

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 13 DECEMBER 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 Veronica Amos, 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 8 November 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 Catherine Jones, PCSO Sue Holmes and PCSO Adam Wilson to the meeting and invited the Officers to report on any relevant matters.

PCSO Sue Holmes said that there were no issues which she wished to raise in connection with the Aston area.

PC Catherine Jones said that the Hawarden and Ewloe Ward was relatively quiet with most nuisance calls being related to snow issues.

PC Jones referred to the reduction of antisocial behaviour in the area which she said was the second largest reduction in the 24 CBM areas of Flintshire. She said that complaints in respect of Chippy Lane, Ewloe had reduced by 58% since the previous year although the issue was still a key objective.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their reports and enquired as to whether the situation at Hawarden Youth Club had improved. PC Jones said that there had not been any complaints received recently but she and PCSO Wilson were visiting the Youth Club later that evening.

Councillor Kevin Jones expressed his concern about the number of youths drinking alcohol in the early evening in the St David's spine road area. He also questioned how they were obtaining the alcohol. The Officers undertook to look into this matter and commented that the youngsters often obtain the alcohol via proxy sales.

Councillor Angell referred to problems which were being experienced at Penarlag CP School due to antisocial behaviour by local youths. PCSO Wilson said that he was aware of this matter and that he had a meeting scheduled with the Head Teacher on the following day.

In response to the Chair the Officers confirmed that PC Gill Lehrle was making good progress following her illness.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting and wished them the compliments of the season.

The Chair invited Councillor Judith Hough to give a verbal report on the meeting she had attended with the Inspector for South Flintshire on 6 December.

Councillor Hough reported the following matters:

- A recent survey had identified that 99.5% of the public were satisfied with the service which the Police were providing.
- The Police Service in Wales would have its funding cut by £28 million in 2011/2012.
- The Police were concerned that the cuts should not lead to a drop in the service standard.
- The Inspector did not expect that CBM's would continue to be ward based post April 2011.
- The Inspector hoped that PCSO's would be retained in 2011/2012.
- A festive drink driving campaign had been commenced on 7 December.

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

#### **GRITTING OF ROADS/SIDE STREETS:**

The Chair advised that this item had been placed on the agenda by Councillor Helen Brown who was unfortunately unable to be in attendance.

The Clerk said that he had received an email from Councillor Brown in connection with this matter in which she had posed the question as to whether the Community Council considered that it was appropriate for it to purchase grit bins in view of the current weather and the financial constraints of the Principal Authority which had responsibility for this. The Clerk advised that the cost of purchasing grit bins would be £135 per bin and £60 each time they were filled.

Councillor Carver said his concern was that the salt bins would be raided by local residents for personal use around their properties rather than on the public highway and footpaths. He said that he was also concerned that residents would be paying twice for this service as it was already an element of the household rate paid to the Principal Authority. Councillor Carver suggested that if Councillors noted locations within their wards where there were deficiencies in salting/gritting Flintshire County Council would be responsive to requests for assistance.

Councillor Kevin Jones questioned whether the Community Council staff could become involved in snow clearance in the area. The Clerk said that the Community Council staff had never been involved in such works as it had been the responsibility of the Principal Authority and that during the recent snowy weather it would have been impossible as the staff had been fully employed in the erection of Christmas lighting on behalf not only of this Council but also of Broughton & Bretton Community Council and Shotton Town Council.

Councillor Carver questioned whether the Clerk & Financial Officer could investigate where salt bins were currently sited. He also questioned the insurance liability which might arise should the Council become involved in snow clearance.

The Chair noted the views which had been expressed and asked the Clerk & Financial Officer to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Committee to explore whether the Community Council might become involved in snow clearance/gritting.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported

- Office Closure

The Office would be closed on 27 & 28 December and 3 January.

- Christmas lighting had been erected in the usual locations in Hawarden, Aston, Mancot and Ewloe.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

#### **MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.