

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **14th NOVEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Joyce Angell
Vice Chair: Councillor Glenys Diskin

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were made by Members pertaining to this Committee.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th October 2016 be received as a true record and signed by the Chair save and except that the word "continually" be removed from bullet point 4 under Police Matters.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

POLICE MATTERS:

PC Martin Price was welcomed to the meeting.

Councillor Carver requested an update on the Overlea Drive issues to which Martin replied that five people had been arrested and currently on bail. Enquiries were ongoing. Martin also confirmed that CID were now involved in the incident of a firework being put through the letterbox of a house.

Councillor Judith Hough said that she had received a visit from colleagues of Martin's regarding the problem of bikes riding up and down the lanes and hoped it was not a precursor to what might happen over the Christmas period. Martin responded that eight bikes had recently been stolen in the Vicars Close area and further sporadic thefts had occurred in Aston and Ewloe.

Martin has spoken to CID colleagues who would continue to investigate the incidents. In relation to the theft of a bike overnight, it had been stolen from an unlocked porch, abandoned in the lane and returned to its owner.

Martin requested that Councillors visit residents in their areas to ascertain if they had CCTV that would enable the Police to review the footage and catch offenders. He asked that Councillors provide him with the contact details of such residents.

Martin confirmed investigations were on-going into the alleged use of drugs behind Gladstone pavilion and at the rear of St. David's Park Hotel.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the ongoing traffic and parking problems around the area of The Village School, Hawarden. The Clerk said that she had been copied into several letters sent by concerned parents to Flintshire County Council and local politicians raising their concerns about safety issues and the lack of progress to resolve the situation and had requested a meeting with the Head Teacher at the school. Martin confirmed that traffic monitoring systems were in place and that the statistics provided could be shared at the relevant meetings.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a meeting be convened with representatives of the Community Council, the School, the Police and the County Highways department to review the current situation and consider options to alleviate the problem.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

John Griffiths was welcomed to the meeting.

Councillor George Hardcastle asked John to confirm the policy for gulley clearing. John said that the policy is to clear once a year but that Flintshire County Council had been behind in its schedule due to related problems with traffic management.

Councillor Brian Williams felt very strongly that the gullies from the Hawarden Farm shop right through to Ewloe roundabout had not been done in the last four years. There was also an issue with blocked gullies and sitting water on Aston Hill and he said that senior officials at County Hall should be made aware that this is an unsatisfactory level of service.

Councillor Kevin Jones echoed these concerns and asked that we be notified once the gullies were cleared.

Councillor David Hough raised a query about the cutting of hedges to which John advised that if Flintshire or Hawarden Community County cut the hedges, they had been obliged to clear debris away after hedge cutting and blow it back into the hedge. Individual Farmers however were not under the same obligation although he had spoken to the farmer in question who had said that he would blow debris back into the hedge.

Councillor Glenys Diskin raised concerns about the overhanging trees in Duckers Lane and large lorries that drive through and knock the branches down. John replied the trees were privately owned but that he would speak with Mr Ellis about this.

Councillor David Hough sought clarification from John that the County had sufficient supplies of salt and grit etc for the forthcoming winter to which John confirmed that Flintshire had.

Councillor Helen Brown referred to the Welsh Water works being undertaken at the junction of Wood Lane and 'The Batters' and the problems it had been creating around the safety of school children crossing the road. John said that he would speak with the Contractors.

John referred to a recent press article and said that the road safety works at the top of Shotton Lane, alongside Deeside Hospital, had been undertaken due to health and safety reasons.

Councillor Clive Carver commented that it was Flintshire's policy to cut back on gully clearing schedules. Councillors agreed that this had been a difficult year with cutbacks but that John Griffiths and his immediate team provided an efficient and effective service despite this and commended him for the work that he did.

Councillor Ralph Small asked John to review the road signs at the Queensferry roundabout following the recent improvements as there was inadequate signage which had caused some confusion to motorists.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report, update and actions be noted.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised Committee of the following matters:

- Paul Davies had finished his work placement at the end of October and would resume his duties in March 2017.
- The vehicle with the cherry picker had recently been involved in an accident. The driver was unhurt, the claim had been dealt with via the Insurance Company and there would be no cost implications to the Council.

- Letters had been received from Hawarden High School Bursary pupils expressing their gratitude to Hawarden Community Council for granting them the bursaries, copies of which were circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Ralph Small requested that Councillor Jean Moore have the letters MBE inserted after her name on the Honours Board.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that when the board is next updated these changes be made.