

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 12 JULY 2010

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 Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin, George Hardcastle 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 14 June 2010 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair welcomed PC Gill Lehrle and PCSO Sian Atkinson the newly appointed PCSO for Sandycroft and Mancot. The Chair invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PC Lehrle said that she was continuing with her policy of Enforcement Action and said that having carried out a like on like analysis of the first two weeks of July compared to the first two weeks of April, when she took post there had been a 46% reduction in the reporting of antisocial behaviour. PC Lehrle said that she would be dealing with five young people in the coming week in respect of various matters including criminal damage, theft and handling of stolen goods.

PC Lehrle advised that together with PCSO Adam Wilson she had attended the Hawarden Carnival on the previous weekend and the response received from members of the public had been very positive.

PC Lehrle referred to proposed budgetary cuts for the North Wales Police Force and said that of particular concern was the possibility of losing the assistance of PCSO's and the possible widening of Community Beat Managers areas.

Finally PC Lehrle reminded Members that a Neighbourhood Policing Panel for Hawarden and Ewloe was taking place at St David's Park, Ewloe at 6pm on Friday 16 July.

The Chair thanked PC Lehrle for her report and invited Members to raise any relevant matters.

Councillor Judith Hough referred to boy racers speeding along the narrow section of Aston Hall Lane and expressed her concern for the safety of other motorists and pedestrians. PC Lehrle noted this and said that she would carry out a speed detection exercise at the location.

Councillor Clive Carver questioned whether there was anything that the Community Council could do to support the continuation of the present Community Beat Manager and PCSO arrangement. It was suggested that the Council could write to the Chief Constable commending the Team for their work and supporting their continuation. PC Lehrle thanked the Council for its support and undertook to provide the Clerk with relevant statistics.

Councillor Amos referred to youngsters using mini motorbikes on Mancot Playing Field and asked for this to be looked in to.

Councillor Kevin Jones referred to speeding traffic in Level Road, Hawarden. PC Lehrle said that she was actively looking in to this and was aware of a particular driver speeding through the area at 7.30am.

Councillor Mike Jones advised that the opening of the new delicatessen at Ewloe was causing parking problems. Customers were parking outside the shop in the vicinity of pedestrian crossing. PC Lehrle undertook to monitor this.

The Chair thanked PC Lehrle and PCSO Atkinson for their

COUNCIL OFFICE:

The Chair referred Members to a report on the future arrangements for the Council's office accommodation, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. The Chair invited the Clerk to take Members through the report.

The Clerk reminded the Committee that it had been agreed at the June meeting that the Committee wished to give further consideration to two matters firstly the anticipated cost of carrying out minor alterations to The Lodge in order to convert it into an office and secondly the possibility of extending The Lodge to provide a meeting room for the Council.

The Clerk set out the proposal for the use of the various rooms within The Lodge and identified the costings of the individual works required which, using Council labour, were estimated at between £5,000 - £6,000.

The Clerk then referred to the possible extension of The Lodge to provide a meeting room. He said that having had regard to the desirability of having a room larger than the present Council Chamber and allowing for the provision of toilets it was estimated that the extension would cost in the region of £67,500 plus professional fees. He said that in the present financial climate expenditure of this level would be difficult to justify. He also referred to a more pressing need for financial investment of this kind relating to the improvement of the Council's Sports Pavilion at Gladstone Playing Fields. Finally the Clerk reminded the Committee that the Council's office was a shared office with Broughton & Bretton Community Council and also Shotton Town Council contributed 5% towards the costs of the office in recognition of the running of the maintenance service. It would be necessary therefore to convene a meeting of the Joint Services Committee to ratify a decision to relocate the office. The Chair thanked the Clerk for presenting the report and invited Members to make comment.

Councillor Angell said that she supported the proposed relocation of the office to the Lodge but concurred with the Clerk's view that it would be inappropriate to spend such a large sum on a meeting room at this difficult financial time. She also cautioned that dependant upon the cuts which Flintshire County Council were required to make there maybe a call upon the Community Council to undertake some of the elements of their services which the Community values.

Councillor Kevin Jones confirmed that he also supported the relocation of the office but that he too was concerned with the cost entailed with extending The Lodge to provide a meeting room.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) that the Council progresses the relocation of its office to The Lodge and that a meeting of the Joint Services Committee be convened in September to confirm its approval.

(b) that no decision be taken in connection with the extension of The Lodge but that it be further considered at the budget setting stage or 2011/2012.

BUS STOP – COURTLAND DRIVE, ASTON:

The Chair reminded Members that the Committee had been concerned about the extremely high cost of providing a bus shelter at this location as quoted by Flintshire County Council. Consequently an independent quotation had been invited from Queensbury Bus Shelters at a fraction of the cost quoted by Flintshire County Council and the County Council had subsequently been invited to match fund the cheaper provision with the Community Council.

The chair referred Members to the correspondence attached between the two Authorities noting that Flintshire County Council was now seeking a contribution of £1500 and not £5,000 to its proposal.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Flintshire County Council be reminded of the need for Authorities to spend money wisely and be further invited to match fund the cheaper provision at a cost of £600 per Authority.

PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER AT ST DAVID'S PARK, EWLOE:

The Chair advised that the Council had been invited to comment on this proposal which would prevent vehicles from parking along the Cefn y ddol road and the access road to the new pub/restaurant.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Council had no objection to this and noted that the pub would be prepared to allow parking by other than patrons in its car park.

THE PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC ORDER – SMITH LANE, EWLOE:

The Chair informed the Committee that this Order on which the Council had been invited to comment would prohibit any vehicle proceeding in the length of road other than for access to land situated on or adjacent to it.

Members spoke of their understanding that residents living adjacent to the lane had been seeking this Order for many years but were also aware of opposition to it by other local residents who made use of the shortcut.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that the Community Council had sympathy with residents who had been seeking the closure of this road for many years but also recognised the inconvenience this would cause to other local residents. However its effect would be dependant upon the enforcement of the Order.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were raised:

(a) The North Wales Association of Town & Community Councils AGM and quarterly meeting was taking place on Friday 16 July at Connah's Quay. Councillor John Walker confirmed that he would be attending the meeting.

(b) Police Bi-monthly Joint Consultative meeting

The meeting was scheduled to take place at the North Wales Police Firearms training complex at Rhewl near Ruthin on Friday 6 August 2010. Members were welcome to attend the meeting and the Clerk asked for those wishing to attend to advise him so that he could provide details to North Wales Police.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Clive Carver reported that Flintshire County Council intended to bring in parking restrictions in Cross Tree Close and at various points along Cross Tree Lane in order to deal with the issue of parents parking in the vicinity of the School entrance and junctions.