

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 8 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor David Hough
Vice-Chair:

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per the Council meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 2014, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Clerk advised that the Chair of Council together with other representatives of Town and Community Councils would be attending a meeting with the Acting Inspector.

Councillor Helen Brown advised that the Police were alerting the public via social media about individuals in a white van trying to lure children.

It was noted that PCSO Will Evans was not on duty and therefore unable to attend the meeting.

HIGHWAY AND SAFETY TRAFFIC ISSUES IN HAWARDEN:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Group Members would be the local Hawarden Ward Members, the Chair of Committee and the Clerk. The Group would report back to the Committee with its recommendations/observations.

STREET CLEANING/BLOCKED GULLIES:

Councillor Brian Williams explained that he was concerned that gullies in Hawarden Village in particular were blocked and as a consequence there was a risk of localised flooding in times of sudden heavy rainfall.

It was noted that Flintshire County Council was facing budget cuts and had already reduced its street cleaning/gulley emptying service. It was therefore a concern that the situation was unlikely to improve.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to contact the Area Highways Supervisor to ask that the gullies be attended to.

DEE VALLEY WATER – 2014 DRAFT DROUGHT PLAN:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the plan be noted.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – THE BIG BUDGET CONVERSATION:

The Clerk informed the Committee that he and the Chair of Council together with other Clerks and Chairs had been invited to attend a meeting with Flintshire County Council's Chief Executive and others to participate in discussion concerning greater community control and responsibility for local asset based services including community buildings, play areas and open spaces.

It was expected that Town and Community Councils would be invited to assume responsibility for these community assets, without any compensatory funding being given. No decisions would be taken at the meeting and would require full discussion by the Community Council at a future date.

With regard to the wider issue concerning Flintshire County Council's need to make cuts of £12m to £18m Councillor Brian Williams questioned the affordability of the heavily subsidised Shuttle Bus. Councillor George Hardcastle commented that the discontinuation of this service had been identified by County Members as a possible cost saving measure.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Committee be updated on the outcome of the discussions with the Chief Executive at its October meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:-

- A letter of thanks had been received for the support given by the Council to Hawarden Park Cricket Club 'Proms in the Park' event
- North Wales Health Audit

Members were invited to complete the questionnaires which had been circulated at the meeting.

- Cornerstone Appeal

Information concerning L'Arche was circulated. Members were reminded that Mr & Mrs Loftus of L'Arche Cornerstone would be addressing the Committee's October meeting in connection with the ongoing appeal to assist the establishment of a L'Arche community in Flintshire.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Joyce Angell advised that despite requests the Highway Authority had still not carried out any improvements to the surface of the road at Stamford Way. She feared that further accidents would occur this winter due to the failure to act.

Councillor Brian Williams commented on the poor condition of the railings/barriers at the pedestrian crossing in Hawarden and on the junction of Rectory Lane and The Highway, together with the damaged signing at the latter location.

The Clerk undertook to raise these issues with the Highway's Authority.