

Minutes of the Meeting of
HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
13 MARCH 2017

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Glenys Diskin

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Helen Brown, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Alan Diskin, Alison Halford, George Hardcastle, Judith Hough, Kevin Jones, Dave Mackie, Helen Meredith, Emma Preece and Brian Williams.

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

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT HUB:

The Chair welcomed Harvey Mitchell, Flintshire County Council, to the meeting who had attended in place of Jessica Pritchard who had been absent from work due to illness. Harvey said that he was not overly familiar with all of the details of the Community Transport Hub, but that he would listen to Member concerns and report back to the Project Manager; he also provided assurance that a full response would be provided to the Clerk within twenty four hours.

Following a lengthy discussion, Councillors complained about the complete lack of consultation with themselves as local representatives and with local businesses and residents. In their opinion, there had been no demand for an additional bus service, which had been demonstrated at the recent 'Drop In' session held at Aston Community Centre when only 3 residents had turned up to view and discuss the proposals despite a leaflet drop to a large number of residents via schools, post offices and care homes etc.

Councillor Dave Mackie stated that he had attended a workshop approximately eighteen months ago when he had been informed that bus subsidies would be cut; he was therefore surprised that this did not now appear to be the case and that current bus services would remain together with the enhanced services of a Community Transport Hub.

Councillors Kevin Jones and Joyce Angell expressed concerns about the location of the bus shelter as it is on a very busy corner and any structure on the pavement would obscure the vision of drivers exiting the junction.

In response to a question Harvey informed the members that the Hub had been funded by the Welsh Government but that the expectation would be for the Community Council to continue to manage the service with the support of the County Council.

Councillors were alarmed to hear this and Councillors Kevin Jones and Helen Brown commented that this was a financial commitment that had not been budgeted for in the 2017-18 budget.

In summary Councillor Halford thanked Harvey for his attendance and asked for clarification of the following:

- Demand for the service
- Costings, in particular future funding arrangements
- Why the lack of consultation
- Location considerations

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i) that Harvey Mitchell take the issues back to the project manager who would be asked to respond within 48 hours; and
- ii) that the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive and Leader of Flintshire County Council expressing the Council's concerns as outlined above.

The Chair thanked Harvey Mitchell for his attendance.

CAMBRIAN AQUATICS:

The Chair welcomed representatives from Cambrian Aquatics to the meeting.

Simon Morgan circulated a copy of a presentation and went on to outline the background to the organisation and the business plan proposals. He said that Cambrian Aquatics had been established eighteen months ago by four parents following an asset transfer from the local authority. The facility had continued to go from strength to strength and had received funding from Flintshire County Council and Connah's Quay Town Council. The organisation intended to become self-financing in the future and rely less upon subsidies.

The organisation had recently begun to hire meeting rooms out to the public in order to generate income and had been in discussion with Coleg Cambria about the provision of external training and the establishment of an apprenticeship programme.

Simon said that the organisation had received excellent feedback from users of the facility and that they had asked a number of organisations for financial support including Hawarden Community Council so that they could continue to expand and increase the number of its members. There were currently 177 users from Hawarden, excluding school swimming lessons.

The Chair thanked Simon for his excellent presentation, commended the organisation on its achievements and said that the Clerk would write to Cambrian Aquatics in due course to convey the Council's decision. At this juncture, the representatives from Coleg Cambria left the meeting.

Councillor Kevin Jones praised the content of the presentation and said that communities needed facilities such as Cambrian Aquatics. However, in his opinion, financial support should be the responsibility of the County Council and not Community Councils. Councillor Clive Carver supported this comment and said that the County Council had been transferring their services without any reductions on Council Tax.

Councillor Brian Williams, Chair of the Finance Committee, said that based on the figures provided Cambrian Aquatics would require support in the region of £3.500. He said that the budget for 2017/18 had been set and that regrettably there was no money available to provide this level of support.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: the request for financial support be not supported and that the Clerk writes to Cambrian Aquatics to confirm the Council's decision.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Diskin, David Hough and Ralph Small.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 13th February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Clerk advised that the presentation by Reverend Brian Harvey on the concept of Dementia cafés had been re-scheduled for 12th June 2017.

The Clerk said that an email had been received from residents of Cross Tree Lane to request that they be involved in any public meetings to discuss the proposed one-way systems or other solutions to help alleviate the parking problems outside The Village School.

The Clerk had responded to say that should the Community Council arrange any meetings then this request could be acceded to but that she could not provide this assurance for meetings held by other agencies. She would however relay the request from residents to the School and County Council for consideration.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meetings of the following Committees held on 13th February 2017 be received:

Staff & General Purposes Committee
Lighting Committee
Playing Fields Committee
Planning Committee
Community & Environment Committee
Finance Committee

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18:

Copies of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting for information. The Chair reminded Members that the Council would need to review and make a resolution on the determinations contained within it at the Council's AGM in May.

The Clerk advised that due to the Local Government elections being held on the 4th May, the Council's Annual General Meeting would take place on Monday 15th May.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Annual Report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

There were none.