

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **9TH OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Kevin Jones

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

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

212/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

213/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Kevin Jones declared an interest in Item 10 on the agenda and in accordance with Standing Order No 88 remained in the meeting but did not take part in any vote.

214/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 11th September 2017 be received as a true record and signed by the Chair.

215/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

216/17 POLICE MATTERS:

Apologies for absence had been received from PCSO Stephanie Jones who had circulated a written police update report.

Councillor Ralph Small reported that he had been aware of a number of sheds that had been broken into but that the incidents did not appear to have been reported to the police.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

217/17 HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

John Griffiths, Senior Maintenance Officer, Flintshire County Council, had been welcomed to the meeting and provided an update as follows:

- location maps had been distributed for those areas affected by the Dog Control Public Services Protection Order which would come into effect on 20th October 2017; Members were assured that the Gladstone Playing Fields had been excluded from this Order as requested.
- Two dog bins had been purchased and would be available for installation; Members requested that they be positioned outside Rose Cottage, Prince of Wales Gardens and outside the gate to the mobile homes site in Mancot.
- Flintshire County Council had replaced lighting columns but some stumps had remained in position; John would establish the current position.
- The concrete blocks near Moneysupermarket car park had been installed to prevent travellers from gaining access to the site.

Members raised the following matters that John agreed to look into:

- Mr Taylor, farmer at the bottom of Groomsdale Lane had refuse lorries turning in his yard, but who had declined to empty the bins!
- Delivery trucks to M & S Stores and Kebab shop on Holywell Road had been unable to gain access to the rear of the premises due to parked cars that had blocked the entry.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- I) The Clerk email a copy of the PSPO letter to Members and put information on the website.
- II) To note the updates.

218/17 SPEED LIMIT REVIEWS

Councillor Clive Carver reported that he had attended a meeting with John Griffiths and other County Councillors earlier in the year to review speed limits. He had been disappointed to note that no further speed limit restrictions had been applied as requested.

Various Councillors suggested that 20mph signs be made mandatory outside all schools and/or flashing lights be installed although it had been recognised that there would be legislative restraints. Problems with cars parking and speeding had been prevalent at most schools.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: the Clerk write to the Highways Department and Welsh Assembly Government to request assistance and consideration.

219/17 A494 CONSULTATION OUTCOME AND STRATEGIC REVIEW OF JUNCTIONS ON A494 AND A55:

Members commented that they had been pleased with the decision by Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to authorise the “red route” as part of the plans to upgrade the A494/A55.

Councillor Clive Carver commented that the Delyn constituency Members had been unhappy with the outcome due to the traffic directed off the M56 along the coast road having a major impact on their local area. Councillor Dave Mackie stated that the decision could be challenged/changed if a landowner requested a public enquiry into the decision as the Welsh Government would have to arrange one.

Councillor Helen Brown also referred Members to the recent statement issued about the strategic review of the junctions on the A55 and A494.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

220/17 DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SERVICES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

The Clerk referred to the earlier discussions and advised that Gladstone Playing Fields had been excluded from the order as requested. A general discussion took place regarding the need for GPF to be excluded from the order as dog fouling was not considered to be an issue and alternative provision should be provided for dog walkers to exercise their dogs.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

221/17 LEVEL ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Gratitude had been expressed to Councillor Dave Mackie following his recent meeting with Edwards Homes who had subsequently agreed to increase the size of the land earmarked for a Community Centre to the size originally agreed. This decision had been welcomed and Dave was commended for his efforts.

It was also requested that, in principle, the Community Council agree that the freehold for the new Community Centre be gifted to Hawarden Community Council as an independent body, subject to the needs of the centre for match funding etc.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to welcome the update and agree, in principle, that the freehold for the new Community Centre is gifted to the Community Council subject to legal and contractual obligations being considered and drawn up.

222/17 CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised of the following matters:

- A number of Members had recently attended a Joint Meeting of the Standards Committee with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to outline the new policy guidance for Town and Community Councils due in a new White Paper. The Ombudsman had encouraged Councils to adopt Local Resolution Policies. 53% of complaints received had been from Town and Community Councils. The Chief Officer, Governance, at Flintshire County Council had also urged Council's to adopt the Local Resolution Policy recently circulated by One Voice Wales. The Clerk confirmed that this would be considered alongside the current on-going review of Council policies.
- A copy of the monthly reports on Universal Credit from Citizens Advice Flintshire had been received and would be available for Members perusal at the Council office.
- Flintshire County Council had written to say that they had been unable to purchase the ceramic poppies and sought suggestions from Town and Community Councils. It was agreed that the Clerk pursue options.
- Welsh Government had established an Independent Review Panel to consider the future role of Community and Town Councils and a call for evidence had been issued.
- Dates had been provided for the annual Flintshire County Council Public Engagement meetings. The date clashed with our scheduled meeting but Members could attend alternative venues. Members expressed their disappointment at the clash as local members would prefer to attend their own community events.
- The Chair and Councillor Joyce Angell would attend the County Forum meeting at Buckley on Thursday 11th October @ 6.30pm.

223/17 CONSULTATION:

A copy of the consultation entitled 'Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities' had been circulated for comment.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to consider the consultation and agree a formal response at the meeting on 13th November.

224/17 COMMUNITY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Sam Bidwell advised that it had been his intention to visit the local parks and play areas and informally consult with residents on what improvements they wished to see whilst not raising any false expectations. Sam had been issued with a Council Shirt and would be accompanied by local Members.

225/17 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Emma Preece said that Councillor Lowri Earith had left the meeting early to attend training for a charity boxing match that she would be competing in in December; any donations or sponsorship would be gratefully received.

Councillor Helen Brown advised that the Deeside Hospital League of Friends would hold an Afternoon Tea at St Ethelwolds School on 18th October.