

Minutes of the Meeting of
HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
11TH MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Dave Mackie

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Clive Carver, Cheryl Carver, Bob Connah, Ryan O’Gorman, George Hardcastle, Kevin Jones, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry and Ant Turton

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Fran Griffiths, Administrator

Also present: Stuart Lawrence, Vice Chair, Hawarden Rangers
Fred Evans, President, Hawarden Rangers
11 Members of the public

384/18 HAWARDEN RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB:

In accordance with Standing Order Number 28(c) Councillor Dave Mackie proposed that agenda item 7 of the Community and Amenities Committee be brought forward as the first item of discussion at the meeting and in accordance with Standing Order number 61 invited a representative from the members of the public present to address the Council for 5 minutes. However, prior to this, he requested the Clerk and Financial Officer to summarise the Council’s current position.

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined that the key item for discussion that evening had been the request by Hawarden Rangers Football Club (FC) to widen the adult pitch in order to comply with Football Association Wales (FAW) criteria for Tier 3 Football Clubs. This item had been discussed at the previous meeting in February but a decision had been deferred pending additional information that had subsequently been provided this evening. (*Minute number 365/18 refers*).

The Clerk and Financial Officer reminded Members that the proposal to erect a 100 seat stand had been discussed at a meeting in March 2018 and the Community Council had resolved “*to agree “in principle” to the proposal to erect a covered seating area near the football pitch, subject to the necessary consents and permissions*”.

A representative from the members of the public present had been invited to address the Council. He presented a number of issues of concern with the current use of the playing fields including the lack of adequate parking spaces and the impact on Birch Rise; mud on pavements; the impact of additional cars if the stand were to go ahead, unacceptable levels of litter on the field and finally, the supervisory requirements of the stand and a concern as to whether it would be locked or not.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst Members who raised a number of arguments for and against the proposal to widen the pitch and the impact on other users and local residents etc. Similar problems had been experienced at other local playing fields and a number of solutions to alleviate the parking issues had been suggested by Councillor Helen Brown.

Councillor Joyce Angell referred to the documentation about turnstiles, number of attendees, catering facilities etc and said that she could not support this proposal at all. A couple of members echoed this view whilst other members expressed their concerns at the future use of the playing fields if the football team did not use it.

The Chairman provided a summary of the discussion and asked Stuart Lawrence to answer the specific questions of concern. Stuart confirmed that the seating area would be locked and have anti-vandalism measures installed, the turnstiles, floodlights and PA system would not be required (a hand-held microphone had been sufficient) and catering facilities had already been provided during recent years and there had been no need to increase this provision.

Councillor Mackie asked Members to vote in respect of the proposal to widen the football pitch.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to not support the proposal to widen the pitch.

Councillor Clive Carver asked that at the next meeting the Council consider rescinding the decision to approve the provision of an outdoor covered seating area in light of the information presented to the Council.

Stuart Lawrence expressed his disappointment at the Council's decision as it would prevent the adult team from succeeding into the next tier of play.

385/18 BETSI CADWALLADER UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD:

In the absence of Janet Ellis, BCUHB, this item had been deferred.

104 Chair's signature: _____

386/18 ARRIVA BUS SERVICES:

The Chairman said that Arriva buses had declined to attend the meeting and had not indicated whether they would attend the public meeting in Mancot on Wednesday. Councillor Bob Connah outlined that the meeting had been called for 12 noon Wednesday 13th March in Mancot Village Hall and Flintshire County Council had confirmed they would attend the meeting.

In response to a question about the time of the meeting, Councillor Helen Brown confirmed that an evening meeting would be arranged at Aston Community Centre.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

387/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janet Axworthy, Lowri Earith and Helen Meredith.

388/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members for this meeting.

389/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 11th February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

390/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

391/18 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees held on 11th February 2019 be received:

Staff and General Purposes Committee
Community Amenities Committee
Planning Committee
Finance Committee

105 Chair's signature: _____

392/18 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined the key issues requiring action following the interim internal auditor's report as presented within the report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and accept the interim internal auditor's report and note the action plan.

393/18 CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The Chair advised of the following items:

- A letter had been received from Optec Youth Exchange requesting a donation to enable a pupil from Hawarden High School to take part in an exchange trip to Japan. He said that he'd like to make a donation of £50 from his Chairman's account which was duly agreed by Council.
- He had recently attended a Charity Dinner event in Mold; a Casino evening in Holywell and the Chair's Civic Ball in Connah's Quay all of which had been enjoyable and well attended.
- He was extremely proud to advise that the Clerk and Financial Officer, Sharron, had attained her professional CiLCA qualification and that she had worked hard which had been worthy of recognition. Members gave Sharron a celebratory round of applause.