

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 8 MARCH 2010

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle
Vice-Chair: Councillor Helen Yale

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Kevin Jones

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 February 2010 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

CCTV System outside MnS Store, Holywell Road, Ewloe

The Clerk confirmed that AGS Security Systems had both provided operating instruction to the store staff and also repositioned the camera as requested. PC Pullen thanked the Council for arranging this and said that the repositioned camera would assist him and his colleagues.

Review of Electoral Arrangements Draft Proposals

The Clerk advised that he had received a copy of Flintshire County Council's Chief Executive's report which was being submitted to the full Council on the following day. He said that many of the issues raised in the Chief Executive's report were ones which the Community Council had raised in its submission to the Boundary Commission for Wales.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PC Chris Pullen and PCSO Sue Holmes to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PC Pullen raised the following matters:

- Chippy Lane, Ewloe

Youngsters were now congregating there and causing nuisance to nearby neighbours. He commented that neighbours had requested that the footway lighting along Chippy Lane be switched off as it was intrusive into their properties. The Officer was advised that the lighting was there to provide a safe passage for pedestrians walking along the footpath and the Council could not therefore accede to residents' requests for it to be turned off. However the Council would undertake some alterations to the lighting heads to restrict the amount of light shining into the properties.

- Cross Tree Lane School Initiative

PC Pullen said that the initiative which aimed to encourage improved safety outside schools was underway and that the pupils themselves were actively engaged in seeking to influence their parents.

- Aston Mead

The 'No cold calling' signs were presently being erected and residents were being required to complete a questionnaire.

The Chair thanked PC Pullen for his report and invited Members to raise relevant matters with the Officers.

Councillor Halford questioned where the displacement of the vehicles had been now that the parking restrictions were in force in Chester Road, Ewloe. PC Pullen said that it was not obvious that they had moved to one particular place although it was suspected that a number were now parking at the rear of the Co-op.

Councillor Hardcastle asked what the current situation was in connection with disturbances in Cambrian Way, Ewloe. PC Pullen said that it appeared that the situation had settled down even though the individual concerned was living back at the property.

Councillor Walker asked whether the Police could carry out traffic speed enforcement action along Mancot Lane as it was apparent that drivers were exceeding the speed limit. Councillor Glenys Diskin said she believed that that was in the Mancot Neighbourhood Policing Panel's Action Plan at present.

There being no further questions the Chair thanked PC Pullen and PCSO Holmes for their attendance at the meeting.

PC Pullen said that he regretted to have to advise the Council that he would be leaving his post on 6 April to take up a position with the Response Team. He said that he had been a CBM for seven years and had greatly enjoyed his time as the CBM for Hawarden and Ewloe. PC Pullen's replacement would be PC Gill Learle who had previously been a CBM in Mancot. On behalf of the Council Councillor Hardcastle wished PC Pullen every success in his future career and thanked him for the work he had undertaken in Hawarden and Ewloe whilst its CBM.

REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES REGULATIONS:

The Chair referred Members to the correspondence attached to the agenda which sought the Council's view on the need to review allowances for Members of Community and Town Councils in Wales.

The Clerk took Members through the correspondence explaining the situation at present and the possible options for future allowances. He highlighted that whilst it was essential that there should be a scale of allowances for Members no claim had been made by any Member of the Council in respect of any expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as Members of the Community Council in the past ten years.

Members noted that the Council's response was not required until June 2010 and it was suggested that Councillors individually consider the seventeen questions raised in the document and provide their individual responses to the Clerk for him to collate and subsequently respond to the Assembly with the majority view.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were raised:

- The North Wales Trunk Road Agency had advised that it would be resurfacing the A494 between Ewloe and Queensferry from 7pm to 6am for three weeks commencing on 9 March. Traffic seeking to join the A494 at Ewloe would be diverted via The Highway and Gladstone Way. It was noted that this related to traffic travelling in a north easterly direction and that in April works would commence on the opposite carriageway.
- Paul Davies had recommenced his placement with the Direct Maintenance Team and would be assisting with playing fields maintenance during the forthcoming growing season.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Yale advised that an exhibition of affordable housing was taking place at Aston Community Centre between 2 – 7pm on 11 March 2010.