

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 11 APRIL 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:

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 14 March 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Mr Howard Williams, the Council's Maintenance Assistant was due to return back to work on 26 April 2011.

Police Matters

It was agreed that discussion concerning the Youth Shelter and the written report received from PC Catherine Jones and PCSO Adam Wilson be deferred until the May meeting when the Officers would be present.

Appointment of Maintenance Officer

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Richard Clarke had commenced work on 4 April and that he had settled in well.

Skipton – East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership

An email letter of thanks had been received from the Partnership in connection with the support given by Hawarden Community Council to its campaign for the reopening of the Skipton to Colne railway line.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PCSO Sian Atkinson to the meeting and invited Members to raise any relevant matters.

Councillor Brown referred to the issue of speeding in Aston Hall Lane and the monitoring which had recently taken place there which would now be followed by the temporary erection of an interactive speed warning sign. Councillor Brown said that she had received a report on the speeding statistics which had been gathered and in her view, did not reflect the speed of the traffic which she had witnessed. Councillor Judith Hough supported this view.

Councillor Brown said she had noted that PCSO Adam Wilson had stated in his written report that there had been no instances of obstruction by parents when collecting youngsters from Hawarden High School. She said that she strongly disputed this as in her view obstructions were being caused on a daily basis.

Councillor Brown referred to problems associated with youths drinking alcohol in the former railway cutting, known locally as The Batters. She said that not only were the youngsters drinking there but they were also smashing the bottles which was a hazard particularly to children and dog walkers. Councillor Halford asked that the Neighbourhood Watch Team be advised of this problem.

Councillor Mike Jones referred to nuisance being caused by drinkers leaving the Crown & Liver Public House in the early hours particularly at the weekend. He said that over the previous weekend it had been very noisy and the litter bins in the vicinity had been taken. In response to a reference to the Crown & Liver's licence Councillor Alan Diskin advised that the licence could be reviewed by the County Licensing Panel on receipt of witnessed evidence of nuisance.

Councillor Hardcastle expressed his concern about the ongoing practice of parents of pupils of Cross Tree Lane Schools parking in the cemetery and causing distress to burial parties. Councillor Clive Carver referred to the recent incident which had occurred when a parent had failed to properly engage the handbrake and the vehicle had rolled down the cemetery road resulting in damage to a number of gravestones. It was confirmed that the School had written to parents concerning this matter and that they would be doing so again.

The Chair invited PCSO Atkinson to address the meeting. PCSO Atkinson advised that in the Mancot area there had been 4 antisocial behaviour calls and 6 crimes reported in the month since the Council's last meeting. PCSO Atkinson also drew the Council's attention to complaints she had received from a resident of Ash Lane in connection with youngsters playing football to the rear of his property. The Clerk explained that the Council had attempted to deter this by the way in which the fixed football/basketball goal was located away from the properties and also by the provision of a 5 'a' side pitch higher up the field. He said there was no reason why youngsters should be playing towards the Ash Lane properties. The Chair thanked PCSO Atkinson for her attendance at the meeting.

The Chair noted that there were two new Inspectors in both the South Flintshire and Deeside areas and suggested that they be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Inspector Iwan Jones of South Flintshire and Inspector Paul McKeown (Deeside) be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:

- The Council's Lodge will be vacated on Friday 15 April and works to convert it to an office for the Council would commence in the following week.
- The next meeting with the South Flintshire Inspector would take place at 11am on Monday 23 May at Mold Police Station where Councillor Judith Hough would be the Council's representative.
- Members were invited to attend the Flintshire District Scouts AGM at Connah's Quay Civic Centre on Wednesday 25 May at 7.30pm

WINTER MAINTENANCE OF ROADS/SIDE STREETS IN THE HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA:

The Chair referred Members to the report which the Clerk had prepared, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. Councillor Brown advised that Flintshire County Council was presently carrying out a review into the service which it provided, the outcome of which was expected in July. She therefore suggested that the Community Council might wish to defer its consideration of this matter until the outcome of Flintshire County Council's review was known.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer discussion on this matter until the Committee's September meeting, when the results of the Flintshire County Council review was known.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Hardcastle confirmed that he had voiced his concern at County Hall in connection with the involvement of PCSO's in dog fouling issues.

Councillor Small commented on the age and condition of the Chair's Chain of Office and questioned whether the Council might wish to consider its replacement. On being advised by the Clerk of the estimated cost of replacing the Chair's Chain Members confirmed that they would support any necessary repairs being undertaken to the Chain but not its replacement.