

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 13 JUNE 2011**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle  
Vice-Chair: Councillor Ve Amos

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Alan Diskin and Glenys Diskin.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

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

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Committee held on 9 May 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

##### Mancot Lane Play Area

The Clerk said that he had met with PCSO Gareth Price and it had been agreed that the existing 5 a side pitch would be lengthened to encourage youngsters to play in the designated area rather than at the rear of properties on Ash Lane.

#### **POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chair welcomed Inspector Paul McKeown to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

Inspector McKeown said that he had recently taken up appointment as the Inspector for Deeside having previously been the Inspector at Colwyn Bay. He said that he was in attendance at the meeting to introduce himself to Members and to make the Council aware of changes taking place which would affect the manner in which Community Beat Managers performed their roles.

Inspector McKeown said that the 20% cuts which the North Wales Police Force had suffered meant that Community Beat Managers and PCSO's would not be as flexible in the future as they had been in the past. Inevitably this meant that they would no longer be a consistent attendee at Council meetings as their work would become more prioritised. Inspector McKeown said that he hoped to be able to attend once every quarter or half year to ensure a dialogue with the Council. He therefore urged Members to report incidents and matters as they occurred rather than reporting them at Council meetings. Inspector McKeown said that CBM's would no longer be aligned to a particular Ward but would operate on a team basis. PCSO's however would continue to be Ward based.

Resulting from the cuts referred to Inspector McKeown said that the North Wales Police Force was having to reduce its staffing numbers via retirement and voluntary redundancy. He said that in order to be able to respond to 999 calls Response Officers were based at nine hubs across North Wales, the most local one being at Mold.

Inspector McKeown acknowledged that antisocial behaviour in communities was a matter which concerned local residents and consequently it was his intention to set up an Antisocial Behaviour Group which would comprise representatives of each Town and Community Council. This he hoped would be a focus on the issue and lead to resources being applied to those locations most in need. Reinforcing this would be statistical information derived from the 101 and 999 call logging system. He therefore stressed the importance of Members logging incidents via this route rather than through an individual CBM and/or PCSO.

In response to Councillor Brown Inspector McKeown confirmed that Neighbourhood Policing Panels would continue where they have been well attended in the past. They would not however continue where there had been limited public engagement.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that he was concerned that Policing response had deteriorated markedly in the last six months and commented about the perceived reduction in Officers in the community. Inspector McKeown said that the North Wales Police Force received hundreds of calls a day and assured Councillor Jones that Officers were responding to them.

Councillor Angell said the whilst there was a perception of reducing resources in the community she had been extremely impressed by the manner in which the Police had responded to the armed raid which had taken place at a commercial premises in Ewloe.

Councillor Hardcastle expressed his disappointment that the previous situation of local Officers attending the meetings of the Council to discuss issues would no longer take place as he considered that to have been extremely useful.

Councillor Halford thanked Inspector McKeown for his courtesy in attending the meeting to advise of the changes which had and were taking place and which she believed were unavoidable in the face of the level of cuts outlined.

The Chair thanked Inspector McKeown for his attendance at the meeting.

## **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICE IN FLINTSHIRE:**

The Chair referred Members to the correspondence attached to the agenda which had been received from the Flintshire County Council's Head of Streetscene. The correspondence sought the Council's views on aspects of the Household Recycling Centre Service in Flintshire.

Councillor Kevin Jones expressed his view that traders who use the facilities were made to feel like criminals and were dealt with in a suspicious manner. He also referred to an example wherein a member of the public might use a trader to carry out works in and around his or her property which he or she was incapable of carrying out. Due to the individuals infirmity he or she would then have to pay the tipping charge via the trader which, had he or she been able to take the materials to the Recycling Centre personally, would not have been incurred.

Councillor Halford said that to allow traders unfettered access to the Recycling sites would lead to a cost to ordinary householders who would be subsidising their use.

Councillor Small said that he felt the sites were not user friendly and contrasted them to a neighbouring Authority where the system of disposing materials was much simpler for the public.

Councillor Walker said that in terms of the locations of the Recycling sites and their operations he felt that Flintshire County Council had got the balance right. He hoped that this review would not lead to a reduction in the number of local recycling sites which if anything he would prefer to see expanded.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to respond to Flintshire County Council in line with the comments expressed.

## **CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT:**

The Chair referred Members to the letter received from Flintshire County Council's Head of Assets and Transportation which outlined that the County Council was proceeding with its application to the Welsh Assembly Government for enforcement powers and that in conjunction with the application a Review of all signs and markings for existing Orders was being carried out. The County Council was seeking the views of Town and Community Councils in respect of existing restrictions which were considered to require extending, reducing, amending or removing.

Members commented on the hazards associated with parking outside the various Schools within the Community Council's boundaries and the need for the existing restrictions to be extended.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to advise Flintshire County Council that Hawarden Community Council would wish the Review to consider extending existing parking restrictions at all Schools within the Community Council's boundaries.

## **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:

- The North Wales Fire and Rescue Service had offered to attend a meeting of the Council to give a presentation on fire prevention and safety in the home.
- The bimonthly meeting with Inspector Iwan Jones was scheduled to take place at 11am on Monday 27 June at Mold Police Station. Councillor Judith Hough would attend the meeting on the Council's behalf.
- Review of Electoral Arrangements for Flintshire

The Boundary Commission had submitted its final proposals to the Welsh Assembly Government following the review which it had undertaken. Included within its proposals were the merging of the Ewloe and Aston County Wards to be served by four Councillors and the merging of the Mancot and Hawarden Wards to be represented by three Members. The proposed alterations would not take effect until after the next County elections.

- Hawarden Golf Club's Centenary competition, which was being sponsored by the Community Council, was taking place on Sunday 26 June and Members were invited to attend if they so wished.
- The Council's Office

The Clerk said that the internal alterations to The Lodge were now practically complete, these included the provision of disabled access, disabled toilets and redecoration. He said that there were some external works still to be carried out, principally involving the provision of a disabled ramp to the main entrance. The works in total were expected to be in line with the budget provision of £7,000.

The relocation of the Council's Office to The Lodge was proposed to take place on 23 June 2011. Minor repairs and cleaning would be carried out at 7 Glynne Way prior to the surrender of the lease on 30 June 2011.

## **IT WAS RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the report be received.
- (b) that the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service be invited to make a presentation at a future meeting of the Committee.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Councillor Hardcastle referred to vandalism which had taken place recently in Aston Park involving damage being caused to the recently erected bus shelter on Courtland Drive and the destruction of trees.

Councillor Hardcastle also advised that the speed activated sign on Aston Hall Lane had detected 13,500 vehicle journeys in the lane over a fourteen day period and that approximately 10% of those vehicles were being driven at over 40mph. He said that the sign had been temporarily relocated to another area but that it would be repositioned in Aston Hall Lane shortly.

Councillor Williams thanked Members for supporting his nomination and co-option as a Member of Hawarden Community Council.