

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **14 DECEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Joyce Angell
Vice-Chair: Councillor Cheryl Carver

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Community Youth Representatives: As per Council Meeting

Officers: 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 November 2015, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

John Summers High School

The response agreed by the Committee at its November 2015 meeting had been acknowledged by Flintshire County Council.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Clerk reported that PCSO Will Evans was being transferred to Rhyl, his replacement was not known at this time.

No matters were raised by Members.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – PLAY AREAS:

The Chair referred Members to the report attached to the agenda. The report clarified Flintshire County Council's position regarding funding for transferred play areas together with a number of responses from other Community Councils concerning their experiences with the Community Asset Transfer programme. The report reminded the Committee that the Council would have to agree its 2016/2017 budget at its January meeting and therefore a decision was needed in relation to what financial provision, if any, the Council should make for Community Asset Transfers.

Councillor Dave Mackie said that he could not support the taking over of the four play areas being offered, referring to the estimated cost of £500,000 over a 27 year lease period to replace equipment and maintain the sites. He referred to terms being offered to a nearby Town Council which provided for a greater financial input by the County Council and a shorter lease term. Councillor Mackie proposed that the Community Council should not make any financial provision as, should the Council agree to take on any of the assets, it would not be until partway through the financial year at the earliest and the Council could use its Reserves if necessary.

Councillors Alison Halford and Emma Preece suggested that the Council should take a more prudent stance and make some provision for Community Asset Transfer in 2016/2017.

Councillors Clive Carver and Kevin Jones supported Councillor Dave Mackie's view.

Councillor Mackie's proposal was duly seconded and on being put to a vote IT WAS RESOLVED: not to make any financial provision for Community Asset Transfers in the 2016/2017 budget but instead to use the Council's Reserves if required.

HIGHWAY & CAR PARKING ISSUES IN HAWARDEN:

The Chair welcomed John Griffiths, Streetscene Supervisor to the meeting for this item.

- Bollards, Glynne Way, Hawarden

The Chair reminded the Committee that it had been agreed in September 2015 to extend the bollards outside the Post Office for approximately twenty metres in a North Westerly direction to prevent parking on the wide section of footpath, subject to receipt of costings.

Flintshire County Council had advised that the bollards would cost £960 but the County Council would install them at no cost to the Community Council.

Councillor Kevin Jones expressed his opposition to the proposal citing the impact such restrictions had on small businesses.

Councillor Clive Carver proposed that the quotation be approved and the bollards be installed. This was seconded by Councillor Dave Hough and on being put to a vote:
IT WAS RESOLVED: to install the bollards at a cost of £960 to the Community Council.

QUEENSERRY ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:

John Griffiths explained that works were to begin on a Queensferry roundabout improvement scheme in late January, which would provide 3 lane A494 off slips, with traffic signals, the remodelling of the traffic islands to increase stacking and the upgrading of the traffic signals to complete the synchronisation work along the Deeside corridor. It was understood that the works would cost approximately £700,000 of which £200,000 was being met by Flintshire County Council.

Members raised various points opposing the scheme including its cost at a time when Flintshire was unable to protect its services, previous schemes which were meant to have improved traffic flows and the effect on local businesses.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to write in opposition to this scheme.

The following highway matters were raised by Members.

Councillor Brian Williams referred to blocked gulleys along The Highway.

Councillor Kevin Jones referred to the build up of leaves in Level Road which would eventually block the gulleys.

John Griffiths undertook to have both matters attended to.

Fly Tipping/Littering – John Griffiths advised that with effect from January 2016 Flintshire County Council would be adopting a zero tolerance to fly tipping and littering.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised that the Council's office would be closed on the statutory Bank Holidays over Christmas and the New Year.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Clive Carver informed the Committee that the revised 30mph and 50mph speed limits were shortly to be introduced in the area between Castle Rise and the Hawarden Industrial Estate roundabout.

Councillor George Hardcastle referred to the theft of black bins from the Aston Community Centre.