

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **11 JULY 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 Alison Halford, 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 13 June 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Council's Office

The Clerk confirmed that the move had taken place successfully and that with the exception of the provision of the disabled ramp all other works had been carried out. The Clerk said that there had been some severe communication difficulties arising from BT's failure to transfer the Council's telephone and internet connection as had been requested. He said that the problem still persisted and that he was seeking compensation from BT.

North Wales Fire & Rescue Service

The North Wales Fire & Rescue Service had been invited to make a presentation to the Council's September meeting.

POLICE MATTERS:

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

The Officers advised that antisocial behaviour in Hawarden and Ewloe was particularly quiet with only two reported incidents in the past month.

In response to Councillor Judith Hough the Officers advised that the CID were dealing with the individual who had been committing acts of indecent exposure in the Carlines Park/Aston Hall Lane area. There was however believed to be a second person carrying out similar acts who was also being pursued.

Councillor Clive Carver drew the Officers' attention to recent incidents of arson behind the Gladstone Playing Fields including an incident whereby a fence in close proximity to the rear of the Penlan Drive sub-station had been set alight.

Councillor Clive Carver further passed on a complaint he had received from a member of the public in respect of ball bearing guns being sold to youngsters from a retail establishment in Ewloe. PC Catherine Jones said that it was not legal to sell or possess ball bearing guns unless they were being used inappropriately as an imitation weapon. She said that she would however refer the matter to Trading Standards. Councillor Williams said that the guns in question were firing plastic 'bullets' rather than ball bearings and as such were less dangerous.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting. The Chair then invited Councillor Judith Hough to give a brief report on the bi-monthly meeting of Town and Community Councils with the Inspector for South Flintshire, which she had attended on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Judith Hough advised that the meeting had been well attended. She said that the Inspector had confirmed aspects of the address he had given to the Community Council particularly in respect of future attendance at meetings of Town and Community Councils by Police Officers and also the proposal to establish antisocial behaviour panels.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hough for attending the meeting on behalf of the Community Council and for her subsequent report.

Councillor Brown suggested that it could be useful to establish a bimonthly meeting with the local Community Beat Managers to deal with any local issues. Councillor Mackie recalled that Inspector McKeown said that he would endeavour to attend the Community Council's meeting on a quarterly basis and he considered that he should be held to that.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Inspector McKeown be invited to attend the Community Council's September meeting.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE SERVICES IN FLINTSHIRE:

The Chair referred Members to the correspondence which had been circulated with the agenda. The correspondence sought the Community Council's view on the future provision of a public convenience service in Flintshire. Councillor Brown said that she strongly supported the last three bullet points in the letter i.e. the need to consult with the Community, the linking of the service to other corporate objectives such as tourism and the possibility of making funds available to local businesses to open their facilities to the public.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that he believed that the provision of a public convenience service was a core one for the County Council. He said that there was an inherent difficulty with local businesses opening up their facilities to the public in that in many instances particularly in smaller shops where the toilets were often at the rear of the building or in the stock room which raised security issues for the business.

Members variously commented on the need for the provision of toilets in Flintshire town centres in order to protect the vibrancy of the towns' economy.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that Hawarden Community Council supported the continuing provision of public conveniences in the County and supported the carrying out of a consultation exercise with residents, the possible linking of the service to other corporate objectives and the possible involvement of local businesses opening up their facilities to the public subject to funding provision.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:

(a) The Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2010/2011 had been received and was available for Members' perusal. It was noted that there had been one complaint made to the Ombudsman relating to Hawarden Community Council but that the complaint had not been deemed worthy of investigation.

(b) Connah's Quay Town Council was seeking the Community Council's support in opposing the closure of Flintshire County Council's offices at the Civic Centre including the Cash Office. Should this take place the nearest Cash Office would be at Flint.

Councillor Brown said that this issue had been leaked prior to a decision being taken and that there was little likelihood of it taking place in the near future.

(c) The North Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils meeting was taking place on Friday 15 July at Connah's Quay Civic Hall.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that a letter be sent to Flintshire County Council supporting Connah's Quay Town Council's opposition to the possible future closure of the County Council's Offices at the Civic Centre.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.