

Minutes Shotton Town Council Meeting Monday 2nd September 2019

Present: Cllr Gillian Brockley (Chair), Councillors S Bibby, G Cooper, E Jones, R Dowie, D Evans, R Davies, A Phillips, D Mackie, M Evans, K Brown, N Brown, T Oldfield.

Aaliyah Rugg (Reporter, Flintshire Leader) Insp. Gareth Cust (North Wales Police).

1.Apologies: Cllr S Davies, Wayne Jones (Streetscene) Susan Cartwright (Clerk).

Minutes taken by Cllr S Bibby in absence of Clerk.

2.Declarations of Interest

Cllrs D Evans, E Jones, S Bibby, R Davies, G Brockley, D Mackie declared interest on Agenda item 9. Shotton Community Centre – Closure as Representatives of both Shotton Town Council and Flintshire Council Council on Shotton Community Association.

Cllr Elwyn Jones declared an interest on agenda item 5. Police Items as his great-nephew had started in post in North Wales Police as a PCSO based at Deeside Police Station.

3.Minutes of Council

Moved as a true and correct record by Cllr E Jones and seconded by Cllr R Dowie, approved by members.

4. Chairs Remarks

Cllr G Brockley updated members on her activities as chair over the summer recess, said it had been a busy summer. She attended Deeside Hospital League of Friends Concert at the Tabernacle, Buckley, celebration of 10 years anniversary of foundation of the Cake Business at Deeside Enterprise Centre along with 75th Anniversary Commemoration of Normandy Landings/D-Day at the War Memorial. Cllr Brockley commented on the success of Playscheme & Share your Lunch Campaign on the 33 Club, Shotton Lane for local children over the summer holidays. Cllr Brockley had also had an update from Aura Wales regarding Roundabout on North St Play Area funding from Parc Adfer confirmed to replace.

5. Police Items

Insp. Gareth Cust from Deeside Police Station in attendance at the meeting.

Members raised issue of Cycling on the pavement, Insp. Cust informed members of meeting held at Police Station with various interested parties – Police, Streetscene & Highways FCC Officers and Cabinet member Cllr Carolyn Thomas, Councillors from Shotton (Chair G Brockley), Queensferry, Mancot and Sealand along with liaising with Cycling Groups with aim of focusing on Cycling on the Pavement. Insp. Cust emphasized a Multi-Agency approach involving better signage, further education rather than just enforcement. A Strategy Group was in process of being formed and a survey was being commissioned on why cyclists were choosing to ride on pavement.

Cllr D Evans – Felt than that similar schemes had long been proposed over the past 20 years he'd served on the council and they were trying to "re-invent the wheel" and the action was needed to be taken rather than talking about it. Disappointment over response he'd received from Arfon Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner North Wales. Cllr Evans said signage was adequate and an alternative cycle route had been found on the High Street. Insp. Cust replied he felt issuing tickets was

ineffective as Police resources only permit short periods of enforcement but invited Cllr Evans to be part of meetings.

Cllr D Mackie – Asked about whether materials on further education would be translated in numerous languages used by migrant workers in the area, she had been informed that cycling on the pavement was common place in many Eastern European countries and there was a need to ensure those whose proficiency in English was poor were able to understand legal status of cycling on pavement in UK. Cllr Mackie also requested that notes from meetings being held to circulated to all members for their information. Insp. Cust said matter was being looked into and that notes would be sent to Clerk from circulation to all members.

Cllr M Evans – Said this was a major issue and concern to residents and had being going on for many years without satisfactory resolution and said situation could be compared to “Tour de France” at times. Requesting continued updates on whether powers could be transferred to Civil Enforcement Officers to enforce.

Cllr G Cooper – asked Insp. Cust about situation regarding children riding on the pavement, Insp. Cust replied that the law applied to all and enforcement action would have to be taken regardless of age.

Cllr R Dowie – had concerns that there is a lot of tensions between pedestrians and cyclists this could potentially cause clashes and confrontations.

Cllr A Phillips – Questioned about whether Cycling Proficiency courses were still being offered to schoolchildren and who’s responsibility it was to provide them. Insp. Cust said FCC could access Welsh Government funding to facilitate this.

Insp. Cust briefed members on recent Police action on drug dealing/County Lines.

Operation Trick- working in conjunction with Merseyside Police & BTP focusing on use of railway in transporting drugs, and searches being made at stations such as Shotton. Merseyside Police had substantial intelligence on dealers operating in Deeside area from Liverpool/Wirral, presence of Merseyside Officers in North Wales acting as deterrent to dealer well known to them.

Operation Blue Steel – Searching areas of where caches of weapons and drugs were being hidden by dealers and removing. Funding from Proceeds of Crime Act being utilized to clear vegetation on cycle path/Riverbank.

Closure Orders had been executed on a number of properties in Deeside area where significant drug dealing activity had been taking place.

Cllr E Jones – Had proper habitat assessments been made when clearing vegetation? Insp. Cust yes, relevant Wildlife Legislation complied with, in operations.

Cllr S Bibby – Had reports of a spate of burglaries and tool thefts in Shotton, Insp. Cust - Police aware of incidents reported to them and currently investigating.

Cllr M Evans – Any update on attempted abduction of young girl near Venerable Edward Morgan School, Insp Cust – matter being investigated by CID.

Cllr D Mackie – As Chair of Governors of Venerable Edward Morgan asked had any information been passed to Headteacher, Insp. Cust – School being made aware.

Members raised concerns about anti-social drinking taking place and especially the strength of beer being sold in local off-licenses, Insp. Cust said there was responsibility on Licensed premises to tackle issue around anti-social behaviour as stated in their licensing agreements and that reporting any issues on 101 was critical.

Members then raised concerns about Homeless individuals on High Street. Cllr E Jones asked whether Vagrancy Act could be enforced, Insp. Cust said he believed the Vagrancy Act was outdated there was better legislation now on statute books also there was currently a Police Review.

6. Streetscene

Apologies received from Co-Ordinator Wayne Jones.

- Waste ground at the back of Asda, lots of concerns about overgrown vegetation, pests, litter and fly tipping. Cllr R Davies said causing misery to residents in Dee View. Agreed to contact Asda, Cllr K Brown said she'd been in contact and reminded members that land was responsibility of Asda property holdings based at Head Office in Leeds rather than the store itself.
- Path leading from Dee View through school campus in very poor condition, matter needs raising with Rights of Way team at FCC.
- Fly Tipping – massive improvement in Strickland St/Henrietta St due to presence of camera, Cllr M Evans “75% improvement”. However ongoing issues in High Street need addressing as appear to be getting worse.
- Alleyway connecting Caernarfon Close/ Strickland St very overgrown, had been reported on numerous by members over two-month period.
- Missing bollard bottom of King Edward St, member advised awaiting delivery of new bollard Alltami depot.
- Overflowing ASH Waste Services bin in alleyway Crystal Bingo, ASH to contacted to sort out.

All matters to be raised with Wayne Jones upon his return to work.

7. Clerks Report

Public Deposition of UDP Flintshire County Council – agreed that Cllrs E Jones & K Brown to attend engagement events held by County Council to represent Shotton Town Council.

Aura Wales Identified King George Play Area as priority and in most need of investment.

Notice Board on Central Drive in very poor state of repair, replacement being looked at.

8. Planning Applications

4 Applications received over Summer Recess – no objections.

9. Shotton Community Centre- Closure

Members expressed sadness over closure of Community Centre and thanked all those involved in the running of the centre over the years. The closure meant alternative venue now required for Town Council Meetings.

Cllr G Brockley and Cllr G Cooper proposed hiring of room in Deeside Enterprise Centre from next meeting onwards, this was supported by members with exception of Cllr M Evans who wished his vote against noted.

10. Lighting Faults

All faults reported to Clerk were being dealt with.

11. Accounts for Payment

Moved, Cllrs M Evans and D Mackie requested further breakdown of concern over redacted figures

Advised by Cllr G Cooper there were confidential items and that breakdown available for inspection by Clerk at the office.

12. Members Information

- Cllr S Bibby – Poppies for Lampposts for Remembrance Sunday ordered from Royal British Legion.
- Cllr K Brown – Friday 27th September, Coffee Afternoon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Charity, Melrose Inn 2-5pm.
- Cllr S Bibby – Network Rail confirmed new fencing to be installed along Wrexham/Bidston line.
- Cllr D Mackie – Public Meeting Shotton Community Association, 3rd September 7pm.

13. Duration of Meeting.

Meeting came to close at 8.10pm.