

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor David Hough
Vice-Chair: Councillor Alison Halford

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per the Council meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Clive Carver declared an interest in agenda item no. 11 Review of Polling Districts and Places/Stations 2014.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2014, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Street Cleaning/Blocked Gullies

The Area Highway Supervisor had advised that the gullies had been emptied during the summer.

The Area Highway Supervisor had asked to be allowed to attend the Committee's November meeting.

Railings/Barriers – Hawarden Village

It was hoped that these would be replaced resulting from an ongoing transport safety audit.

Road Surface – Stamford Way, Ewloe

It was hoped that funding for either an improvement scheme or resurfacing would arise from the Transport Safety Study.

L'ARCHE CORNERSTONE APPEAL PRESENTATION:

The Chair welcomed Terry and Pat Loftus to the meeting and invited them to address the Council.

Mr & Mrs Loftus gave an account of the history of L'Arche and its aspiration to establish secure and supported houses for people with learning disabilities. They spoke of L'Arche Flintshire and its fund raising activities. Terry explained that their target was to raise £150,000 to fund a house for 6 – 8 people located in the Mold area. They were now within £34,000 of their goal.

Councillor Halford said that she was delighted to be supporting this most worthy cause through a Charity Race Night to be held on a yet to be agreed Saturday in February.

Councillor Hardcastle spoke from knowledge about the hard work Terry and Pat Loftus undertook on behalf of L'Arche Cornerstone Appeal and the support which L'Arche gave not only to those with special needs but also their families.

The Chair thanked Mr & Mrs Loftus for their attendance.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed CBM Martin Price to the meeting and invited him to address the meeting on any local issues.

PC Price spoke of a spate of distraction burglaries and the need for elderly people to be cautious. He referred to ongoing parking issues at school time in Cross Tree Lane and said that the Police and the Council's Traffic Wardens were attending.

Councillor Kevin Jones sought information on reports of suspicious males on bikes in the St David's Park area and arrangements for Halloween and Bonfire night. PC Price advised that a PCSO was patrolling the area and that there would be extra patrols for Halloween and Bonfire night.

The Chair thanked PC Price for his attendance.

HIGHWAY AND SAFETY TRAFFIC ISSUES IN HAWARDEN:

The Chair referred Members to the report attached to the agenda outlining the Sub-Committee's discussions and summarising its recommendations.

The Sub-Committee was thanked for its work and it was proposed that, prior to making any formal representations to the Highways Authority, the views of local organisations and certain individuals in the Community should be sought.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) to note the recommendations of the Sub-Committee

(b) to seek the views of local organisations and certain individuals on the matter

(c) subsequently to debate the issue prior to making formal representations to the Highways Authority

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – THE BIG BUDGET CONVERSATION – TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Chair referred Members to the report on the discussions which had taken place at the County Forum attended by the Chair of Council and the Clerk. The report highlighted the dire financial straits which Flintshire found itself in and its need therefore to open discussions with Town and Community Councils about the possible transfer of certain Community Assets and responsibilities.

Flintshire County Council had undertaken to provide each Town/Community Council with a list of vulnerable assets/services to see what assistance might be available. The time scale however was such that Town and Community Councils would be preparing their 2015/2016 budgets in advance of any certainty as to which if any assets/responsibilities it would be taking on.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to

- (a) receive the report
- (b) await the list of assets /responsibilities available for transfer.

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS ORDER:

The Committee was invited to note that Flintshire County Council had made an Order which would come into force immediately for purposes preliminary to the next ordinary elections for Town and Community Councils. The number of Councillors on the Ewloe Ward will increase from 4 to 7 and the total number to 20.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the Order
- (b) to place an item on the Committee's November agenda to consider the suitability of the Council Chamber in view of 3 additional Members and the possibility of co-opting 2 Community Youth representatives.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ACT 1984 – PROPOSED ROAD TRAFFIC ORDER – OAKFIELD ROAD, WOOD LANE, UPPER ASTON HALL LANE AND THE HIGHWAY:

The Committee was advised that it was invited to make comment, if it so wished in respect of the Order which was designed “to control parking, especially at the start and end of the school day and to improve safety for children and pedestrians.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Order.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES/STATIONS 2014:

The Committee was invited to comment on the suitability of the existing arrangements and to propose any alterations if needed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council of the Council's support for the existing arrangements.

N.B. Councillor Clive Carver declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:-

(a) Flintshire and Wrexham were undertaking a joint housing market assessment of 27,500 households to gain a clearer idea of future housing needs.

(b) Buckley Outreach CAB – The attendances for 1 July to 30 September had been received. There had been no visits by residents with a Deeside postcode.

(c) Code of Conduct Training – Flintshire County Council had offered training on the Code of Conduct to Members of Town and Community Councils.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to

1. note (a) and (c)
2. seek clarification on the number of Hawarden Community Council residents visiting the Connah's Quay CAB.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Joyce Angell sought the Committee's support to make representation to the local Assembly Member over the case of a local resident who had been forced to live in Chester in order to be able to receive life enhancing medication, which was not available to Welsh patients. It was agreed to write to Carl Sargeant AM on this matter.