

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 10 OCTOBER 2011**

**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:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin, Ralph Small and John Walker.

#### **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 September 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

The Clerk confirmed that flowers had been sent to Mrs Sue Jones and the Chair of Council read out a card of thanks she had sent.

#### **QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's decision to light a Beacon at Gladstone Playing Fields had been acknowledged by the National organisers and that Hawarden ATC had agreed to assist in the organisation of the event. He said that he would shortly be liaising with the Fire Service and the Council's insurers.

#### **POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chair welcomed PC Catherine Jones and PCSO Adam Wilson to the meeting.

PC Catherine Jones said that there had only been two calls in response to antisocial behaviour in the Hawarden and Ewloe area over the past month.

Councillor Clive Carver questioned whether anyone had been apprehended in connection with vandalism to properties in the Vickers Close/Overlea Drive area. The Officers confirmed that two individuals had been dealt with in connection with this matter.

With regard to an incident which had taken place at Gladstone Bowling Club where damage had been caused the Officers said they had advised the Club to consider the installation of CCTV. The Clerk said that the incident referred to had been recorded on the Council's CCTV system at Gladstone Playing Fields which covered the entrance to the Bowling Club and that the Police had been advised of the existence of the evidence but no Officers had attended to view it.

Councillor Brown said that she had attended the initial Antisocial Behaviour Panel meeting but that the subsequent meeting had been cancelled and she had heard no further in connection with alternative arrangements.

Councillor Hardcastle referred to incidents in the adjoining Shotton Ward and asked that adjoining Ward Members be kept informed as they were in close proximity.

In response to Councillor Clive Carver, PCSO Adam Wilson said that he had clarified to a resident the Police could not carry out enforcement action in connection with vehicles parking on sections of Cross Tree Lane where there were no parking restrictions in place. Councillor Mike Jones referred to an incident which had occurred at 2.30am on Sunday 9 October involving an individual leaving the Crown & Liver Public House and subsequently causing criminal damage to a vehicle and a property opposite. He said that the individual had been captured on the CCTV system at the Ewloe Post Office and it was hoped that he would be dealt with appropriately. Councillor Brown reminded that the Crown & Liver's licence was currently under review and it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Licensing Officer detailing the incident which had taken place.

The Clerk questioned whether there was any connection between the incidents which had taken place in Vickers Close/Overlea Drive with the damage which had been caused to the nearby play area. The Officers said that they were not aware of any connection.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Judith Hough gave a brief outline of the bimonthly meeting with the Inspector for South Flintshire which had taken place that day. She said that the following matters had been referred to:

- The Police were launching a campaign to target underage drinking particularly where it was being obtained by proxy.
- Funding was in place for a further 8 PCSO's to be appointed in South Flintshire
- Operations would be put in place to cover the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.
- The recently introduced Antisocial Behaviour Panels were proving successful.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hough for her report.

#### **WINTER MAINTENANCE:**

The Chair welcomed Mr Steve Jones, Flintshire County Council's Head of Street Scene to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee.

The Clerk outlined the discussions which the Committee had previously had in connection with the Council's possible involvement in winter maintenance in its area, a decision on which had been deferred pending the County Council's review of its service and the discussion which would take place this evening. Steve Jones confirmed that the review of the winter maintenance service had been completed and certain actions had been agreed in respect of community and voluntary assistance. He said there were four strands to this:

- Community Councils were being offered weather updates on a daily basis detailing the actions which the Highways Authority was proposing to take. He said this information could also be emailed to members of the community if they wished to receive them.
- Salt bins had been sited in locations which met the County Council's criteria. In addition Community Councils could purchase and subsequently service their own salt bins in areas which they deemed to be in need but which did not meet the County Council's criteria.
- The County Council would sell quantities of salt to Community Councils for use around their buildings.
- The County Council will encourage self help by groups of volunteers similar to that which took place in Buckley last year. He said that Flintshire County Council would provide shovels/scrapers, salt applicators, a small supply of salt and indemnity letters for the volunteers. He said it was hoped that they would assist vulnerable members of the community.

The Chair thanked Steve Jones for his address and invited questions from local Members. In response to those questions Steve Jones confirmed:

- County salt bins would and had been removed from locations which did not meet the County's criteria.
- Sheltered housing complexes would receive extra treatment but this would not extend to vulnerable people in private accommodation as these were difficult to identify. Councillor Clive Carver suggested that those people receiving assistance with their domestic waste collection would be those most likely to require winter maintenance assistance.
- Steve Jones confirmed that there was evidence that residents and others stole salt from the Highway Salt Bins for private use.

Councillor Brown proposed that the Council should receive weather updates and that it should also consider the provision of Community Council salt bins in its area. Further it should give consideration to the provision of voluntary assistance.

Councillor Mackie said that if the Council was to proceed with the provision of Community Council salt bins then it should establish a criteria so that it could defend itself against criticism for not providing at certain locations. Councillor Williams agreed with Councillor Mackie and suggested that the Council should obtain a copy of the County Council's criteria for provision prior to establishing its own.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) to obtain a copy of Flintshire County Council's criteria for the provision of salt bins.

(b) to further discuss the matter at the Committee's November meeting.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:-

- Richard Clarke was undergoing training in the use of Mobile Elevated Platform Hoists, in order to enable him to assist in footway lighting and Christmas lighting tasks.
- Flintshire County Council's Chief Executive Officer had offered to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to discuss the Council's priorities and views for improving working relations.
- Citizens Advice Bureau had forwarded a guide for Councillors working with the CAB, which was aimed at improving services to residents. A copy was available for Members perusal.
- The joint bid for the provision of a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Ewloe Green CP School was now complete and was being forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government for consideration in its next funding round.
- Howard Williams had successfully completed a Herbicidal Spraying Course and was now accredited to undertake herbicidal spraying in the Council's playing fields and play areas.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that the offer by Flintshire County Council's Chief Executive be noted but not pursued.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.