

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **9 NOVEMBER 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:

Councillors Alison Halford, Dave Mackie and Joyce Angell and Community Youth Representative Ricki Hewitt declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 7 – John Summers High School.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 October 2015, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984

Councillor Clive Carver said that he had queried with Flintshire County Council why the submitted scheme for the B5125 differed from one proposed in July. He was awaiting a response.

Councillor Ralph Small welcomed the proposal for Colliery Lane, Mancot.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Council received an update report on antisocial behaviour and crime in Hawarden and Ewloe from PCSO Will Evans, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The following matters were raised by Members:-

- Barriers, cones etc. from the building site on Leaches Lane, Mancot were regularly being moved into the middle of the road, causing a hazard to motorists.
- Prompt action by the Police in dealing with a suspected abandoned car on the approach to Hawarden Station.
- A note regarding suspicious activities in The Paddocks was passed to the Clerk for onward transmission to the Police.
- Concern was expressed about the number of crimes (14) reported in Hawarden and Ewloe in the period 12/10 to 06/11.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS:

The Chair referred Members to the report which had been circulated with the agenda, setting out the funding support which would be expected should the Council agree to accept the transfer of the four County Council Open Spaces at Level Road, Wilde Close, Sheridan Avenue and Carlines Avenue, Ewloe.

The Committee noted the small sums involved and therefore the potentially substantial cost to the Community Council exacerbated by the withdrawal of the availability of match funding for its existing sites.

Councillor David Mackie proposed that:

- (a) The Council should make no commitment at this time.
- (b) Enquiries should be made to ascertain how other Town and Community Councils were responding to County Council transfers in their areas.
- (c) Advise Flintshire County Council of the Community Council's concerns about the substantial capital costs which are associated with an acceptance of the transfers.

Councillor Mackie's proposal was seconded by Councillor David Hough and following the taking of a vote was accepted as the agreed course of action.

JOHN SUMMERS HIGH SCHOOL:

The Committee considered the letter received from Flintshire County Council which had been circulated with the agenda summarising the responses received to the School's proposed closure consultation exercise. The letter suggested that the Community Council would be aware, through its County Council membership of the ongoing process. The letter further invited any observations which had not already been raised in the consultation exercise.

Members voiced concerns that the Council was being asked to make observations on responses to a consultation exercise when it had not been formally provided with any of the details and rationale and also that the Council had not been included in the Consultation Exercise, even though some of the pupils of John Summers High School were residents of its area. Furthermore, given the receipt of this ‘eleventh hour’ contact there was concern that the Consultation Exercise might not have been carried out in accordance with the approved procedure associated with a School closure.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to

- (a) Advise Flintshire County Council that the Community Council was not prepared to make observations on this matter as it had not been provided with any of the details of the proposal and therefore it could not make an informed comment.
- (b) Seek clarification as to why the Community Council was not included in the formal consultation exercise.

CLERK’S REPORT:

The following matter was reported:

- This is our Moment.

Flintshire County Council was holding a series of events ‘This is our Moment’ across the County in connection with its need to find savings. The Community Council had been invited to nominate 4 representatives to attend the meeting to be held at Sandycroft CP School on 7 December 2015.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillors Cheryl Carver, Judith Hough, Emma Preece and Ralph Small should represent the Council.

MEMBERS’ INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Clive Carver commented on the works due to take place at Queensferry roundabout in January 2016 which would have an effect in Mancot and Hawarden if motorists chose alternative routes to avoid delays. It was understood the works would take twelve weeks to complete.