



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Bob Connah, 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

01/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Gillian Brockley.

02/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Lowri Earith declared an interest in item 13, application number 5 and Councillor Dave Mackie declared an interest in item 13, application number 12.

03/20 PRESENTATION BY JAMES HUNT:

Councillor George Hardcastle welcomed James Hunt and Jo Williams from Nanny Biscuit to the meeting.

James outlined how had established Nanny Biscuit after he had left the army and in response to a local need to help and support vulnerable residents of Flintshire who felt isolated, were disabled or suffered from mental health issues. He had named the organisation after his Nan who had always offered biscuits when he had visited her.

He said that support had been received from local organisations such as Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC), Moneysupermarket.com and Lottery Funding. There had been approximately 500 users with 200 volunteers. During the pandemic, he contacted local supermarkets to request donations of food that could be used to establish a food bank to deliver parcels to vulnerable families. Some of the supermarkets had been generous.

A warehouse had been sourced, an IT infrastructure set up and phone lines installed to provide additional support and make contact with residents. James confirmed that the response to the organisation had been very positive and their aim, post Covid, would be to provide therapy sessions and offer a 'DIY SOS' scheme similar to that of the BBC programme of the same name.

Councillor Hardcastle thanked James and his team for his informative presentation and video and offered to assist the scheme in any way he could. On behalf of all members he praised James and his team for their excellent work.

Councillor Helen Brown wished to echo the comments and said that she would continue to provide her support voluntarily.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note, with commendation, the excellent work of Nanny Biscuit.

04/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous virtual meeting of the Council held on 12th July 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

05/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

In relation to minute 449/19 (iv), Councillor Richard Taylor said that he had spoken to several local residents who confirmed that the hedge should remain at its current height and not be allowed to grow higher.

06/20 GUIDANCE TO COUNCILS ON HOLDING MEETINGS ON A PHYSICAL BASIS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated the current guidance in relation to physical meetings and sought member approval to continue with virtual meetings until definitive guidance had been issued to allow face to face meetings. Councillor Lowri Earith asked if "hybrid" meetings could be considered to which the Clerk and Financial advised that this could be looked into.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the continuation of virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.

07/20 REQUEST TO USE GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELD CAR PARK:

An email had been circulated to all Members about a request from 'Rice Box Events' to temporarily site a gourmet pizza van on the Gladstone Playing Fields car park.

Members debated the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to refuse the request primarily due to the number of local restaurants/businesses who had been struggling to survive following the recent pandemic.

08/20 FOOTPATH AROUND ADULT FOOTBALL PITCH, GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

Councillor Richard Taylor expressed resident concerns about the condition of the new footpath which had recently been laid by contractors employed by Hawarden Rangers and asked why the approval to the change in specification had been agreed six months later. He said that it had not been laid to the original specification, as presented to the Community Council, and did not tie in with the existing path. He has also sought advice from a friend/colleague who had indicated that, in parts, the footpath presented a health and safety trip hazard according to Health and Safety Executive guidelines. Some members agreed with this.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the original contractor had subsequently gone into liquidation. At the beginning of the pandemic, she had agreed to the revised specification due to health and safety reasons and discussions with the Senior Maintenance Officer, both of whom were of the opinion that the footpath did not display any trip hazards.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to write to Hawarden Rangers to ask them to review the footpath, with a view to reinstating the footpath to a tarmac footpath as originally specified, or provide a coat of tarmac/slurry over the whole footpath so that it all aligns and looks like one path.

09/20 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND “UNSUNG HEROES’

Councillor Helen Brown said that during the height of the Covid crisis, many local volunteers from Nanny Biscuit had carried out outstanding work and she had asked the Community Council to recognise this achievement.

Three names had been put forward and awards had been locally sourced by Councillor Richard Taylor from The Fox and Grapes, Immerse Fitness and a Daisy Bank Riding School. Members commended the efforts of the individuals.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillors George Hardcastle, Helen Brown and the Clerk and Financial Officer present the awards and a certificate of achievement. The event would be organised following social distance guidelines at the homes of the individuals on Thursday evening.

10/20 2020 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer circulated a summary of the recent annual play area inspections undertaken by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), for information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the summary report.

11/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £29,251.93 for August be noted and the list of payments in the sum of £34,564.45 for September be approved.

12/20 BANK RECONCILIATIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st July and 31st August 2020 be noted and received.

13/20 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.
- (e) No comments were made on the pre-planning application submitted by Redsun Projects Ltd for the development of industrial units on Manor Lane.

14/20 POLICE MATTERS, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

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

Members raised the following issues:

- i) Noisy motor bikes not displaying lights continued to be a nuisance around Mancot.
- ii) Fly tipping on Duckers Lane had been reported to the County Council.
- iii) Further to the double yellow lines installed on Mancot Lane, cars had been parked in Cottage Lane. Additional double yellow lines would be installed at this area.
- iv) Residents continue to be advised to be vigilant over reports of suspicious behaviour by individuals looking to steal dogs.

Councillor Helen Brown expressed her concern about the loss of a vital bus service for pupils travelling from Mancot to Hawarden High School. Councillor Ralph Small confirmed that primary pupils had received an information pack at the end of the summer term and that a safe walking route to Hawarden High School had been implemented.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer write to Steve Jones, Highways Dept., Flintshire County Council about the concerns over the lack of school transport from Mancot to Hawarden HS.

15/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised of the following:

- i) the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of August amounted to £12,640 and for the month of September amounted to £16,394.
- ii) Due to Covid restrictions, the timeline for the website upgrade and been delayed. A notice regarding the new accessibility requirements will be displayed on the website by Vision ICT. Members will be asked for feedback on the design and content of the website.
- iii) A wildlife garden had been donated to Aston Community Centre by the Keep Wales Tidy team and a small garden area had been planted up at the rear of the centre; a request had also been submitted for Mancot, the results of which had been expected at the end of September.
- iv) A request had been received from the Planning and Development Officer at Micro-care, Flintshire County Council, to virtually attend the next meeting of the council to present the project to members; this was agreed.

- v) The 2020 Remembrance service was likely to be very different from previous years due to the pandemic and associated restrictions. Updates had been requested from the various organisations and an item would be on the agenda for the next meeting to provide further details.
- vi) New Community Centre, Ewloe: the housing development on Wood Lane had been completed. A parcel of land had been "gifted" to the community council for the provision of a new community centre. No date had been provided for the transfer of the land and the Clerk and Financial Officer had asked Edward Homes to secure the site.

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

16/20 MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Ralph Small said that the football pitch in Mancot was unmarked and dogs had been allowed to foul and run onto the pitch by their owners, despite signs saying dogs should be on a lead. He stated that the signs are not big enough for residents to see.

Councillor Small also advised that he had previously spoken to the Clerk and Financial Officer about a request to consider assistance to the Mancot Village Hall for the replacement of the fencing around the recreation area and community centre; this item would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Helen Brown suggested that certain parcels of land in the area could be nominated and suitable for dogs and their walkers.

6 Chair's signature: _____