

QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2024 AT SANDYCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE, PHOENIX STREET, SANDYCROFT, CH5 2PD.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs. D. Milner (Chair), Mrs. C. Jones (Vice-Chair), Mr. M. Hughes, Ms. K. Perry, Mrs. L. Povey, Mrs. S. Salisbury, Mrs. P. Titley, Mr. D. Wisinger
Mrs. C. Hughes – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives from the Community Flood Action Group

21/24 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Mr. C Bowden, Mr. B. Connah, Mrs. P. Connah, Mr. T. Williams

22/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interest was declared in respect of the agenda:

Councillor D. Milner in relation to item 23/24 'Open Forum' discussions regarding flooding.

RESOLVED -That it be noted the above declaration of interest was made to Council at the beginning of the meeting in respect of the agenda.

23/24 OPEN FORUM – MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Flooding – Two members of the Community Flood Action Group (CFAG) were in attendance. The following questions had been posed by CFAG:

1. Are there actions arising from the joint agency meeting, if so, can these be shared?

RESPONSE: The Chair advised that actions have been minuted and can be shared.

2. Can we form a joint Flood Action Plan Committee, consisting of dedicated QCC members and CFAG members?

RESPONSE: The Chair advised that all sub-committees and joint committees have been suspended.

3. We request input on the Flood Action Plan document and ask is there a date that this needs to be submitted?

RESPONSE: The Chair advised that partner organisations have been contacted to set up a date to meet to start populating a Community Flood Plan (date to be confirmed).

4. Is the flood resilience fund now awaiting allocation in QCC's possession?

RESPONSE: The Chair advised that QCC have received the flood resilience grant.

What information is currently held on local monitoring of drains, ditches, culverts etc. and who is responsible and is there a log of assets?

RESPONSE: FCC are currently investigating what information is currently held.

The Chair advised that grids have been checked from the Queensferry roundabout to Chemistry Lane and Streetscene have been informed of issues identified.

Concerns had included rubbish and plastic left behind at the Bromborough plastics site. Cllr. C. Jones advised this is a public protection issue which FCC are already aware of.

The Chair has also been in touch with NRW who audit businesses to see where they drain to. A member of the CFAG asked whether any businesses had been flooded. The Chair responded that she had not been made aware of any.

The Chair referred to NRW's incident logging line. A member of the CFAG requested that this information be shared.

Potential sources of funding are to be investigated by the Clerk.

The Chair advised that copies of maps and plans would be shared, once permission from sources had been obtained.

ACTIONS:

- Minutes of multi-agency flood meeting to be shared with representatives in attendance from CFAG.
- Incident logging line – Chair to share information regarding 3 ways to contact NRW via email, ring or online.
- Clerk to investigate possible sources of funding.
- Copies of maps and plans to be shared where permission is granted.

RESOLVED -That the Community Flood Action group be kept informed and involved in the development of the Community Flood Plan.

The Chair requested that members of the public leave the meeting at this point under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the nature of confidential information being disclosed from hereon in at the meeting.

24/24 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 9th JANUARY 2024

a) Wildlife Garden

The Chair advised that permission has been sought from the landowner, Flintshire County Council, and this had been chased up in relation to an area of land for the wildlife garden. A response had not yet been received.

ACTION – Cllr. C. Jones to email FCC again to seek permission cc Cllrs. D. Milner and K. Perry.

b) North Street – fly tipping and noise

Preventative measures had previously been discussed at the January meeting with a representative from North Wales Police and the Community Safety Team FCC.

It was noted that the current PCSO is leaving, and a replacement is currently being sought.

ACTION – Clerk to contact relevant partners to obtain a progress update.

c) Tree Planting

Cllr. D. Milner and Cllr. T. Williams are progressing.

d) Overgrown Hedge – Station Road

Streetscene have been contacted to enforce cutting back the hedges which are obstructing access to the pavement along Station Road.

e) Overhanging Conifers, Kingsway CLC Trust

The Chair had contacted Kingsway CLC Trust following several complaints from residents in relation to overhanging conifers on the boundary of their premises onto the alleyway that leads to Bernsdale Close. A prompt response had been received from the business and a tree surgeon had been contacted to rectify the issue.

RESOLVED – That the Chair's report be noted.

25/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2024

Cllr. M. Hughes proposed the minutes as an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr. L. Povey.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

26/24 MATTERS ARISING

a) Notice Boards

Cllr M. Hughes had sought quotations for a wall mounted aluminium framed notice board to replace the one outside the scout hut which had been damaged during adverse weather. A discussion took place regarding where to locate the notice board and the preferred suggestion was on the side of the wall by the Premier shop in Pheonix Street (subject to discussion and agreement with the shop owner). The Clerk had also contacted Greenbarnes for a quotation.

ACTIONS –

- Cllr M. Hughes to speak to the shop owner.
- Clerk to circulate additional quotations from Greenbarnes once received.

RESOLVED – Final decision regarding Notice Boards to be taken at the next meeting of the Council in March.

27/24 FLOODING UPDATE / COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

Covered under agenda item 23/24 'Open Forum'.

28/24 STANDING ORDERS

The Chair's email regarding standing orders for review by Councillors had not been received by all Councillors.

ACTION

- Chair to recirculate email regarding standing orders for review and comment.

RESOLVED – Standing Orders to be reviewed by Councillors.

29/24 D-DAY 80 YEAR EVENT – THURSDAY 6th JUNE 2024

Ideas for events to mark the occasion were provisionally discussed. Cllr. K. Perry raised concern regarding the cost of lighting the lamp of light at £55 which could only be used once. The Chair requested that Councillors reflect on discussions at the meeting, pending formal agreement at the next meeting in March.

Cllr. K. Perry suggested that the Chair writes to the members of the community who put up poppies to thank them.

ACTION

- Chair to thank members of the community who put up poppies.

RESOLVED – Final decision regarding D-Day Event to be taken at the next meeting of the Council in March.

30/24 HYBRID MEETINGS

Cllr. K. Perry had advised that the sound quality and visual technology had been poor at a recent hybrid meeting. Cllr. D. Milner advised that she has a camera that could be used. Cllr. M. Hughes advised he could test the equipment for use at future hybrid meetings.

ACTION – Cllr. M. Hughes to test equipment for use at future hybrid meetings.

RESOLVED – Cllr. K. Perry's feedback was noted and will be addressed.

31/24 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Clerk had circulated nominations for the Standards Committee Town and Community Council representative and pen portraits. Following discussion, the majority of Councillors in attendance wished to nominate Councillor Ros Griffiths, with the exception of Cllr. K. Perry who wished to nominate Cllr. David Ellis.

ACTION – Clerk to inform FCC that the Council majority wished to nominate Cllr Ros Griffiths.

RESOLVED – Council majority in attendance wished to nominate Cllr Ros Griffiths on the Standards Committee Town and Community Council.

32/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received during the period.

33/24 REQUESTS FOR GRANT PAYMENTS

The following request for assistance with funding had been received:

- (a) Marie Curie Cymru – request for a donation towards the annual Great Daffodil Appeal.

Councillors discussed and agreed to donate £50 to the above cause.

RESOLVED – Council authorised a £50 donation to the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal.

34/24 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Payment references 88-97 totalling £4218.33 were approved for payment at the meeting:

88	Sandycroft Community Centre Committee	Sky Connect Wi-Fi	£20.34
89	Clerk	Clerk's Salary January 2024	£679.07
90	HMRC	Tax and NI Payments	£179.28
91	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No: TZ097109	£474.00
92	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No: TZ097113	£869.98
93	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No: TZ097017	£237.00
94	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No: TZ097143	£474.00
95	Flintshire County Council	Street Light Maintenance Invoice No: TZ097144	£1185.00
96	Marie Curie Cymru	Donation	£50.00
97	Previous Clerk	Previous Clerk's expenses	£49.66

RESOLVED – Invoices authorised for payment. A transfer of £5000 to be made from one account to another to pay for invoices received in January 2024.

35/24 TO NOTE INCOME RECEIVED

Council noted that the Flood Resilience Grant had been received from FCC.

36/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Clerk presented the Accounts spreadsheet to Council. The spreadsheet continues to being populated monthly with income and expenditure for financial year 2023-24.

37/24 TO DISCUSS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at present.

38/24 CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Submission of Expense Claim** - Cllr. L. Povey and Cllr. S. Salisbury reviewed an expense claim received from the previous Clerk at the meeting. The expenses had also been reviewed by the QCC Chair and Chair of the Finance Committee prior to the meeting. Receipted evidence had been provided for the amount of £49.66 and a cheque for this amount was authorised by Council at the meeting. Receipted evidence had not been provided for the remaining £57.28, therefore Council did not authorise this payment. It was agreed that a claim form and letter would be sent to the previous Clerk requesting that receipted evidence be provided for the remaining £57.28.

ACTION - Chair to write to the previous Clerk attaching a claim form and requesting that receipts are provided for the remaining £57.28.

RESOLVED – Council authorised expenses totalling £49.66 to be paid to the previous Clerk.

b) **HSBC** - HSBC had written to the Clerk to advise that a recent application for internet and telephone banking had been rejected. Councillors agreed that the Chair should write a letter of complaint on behalf of QCC in relation to ongoing issues. It was agreed that Cllrs Mr. D. Wisinger and Mrs. C. Jones would accompany the Clerk to the bank to resolve the internet banking issue.

ACTIONS

- Chair to write a letter of complaint to HSBC.
- Clerk to make an appointment at the bank.

RESOLVED – Chair to write a letter of complaint to HSBC. Cllrs Mr. D. Wisinger and Mrs. C. Jones and the Clerk to meet with HSBC.

39/24 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

None.

40/24 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Covered under agenda item 23/24 'Open Forum'.

41/24 DATE OF COUNCIL'S NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Ordinary Meeting - Tuesday 12th March 2024, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

The meeting opened at 7.03pm and closed at 9pm

..... Signed Chair

..... Date