

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Brian Williams
Vice-Chair: -

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per the Council meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin, Ralph Small and John Walker in connection with Item 11 Mancot and Moor Village Hall Association.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2012, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Councillor Halford referred to the proposal that she should send an email to the Chief Constable in connection with antisocial behaviour using information supplied to the by the Clerk & Financial Officer. She said that she had subsequently given this further consideration and was of the opinion that it would be better if the communication was sent by the Council itself rather than by an individual Member. This was duly noted and it was agreed that the Clerk & Financial Officer would send a communication to the Chief Constable on behalf of the Community Council.

POLICE MATTERS:

Councillor Clive Carver referred to the article which had appeared in the Friday 8 June edition of the Flintshire Leader and said that he considered that the reference to drug taking at an establishment in Hawarden had been unhelpful to the Police who were already aware of and dealing with the matter.

Councillor Glenys Diskin advised that she had met the Superintendent and Inspector recently in a separate forum. She said she had raised the issue of the Police's non attendance at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon when they had been asked to attend in view of antisocial behaviour. She said that she had also advised them of the Council's dissatisfaction at the non attendance of the Police at meetings of the Community Council. She said that the Inspector for South Flintshire had indicated that he would be prepared to attend if there were matters to discuss.

Councillor Brown referred to the presence of the Police helicopter which had been overhead in the Hawarden/Ewloe area for a number of hours on the previous day in connection with an individual discharging an air rifle at pigeons.

Councillor Hardcastle commented on the difficulties of getting Police to attend meetings of the Council and incidents of antisocial behaviour and said he found it difficult to justify the presence of a Police helicopter to deal with someone shooting at pigeons.

Councillor Halford referred to the proposal to elect a Police Commissioner for North Wales and suggested that his/her views be sought in connection with communication and liaison between the Police and Town and Community Councils in North Wales.

THE LATE GARY SPEED MBE:

The Chair reminded Members that the Committee had agreed at its December 2011 meeting to defer discussion of how it would wish to officially mark the life of the late Gary Speed to a future meeting. He further reminded the Committee that Gary Speed had been born and raised in Aston and that his parents still resided in the family home in Courtland Drive. The Chair invited Members to put forward suggestions as to how the Council might mark Gary Speed's life.

Councillor Small said that he had suggested at the Committee's December 2011 meeting that a bust of Gary Speed could be commissioned and put on permanent display at Hawarden High School. He said that he had however had further thoughts about this and now considered that a more appropriate proposal would be to rename the Aston Park play area in Gary Speed's name as this is where he first started to play football.

Councillor Brown said that she had spoken to Gary Speed's parents and that they had indicated that they would support the Council erecting a memorial bench at the Aston Park play area. It was also noted that Gary Speed had attended Hawarden High School and had played for the Hawarden Rangers Football Team and the family had questioned whether the Hawarden link could also be recognised.

Councillor Brown proposed that the Council should proceed in discussions with Gary Speed's parents in connection with the renaming of the Aston play area and also the provision of a memorial bench and subsequently to investigate how his link with Hawarden could be marked.

PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING B5127 MOLD ROAD, EWLOE:

The Chair advised Members that the Council was invited to comment on the proposal to create a controlled pedestrian facility adjacent to Ewloe Green School (25 metres east of the junction with Broadway).

The Committee was reminded that the Community Council had assisted in the making of the funding application to the Welsh Assembly in connection with this crossing which would benefit both the School and Ewloe residents generally.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that Hawarden Community Council fully supported the proposed puffin crossing at the stated location.

TOWN/COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

The Committee was invited to consider a suitable nominee to represent Town and Community Councils on the Flintshire Standards Committee. A nominee would need to meet the eligibility criteria set out in the details attached to the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the invitation to nominate a representative but not to do so as no suitable nominee could be identified.

OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012:

The Committee was advised that the report had been received and was available for Members' perusal. The Clerk assured the Committee that there was no reference to Hawarden Community Council in the report.

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS:

The Chair advised that the Committee was invited to appoint a representative to serve on this Forum which focused on public rights of way issues. The Chair reminded Members that Mr Colin Herbert, the Hawarden Community Walks Leader had attended a previous meeting of the Forum and had indicated his willingness to continue to represent the Council if it so wished.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) to thank Mr Herbert for his willingness to represent the Community Council on the Forum.

(b) to advise the Flintshire Local Access Forum that Mr Colin Herbert would represent the views of the Community Council at meetings of the Forum.

MANCOT & MOOR VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION:

The Village Hall Association had advised of its intention to use the Charity Commissioner's official custodian service to hold the title deeds of the property. The reason for doing so overcame the need to appoint individuals as Holding Trustees and thereby avoided associated legal fees. The Village Hall Association had questioned whether the Community Council had any objection to this proposal.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise the Mancot & Moor Village Hall Association that Hawarden Community Council had no objection to the proposal to use the Charity Commissioner's official custodian service.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the Latter Day Saints Youth Club had offered the services of up to 30 youngsters and 12 adults to assist with a community clean up project on 26 & 27 July. Members were asked to consider whether there were any suitable projects which the Group could assist with.

Members considered this offer and the only assistance which appeared to be required was in connection with the clearance of overgrown hedges affecting footpaths in the area. However this work was the responsibility of Flintshire County Council and not the Community Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (a) to thank the Youth Club for its offer of assistance
- (b) to refer the Youth Club Leader to Flintshire County Council's Streetscene Service in connection with the possible clearance of overgrown hedges.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Brown referred to the emergence of a Community Group on Old Aston Hill. She said that she had met the organisers and given them the names of possible contacts. She said that one of the proposals was to establish a Youth Group and said that it was likely that the Council would receive funding applications from the Group in the future.