

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 14 FEBRUARY 2011**

**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, Mike Jones 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 Meetings of the Committee held on 10 January 2011 & 31 January 2011 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

##### Gritting of Roads/Side Roads

The Clerk referred Members to a report which had been circulated that evening which it was agreed should be dealt with under the Clerk's Report.

##### Police Matters

The Clerk confirmed that a bouquet of flowers had been sent to PC Lehrle.

##### Planning Application – The Lodge

Formal planning approval had been received from the Flintshire Planning Authority in respect of the Council's application for change of use of The Lodge for office purposes

#### **POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chair welcomed PC Catherine Jones, PC Sam Toby and PCSO Sue Holmes to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PC Jones advised that since the Council's last meeting the Police had responded to 9 rowdy nuisance calls in Hawarden and Ewloe. She said there had been no further incidents reported in connection with antisocial behaviour in Chippy Lane, Ewloe. In respect of the Crown & Liver the situation was now much quieter although Police had attended in anticipation of an incident which subsequently did not occur. PC Jones advised that an arrest had been made in connection with an incident of indecent exposure in the Ewloe area and finally she referred to the arson incident at the Running Hare pub at St David's Park, Ewloe.

PC Toby said that there were no matters which she wished to draw to the Committee's attention in connection with the Aston area. PCSO Holmes however highlighted the ongoing operation in connection with dog fouling.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their reports and invited Members to raise any relevant matters with the Officers.

Councillor Hardcastle said that he considered that dog fouling enforcement should be carried out by Council staff and that the Police should be left to concentrate on traditional policing issues. Councillor Hardcastle then referred to an incident at the building site opposite the Ewloe Auctions when a group of approximately 16 youngsters had been stoning the portacabin. He asked that the Police monitor behaviour at this location.

Councillor Clive Carver sought clarification as to whether the Police used electoral wards as boundaries when discussing Hawarden and Ewloe. He said that the reason for his questioning was a recent report which had appeared in the paper detailing disturbance caused by residents of the Hawarden area. PC Catherine Jones said that she was aware of the boundaries of the wards in question and attributed incidents appropriately. Councillor Carver then highlighted that Blackbrook Avenue and Gladstone Way, Hawarden were locations which suffered from dog fouling.

Councillor Small commented that he would welcome the attendance of the Mancot and Sandycroft Community Beat Manager at a future meeting as he had not been present for some time. Councillor Small referred to complaints he had received in connection with vehicles parking on the junction of Cottage Lane and Kennedy Drive and questioned whether an offence was being committed. The Officers took note of the matter.

Councillor Halford said that she noted the Officers had earlier reported that there had been no incidents of antisocial behaviour in the Chippy Lane area but, however she had received a complaint from a local resident in connection with antisocial behaviour which had resulted in substantial damage being caused to a boundary fence. The Officers said that they were not aware of this incident which may have occurred whilst they were off duty.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.

### **SMITHY LANE, EWLOE – PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note that Flintshire County Council would not be proceeding with this proposal in light of the objections received and the withdrawal of support for it by local Members.

### **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HOUSING BALLOT PROJECT:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note that Flintshire County Council had commenced a consultation process on the future of Council housing which would culminate in a ballot of tenants as to whether they wish to transfer to a registered social landlord.

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

The following matters were reported:

- Revised Refuse Collection

Commencing in March Mancot and parts of the Aston ward would be part of an extended trial and would be in receipt of weekly kerbside recycling collections and food waste collection. However non recyclable waste and garden waste would be collected on alternate weeks. A black wheeled bin for non recyclable waste would be provided. It was intended that all collections would take place on the same day. Subject to the success of this extended trial the changes would be implemented across the County.

- Members were reminded that a collection was being organised in respect of Mr David Heaton who was retiring on 31 March 2011 after 30 years service to the Council. A collection to which Members were invited to contribute was being made.
- The advertisement for the vacant Maintenance Officer's position was currently being advertised and to date 150 application forms had been issued.
- Mr Howard Williams, the Council's Maintenance Assistant was again on sick leave due to a back problem. He was not expected to return to work until 28 February 2011. In response to Councillor Kevin Jones the Clerk confirmed that under the National Joint Conditions of Service staff received their full pay entitlement for a period of six months.
- Winter Maintenance of Road/Side Streets in the Hawarden Community Council area.

The Clerk apologised for this item not having been included as an agenda item in its own right as had been intended. He referred Members to the report which had been tabled that evening which resulted from discussion which took place at the Committee's December meeting concerning how the Council could become involved in the winter maintenance of roads/side streets in its area.

The report identified that the present formal position was that Flintshire County Council had responsibility for the winter maintenance of the County's highways network including its trunk roads. The Council had prioritised gritting routes in the County and approximately 50% of Flintshire's highways were included on the gritting rota. In times of prolonged periods of snow the gritting vehicles remained on their priority routes until they were clear. Once clear the gritting vehicles then attended to the priority 2 routes/locations such as outside Cottage Hospitals, Schools, roads with steep gradients or bends etc. Treatment of footpaths was carried out manually by the County's ground maintenance workers who first targeted Town Centres and then Village Shopping areas.

The report said that it was quite clear that the Community Council could not become involved in the treatment of roads and streets but that it could however play a role in the hand salting/gritting of footpaths in particular locations in the Community if the Council so wished. However prior to doing so there were a number of issues which the Council would need to consider. These included:

1. Residents effectively paying twice for the service
2. The amount of finance the Council would be prepared to commit to the service.
3. Precisely what service it would provide.
4. The effect this might have on working patterns.
5. The need to consult the Council's partners in the Direct Maintenance Service.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for the report and invited Members comments.

Councillor Kevin Jones supported the Council being involved in the winter maintenance of pavements although he realised that not all pavements in the Council's area could be dealt with. He considered that the Council should identify the more heavily trafficked pavements and concentrate on those. He said that he only envisaged the maintenance taking place in prolonged periods of snow and ice and that he was proposing that only relatively small sums of money being set aside for the purpose.

Councillor Clive Carver said he considered that as the service would be non comprehensive it could lead to complaints that one ward was subsidising another ward.

Councillor Walker said that he was concerned that this was potentially a large undertaking and would need to be programmed very carefully.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that should there be complaints that certain areas were not being targeted the Council would have to explain that it was trying to help where it could by providing a limited service to target the worst affected locations.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions and asked for a further agenda item and report to be placed before the Committee's next meeting in March.

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

There were none.