

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
15th May 2017

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Glenys Diskin

Councillors: Veronica Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Alan Diskin, Lowri Earith, Judith Hough, Kevin Jones, Dave Mackie, Wendy Mallin, Helen Meredith, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ralph Small

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

17/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gillian Brockley and George Hardcastle. Members requested that a get well card and flowers be sent to Councillor George Hardcastle.

The Chair congratulated and welcomed new Councillors to their first meeting and congratulated previous Councillors on their re-election.

17/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

17/003 RETIRING CHAIR'S REMARKS:

The retiring Chair, Councillor Glenys Diskin, expressed her thanks and appreciation to all Members for their support during her term of office. She confirmed that she had met many lovely people and had taken part in a number of interesting engagements during her year in post.

17/004 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2017/2018:

The previous past Chair invited nominations for the position of Chair for the Municipal Year 2017/2018. It was noted that in accordance with the Council's adopted policy of seniority Councillor Alan Diskin, the current Vice Chair, was the agreed nominee.

On being put to a vote, Councillor Alan Diskin, was duly elected Chair of Hawarden Community Council for the Municipal Year 2017/2018.

1 Chair's signature _____

Councillor Alan Diskin duly completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and thanked Members for supporting his nomination.

17/005 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2017/2018:

It was proposed that in accordance with the Council's adopted policy of seniority Councillor Dave Mackie, was the agree nominee.

On being put to a vote, Councillor Dave Mackie, was duly elected Vice Chair of Hawarden Community Council for the Municipal Year 2017/2018.

Councillor Dave Mackie duly completed his Declaration of Acceptance Office form. He said that he had been delighted to have been appointed to this prestigious position and that he would thoroughly enjoy the challenge and looked forward to the year ahead.

17/006 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 3rd April 2017 be approved as a correct record.

17/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Councillor Ralph Small said that he had thanked Mr and Mrs Gittens and Mrs Finnegan for their very informative presentation at the meeting in April but that his presence had not been recorded in the minutes.

The Clerk advised that Lee Shone, Flintshire County Council, wished to complete the data collection before liaising with the Head Teacher at Hawarden Village School. He would then arrange a meeting with all the relevant agencies to discuss any proposals. For now the proposals to introduce a one-way pilot system had been postponed.

17/008 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Clerk confirmed that all elected Members had duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

17/009 MEMBERS OF CODE OF CONDUCT

IT WAS RESOLVED: that all Members confirm their adherence to the Council's Code of Conduct as circulated.

17/010 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – EWLOE WARD

The Clerk advised that following the recent Local Government elections there remained a vacancy on the Ewloe Ward. Council were asked to consider filling the vacancy by co-option.

Following a discussion it was agreed to advertise the vacancy. A public notice would be displayed on the Council's website, office notice board and public notice boards within the Community for a 2 week period with a closing date of Friday 2nd June. All interested parties would be asked to contact the Clerk and write a letter to express their interest as to why they wished to be considered as a Community Councillor and what they would bring to the local community.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advertise the vacancy for co-option and invite expressions of interest as outlined above.

17/011 STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the revised standing orders with the agenda for the meeting. The Standing Orders had been updated to reflect the use of modern technology, internet banking and a Business Debit card etc and also included a proposal to omit the December meeting from the Calendar due to the number of seasonal events Members had been invited to attend.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the revised Standing Orders in relation to modernised financial transactions but to reject the proposal to omit the December meeting from the Council schedule of meetings.

17/012 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND EXPENDITURE POLICY

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the revised Financial Regulations and Expenditure Policy. The policies had been updated to reflect the use of modernised payment systems.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the revised Financial Regulations and Expenditure Policy.

17/013 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A copy of the current list of representatives on outside bodies had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The Council were asked to consider and agree nominations.

Following a discussion, Members requested that the list be deferred until the next meeting of the Council.

However, in relation to the Governing Body representations, Councillor Ve Amos stated that she no longer wished to be Governor on the Village School, Hawarden. Councillor Lowri Earith was proposed, seconded and duly elected to be the Council's representative on the Hawarden Village School.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer the representation on Outside Bodies, other than Governing Bodies, to the next meeting.

17/014 PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS:

In accordance with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales permissive powers relating to payments to Members of Town and Community Councils:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) Not to adopt Determinations 44,45 and 51
- (ii) To adopt Determinations 46, 47, 48, 49, 50
- (iii) To accept that if an individual Member wishes to make a personal decision to elect to forgo part of all of the entitlement to any of these allowances, they must do so by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the Council.

17/015 COMMUNITY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:

The Clerk referred to the previous notice for the election of a Community Youth Volunteer in Hawarden and said that one candidate, Sam Bidwell, had expressed an interest; a copy of Sam's letter had been circulated to Members for information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to accept the expression of interest and invite Sam to become a Community Youth Volunteer and (ii) to re-advertise via the Council's Facebook site for a second Youth representative.

17/016 DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018:

It was agreed that the schedule of dates and times be confirmed and that during the month of August, when the Council was in Recess, relevant Recess Sub-Committees comprising the Chair of Council, the relevant Committee Chair and the Clerk would be held to deal with any urgent business.

17/017 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Clerk advised of the following matters:

- a) The Council's contributions to the Central Administration and Direct Maintenance Agreement for the month of May, were as follows:

4 Chair's signature: _____

Central Administration £13, 172

Direct Maintenance £ 16,060

- b) HMRC has requested that all future payments be received on line.
- c) Invitations had been received from a number of suppliers to install a new boiler at the Council's depot. In consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Chair of Finance Committee the work had been allocated to A and L Parry in the sum of £1,800; the work had been undertaken in accordance with guidance provided directly from the Council's insurers.
- d) The bank reconciliation for the period ending 28th April had been emailed to members previously and was duly noted.
- e) £78,381 has been received from Flintshire County Council; this was the first of three precept payments due during the financial year 2017/2018.

Councillor Kevin Jones asked whether any 106 money had been received in lieu of the completion of the development next to Ewloe Green CP School. The Clerk advised that no monies had been received to date and that she would provide an update to the next meeting of the Playing Fields Committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

17/018 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Councillor Kevin Jones asked whether the Council's computer systems were secure following the recent cyber-attack on the National Health Service. The Clerk advised that the Council's data was secure and complied with the Council's Data Protection and Information Security policies. An extra back up of the Council's financial software and payroll systems was also undertaken on a regular basis.

In receiving the list of payments, the Clerk highlighted that this month had been particularly high due to the fact that salaries for April and May were included (due to the April meeting being brought forward by one week) together with a pension deficit of £10,000 along with some other substantial invoices including the Council's insurance, Scottish Power and annual grants.

Councillor Emma Preece said that in light of the modernised payment systems a more modern way of paying for fuel could be implemented. Councillor Kevin Jones asked whether the Council received value for money and suggested that some members might prefer to receive electronic copies of the agenda to save on photocopying charges.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for payment in the sum of £67,444.56.

17/019 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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) There were no appeals.

During a discussion on planning applications, Councillor Janet Axworthy expressed concern that there were too few bins in Ewloe, with one recently being removed from Carlines Park.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk will liaise with John Griffiths, Flintshire County Council regarding the location of bins.

17/020 A494 CONSULTATION

Members were reminded that the deadline for consultation responses was Monday 5th June. Members had been strongly opposed to the Blue route and welcomed the Red Route. The Clerk requested Members to email their detailed comments and observations on the proposals so that a corporate Council response could be submitted to the Welsh Assembly.

Councillor Janet Axworthy commented that data supplied by the Welsh Assembly on emissions on the BLUE route had been flawed and out of date.

Councillor Judith Hough suggested that Members visit the Welsh Assembly website where they can also make their own individual representations.

Councillor Helen Brown queried why Flintshire County Council had placed pollution monitoring equipment on Southbank to which Councillor Judith Hough commented that it had been the most appropriate location for accurate readings.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: that members provide individual details via email to the Clerk for inclusion in an overall Council response rejecting the Blue route.