

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **11 JUNE 2012**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor Brian Williams  
Vice-Chair: Councillor Ve Amos

Councillors: As per Council Meeting plus Councillor Kevin Jones

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

As per the Council meeting less Councillor Kevin Jones

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/2013:**

Councillor Brian Williams was proposed and seconded. Councillor John Walker was proposed and seconded. Following the taking of a vote Councillor Brian Williams was duly elected Chair of Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/2013.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 April 2012, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

#### Police Matters

The Clerk advised that to date only a holding letter had been received from the Chief Constable's Office in respect of the Council's letter concerning liaison and communication between the Police and Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

### **FLINTSHIRE STREETSCENE SERVICE:**

The Chair welcomed Mr Alex Williams and Mr Mike Eastwood of Flintshire County Council's Streetscene Service to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

Alex Williams explained that the newly created Streetscene Service combined a whole range of services which had previously been disparate. These included street cleansing, gritting, grass cutting, road repairs, recycling, dog fouling, pest control and street lighting. He said that all these services were now combined and could be contacted by using a single telephone contact point i.e. 01352 701234 which was available seven days per week including bank holidays. Alex Williams said that in Hawarden Community Council's case Mr Mike Eastwood was its appointed Supervisor and would be the Council's point of contact. In Mr Eastwood's absence Mark Edwards who covered area 9 including Argoed and Buckley would provide cover.

Alex Williams referred to the proposed undertaking of Environmental Visual Audits in conjunction with other agencies. He also spoke of the intention to improve the flexibility of staff by the introduction of multi-skill training to enable staff to move across the service area.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their brief presentation.

Councillor Judith Hough referred to difficulties she had experienced when dealing with the Streetscene Service in connection with the collection of bulk cardboard from the home of an elderly person.

Councillor Glenys Diskin referred to the difficulty of contacting the service out of hours in connection with flooding in Mancot Lane.

Councillor Clive Carver raised a query with regard to the provision of black wheelie bins for places of worship.

The Chair thanked Mr Alex Williams and Mr Mike Eastwood for their attendance at the meeting.

### **POLICE MATTERS:**

It was noted that there was again no Police representation at the meeting. However the Chair invited Members to raise any relevant policing issues.

Councillor Clive Carver referred to an article which had appeared in the Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June edition of the Flintshire Leader referring to vandalism, antisocial behaviour and drug taking in Hawarden.

Councillor Helen Brown said that the Police had visited her following the appearance of the article to discuss some of the issues in it. She said that the Police had indicated that they were aware of drug dealing in an establishment in Hawarden.

Councillor Hardcastle expressed his annoyance that the Police continually failed to attend meetings of the Council when issues such as those raised in the article could be discussed and hopefully resolved.

Councillor Amos said that other Town and Community Councils in Flintshire were also frustrated by the lack of Police attendance at their meetings.

Councillor Mackie reminded that the Police had previously said that they would attend meetings if there was a particular issue to discuss.

Councillor Walker commented that the Police appeared only to react to articles in the press and suggested that the Council should contact the press to say that it had grave concerns about the lack of policing in the Hawarden Community Council area.

Councillor Halford suggested that the Council should send an email to the Chief Constable saying that it intended to go to the press in connection with the apparent breakdown in liaison and communication and the increasing levels of vandalism and antisocial behaviour and inviting him to respond prior to the Council doing so. Councillor Halford said that she would be prepared to draft such an email in conjunction with the Clerk.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:**

(a) to record the Council's concern regarding the breakdown in communication and liaison between the Police and Town and Community Councils

(b) to forward an email to the Chief Constable indicating that the Council intended to contact the press regarding its concerns and giving him the opportunity to respond prior to doing so.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:

- A photograph of the new Council would be taken at 6pm on Monday 9 July prior to the Council meeting at 6.30pm
- The Council was invited to send representatives to a meeting with Members of the Flintshire Standards Committee on 1 October 2012.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council would represent the Council at the meeting.

- The Order confirming the diversion of Public Footpath 114 in the Community of Hawarden had been received.
- Following the Chief Executive's visit to the Council a letter had been received advising that he intended to review the problem of litter on principal roads in the community.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the report be received.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.