

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **13 JANUARY 2014**

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 9 December 2013, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Police Matters

Councillor Preece advised that she had contacted the Police again regarding the speeding incident and had received an immediate response this time and had been assured that the driver would be spoken to. She said that she had also raised the issue of Road Safe parking in the vicinity of the High School at the end of the school day, when the incident had occurred. She had been advised that due to congestion etc. they would not attend at that time. She therefore questioned the need for a permanent static speed camera at this location.

Aston Hall Lane

Councillor Hardcastle confirmed that the cables which had been positioned across Aston Hall Lane were in relation to speeding and a traffic count. He said that the average recorded speed had been 29.6mph.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PC Martin Price the CBM for Mancot to the meeting and invited the Officer to introduce himself and his role. He explained that he covered Mancot, Sandycroft and Sealand.

The Chair invited Members to raise any relevant matters.

Councillor Clive Carver referred to an incident of littering and use of a mobile phone whilst driving which he had reported to Flintshire County Council and the Police. He said that the County Council pursued the littering offence but the Police had not pursued the use of the mobile phone. The driver had been fined for the littering offence but had stated that he knew who had reported him and that he would be paying him a visit. Councillor Carver had logged this with the Police.

The Clerk raised the matter of antisocial behaviour at Gladstone Playing Fields and complaints from users including Hawarden Rangers and Hawarden Scouts about various incidents and episodes of harassment.

PC Price asked for details of the timings when such incidents were occurring in order that he could arrange for patrols to coincide.

PC Price was questioned regarding Community Policing in South Flintshire and Deeside. He confirmed that there were no Community Beat Managers in South Flintshire but there were in Deeside. He was unable to confirm which Officers had responsibility for all Wards in the Council's area but undertook to find out and report back at the Committee's February meeting.

Councillor Preece referred to the recent 'you tube' clip of a local young man climbing the gantry bridge over the A55 whilst drunk, endangering both his own life and motorists'. She asked if action was being taken. PC Price said he understood that the incident had taken place two years earlier and consequently the Police were unable to take any action against the individual.

Councillor Brian Williams questioned whether the Police would take action if they considered that cars were parked such that they created a hazard. PC Price said that where restrictions were in place Flintshire's Wardens would take action. He advised that he had asked them to target Cross Tree Lane. Councillor Brown said that she had asked the Wardens to target parking opposite the Wood Lane junction.

The Chair thanked PC Price for his attendance.

ONE VOICE WALES:

The Chair welcomed Mr Lyn Cadwallader, the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales and Mr Brian Grew a member of its local Committee to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Cadwallader gave a full and expansive presentation on the role and aims of One Voice Wales and the services it provided for its membership. He spoke of the organisations crucial role in representing the views of the local Council Sector with the Welsh Government and gave examples of successes. He referred to the challenges which lay ahead for the Sector and the part which One Voice Wales could play on its behalf.

It was stated that seventy five percent of local Councils in Wales were in membership. Should Hawarden Community Council decide to join, its subscription cost would be approximately £1,500 in year one and £3,000 per annum in year two.

Councillor Halford queried One Voice Wales' role in connection with Councillors Remuneration and assistance to Councillors who may have breached the Model Code of Conduct. Mr Cadwallader said that One Voice Wales had been involved in the recent legislation which allowed Councillors to claim up to £100 per annum to assist with costs of telephone calls and the use of consumables linked to their role. He said that One Voice Wales would not become involved in issues concerning breaches of the Model Code of Conduct on behalf of the 'accused' as this often conflicted with another Councillor or indeed a Council itself. One Voice Wales would however provide advice to the Council Corporate.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Williams Mr Cadwallader said that One Voice Wales' funding came from its membership subscriptions, training courses and consultancy services.

The Chair thanked Mr Cadwallader and Mr Grew for their presentation.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer consideration of the Council's membership to the Committee's February meeting.

CLWYD PENSION FUND:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note and accept the explanation provided by the Clwyd Pension Fund Manager.

COMMUNITY POLLS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the consultation.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:-

- The Flintshire Standards Committee report had been received and was circulated.
- Bennett's Lane, Hawarden would be closed from 2 – 5 days from 18 February in connection with works being undertaken by Dwr Cymru.
- Members were reminded that the Joint Services Committee was being held at 7pm on Thursday 16 January.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.