

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 14 OCTOBER 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 9 September 2013, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

##### Police Matters

With reference to the incident reported by Councillor Kevin Jones. Councillor Clive Carver said that he had reported a minor incident in Hawarden recently and had been given a crime number almost immediately.

##### Church of the Holy Spirit 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A letter had been received thanking the Council for its support of the events organised by the Church.

#### **POLICE MATTERS:**

It was noted that the Police would only attend if invited to do so in relation to a particular matter, hence the non-attendance of a representative.

Councillor Hardcastle referred to an incident involving tins of paint being deliberately spilt across Clay Lane, Aston.

#### **NOISE MITIGATION – A55, EWLOE:**

The Chair referred the Committee to drawings attached to the agenda showing the North Wales Trunk Road Agency's proposal to erect acoustic barriers along relatively short sections of the A55.

Councillor Mackie commended Councillor Halford for persuading the Welsh Government to put these measures in place, although he did not think that they were as extensive as had been expected and wasn't confident that they would adequately deal with the noise nuisance caused by the ailing sub-structure of the carriageway. He suggested that in view of Councillor Halford's involvement with this matter that her views should be sought and that they should form the Council's response.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Councillor Halford prior to responding to the North Wales Trunk Road Agency.

#### **CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT:**

The Chair advised that Flintshire County Council had invited the submission of any further amendments, additions or revocations to waiting restrictions. He referred Members to the Council's response to the original request in May 2011, a copy of which was attached to the agenda.

Councillor Clive Carver expressed his concern that Flintshire County Council's Enforcement Officers had been requested to attend to parking problems in Hawarden by a Councillor from another area. Councillor Mackie welcomed the County Council's involvement in parking enforcement and the opportunity to now be able to direct attention to problem areas.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that he was concerned that there should not be a proliferation of yellow lines as they were harmful to businesses. He did however support restrictions around the Community's schools.

Councillor Brian Williams referred to two locations i.e. opposite the White Bear in Mancot Lane and opposite the Wood Lane junction where parked vehicles caused a safety hazard.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that in addition to the locations submitted in May 2011 the Council would also request restrictions be put in place opposite The White Beat, Mancot Lane and opposite the Wood Lane junction, Hawarden.

#### **FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL:**

The Chair welcomed Russell Jones the Chair of Flintshire Community Health Council and Colin Herbert, a member of the Flintshire Community Health Council to the meeting and invited them to address the Committee.

The Committee was advised:-

- Community Health Councils were independent statutory bodies. Each one had co-terminus boundaries with its respective County Council.
- The CHC inspected and made recommendations from a lay point of view.
- The CHC work with service providers.
- The CHC provided a free advocacy service for patients.

- In the last four years Flintshire CHC had visited and inspected every hospital, Doctors surgery and pharmacy in the County.
- A typical hospital inspection would involve two teams, looking at matters from a patients/public perspective. The inspection teams would go everywhere the public/patient went. They would look at parking, signage, bus service, grounds, litter, reception areas, lifts, toilets and corridors. They inspected the Wards and talked to the staff and patients about matters such as privacy and dignity. They carried out a ‘bug watch’ which involved looking at cleanliness.
- An inspection of a Doctors surgery would include looking at car parking, dropping off facilities, reception, friendliness of staff and the appointments situation.
- An inspection of pharmacies might include looking at access, private areas and the availability of hearing loops.
- The CHC’s reports were summarised and forwarded to the Minister for Health.
- The CHC was keen to hear patients’ experiences both good and bad.
- The representatives said that they would welcome the opportunity to be able to attend a further meeting of the Committee in 2014 to receive any feedback from members on behalf of the public. In the interim any matters could be raised directly with Russell Jones.

Councillor Mackie said that he had taken part in two inspections with Flintshire Community Health Council. He said that the staff were ‘avid informants’.

Councillor Jones commented that the issue he heard about most was the delay in getting an appointment with a Doctor.

The Chair thanked Russell Jones and Colin Herbert for their most interesting presentation.

The Clerk was asked to forward Russell Jones’ email address to all Members.

**CLERK’S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:

- A letter had been received from Flintshire County Council’s Streetscene service in respect of preparations for the coming winter.
- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Report for 2014 had been received and was available for perusal.
- The Tai Clwyd Annual Report had been received and was available for perusal.

**NJC ANNUAL PAY AWARD 2013/2014:**

The Council was asked to note and approve acceptance of the 1% national salary award effective from 1 April 2013.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that this be noted and agreed.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Councillor Brian Williams referred to the new Flintshire County Council website which he said was almost impossible to access and unfriendly to use.

Other Members spoke of their frustration when trying to use the website.

The Clerk was asked to inform Flintshire County Council of the comments made.