



## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

**12 OCTOBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle

**Councillors:** Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Lowri Earith, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Ryan O’Gorman, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Richard Taylor and Ant Turton

**Officers:** Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer  
Fran Griffiths, Admin Assistant

### **17/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Bob Connah.

### **18/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillors Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Lowri Earith, Ryan O’Gorman, Dan Preece and Darren Sterry declared an interest in item 12.

Councillors Ve Amos and Ralph Small declared an interest in item 14.

Councillors Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Sarah Hinks and Dave Mackie declared an interest in item 15.

Councillor Dave Mackie declared an interest in item 18(ii).

### **19/20 PRESENTATION BY MARIANNE LEWIS:**

Councillor George Hardcastle welcomed Marianne Williams to the meeting. Marion was the Project Manager for the micro-care project at Flintshire County Council (FCC).

Marianne outlined the growing demand for support in the home, particularly in rural areas, that had led to a recruitment problem in providing carers to vulnerable residents.

In partnership with the Welsh Government, Marianne and her colleague, Rob Loudon, FCC Development Officer, had established a new type of care support which would allow carers to become sole traders and set up their own business, offering flexible care and support to people in Flintshire. FCC would support organisations to develop their business, provide care and receive appropriate training and safeguarding. Organisations would be mentored throughout this process.

Councillor George Hardcastle thanked Marianne for her informative presentation and offered to promote the care service within the community and by the sharing of promotional leaflets.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive this information and advertise the service on the council's website and notice boards.

#### **20/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be approved as a correct record, save and except that minute 08/20 be amended to include reference to "residents' concerns", "why the change in specification had been agreed six months later", "the trip hazard related to Health and Safety Executive Guidelines" and "some members had agreed this". The local riding school had been called Daisy Bank.

#### **21/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were none.

#### **22/20 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2020:**

A report had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting and outlined the proposals for a small remembrance 2020 service. The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that due to the current local lockdown restrictions and guidance from the Welsh Government, the usual remembrance service could not take place. A small service, maximum of 30 people, would take place at the Hawarden Memorial to include representatives from the Royal British Legion, the military, emergency services, community councils and a representative of each of the two local families who had lost family members in recent conflicts. Only 1 member per organisation would be permitted to attend.

Reverend Andy Jones, St Deiniol's Church would conduct the service and Gladstone Way would be closed by the County Council highway officials. North Wales Police had been invited to send local officers to assist.

Letters would be sent to the organisations who normally lay wreaths and who could not attend this year due to the current pandemic. Opportunities for public involvement had been included within the report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the arrangements for a small gathering of remembrance complying with current regulations.

**23/20 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the External Audit report had not been received and that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer this item to the next meeting.

**24/20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report to show the Council's half yearly income and expenditure position and any variances.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- i) That the report and contents be approved and noted.
- ii) Any remaining balance for mandatory allowances be earmarked for 2021/22 allowances.
- iii) That consideration to a bursary scheme for local schools be considered at a future meeting.
- iv) Five Councillors had already requested that their allowance be donated to the Bursary Award Scheme and Nanny Biscuit.

**25/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £25,084.46 for October be approved.

**26/20 BANK RECONCILIATIONS:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation emailed previously, for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be received and noted.

**27/20 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES: DRAFT REPORT  
2020/2021:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Where not mandated, each determination required a formal decision by Council on an annual basis. A Council can adopt any or all of the non-mandated determinations but if it does make such a decision, it must apply to all members. An individual may wish to forego this entitlement on written notification to the Clerk and Financial Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- i. Determination number 40 be accepted as mandatory, noting that some members had elected to forego this entitlement.
- ii. To accept Determination numbers 43, 44 and 45.
- iii. Determination numbers 42 and 48 are not applicable; and
- iv. Determination numbers 41, 46 and 47 be not approved.

**28/20 TENNIS COURTS PROPOSAL:**

Members discussed a proposal from the current coach and Tennis Wales about the provision of a lockable gate on the tennis courts. A small fee would be charged which could become a small reserve for the future preservation of the tennis courts and courts would be bookable on line.

Members requested that the Clerk ascertain levels of use of the courts with a view to charging a small fee so the Community Council may build up a reserve of money to provide for future maintenance of the courts.

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to retain two tennis courts to be freely used by member of the public, (ii) that the two refurbished courts be accessed via a lockable gate and a small fee charged and (iii) that the tennis club be asked to verify the current usage of the courts.

**29/20 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer provide a further detailed breakdown of fees and charges for discussion at the December meeting in order to ensure adequate budget provision could be made.

**30/20 APPLICATION FOR A LOAN, MANCOT VILLAGE HALL:**

A request had been received from Mancot Village Hall for a loan from the council for the replacement fencing. The actual quote obtained in 2018 was circa £13,000. The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that in accordance with the council's standing orders 3 quotes would need to be obtained.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to agree, in principle, to the loan, subject to the receipt of three quotes and that the loan agreement be drawn up on the basis of a previous agreement to another community centre; interest free and a personal guarantor secured. The loan would be repayable at £500 every six months until the loan had been repaid.

**31/20 GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the following grant applications be approved:

Hawarden Photographic Society	£200
First Hawarden Rainbows	£262.80
Penarlag Wrap around care and holiday club	£250
North Wales Super Kids	£250

**32/20 REQUEST FOR ENHANCEMENT OF PLAY EQUIPMENT AT GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:**

A request had been made to consider the improvement of facilities at the Herbert Gladstone play area. Members considered that a significant investment had been made to the council's play areas over recent years, particularly the recent investment at Circular Drive in Ewloe. The County Council had also identified all play areas as having sufficient provision. The provision of a zip wire was suggested.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to appoint a sub-committee to review the provision and future of play areas across the community.

**33/20 EXTENSION OF MEETING:**

Councillors requested that Standing Order No 41 be invoked to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

**34/20 WELSH BORDER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT:**

A letter had been received from the above organisation asking the council to consider granting it some financial support.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to ask the organisation to apply for a grant via the council's grant application scheme.

### **35/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:**

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (a) County Council Members:  
It was noted that the participation of those Councillors who were also Members of the County Council, in both the debate and subsequent vote, was on the basis that the views expressed were preliminary views taking account of the information made available to the Community Council. The County Councillors reserved their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all relevant arguments for and against.
- (b) That the County Planning Authority be advised of this Council's observations on the applications submitted to it for consideration, as per the attached schedule.
- (c) That the planning decisions be noted.
- (d) There were no planning appeals.

### **36/20 POLICE MATTERS, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:**

A confidential incident report had been circulated to members from PCSO Dan Hughes which was duly noted.

Members referred to the new build at the Old Boars Head site blocking light for motorists and recent incidents of mobile phone theft and bodily harm.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive these updates and ensure that the police are aware of the mobile theft incident.

### **37/20 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE, EWLOE:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to establish a working group of Ewloe members, plus the Chairman of the Council, to manage this project in respect of planning, demonstration of need and grant applications. This group would NOT have delegated authority; any decisions would need to be made by full council.

### **38/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of October was £12,209.23. She also shared a confidential update to members on the current pandemic.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO: to receive and approve the updates.

**39/20 MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Councillor Ralph Small provided a verbal update on the Round Table outdoor drive through cinema.

**40/20 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Councillor George Hardcastle thanked the Clerk and Financial Officer and Administrative Assistant for their hard work during the recent pandemic and ensuring that the Council's business continued to run efficiently.

