

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 11 NOVEMBER 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 14 October 2013, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

##### Noise Mitigation – A55 Ewloe

The Chair referred Members to the reply received from the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport which stated that following noise monitoring surveys only 5 properties experienced noise levels and duration to a level where mitigation measures were necessary. The proposed scheme was designed to fill gaps in existing provisions and to reduce noise to the appropriate level. As far as the reconstruction of the carriageway was concerned there were no plans to resurface this length of trunk road within the immediate future.

Councillor Halford expressed her disappointment both at the response and the proposed scheme. She said that the current Minister's predecessor had promised a much more comprehensive scheme. It was agreed to await the implementation of the scheme and assess its effectiveness prior to making further representations to the Welsh Government.

##### Flintshire County Council Website

The Chair referred Members to the response received from Mr Chris Guest, the County's Head of ICT and Customer Services, which outlined the main issues which the County Council had faced when introducing the new website despite the testing which had been undertaken. Members noted the response.

### Hawarden Rotary Youth Leadership Award

The Chair introduced and welcomed Molly Burling and Ellie Murray to the Committee's meeting. It was explained that Molly and Ellie had gained their awards to attend the Rotary Leadership Course following the submission of applications and subsequent interviews.

The Committee received a lively and impressive presentation of the elements of the week long residential course which was designed to develop leadership and team work skills. Both Ellie and Molly spoke of how they believed the course had benefited them and how it would prove useful to them in their chosen future careers. They thanked the Council for partly sponsoring the Leadership Award and invited questions from Members.

The Chair thanked Ellie and Molly for attending the Committee meeting and for giving such an enthusiastic and interesting presentation.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to write to the Head Teacher of Hawarden High School to commend Ellie and Molly for making such an impressive and enthusiastic presentation.

### **POLICE MATTERS:**

The following matters were raised:-

Councillor Brian Williams said that he had witnessed what appeared to be the theft of underground BT cables from The Highway by bogus workmen on the evening of 7 November. He said that he had reported the matter to the Police.

Councillor Clive Carver commented on the poorly attended Police Surgery which been held in Hawarden on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Councillor Glenys Diskin advised that the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to visit Community Council areas if there was a particularly important problem. She said that he had recently visited Caia Park because of problems there.

Councillor Kevin Jones referred to bogus tradesmen who had been targeting elderly residents in the Wood Lane area and asked what could be put in place to warn vulnerable residents to be on their guard against such practices. Councillor Helen Brown said that Neighbourhood Watch played an important role in combating this sort of problem and suggested that a representative of the organisation be invited to the Committee's next meeting to give an overview of the service and the assistance it could give to address the problem reported by Councillor Jones.

Councillors commented on their uncertainty as to which Police Officers were appointed to the various Wards and how they could be contacted. The Chair asked the Clerk to email all Members with the relevant names and contact details.

Councillor Dave Mackie said that the Ewloe over fifties Club was receiving a talk on the issue of cold calling later that week, details of which he would circulate via the Clerk. Members of the Council were welcome to attend.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) that the Clerk send a list of relevant Police Officers and their contact details to all Members via email.

(b) a representative of Neighbourhood Watch be invited to attend the Council's December meeting.

### **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES IN THE COUNTY OF FLINTSHIRE:**

The Chair referred Members to the report attached to the agenda. Members were reminded that the Council had considered this matter in June 2013 in response to the Flintshire County Council's consultation exercise, which had highlighted inconsistent ratio of Councillors to electorate making the Ewloe Ward under represented.

In its response to Flintshire County Council the Community Council had proposed that the number of Councillors in the Ewloe Ward should be increased from 4 to 6 and that the total complement of Councillors thereby increase from 17 to 19.

In its draft report which was submitted to the meeting of the Full County Council on 23 October 2013, it had been proposed that in order to address the inconsistent ratio of electorate to Councillors the Aston Ward elect 4 Councillors, Ewloe elect 6 Councillors, Hawarden elect 2 Councillors and Mancot elect 4 Councillors, thus reducing the overall membership from 17 to 16. Attached to the draft report were appendices showing the draft proposals for all County Wards, elector/Councillor ratios, the current arrangements and the review's guiding principles.

Members' attention was drawn to the grave inconsistencies in the draft report and the inequitable proposals for Hawarden Community Council in comparison to other Town and Community Councils. It was highlighted that the 4 Wards comprising Hawarden Community Council were all in the top 6 highest electorate to Councillor ratio of the 78 Wards in Flintshire. Hawarden Community Council would have one less Councillor than Flint despite having an electorate of 1,386 more, it would have the same number of Councillors as Mold but with 3,365 more electors. Furthermore 10 Community and Town Councils had been placed in bandings higher than the guiding principle, whilst Hawarden had not.

The Committee supported the concerns raised in the report. Councillors George Hardcastle and Clive Carver said that they had already made individual representations to Flintshire County Council concerning the inequitable proposals contained in the draft report.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) that a letter be sent to Flintshire County Council demanding that the recommendations for Hawarden Community Council be reconsidered.

(b) to write to the Boundary Commission should the County Council not revise its proposals on an equitable and consistent basis.

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 A550 TINKERSDALE,  
HAWARDEN (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Order.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk referred to the statistics for the Buckley Outreach CAB for the quarter, a copy of which was circulated.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the statistics be noted.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.