

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 9 JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle
Vice-Chair: Councillor Clive Carver

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mike 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 12 December 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair noting that the first paragraph of Members' Information Items had been amended in the Minute Book to reflect that the suggestion for a trophy had been made by Councillor Hardcastle and not by Hawarden Rangers.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

POLICE MATTERS:

The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded copies of all Councillors email contact addresses to Inspector McKeown in order that he could provide fortnightly updates on relevant issues directly to Members of the Council. Members voiced their concern that they had not received any contact from the Inspector which had been promised in lieu of regular attendance at the Council's meetings by Police Officers. Members instructed the Clerk to contact Inspector McKeown regarding the perceived breakdown of communication.

Councillor Kevin Jones questioned whether there had been any response from the Police to matters raised by Members at the Committee's December meeting. The Clerk advised that there had been no response to date.

Councillor Halford questioned what Inspector Iwan Jones meant in his letter to the Council in respect of the South Flintshire Joint Consultative Meeting in which he expressed his disappointment that since May 2011 he had only received two requests from Members. The Clerk suggested that this referred to the uptake by Councils of his offer to attend meetings. It was noted that Inspector Jones had attended the Council's meeting on 9 May 2011.

Members questioned whether the Clerk had any information concerning the attendance of Police at meetings of other Town & Community Councils, such as its partners Broughton & Bretton Community Council and Shotton Town Council. The Clerk said that the situation at Broughton & Bretton Community Council was much different in that there was always a Police representative at the meeting, usually the PCSO. He said that he was not aware of the situation at Shotton Town Council but that he would seek clarification. A Member questioned whether the Police gave more priority to Flintshire's Towns rather than its Communities and asked Councillor Kevin Jones who had shops in both Hawarden and Shotton whether there was a different culture vis-à-vis crime. Councillor Jones said that there were differences in that shoplifting tended to be more of a problem in Shotton whereas teenage nuisance seemed to be more prevalent in Hawarden where he had also experienced more serious incidents of crime.

With regard to communication with the Police Councillor Glenys Diskin referred to her attendance as a County Councillor at meetings with the Deeside Community Policing Sergeant to which she took one Member of the Community Council with her.

The Chair drew Members attention to the letter received from Inspector Iwan Jones with regard to the South Flintshire Joint Consultation Meeting to which two Members of the Community Council were invited to attend. Councillor Judith Hough indicated that she and Councillor David Hough would be prepared to attend the meeting on 6 February.

The Chair of Committee, Councillor Hardcastle referred to the theft of hubcaps from a new vehicle in Aston Park.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) that the Clerk report the Council's concern Members had not received email communications from Inspector McKeown.

(b) that Councillors David and Judith Hough represent the Council at the South Flintshire Joint Consultation Meeting on 6 February 2012.

A SHARED COMMUNITY – CHARTER BETWEEN FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS:

The Chair referred Members to the Charter, a copy of which was enclosed with the agenda.

The Clerk outlined the purpose of the Charter and its status between Flintshire County Council and Town and Community Councils. He referred also to the meetings of the County Forum where much of the work in formulating the Charter had been undertaken.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Charter be received.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Joint Services Committee involving representatives from Hawarden Community Council, Broughton & Bretton Community Council and Shotton Town Council was being held on 19 January to agree the Joint Service budget for 2012/2013, which would form part of Hawarden Community Council's budget. The Community Council's five representatives on the Joint Services Committee were Councillors Clive Carver, Ve Amos, George Hardcastle, David Mackie and Judith Hough. Papers for the meeting would be dispatched on 10 January 2012.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.