

QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2024 AT SANDYCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE, PHOENIX STREET, SANDYCROFT, CH5 2PD.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs. D. Milner (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

Mrs. C. Hughes – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 residents representing the Community Flood Action Group – for agenda items 03/24 Open Forum and 08/24 Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Issues.

A representative from FCC with expertise in Community Safety and a representative from North Wales Police - for agenda items 03/24 Open Forum and 08/24 Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Issues.

01/24 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Mrs. C. Jones, Mr. D. Wisinger

02/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in respect of the agenda:

Councillor Mrs. D. Milner in relation to item 03/24 'Open Forum' discussions regarding recent flooding.

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.

03/24 OPEN FORUM – MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Chair welcomed Catherine Robinson and Debbie Robert to the meeting who were in attendance representing the Community Flood Action Group and local residents. Four questions relating to local flooding concerns and the FCC flood resilience grant had been submitted to the Council by email ahead of the meeting. The questions had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Q1. What is the planned timeline for proposals to be considered and a decision made in how to allocate the fund?

Q2. What is the process for members of the community to submit suggestions about how to utilise the fund?

Q3. Do you plan to consult with the community and if yes how and when will you do this?

Q4. Will you form a sub-committee and consider co-opting members of the community flood action group to work together?

The Chair advised that a QCC meeting is being arranged on Tuesday 30th January 2024, 7pm at Sandycroft Community Centre to begin to develop a Community Flood Action Plan based on the template provided by the Regional Emergency Planning Service. Representatives from the Community Flood Action Group are invited to attend, and the Council is keen to work collaboratively with the Group and professionals with expertise in flooding (e.g. NRW), who will also be invited to attend. The Community Flood Action Group are meeting on 22nd January 2024. The Chair advised she is planning to attend on behalf of the Community Council.

RESOLVED -

- That a meeting be arranged for Tuesday 30th January 2024, 7pm at Sandycroft Community Centre to begin to develop a Community Flood Action Plan with representatives from the Community Flood Action Group and experts in the field from partner organisations such as NRW.

The Chair thanked representatives from the Community Flood Action Group for attending the meeting.

04/24 CHAIR'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 12th DECEMBER 2023

a) Wildlife Garden

An area of land for the wildlife garden is being followed up by the relevant parties. Permission is being sought from the landowner, Flintshire County Council.

b) North Street – fly tipping and noise

Discussed under agenda item 08/24.

c) Tree Planting

Cllr. D. Milner and Cllr. T. Williams are planning to meet with Cllr. A. Turton to discuss planting trees as part of a collaborative project with Hawarden Community Council to prevent flooding. The Hawarden Community Council Clerk has written to the Hawarden Estate regarding the proposed initiative.

d) D-Day 80 Years 6th June 2024

Council noted that it is the 80th D-Day anniversary on 6th June this year. Ideas for events to mark the occasion were discussed, including lighting a lamp of peace. The Chair requested that Councillors bring suggestions to commemorate the D-Day 80th anniversary to the next meeting in February.

ACTIONS –

- Clerk to email information to Councillors.

- Councillors to bring suggestions to commemorate the D-Day 80th anniversary to the next meeting in February.

e) Streetscene Issues including Street Lighting

Following discussion at the last Council meeting in December, 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 and had still not been repaired. It was noted that the Chair had received a list of all street lighting again from FCC to enable the Council to update its Asset Register.

f) 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, and despite quotations being provided to carry out the work. The Chair advised that Streetscene can be contacted to enforce this matter if necessary.

ACTION - Clerk to liaise with Streetscene.

g) Land on Factory Road

Objection raised to the planning application with FCC on 01.01.24.

h) Poultry Spillage

Officers from FCC have spoken with NRW and an investigation is being carried out on this matter.

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

05/24 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2023

Councillor Mr. B. Connah proposed the minutes as an accurate record. This was seconded by Councillor Cllr Mrs. S. Salisbury.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th December 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Cllr K. Perry had emailed the Clerk regarding agenda item 73/23 d) Keep Wales Tidy Hub Litter Picking Hub in the previous minutes to advise that this was a Community Centre project not a Community Council project. The item will therefore be marked as an information only item in the minutes.

06/24 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Standing Orders** – to be agreed at the meeting in February. Cllr. K. Perry asked the Chair to circulate a copy of the most recent Model Standing Orders prior to any amendments to all Council members.

ACTIONS –

- The Chair requested feedback and comments by 31 January.
 - Chair to circulate Model Standing Orders.
- b) **Streetscene** - The Chair advised that a representative from Streetscene can no longer attend Council meetings due to budget cuts. The Chair requested that any issues are emailed directly to Streetscene.

ACTION – Clerk to email Streetscene contact details to Councillors.

- c) **Defibrillators** – Cllr. P. Connah had contacted the North Wales Ambulance Service regarding training for the community. Contact details had been provided for the North East Wales Coordinator with responsibility in this area. A further update will be provided once more information is available.

07/24 FLOODING UPDATE - COMMUNITY FLOOD PLAN

Covered under agenda item 03/24 'Open Forum'.

08/24 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

A representative from FCC was in attendance with expertise in Community Safety and a representative from North Wales Police. The Clerk had provided both with an update regarding ongoing issues, particularly in the North Street area of Sandycroft.

A discussion took place regarding the holistic approach to anti-social behaviour, via partnership working and preventative measures such as communication, engagement and involvement with communities to target offenders. It was noted that there has been a 13% reduction year on year in crime rates across North Wales compared with a Wales average of 10%.

Preventative measures to address the ongoing issues included:

- Registering with Rent Smart Wales to tackle the issues with involvement from Landlords.
- Emailing the North Wales Police representative with the addresses where issues are persistent and ongoing.
- Purchasing an AMPR camera.
- Participating in community crime prevention initiatives, such as Neighbourhood Watch and Community Park Watch.
- Conducting an environmental audit in Rectors Lane to protect businesses from criminal activity.

The Chair thanked the representative from FCC and the representative from North Wales Police for attending the meeting and providing advice and guidance in this area.

09/24 SLCC CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Chair read through elements of the SLCC Civility and Respect Pledge. Councillors were satisfied that all elements of the Pledge were in place. Cllr P. Connah proposed adoption of the Pledge, Cllr K. Perry seconded the proposal. All Councillors agreed to sign up to and adopt the Pledge.

RESOLVED – Council resolved to sign up to and adopt the pledge.

ACTIONS –

- Chair to email information to Councillors regarding the Council Awards Scheme.
- Clerk to inform SLCC that the Council have adopted the Pledge.

10/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received.

11/24 REQUESTS FOR GRANT PAYMENTS

Addressed at Finance meeting held on 8th January 2024 – minute reference F12/24.

12/24 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Addressed at Finance meeting held on 8th January 2024 – minute reference F13/24.

13/24 TO NOTE INCOME RECEIVED

Noted that the Flood Resilience Grant had now been received from FCC (£10,000) and the Precept (third payment £12,666.67).

14/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Clerk presented the Accounts spreadsheet to Council at the Finance meeting held on 8th January 2024 during discussions regarding the budget forecast – minute reference F5/24. The spreadsheet continues to being populated on a monthly basis with income and expenditure for financial year 2023-24.

15/24 TO DISCUSS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at present.

16/24 CORRESPONDENCE

No new matters to be addressed.

17/24 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Notice Boards – Cllr. M. Hughes referred to the Notice Board outside the Scout Hut that had recently been damaged by storms. Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Williams offered to investigate costs to replace the Notice Board.

ACTION - Cllr. Hughes and Cllr. Williams to investigate costs to replace the Notice Board.

18/24 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Covered under agenda item 03/24 ‘Open Forum’.

19/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

20/24 DATE OF COUNCIL’S NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Community Flood Plan Meeting – Tuesday 30th January, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

Ordinary Meeting - Tuesday 13th February 2024, 7pm, Sandycroft Community Centre, Phoenix Street, Sandycroft, CH5 2PD

The meeting opened at 7pm and closed at 8.30pm

..... Signed Chair

..... Date