

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 9 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle
Vice-Chair: Councillor Judith Hough

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per the Council meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were received by Members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 November 2013, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Noise Mitigation – A55 Ewloe

Councillor Halford confirmed that the fence had been erected. She said that she was liaising with one of the main affected residents of Burns Close to ascertain its effectiveness.

POLICE MATTERS:

Councillor Emma Preece referred to a speeding incident which she had witnessed on The Highway at school finishing time. She said that she had reported it to the Police who advised that she would have to take the driver to Court. Councillor Halford advised Councillor Preece to send a statement of the incident together with the car registration number and photograph to the Police and ask that they take action.

Councillor Kevin Jones advised of thefts at one of his commercial properties and the importance of good padlocks.

Councillor David Hough questioned why a cable had been positioned across Aston Hall Lane.

Councillor Hardcastle said that he believed it related to a traffic/speed count but that he would confirm this with the Highway's section.

Councillor Emma Preece referred to three crashes which had happened on Holywell Road.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the matters be noted.

FLINTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

The Chair welcomed Denise Edwards to the meeting and invited her to make a short presentation on the work of Flintshire Neighbourhood Watch in relation to the issue of 'Cold Calling'.

Denise Edwards advised that there were 62 'Cold Calling Zones' in Flintshire, these had been identified by North Wales Police and Flintshire County Council as 'hot spot' areas. She said that the areas had been incident free since being set up. She said that a lack of funding had prevented an expansion of zones but that a funding application had been made to the Welsh Government for use by 31 March 2014.

Denise Edwards spoke of the recently established Silver Line which was being introduced into the North Wales Police area which was specifically designed to help older people.

Councillor Alison Halford queried the statistics tabled in respect of the OWL alert messages, which was responded to. Mrs Edwards said that she would be pleased to host an event for Members to see how the OWL system worked.

The Chair thanked Mrs Edwards for her presentation.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES IN FLINTSHIRE:

The Chair referred Members to the papers attached to the agenda in respect of this matter, which included the Council's letter of response to the draft consultation report and a subsequent email received from Mr Peter Evans, Flintshire County Council's Democracy and Governance Manager who was heading the review.

The Chair thanked his fellow Councillors who had lobbied Mr Evans concerning the proposals and the Clerk for his work which appeared to have persuaded Mr Evans to reconsider his proposals for Hawarden Community Council's Membership from 2017 onwards. In his email response Mr Evans had now suggested that rather than reducing the Council's size from 17 to 16 Members it would instead be increased by 3 to 20 to achieve a level of parity in the ratio of Councillors to electors across the 4 Wards comprising the Community Council's area. This would be achieved by increasing the Ewloe Ward's Councillor numbers from 4 to 7.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to restate the Council's opposition to the proposal to reduce its Councillor numbers by 1 to 16, as was currently proposed in the Consultation Report, and to ask for an increase of 3 to 20 Councillors to provide parity across the Council's 4 Wards and also with other Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

ASTON MEAD DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Helen Brown said that the planning application for the development of the Aston Mead site was being determined by the County Planning and Development Control Committee on 11 December 2013. The proposals in terms of numbers of properties and the access to the development was unchanged from that considered by the Community Council at the time of consultation.

The Chair thanked Councillor Brown for her report.

CLWYD PENSION FUND:

The Clerk referred Members to the correspondence received from the Clwyd Pension Fund seeking comment on its proposed Funding Strategy and 2013 Actuarial Valuation Results. The Clerk gave an explanation of the various points on which comments, if any, were invited. The points related to assumptions made on pay restraints, contribution phasing, the level of allowance for the 50:50 scheme and any post valuation events that should be taken into account.

The Clerk highlighted the proposed future service rates for the Council and the deficit recovery contributions and their level. He drew attention to the deficit recovery period of 9.7 years compared to the average period of 18 years for all employers, which clearly had an impact on the level of the deficit recovery contribution.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to seek an explanation of the reason for the deficit recovery period having been set at 9.7 years, well below the average period for all employers.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised that the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales, Mr Lyn Cadwallader had asked to be given the opportunity to make a presentation to the Council on the work of One Voice Wales at the Council's January meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to invite Mr Cadwallader to make a presentation at the January meeting of the Committee.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.