

QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2023 AT SANDYCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE, PHOENIX STREET, SANDYCROFT, CH5 2PD.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs. D. Milner (Chair), Mrs. C. Jones (Vice-Chair), Mr. C Bowden, Mr. B. Connah, Mrs. P. Connah, Mr. M. Hughes, Ms. K. Perry, Mrs. L. Povey, Mrs. S. Salisbury, Mrs. P. Titley, Mr. T. Williams, Mr. D. Wisinger

Mrs. C. Hughes – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: A representative from Streetscene, Mrs. D. Jones (resident)

37/23 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

No apologies received.

38/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in respect of the agenda:

Councillor Mrs. L. Povey in relation to a request for a donation from the Sandycroft Hub and Pantry (item 46/23 on the agenda).

RESOLVED - that it be noted the above declarations of interest were made to Council at the beginning of the meeting in respect of the agenda.

39/23 CO-OPTION VACANCY (ONE VACANCY)

The Chair advised that three applications had been submitted in relation to the co-option vacancy. Two applicants were present at the meeting, one was unable to attend due to attending another meeting. Members of the Council voted, and Councillor Mrs. P. Titley was duly co-opted onto the Council. Mrs. D. Jones stayed for the remainder of meeting.

RESOLVED – Councillor Mrs. P. Titley was duly co-opted onto the Council.

40/23 OPEN FORUM - MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Clerk had not received any requests from the public to hold a hybrid meeting.

41/23 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 12th SEPTEMBER 2023

a) Invitations to attend Council Meetings

The Clerk advised that County Councillor Mr. D. Selvester had been unable to attend the meeting due to attending an out of county meeting.

b) North Street – fly tipping and noise

Whilst the fly tipping situation had improved at North Street, a mattress and a bed had been left in the alleyway in recent days. The Chair confirmed she had emailed Streetscene regarding the installation of CCTV in the area. The Clerk had reported ASB issues to Officers at Flintshire County Council and a meeting had been requested between ASB Officers from FCC and the police.

c) Odour issue - soggy mop smell

The odour had increased again in recent weeks due to flooding and high water levels.

Councillor Mrs. C. Jones advised she would contact the relevant Officers at FCC for an update on the investigative work taking place between FCC and Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water to establish the root cause of the odour issues (reported to Council at the last meeting).

ACTION – Councillor Mrs. C. Jones to contact Flintshire County Council for an update.

d) Rectors Lane by Kim's Sandwich Shop

The Streetscene representative in attendance advised that railings are due to be installed at Rectors Lane as a barrier to prevent dangerous parking.

e) Dip in road by Morgan's yard

The Streetscene representative in attendance advised that investigative work has been undertaken to ascertain the cause of the dip in the road by Morgan's yard. The dip has been filled in and compressed to withstand the weight of heavy goods vehicles. The situation will continue to be monitored.

f) Council's Street Lighting

The Chair reported several streetlights in need of replacement in Queensferry, including Queen Street, Glynne Street and Dundas Street.

Council members also reported several streetlights out in Sandycroft. Councillor Mrs. P. Titley volunteered to collate a list for Sandycroft which she will forward to the Chair.

It was noted that the Chair had still not received a comprehensive list of all street lighting from FCC to enable the Council to update the Asset Register.

ACTIONS

- Chair to send Streetscene a list of broken streetlights in Queensferry and Sandycroft.
- Clerk to contact FCC regarding streetlight information for the Asset Register.

g) Overgrown Hedge – Station Road

The Clerk had written to the public house manager at The Bridge Inn regarding the overgrown hedges belonging to the pub on Station Road. The letter had requested that the hedges are cut back to allow members of the public to safely use the pavement.

h) Former New Inn Site – Land at Station Road

The situation continues to be monitored in relation to new builds on the site.

i) Land on Factory Road

The Clerk had made enquiries with FCC's Planning Department to ascertain whether any planning applications have been received in respect of land on Factory Road. The Planning Department had advised that no planning applications for the site had been received to date. However, Council members reported that activity is currently taking place to clear and flatten the site.

ACTION – Clerk to contact FCC Planning Enforcement regarding the matter.

j) Clock in Queensferry

It is still unclear who is responsible for maintaining the clock which is not listed as an asset on the Asset Register.

ACTION - Streetscene to investigate who could repair this.

k) Faulty traffic lights in Queensferry

Faulty traffic lights located by the pedestrian crossing and the hairdressers in Queensferry – this action is ongoing from the previous meeting.

ACTION - Streetscene to follow up.

l) Bin in Children's Play Area

Ongoing issue with birds around the bin - – this action is ongoing from the previous meeting.

ACTION - Streetscene to follow up.

m) Councillor Email Accounts

Item deferred to December meeting to focus on recent flooding in the area.

ACTIONS

- Councillors to bring their devices to the meeting in December to enable email accounts to be set up.
- Chair to email link to Councillors.

n) Standing Orders

Item deferred to December meeting to focus on recent flooding in the area.

ACTION – Clerk to include on agenda.

o) 5G Mast

Welsh Government had been contacted by the previous Chair on this matter, however a response was not received. The mast has now been erected with no consultation with the Community Council. Councillors expressed concern regarding the lack of engagement with Council and the location of the mast.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Jack Sargeant MS to express the Community Council's concerns.

p) Bridge Inn Public House – Councillor Mr. M. Hughes advised that a community meeting had been held at the Bridge Inn on 22nd October. Councillor M. Hughes had been in communication with Savills the agent dealing with the sale on behalf of Punch Pubs. Options are being explored in relation to the establishment of an official co-operative / community group. A steering group is currently being established which includes three members of the Community Council and members of the community.

RESOLVED – that the Chair's report be noted.

42/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2023

Councillor Mrs C. Jones proposed the minutes as an accurate record. This was seconded by Councillor Mr. D. Wisinger.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th October 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

43/23 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Mr. C. Bowden advised of unacceptable noise levels being experienced by residents living in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

ACTION – Streetscene to investigate.

44/23 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS – FLOODING

Further to recent flooding in the area and a public meeting held on 29th October at Sandycroft Community Centre, the Chair had contacted Flintshire County Council in relation to the availability of funding for residents who had been flooded. It was noted that to be eligible for a Council Tax rebate, residents would have to have left their property and been decanted elsewhere due to flooding in their home.

An update had been received by the Chair from Mark Tami MP on 31st October which had stated that further updates were awaited from WG / UK government regarding funding for affected residents.

The Welsh Government do provide a discretionary fund for those on a low income or those in need of replacement furniture.

The Chair informed Council that she has a copy of the Section 19 questionnaire which can be emailed to Councillors for distribution to residents.

The Chair has also requested ancillary funding for more sandbags, given the Council's precept is unlikely to provide sufficient funding in the event of future floods.

The Chair thanked all those who helped during the flooding.

45/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received.

46/23 REQUESTS FOR GRANT PAYMENTS

The following requests for assistance with funding had been received:

- (a) Willow Brook Park Residents' Association – request for a donation towards the Christmas Party for Willow Brook residents to be held in December in Sandycroft Community Centre.
- (b) Sandycroft Arts & Crafts Club – request for donation towards the Christmas Party.
- (c) Sandycroft Hub & Pantry – request for donation towards the Christmas meal.

A discussion took place regarding limits for donations, previously set at up to £150 within the community and up to £25 outside the community. Accounts should be submitted when a request is made to ensure compliance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. A request was made for the criteria for grant allocation be produced for both Councillor and public information.

ACTIONS

- Mrs. D. Jones to provide accounts to the Clerk on behalf of Sandycroft Hub & Pantry.
- Clerk to update QCC website with set limits and requirement to provide accounts when requesting donations.

Councillors discussed and agreed to provide a donation of £100 each to Willow Brook Park Residents' Association, Sandycroft Arts & Crafts Club and Sandycroft Hub & Pantry.

RESOLVED - £100 be donated to each request for donations.

47/23 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payment references 66-73 were approved for payment at the meeting.

Payment reference 44, previously approved for payment at the Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 (minute reference F5/23) had been returned by

HSBC bank due to an issue with signatories. The Clerk had obtained different signatories and had re-issued this payment.

Payment reference 60, previously approved for payment at the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October (minute reference 28/23) had also been returned by HSBC bank due to an issue with signatories. The Clerk had obtained different signatories and had re-issued this payment.

RESOLVED – A transfer of £5000 to be made from one account to another, to pay invoices received in November 2023.

48/23 TO NOTE INCOME RECEIVED

Noted.

49/23 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Clerk presented an Accounts spreadsheet to Council. The spreadsheet continues to being populated on a monthly basis with income and expenditure for financial year 2023-24. Minute numbered references have now been included in the spreadsheet from September onwards, as suggested by Councillor Mrs. P. Connah at the last meeting.

50/23 TO DISCUSS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at present.

51/23 SELECTION OF PLACES FOR NATURE GARDEN DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE – WILDLIFE OR FOOD GROWING GARDEN

Further to discussions at the previous meeting where the Council confirmed their interest in continuing with an application to Places for Nature for a gardening package, Councillor Ms. K. Perry had provided information to Councillors prior to the meeting in relation to the specifications of two development packages (shared via email by the Clerk). Councillors were asked to decide whether they would like to apply for a wildlife garden or a food growing garden. Following discussion, Councillors voted for a wildlife garden.

ACTION - Councillor Ms. K. Perry to progress the above application once written permission is received from the landowner, Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED – Council resolved that an application would be submitted to Places for Nature for a wildlife garden.

52/23 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

53/23 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a) Budget Setting

Meeting arranged between Clerk, Cllr. Mrs. C. Jones and Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah to discuss budget setting ahead of the Ordinary Council meeting in December.

b) Tree Planting

Cllr. Mr. T Williams advised that he had spoken with the farm at Moor Lane and the estate office in Hawarden (William & Hall) regarding the possibility of planting trees along the hedgerows on Chester Road as an initiative to prevent / ease flooding in the area. William & Hall had requested that the Council contacts the Gladstone Estate in writing. Councillors agreed this was something worth pursuing, however given this relates to the Hawarden ward, Hawarden Community Council should be contacted in the first instance to seek their agreement.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Hawarden Community Council to seek their agreement.

54/23 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised.

55/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

56/23 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING

12th December 2023, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

The meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 8.45pm

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Signed Chair

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Date