

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 10 JANUARY 2011

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Alison Halford
Vice-Chair: Councillor Ralph Small

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Jones and Danielle Platten.

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 13 December 2010 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Gritting of Roads/Side Roads

The Clerk said that he had written to the County's Highways Department to ascertain where salt bins were currently sited. However as yet he had not received a reply. He said that he had also written to the Council's insurers in respect of any insurance liability issue which might arise from the Council's involvement in snow clearance but again no reply had been received as yet.

The Clerk said that he had however had a conversation with a Senior Officer in the Highways Department who had opined that the responsibility for snow clearance rested with the County Council and that the Community Council should concentrate on ensuring that its own premises were accessible to the public. The Officer had also advised that the legal position had changed some twelve months ago and that the Council would not be liable for anyone sustaining an injury in an area which the Council had attempted to clear. With regard to the siting of salt/grit bins some which had previously been on gritting routes had been removed and others sited at strategic points on non gritting routes.

The Clerk said that he hoped to be able to present a report to the Committee's February meeting when the formal responses had been received from both the Highways Authority and the Council's insurers.

Councillor Kevin Jones proposed that the Council should make every effort to assist the local community with the clearance/gritting of snow.

The Chair said that any decision should be made following the receipt of the outstanding responses and consideration of the report to be put to the next meeting of the Committee.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PC Catherine Jones and PCSO Adam Wilson to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PCSO Wilson referred to the issue raised at the previous meeting in connection with young people drinking alcohol along the St David's Park spine road. He said that the Police were looking into the possibility of undertaking proxy sale checks to tackle the problem.

PCSO Wilson reported the following:

- Since the last meeting the area had been relatively quiet and there had been no further incidents of antisocial behaviour at either Chippy Lane or in the footpath adjacent to the Crown and Liver Public House.
- The next Neighbourhood Policing Panel was being held at St David's Park Hotel on 25 February.
- The Officers would be targeting offences in connection with littering and dog fouling.
- The local Officers were hoping to organise a family fun day in August. Informal discussions had taken place with local schools who appeared to be supportive.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report and welcomed the proposal for the holding of a family fun day in August and asked that the Council be further updated on this initiative at the February meeting.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Halford PCSO Wilson confirmed that there had been no further problems at the Youth Club but that he and PC Jones were visiting the Club again that evening.

In response to Councillor Kevin Jones the Officers advised that PC Lehrle was making good progress and expected to be back on light duties in March. Councillor Hardcastle proposed that the Council send flowers to PC Lehrle.

Councillor Clive Carver drew the Officers attention to a complaint he had received in connection with underage drinking of alcohol in the footpath from Vicars Close to the children's play area. This was noted.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) to note the Officers report and the various matters raised.

(b) to send a bouquet of flowers to PC Lehrle.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT:

The Chair referred Members to correspondence attached to the agenda which advised that Flintshire County Council was currently considering an application to the Welsh Assembly Government for powers in respect of civil parking enforcement. Within the formal application it was intended to apply for the transfer of parking enforcement powers on a date yet to be determined in the 2011/2012 financial year with enforcement covering the whole County except the A55 and A494 Trunk Roads. The County Council invited any observations which the Community Council might have in respect of this matter.

Councillor Walker said that whilst he had no objection to this proposal he was concerned that the transfer of powers should not result in a net cost to the Authority. Other Members variously supported Councillor Walker's view.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that Hawarden Community Council had no objection to the transfer of parking enforcement powers subject to there being no net cost to the Authority as a result.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk reported the following matters:

- The Council's application for planning approval for the change of use of The Lodge to the Council's Office had not yet been determined by the Planning Authority
- The Council's Maintenance Assistant Mr Howard Williams had been on sick leave for six weeks as a result of a back problem. In response to Councillor Kevin Jones the Clerk confirmed that the problem was not due to an injury sustained at work.
- A report would be submitted to the February meeting in connection with the proposals for the replacement of the Maintenance Officer together with a copy of the proposed job description. The Committee would be invited to decide how it wished to proceed with the interviewing process.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that Members be invited to contribute to a collection in respect Mr David Heaton the retiring Maintenance Officer.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Clive Carver informed Members that should they have any issue with abandoned vehicles in their wards Flintshire County Council provided a service for their removal.