

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **9 MARCH 2015**

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 9 February 2015 , be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Community Asset Transfer

Flintshire County Council had advised that hard copy information would be provided to the Council later in the week.

IT WAS AGREED: that in view of the importance of this issue and in order to be able to fully debate it a Special Meeting of the Council be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25 March 2015.

Council Chamber

Councillor Clive Carver advised that the Hawarden Institute Committee would be considering the Community Council's proposals at its next meeting. In response to a question posed by Councillor Carver it was confirmed that the works would be likely to proceed in Summer 2016.

POLICE MATTERS:

Councillor Kevin Jones referred to an incident in which the Caretaker of the Level Road Community Centre had been assaulted.

Councillor Helen Brown referred to individuals offering drugs to young people at Gladstone Playing Fields.

Councillor Judith Hough gave a brief update on the South Flintshire Police Consultation Meeting held on 4 March 2015. A copy of the presentation was circulated for Members' perusal. Councillor Hough advised that crime figures were 3.4% up on the previous year, although violence without injury had increased by 30.5% and shoplifting by 22.6%.

Councillor Hough referred to joint working between North Wales and Cheshire Police, in relation to firearms.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hough for her report and for attending the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that

- (a) the matters raised be noted
- (b) Councillor Judith Hough's report be noted
- (c) the details included in the circulated presentation given by Inspector Jolly be noted.

STAFFING MATTER:

- (a) IT WAS RESOLVED: that due to the confidential nature of the matter that the press and public be excluded.
- (b) The Clerk confirmed the arrangements for the reconvened Disciplinary Hearing and the membership of the Panel i.e. Councillors Alison Halford (Chair of Council), Councillor Joyce Angell and Councillor Brian Williams.

It was noted that an Appeal Panel might need to be formed in the event that an appeal was made against the decision of Disciplinary Panel.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the report
- (b) that the Appeal Panel comprise Councillor Cheryl Carver as Chair and two of the following Members dependent on their availability:- Councillor George Hardcastle, Councillor Kevin Jones and Councillor John Walker.

**DEVOLUTION, DEMOCRACY AND DELIVERY WHITE PAPER
REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE:**

The Chair referred Members to the report attached to the agenda. He advised that the Council had been consulted on proposals for reform in the following fields: local democracy, the roles and remuneration of elected Members and Senior Officers, community governance, Community Councils, community rights, corporate improvement, service performance, scrutiny, audit, inspection and regulation and local government future.

The report highlighted that much of the White Paper related to Principal Authorities, however the meaningful element to the Council related to the section on Community Councils.

The White Paper appeared to want Community and Town Councils to be more ambitious, to work in partnership and become more involved with work supporting vulnerable groups. This would entail a larger and more significant role. However it was suggested that this can only be achieved if there are fewer larger Councils and smaller Councils join together to form larger Councils covering wider areas.

The White Paper also raised a proposal that Community Councils should have to pass a competency test based on democracy, capability, capacity and governance in order to gain extra rights and responsibilities.

Members noted the elements of the competency tests which it appeared Hawarden Community Council would satisfy although the requirement for 2/3 of Councillors to be elected was outside the Council's control.

There was broad consensus supporting the more ambitious role proposed for Town and Community Councils, although it appeared that this together with the extension of Area Boards would put into question the future roles and responsibilities of Principal Councils.

The Committee noted the suggestion of the need for Town and Community Councils to work in partnership something which the Council had been doing for more than thirty years in respect of its administration and maintenance services with its partners Shotton Town Council and Broughton and Bretton Community Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk should formulate a supportive response to the Consultation.

PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDERS:

- (a) Colliery Lane, Mancot
- (b) Magazine Lane, Ewloe

IT WAS RESOLVED: that they be noted

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:-

- Flintshire County Council had produced a new car parking strategy which proposed charging for parking in Tinkersdale Car Park.
- The National Library for Wales had sought permission to archive the Council's website for research purposes.
- Flintshire County Council had invited the Council to send a representative to an Overview and Scrutiny Policy Review Workshop on either 10th or 12th March.
- Kevin Griffiths, the Council's Maintenance Officer will have been employed by the Council on a permanent basis for 25 years on 1st April.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that

- (a) the report be received
- (b) the National Library for Wales be allowed to archive the Council's website
- (c) it be noted that Members of the Community Council who were also County Councillors would be attending the Overview and Scrutiny Policy Workshops. Further that any other Member wishing to attend should liaise with the Clerk
- (d) a presentation be made to Kevin Griffiths at the Council's AGM.

ITEMS FOR PERUSAL:

It was noted that the following item was available for perusal:-

North Wales Community Health Council – New Release of Maternity Changes at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE – 17 JANUARY 2015:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes be received

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Clive Carver informed the Council of the following matters:-

- Flintshire County Council would be carrying out improvement works on The Highway between the Gladstone Way and Tinkersdale junctions over the weekends 14/15 and 21/22 March including the repair to the gulley in front of the War Memorial.
- Network Rail was proposing to erect a 2 metre high fence along Trueman's Way, Hawarden which runs adjacent to the Wrexham – Bidston line.