sold, she wished to make clear that her comment was that she would not be in favour of the land being sold *privately*.

RESOLVED: noting the above comments, these were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

306. Matters arising

Min 242(ii) A copy of the response letter from Ken Skates regarding Network Rail and the number of bridge strikes was circulated to members.

Min 245 The Chair reported that the Council's budget information on the website has been viewed 140 times.

Min 284 The advertisement has been sent/displayed for the vacancy of Youth Representative.

Min 290 Letters have been sent to FCC in relation to the proposed Traffic Scheme for the village and the land at the old school site.

A response has been received from Mark Middleton in relation to the Traffic Scheme. In brief he states that FCC will undertake a number of traffic surveys and collision analysis which should take appropriate 3 weeks which will then be fed back to the community council. Should the outcome of the surveys conclude a potential scheme is required, scheme proposals will then be scored, assessed and prioritised in accordance with the Authorities Safety Scheme Matric for which the highest scoring schemes will be put forward for Welsh Government funding each year.

RESOLVED: the council will respond to Mark Middleton expressing concern of the severe problems that will arise with the increased children walking to school and increased traffic when the Co-op opens. They will request a site meeting with Steve Jones and Mark Middleton to meet at 8.15am at the Spar so that they can walk the route through the village. Cllrs Wight, Wakelam, Hinds and Ransome expressed an interest in attending the meeting.

Min 291 A letter was sent to FCC in relation to the Penyffordd Bypass (A550). A response is yet to be received.

Min 293 Cllrs Bestwick, Hinds and Ransome reported that they attended a meeting with North Wales Fire Service on the 14th February which was very interesting and worthwhile. NWFS advised that the chance of a retained fire

station within the village would be very unlikely. A point raised was that prevention education was very important and extremely important for the more vulnerable residents. NWFS commented that we were the first Community Council to request a meeting with them and it was very welcomed. Members were advised that Wrexham as a Fire Prevention Officer who would be willing to assist the council.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted. The Council will initially contact the Fire Prevention Officer to ascertain how they can assist e.g information, posters, attending events etc.

Min 294 A request was made to FCC regarding the gritting of the White Lion estate and salt bin on the 20th February and followed up on the 4th March. The Clerk advised a response was received earlier in the day from Mark Middleton to advise that he has looked at their winter maintenance policy and based on the frequency of buses this route would fall into a Priority 3. Unfortunately, he did not detail what Priority 3 was, the clerk is waiting on clarification. Cllr Hinds reported that she has been pursuing the salt bin and will follow this up.

RESOLVED: the clarification of Priority 3 will be followed up and Cllr Hinds will pursue the installation of the salt bin.

307. Minutes of the Committees

There were no meetings of the committees.

308. Reports from County Councillors

There were no written reports this month. Cllr Hinds reported that FCC have been working extremely hard to tackle the homeless issue and have created a Homeless Shelter in Sealand.

Cllr Williams reported that he has been undertaking a lot of work with residents who have concerns or issues resulting from the Redrow development.

309. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

310. Planning Applications

a) To review and consider Planning Applications received.

i. Notification was received that Ref: 057240. Siting of 6no. retractable lighting columns. Penyffordd Tennis Club Park Lane will be going to FCC Planning Committee on Wednesday 4th March. Further correspondence received advising that it would not now be heard at the 4th March meeting.

Cllr Williams gave a brief report that the Tennis Club actually already have planning permission linked to their original planning application for 9 6ft flood lights (not retractable) which could be installed. The new application is to allow the lights to be on a retractable column. Cllr Hinds advised that she has received complaints/concerns of these lights by 7 x residents.

ii. Ref: 061044. Erection of a totem and fascia boards. Land adjoining Millstone Inn, Hawarden Road, Penyffordd. https://digital.flintshire.gov.uk/FCC_Planning/Home/Details?refno=061044 ***The Council will respond expressing concerns that the village does not need signage of this size as it is not necessary. A request will be made to either not have any signage or at minimum if they are to install signage that it is reduced in size and is more appropriate for a village centre. A question will also be asked as to why this was not incorporated in the original planning application?***

b) To receive Notifications of Planning Decisions made by Flintshire County Council.

i. Ref: 060267. Change of use from Class A1 (pet shop) to A3 (food & drink) and change of use from Class B1 (garage & workshop) to A1 (pet shop). Pups And Pets, Chester Road, Dobshell. **Approved**

ii. Ref: 060768. Minor Works Planning Application at the Land Adjoining Millstone Inn, Hawarden Road, Penyffordd, for 1 No. External Condenser and 3 No. External Air Conditioning Units. Land Adjoining Millstone Inn, Hawarden Road, Penyffordd. **Approved.**

c) To review Ongoing and Proposed Planning Applications.

311. Penyffordd War Memorial Refurbishment Project (Section 106 Agreement)

The Chair and Clerk had circulated written notes on matters relating to VAT which has recently come to light.

Last month the council resolved they would support a specific payment process, however, on obtaining expert 1-2-1 VAT advice when the clerk attended the SLCC Practitioners Conference in Kenilworth the VAT expert was absolutely

clear that the process agreed by the council with the WMI was not possible and the council would have to repay any VAT claimed. If the council paid any invoices and then received any funds or grants from the WMI or another third party that would in turn change the VAT status from a Council (non business activity) to a commercial operation (business activities) and the council would have to then be VAT registered.

As soon as this information was given, the Clerk communicated immediately with the Chair who in turn communicated to the WMI as this would have a negative impact on their budget. In brief the net amount to the project of routing the Phase 1 costs through the Community Council was around £1,500. So the WMI budget is £1,500 short because the council, unknowingly, got the VAT position wrong.

The Chair advised that to date there has been one invoice already processed for just over £1800 which the WMI can no longer reimburse the council for and is in excess of the agreed S106 budget. Under the circumstances he asked whether the council would consider covering these additional costs utilising the community improvement budget? Following a discussion Cllr Walker proposed that the council covers the cost of the additional invoice paid which will be funded from the community improvement budget which was seconded by Cllr Hinds and agreed by council. Cllr Bestwick expressed that the WMI need to be made aware that there would be no further additional invoices paid by the council.

Cllr Williams reported that he is currently working on a grant application for the WMI. Cllr Wight will chase the WMI for the inventory list of what they require e.g kitchen, bathroom, doors etc.

The Chair reported that he is aware that concerns have been made from residents and members about what funding the WMI have received. He highlighted that the council entered into an agreement to undertake the WMI refurbishment and have invested a significant amount of funds and therefore we need to assist the WMI to ensure that the project is completed. Cllr Ransome stated that the village as a whole should support this community facility which is a significant building. This was fully agreed by the council.

RESOLVED: due to the VAT circumstances that have come to light, the council resolved that they would cover the cost of the additional invoice of £1,875.59 which would be deducted from the Community Improvement budget and not the S106. Cllr Wight will chase the WMI for an inventory of what fixture and fittings are required. Cllr Williams will continue supporting the WMI with grant applications.

312. PPD Community Hwb (Youth Club Project)

Mr Bakewell reported that the Hwb had a meeting with the Scouts, otherwise at this time nothing further to report.

313. Community Amenities

Cllr Williams reported that he is liaising with appropriate bodies for the electric and water connections. He is also liaising with FCC for the final legal agreement.

He has also received information relating to a Tesco grant opportunity which he is following up and if successful would be allocated towards the electrical connections.

RESOLVED: report received and noted.

314. Play Area & Parks

Cllr Wight requested that this will be deferred until the April Meeting.

315. Actions for Environmental Change

Cllr Hinds advised FCC have two working groups and are talking on ideas involving including schools and local businesses. It would good if the community council could also feed through to FCC any of their ideas.

Cllr Ransome advised that the Environment Working Group have already been working on a number of projects.

Members were asked to provide ideas on how the council/community could assist with tackling climate change. The following were suggested:

- AW - Plastic free community
- JSB – raised beds for the village to plant their own food (similar to Toddington Council)
- JSB – plant fruit trees and bushes
- JSB – liaising with FCC regarding biodiversity e.g wildflowers, bee friendly
- RW – try to address the biggest damage to the environment within the community which is Castle Cement
- JSB – look at alternative Christmas decorations that do not require the power of electricity
- JSB – look at village carnival where plastic and power use can be reduced
- AW – traffic lights being on a timer, so switched off when they are not needed

- Clerk – consider offering Grants to Clubs/Organisations within the village seeking to tackle climate change
- Clerk – Join the Refill Revolution
- Clerk – plastic free for venue bookings for parties e.g hire out crockery and cutlery
- Clerk – installing a water fountain at Abbots Lane Community Facility.

Cllrs Bestwick and Ransome did confirm that they are liaising with FCC Biodiversity Officer on a number of matters mentioned above and Cllr Williams advised the council are in the process of planting a number of trees, fruit trees and bushes.

The Chair thanked members for their input which has started everyone thinking on how we can make changes. This will remain a regular agenda item.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hinds will circulate the information she has from FCC and the Clerk will also provide Cllr Hinds with the councils ideas which she will share with FCC.

316. Working Groups

i. Environment

- a) A copy of the notes from the meeting held on 24th February were circulated to all members. There are two new circular walks and work on the design of the leaflets will be reviewed.

Quotes have been obtained for benches and picnic benches for the Millstone. They are due to meet with a Groundworks Company and will then be able to submit total costs for the council to consider.

Cllr Bestwick reported that there is a piece of land behind West View play area that they would like to encompass into green space for the community. They have been made aware of a grant available for trees, bat boxes, nesting habits but unfortunately have been initially declined as permission from the land owner if required, which is FCC. He has contacted FCC Estates & Valuation and has received no reply. Cllr Williams advised that he can chase FCC as it will be the same department who is dealing with Abbots Lane Community Facility. Cllr Bestwick is keen to progress asap in order to resubmit the grant application before the closing date.

Cllr Blackman has placed the order for the additional planters.

Cllr Williams reported that the majority of the trees have now been taken and planted. There are still a few remaining fruit trees.

The next meeting of the Environment Working Group will be 25th March.

- b) Best Kept Communities Competition – will be reported at the April meeting.
- c) Spring Clean – 4th April 2020, 2pm meeting at the Royal British Legion. They are meeting with Emma Watson tomorrow evening from Keep Wales Tidy to confirm plans for the Litter Pick on the 4th April. Glyn Davies will also be attending and they would like to encourage groups from the village to be involved. Emma Watson has informed them of an initiative within Wepre Park where there is a Litter Pick Hub allowing the public to collect litter picking equipment to use during their walks. The Working Group was thinking that the Co-op may be able to assist the community in having a Litter Pick Hub. Cllr Wight suggested that the Community Hwb would be an ideal location.
- They are also having conversations with Paula Vella regarding litter than is produced from McDonalds restaurants.

RESOLVED: costs for benches & installation at the Millstone Play Area will be obtained. Cllrs Williams and Bestwick will pursue FCC in relation for approval for the use of the land behind West View play area and Cllr Bestwick will prepare and submit the grant. The Spring Clean will be promoted throughout the village and will take place on 4th April.

- ii. Infrastructure – Cllr Wight reported that a meeting will be held within the next few weeks where the focus will be around the play area improvements.

317. VE Day Celebrations

Cllr Blackman reported that the Red Lion will be holding their event on Saturday 9th May. He and Cllr Walker are looking to possibly co-ordinate an event at the Royal British Legion on the Thursday evening and would focus on memories, a VE Day Commemoration. They are awaiting availability confirmation from St Johns Choir. It would be planned to be held from 7.30 – 9.30pm

Cllr Hinds advised that the PACA have been involved with the Red Lion who are also including a section of their event for the pensioners.

Rev Adam Pawley has confirmed that he will hold a church service at St Johns Church on Sunday 10th. Cllr Walker advised that it will be unlikely that there will be a parade due to the scouts, cubs, guides etc having prior commitments. He had also hoped to hold a 'sports day event' for the children, but again due to the absence of the aforementioned,

this would not be possible. Cllr Wight suggested a Guard of Honour at the church. Also suggested liaising with Tents and Events for coloured flood lighting to light the church red white and blue.

Cllrs Walker and Wight will be attending the Red Lion to undertake the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War 2 and a member of the council will also attend the RBL at 3pm Friday 8th May.

The Chairman is conscious that the council does not want to duplicate events and suggested that maybe the council act as a coordinator for all the village events e.g decorating the village with the bunting, RBL Thursday evening, Red Lion Saturday and St Johns Church Service Sunday

RESOLVED: Cllrs Wight & Hinds will liaise with the Red Lion, Cllr Blackman will liaise with RBL regarding the VE Day Commemoration evening and Cllr Walker will liaise with Rev Adam Pawley. Cllr Wight advised once the events have been agreed, he will prepare a poster.

318. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

Full information on this has not yet been obtained and therefore will be deferred until the April meeting.

319. Method of Nominating and selecting Vice Chair/Chair Positions.

Due to the demands of the roles of Vice Chair and Chair with the number of projects currently being managed by the council, Cllr Wight asked whether it is appropriate to find out who would be interested in the roles prior to the May meeting. It is important that the council knows who is keen to take on the role and that no one is overlooked, equally the people nominated need to know the demands of the roles. The Clerk suggested that the current Vice and Chair draft a description of the role to circulate to members.

RESOLVED: any members who are interested in the position of Vice Chairman is to express an interest to the Clerk in advance of the May meeting.

320. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received, acknowledged and noted.

- An email from Owl Cymru stating that as from the 31 March the charity will close due to lack of funding.
RESOLVED: the chair proposed that the council send a letter of appreciation to OWL.
- Correspondence from FCC regarding the Regional Homeless Strategy adopted by FCC. Further information can be found at www.streetlink.org.uk
- Mark Tami MP and Jack Sargeant AM – 2020 Surgery Dates
- Flintshire Citizens Advice Annual Report, together with information on their charitable 'Sleep Out' event taking place this year on Saturday 28th March at their Connah's Quay offices and they would be delighted if members would like to take part and help raise some funding.
- A copy of a letter from Jack Sargeant to Julie James.
- Holywell Mayor's Charity Ball invitation.
- Clwyd Pension Fund – 2020/21 Draft employee Contribution Bands.
- One Voice Wales – Training Events.
RESOLVED: Cllr Blackman expressed an interest and will liaise with the Clerk.

321. Members Items (AOB)

- Cllr Walker reported that there have been issues with the installation of the Dobshell defibrillator and is liaising with Jessica Satchwell.
- Cllr Williams advised that he is continuing to liaise with Ian Williams Streetscene Area Co-ordinator and if anyone has any issues/concerns to forward them on.
- Cllr Williams also reported that there has been a 4th amendment to the bus timetables as from 21st February which in his opinion was disgraceful and he will be following this up with Steve Jones. He will be drafting a letter for Steve Jones which will be circulated to all members.
- Cllr Wakelam reported a streetlight out at the bottom of Penymynydd Road. Cllr Williams advised that he has been informed from FCC that (if it is the same light) it is an issue with the Scottish Power connection and therefore will take longer to repair. Cllr Williams will check.

The finance and ordinary meetings were closed at 9.30pm

Chair..... 8th April 2020