

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor David Hough
Vice-Chair: Councillor Alison Halford

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2014, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Transfer of Community Assets

It was confirmed that Expression of Interest forms had been submitted in respect of the Community Assets agreed and that confirmation of the Council's interests had been received. Members variously expressed their doubt that Flintshire County Council would be able to complete the transfers within 12 months as had been stated.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PCSO Will Evans to the meeting. He invited Members to raise any relevant issues.

Councillor Brian Williams sought information concerning an incident which had taken place in the Gladstone Playing Fields car park involving the intimidation of a driver of a parked vehicle. PCSO Evans said that he understood that this matter had been followed up by the North Flintshire Division and he therefore had no information.

Councillor George Hardcastle referred to break-ins and fires at the former Boar's Head Public House in Ewloe and asked whether any security measures were being put in place. PCSO Evans said that the police were aware of the situation and that a recommendation had been made for the perimeter of the premises to be made secure.

In response to Councillor Judith Hough PCSO Evans confirmed that the Christmas Drink Driving campaign was in place.

The Chair thanked PCSO Evans for his attendance.

STREETSCENE ISSUES:

The Chair welcomed Mr Mike Eastwood to the meeting and invited Members to raise any relevant issues.

Councillor Brian Williams referred to problems associated with blocked gullies through Hawarden and asked what the County Council's policy was for emptying/cleaning them. Mr Eastwood said that the current policy was to empty the gullies twice per annum. He acknowledged that there were particular problems with the gullies in front of the War Memorial and outside the Post Office. He advised that the gully in front of the War Memorial had collapsed and that works to repair it were scheduled to commence on 15 December.

Councillor Ve Amos referred to a blocked gully at the junction of Leaches Lane and Ducker's Lane, Mancot. Mr Eastwood said that the gully had been cleared in the last month but he would check to see if it had become blocked again.

Councillor George Hardcastle sought clarification on the policy of dealing with leaves on the pavement, citing that an elderly lady had fallen in Aston Park due to slippery leaves. Mr Eastwood confirmed that the County Council did clear leaves from footpaths and that he would liaise with Councillor Hardcastle to attend to the location in question.

Councillor Clive Carver questioned Mr Eastwood on the County Council's policy for treating pot holes. Mr Eastwood said that the County Council had a resurfacing programme citing recent works at Old Aston Hill and Wood Lane, a patching programme where the surface was taken off to a depth of 50mm and a 'blobbing programme' for small pot holes.

Councillor Joyce Angell questioned whether there were any proposals to improve the surface of the road at Stamford Way, Ewloe, as had been previously asked for as a result of a spate of accidents. Mr Eastwood said that he was not aware of any proposals but undertook to inspect the section of road.

Mr Eastwood responded to a question concerning Wood Lane to confirm that the speed humps would be reinstalled as it was considered that they were extremely efficient in speed reduction.

The Committee was advised that the County Council's winter maintenance precautions were in place and all salt bins had been filled.

The Chair thanked Mr Eastwood for his attendance.

SILVER LINE:

The Chair welcomed Mr Colin Herbert to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee on the work of The Silver Line.

Mr Herbert explained that The Silver Line was an initiative to target loneliness amongst elderly people by offering a telephone contact centre which people could ring at any time of the day and which matched 'befrienders' with lonely elderly people. The befriender would ring the elderly person via The Silver Line switchboard once per week for a chat and was often the only person the elderly person might speak to other than their carer. Mr Herbert referred to the scale of loneliness citing that The Silver Line contact centre received 1,000 calls per day and there were 1,200 people waiting for 'befrienders'.

Mr Herbert spoke briefly about his role as a Community Engagement Volunteer, a unique position in The Silver Line which was presently being piloted and evaluated.

Finally Mr Herbert appealed for any Member who wished to become a 'befriender' to contact The Silver Line or if they knew of a lonely elderly person to advise them of the service offered by The Silver Line.

Councillor Alison Halford commended Mr Herbert for his contribution to not only The Silver Line but other initiatives such as the Hawarden Community Walkers which had such a great impact on the lives of residents in the Community.

The Chair thanked Mr Herbert for his presentation.

COUNCIL CHAMBER:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer discussion on this item to the Committee's January meeting.

HIGHWAY SAFETY AND TRAFFIC ISSUES IN HAWARDEN:

The Chair referred Members to the report and responses received to the Council's consultation exercise.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (a) that the report and responses be received.
- (b) that the Sub-Group should be reconvened and make recommendations to the Committee on the representations which should be made to the Highways Authority.

NJC – STAFF PAY SCALES 2015:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to

- (a) approve the payment of the non consolidated award of £100.

(b) approve the 2.2% pay award.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the Council's office would be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 January.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

- Bus Stops – Hawarden Way, Mancot

Councillor Ralph Small asked that the Highways Department be asked to provide a hard surface at the bus stops on Hawarden Way as at present passengers were having to stand on the grass verges.