

QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2023 AT SANDYCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE, PHOENIX STREET, SANDYCROFT, CH5 2PD.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs. D. Milner (Chair), Mr. B. Connah, Mrs. P. Connah, Ms. K. Perry, Mrs. L. Povey, Mrs. S. Salisbury, Mrs. P. Tittley

Mrs. C. Hughes – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Catherine Robinson, Resident.

57/23 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Mr. C Bowden, Mr. M. Hughes, Mrs. C. Jones, Mr. T. Williams, Mr. D. Wisinger

58/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in respect of the agenda:

Councillor Mrs. D. Milner in relation to item 64/23 'Flooding Update' 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.

59/23 OPEN FORUM – MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Catherine Robinson was in attendance representing the Community Flood Action Group and local residents. Ms. Robinson referred to additional funding that is reportedly being provided by Flintshire County Council for flooding resilience purposes, following Storm Babet in October. The Chair advised that as yet no funds have been received.

Ms. Robinson requested that the Community Council maintains communications on this with the community via the Community Flood Action Group, and formulates an action plan in consultation with the community.

The Chair advised that the Community Council are considering preparing a Community Flood Plan with support from Natural Resource Wales, Flintshire County Council and Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water. The Community Council will be seeking professional advice in order to make informed decisions on a future action plan and the most appropriate way to spend any funding received. Quality, availability, and costs will be taken into consideration before any resources, such as flood defence items, are purchased. This will be discussed in more detail in the January meeting.

Ms. Robinson requested that the Community Flood Action Group is involved in this process and consulted on how funding will be spent once it is received. The Chair confirmed that this would be the case.

RESOLVED -

- That consideration of a Community Flood Plan be tabled for discussion at the January meeting, with support from experts in the field.
- That the Community Flood Group be involved in and kept informed of progress.

60/23 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 7th NOVEMBER 2023

a) Christmas Tree

The Chair thanked Cllr Mr. T. Williams, Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah and Cllr. Mr. B. Connah for their help in erecting the Christmas tree and assisting in re-erecting the tree after it had fallen in high winds. Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah is making enquiries as to how the tree can be reinforced further to prevent this occurring again.

b) North Street – fly tipping and noise

Ongoing monitoring is taking place regarding fly tipping incidences and anti-social behaviour. A Community Safety Officer from FCC and a representative from the Police are due to attend the Council meeting in January. Any reports of disturbances and fly tipping over the Christmas period will be provided to the Police and FCC ahead of the meeting.

c) Odour issue - soggy mop smell

Councillor Mrs. C. Jones had requested an update from the relevant Officer at FCC regarding the investigative work taking place between FCC and Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water to establish the root cause of the odour issues. The following update had been provided by FCC:

So far there has been sampling and testing carried out by Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water and from that data remedial action has been scheduled. Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water will be installing data loggers in 3 specific sites that have throughput into their system early January. Further sampling has been carried out on another throughput which will be in place for 4 weeks, this action is based on the previous sample data. We [FCC] will be discussing results and any action with them [Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water] when received.

Contact: Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water 0800 053968

<https://contact.dwrcymru.com/en/report-an-issue>

d) Council's Street Lighting

Following discussion at the last Council meeting in November, a list of streetlights that are not working was emailed to Streetscene. The list included Watkin Street, which has also been reported by Cllr. Ms. K. Perry and several residents. It was noted that the Chair has requested a comprehensive list of all street lighting again from FCC to enable the Council to update its Asset Register.

e) Overgrown Hedge – Station Road

The hedges have not been cut back following a request from the Clerk to the public house manager at The Bridge Inn. The Chair advised that Streetscene can be contacted to enforce this matter if necessary.

ACTION - Clerk to liaise with the public house manager again to request that the hedges are cut back.

f) Land on Factory Road

Planning application recently received from Flintshire County Council regarding land on Factory Road - discussed under agenda item 66/23.

g) 5G Mast

The Clerk has written to Jack Sargeant MS to express the Community Council's concerns.

h) North Wales Fire and Rescue Service – proposed cuts to services

The Clerk has written to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to express the Community Council's concerns.

i) Recommendations for Highways Work in Queensferry

The following update has been received from Flintshire County Council in relation to Highways work in Queensferry:

Signage - Three locations within Station Road have been identified for the installation of new parking signs to direct vehicles to the car parks on Pierce Street and to the side of the Spar.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) - Proposals for a No Loading Ban have been drafted in relation to the issues of parking in the vicinity of KFC. A public enquiry will be held in the New Year at Deeside Leisure Centre in relation to TROs.

Damaged Centre Island – Quotations have been received to repair the damaged island outside KFC on Station Road. Works are being scheduled to be completed within the coming weeks.

RESOLVED – that the Chair's report and updates from Flintshire County Council be noted.

61/23 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2023

Councillor Mrs P. Connah proposed the minutes as an accurate record, subject to the requested changes highlighted by Cllr Ms. K. Perry (see below). This was seconded by Councillor Mr. B. Connah.

46/23 REQUESTS FOR GRANT PAYMENTS

The following wording (in italics) to be added to the minutes under this agenda item:

A request was made for the criteria for grant allocation be produced for both Councillor and public information.

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

The following wording (in italics) to be added to the action in the minutes under this agenda item:

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th November 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record, subject to the amendments outlined in blue font above.

62/23 MATTERS ARISING

Budget Setting

The Clerk met with the Chair of the Finance Committee, Cllr. Mrs. C. Jones, and Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah on 6th December to discuss the budget and setting the precept. The Clerk will formally document the discussions and suggestions from the meeting and bring this to the Finance Committee meeting in January.

ACTION – Suggested changes to the budget to be circulated by the Clerk for discussion at the Finance Committee meeting in January.

63/23 EMAIL ACCOUNTS

The Chair requested that all Councillors use Webmail not Outlook to access their Community Council email accounts once set up due to GDPR.

ACTION - Chair to email login and set up details to Councillors.

64/23 FLOODING UPDATE: CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

The Chair has raised several concerns with Mr. Mark Tami, MP Alyn and Deeside following the flooding issues experienced by residents in Sandycroft and the impact of Storm Babet. Mr. Tami had advised he is looking into these enquiries and provided copies of Welsh Water's drainage system.

Community Flood Plan and Flooding Resilience Grant - discussed under agenda item 59/23 'Open Forum'.

The Chair reiterated that a flooding resilience grant has not yet been received from FCC.

65/23 STANDING ORDERS

The Council's Standing Orders require review.

ACTIONS –

- Chair to circulate the current version of QCC's Standing Orders for review and comment.
- Clerk to update any changes once these have been agreed.
- Clerk to upload a revised version of QCC's Standing Orders to the website by the end of February 2024.

66/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION NUMBER	DETAILS	LOCATION
FUL/001049/23	Construction of a single-storey rear extension to form fully accessible bathroom, together with demolition of single-storey outside WC and kitchen extension	1, Thule Villas Chester Road East Pentre Deeside Flintshire CH5 2DT
COU/001029/23	Change of use to a mixed use comprising of a 2-pitch family traveller site, 1 communal day room, erection of a 2.4m high wooden boundary fence and access gates	Land at Factory Road Sandycroft Flintshire CH5 2QJ

RESOLVED –

- No objections to be raised in respect of planning application number FUL/001049/23
- Objections are to be raised in relation to planning application number COU/001029/23 on the grounds that:
 - Contamination has been identified at the site (risk of asbestos).
 - There is a potential environmental health risk to construction workers and families who take up residence at the site.
 - Councillors are unclear as to why the site has been classed as at a low/ very low risk of flooding.

ACTION – Clerk to raise objections outlined above with FCC in relation to planning application number COU/001029/23.

67/23 REQUESTS FOR GRANT PAYMENTS

Item deferred to Finance meeting in January.

68/23 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payment references 74-79 totalling £2151.41 were approved for payment at the meeting:

74	Sandycroft Community Centre Committee	Sky Connect Wi Fi	£20.34
75	Cherry Orchard Farm Ltd	Christmas Tree	£450.00
76	Netwise UK	Website fees	£528.00
77	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No TZ096726	£237.00
78	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No TZ096662	£237.00
79	Carla Hughes	Clerk's salary December 2023	£679.07

RESOLVED – Invoices authorised for payment. A transfer of £5000 to be made from one account to another, to pay invoices received in December 2023.

69/23 TO NOTE INCOME RECEIVED

Noted.

70/23 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Clerk presented the Accounts spreadsheet to Council. The spreadsheet continues to being populated on a monthly basis with income and expenditure for financial year 2023-24. Additional banking signatories can be added from January 2024 if required.

71/23 TO DISCUSS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at present.

72/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Flintshire County Council regarding preparations for the winter and information on local weather forecasts - Chair to be put forward as key point of contact.

ACTION – Clerk to provide Chair's contact details to FCC.

73/23 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a) Streetscene

The following matters require action from Streetscene:

- Leaves in drains and kerbsides along Chester Road.
- Pothole on Chester Road.
- Mud and leaves in Glendale Avenue coming out onto the slip road and grids with sitting water in them at the bottom of Glendale Avenue.
- Litter from the roundabout up to Hamilton Avenue following recent grass cutting.
- Outstanding actions from Chair's report November meeting:
 - Repair of clock in Queensferry
 - Faulty traffic lights in Queensferry.
 - Birds around bin in children's play area.

ACTION – Clerk to email list to Streetscene Manager.

b) Wildlife Garden

The Chair has been in discussions with FCC (landowners) regarding a suitable location for a wildlife garden. Discussions are ongoing and a further update will be provided to Councillors at the January meeting.

c) Tree Planting

Hawarden Community Council had discussed the proposal raised by Cllr. Mr. T. Williams at the last QCC meeting of planting trees along the hedgerows on Chester Road to prevent / ease flooding in the area. meeting. Cllr. Mr. A. Turton and Cllr. Mr. T. Williams are meeting to discuss this further.

d) Keep Wales Tidy – INFORMATION ONLY ITEM

Cllr. Ms. K. Perry has met with Keep Wales Tidy regarding a litter picking hub. This is solely a Community Centre project, independent of QCC. A date is being sought to launch the hub in the new year.

e) Defibrillators

Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah advised that she has approached the Welsh Ambulance Service in the past regarding free training for the community, however this has not yet been arranged. Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah advised she would chase this up again.

ACTION – Cllr. Mrs. P. Connah to contact the Welsh Ambulance Service regarding defibrillator training for the community.

74/23 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Flooding matters as discussed under agenda item 59/23 'Open Forum'.

75/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Ms. K Perry requested consideration of the SLCC Civility and Respect Pledge at the January meeting.

ACTION - Clerk to circulate the Pledge to Councillors ahead of the January meeting.

76/23 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Tuesday 9th January 2024, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

77/23 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT FINANCE MEETING

Monday 8th January 2024, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

The meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 8.20pm

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Signed Chair

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Date