

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held on
14 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Brian Williams
Vice Chair: Councillor Glenys Diskin

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

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

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk advised that, in consultation with the Chair of the Council and the Chair of Finance the Community Library "grant application" had been withdrawn. The application was not to consider a grant for this year but to review the commitment that Hawarden Community Council had made to support the library. The amount of support would be considered during the Council's budget setting process for 2017 - 2018 and therefore this item would be deferred until the January budget meeting.

The representatives from the Community Library would continue to provide their presentation about the library project to date as previously invited by the Committee.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Joyce Angell and Dave Mackie declared an interest in Item 7 – Friends of Hawarden High School Grant Application and Councillor Glenys Diskin declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Library; in accordance with Standing Order No 88 the Councillors remained in the meeting but took no part in any vote.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 10th October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The list of payments for November were presented.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £26,730.72 be approved.

CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised that the Council's contributions to the Central Administration and Direct Maintenance Fund for the month of November were as follows:-

Central Administration	£4,347.26	Direct Maintenance	£4,526.96
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IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the update.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Annual Grants to Bowling Clubs

The Clerk brought Members attention to the Annual Grants to Bowling Clubs on the list of payments presented earlier. In relation to Mancot Bowling Club they usually receive £150 but this year had requested an increase in the level of support due to increased fees and costs. Aston Bowling Club received £300 and Gladstone Bowling Club £200. Following a discussion it was agreed to provide Mancot Bowling Club with an annual grant of £200.

Community Library Presentation

The Chair welcomed Rob Brown and Ian Butler, Trustees of the Community Library in Mancot, to the meeting who then went on to outline the current status of the library. The Library had been in operation for seven months and has been a self-funding organisation totally run by volunteers with in excess of 520 members. The Clerk shared the details of the expected income and expenditure for the library which showed a projected income of £3,819.50 and expenditure of £1,978.29. The Trustees had highlighted that they anticipated variable bills for gas and electric but that the exact amount was unknown. Councillor Kevin Jones offered to provide the Trustees with assistance in relation to such costs by sharing information about the costs to run the Community Centre at Level Road. This was welcomed by the Trustees.

Councillor Clive Carver referred to the recent press article which had indicated that the Community Library would require £100k to continue to operate. Councillor Brian Williams said that the press release had not been issued via the Community Council or the Library.

Councillor Carver said that the Business Plan for the Library had quoted a guaranteed 5 year contribution from Hawarden Community Council and he wondered where this had come from as he did not believe that this was a decision that the Community Council had made.

For clarity, the Clerk read out the minute from the Finance Committee held on 11th January 2016 which said *“Community Library Support. It was agreed that the Council would include £2,000 in its budget to support the replacement Community Library at Mancot. It was agreed this contribution would be kept under review in future budgets”*.

Councillor Carver said that he would write to Ian Bancroft to ask where the 5 year guarantee had come from to which Councillor Brian Williams responded “that Hawarden Community Council had not said that. It is annual support not an annual grant and the guarantee had not come from Hawarden Community Council”.

Councillor Helen Brown praised the work of the volunteers and the excellent work being done in the library to date.

Grant Applications

The Clerk had received a late application from the Friends of Penarlag School and asked whether Council were willing to consider the application. The organisation had completed the form following the despatch of the agenda but in time for consideration at the meeting and had provided all relevant details include bank statements etc. Committee agreed to consider the application.

The Clerk said that a budget of £2.5k had been available for grant applications. Applications had been received from Hawarden Singers, Friends of Hawarden High School, Nightingale House and Marie Curie and the late application from the Friends of Penarlag.

Due to the time, it was agreed to defer discussions on these grant applications to the December meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) to note the progress of the Community Library;
- (ii) to increase the annual grant to Mancot Bowling Club to £200 from £150; and
- (iii) that the grant applications be deferred to the meeting in December.

REQUEST FOR MATCHED FUNDING FROM QUEENSFERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council had received a request from Queensferry Community Council for a financial contribution of £250 towards the cost of the provision of a Christmas Tree and Lights at Sandycroft Primary School.

Councillor Clive Carver commented that it was unusual for a Community Council to request money from another Council, particularly when Queensferry had the second highest precept in Flintshire.

The Clerk indicated that the Council should consider the implication of setting a precedent with this application if considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the request be not acceded to.

BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation summary for the period ending 31st October 2016 be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.