

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 14 MARCH 2011

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Alison Halford
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 Kevin Jones and Ralph Small

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 February 2011, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Mr Howard Williams, the Council's Maintenance Assistant had produced a certificate of sickness to the end of March 2011. The Clerk said that due to Mr Williams' absence it was inevitable that it would impact upon the work of the Maintenance Team taking into account the coming growing season and the alterations required to The Lodge.
- Winter Maintenance of Roads/Side Roads/Streets in the Hawarden Community Council area.

This report would be submitted to the Council's April meeting when Councillor Kevin Jones would be in attendance.

POLICE MATTERS:

The Chair invited Councillor Judith Hough to give a verbal report on the bimonthly meeting with the Inspector for South Flintshire.

Councillor Hough said that Inspector Best was moving to another position with the North Wales Police and that he would be replaced by Inspector Iwan Jones. Inspector Best had reported that crime figures had reduced by over 14% with thefts from motor vehicles down by 48% and from homes by 33%. Councillor Hough further advised that Inspector Best expected to see an increased number of PCSO's working in South Flintshire. Finally she advised that Inspector Best had referred to a worrying trend of domestic oil thefts which had taken place in the rural areas of South Flintshire.

The Chair thanked Councillor Judith Hough for her report.

Councillor Halford welcomed PC Kath Jones and PCSO Adam Wilson to the meeting. She referred to the issue of dog fouling which had been discussed at the previous meeting and the role which the Police were now required to play in dealing with it. She questioned who set the priorities for the CBM and PCSO and how this issue of dog fouling fitted in to that. PCSO Adam Wilson said that he spent approximately one hour of his shift time dealing with this matter ensuring that dog walkers had bags with them. PCSO Wilson said that as far as he was aware there had only been one fine issued in South Flintshire in respect of a dog fouling offence. In terms of who set the priorities he said that these were set partly in response to issues raised at the Neighbourhood Policing Panels. In addition they were consequent upon partnership working with Flintshire County Council, hence the dog fouling operation and gathered intelligence.

Councillor Hardcastle expressed his view that the Police should not have to deal with dog fouling which in his view should be dealt with by Officers of the County Council. He said that he would be challenging this at County Hall.

PC Kath Jones reported that the level of antisocial behaviour in the Hawarden and Ewloe area was at a similar level to previous months. She highlighted the difficulty the Police faced when dealing with young people who they sought to move on from areas where they tended to congregate and cause nuisance to local residents when the youngsters claimed to have nowhere to go. She acknowledged that there was a youth club in Hawarden but this was only open on one day per week and many of the youngsters in question were not those who would attend youth club or participate in organised activities but wished to socialise outside their homes with their friends. In response to Councillor Halford PC Jones said that the youngsters were looking for somewhere which was sheltered and had seats and lighting. She referred to youth shelters which were becoming popular in other areas. Councillor Brown said that the possibility of providing a youth shelter had been discussed previously but no agreement could be reached as to a suitable location for it.

The Clerk commented that the Council would be discussing carrying out improvements at three of its play sites including Gladstone Playing Fields later in the evening where there would be a focus on improving facilities for teenagers. He cautioned however that the provision of a youth shelter at a play site would need careful consideration and siting so as not to conflict with safe play.

Councillor Halford asked the Officers to produce a report setting out what it was that they believed was required in order that the Council could give it proper consideration.

PCSO Wilson referred to the proposed Family Fun Day which the Police were organising in August 2011 and asked for up to five Councillors to assist with the organisation of the event. This was duly noted and it was agreed that the Council would nominate Members to assist.

Councillor Amos referred to a matter raised at the previous meeting by Councillor Small in respect of parking close to the Kennedy Drive/Cottage Lane junction. She queried whether the Officers had any further information concerning this and the permissible distance which vehicles could park from a junction. The Officers said that they understood that a vehicle must not be parked within 10 ft of a junction.

Finally PCSO Wilson advised that PC Gill Lehrle was now back on light duties in the Buckley area.

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

The Chair then invited Members to volunteer to assist with organisation of the Family Fun Day in August. The following Members offered their assistance: Councillors George Hardcastle, Helen Brown, David Hough, Judith Hough and David Mackie. The Clerk undertook to advise the Officers.

APPOINTMENT OF MAINTENANCE OFFICER:

The Clerk advised that following a two stage interview process which included an informal interview with a skills test and a second formal interview Mr Richard Clarke of Eryrys had been appointed to the position of Maintenance Officer. The Clerk said that Mr Clarke had a wide skills base and would be an asset to the Direct Maintenance Team. Mr Clarke would commence his duties with the Council on Monday 4 April 2011 commencing on the first point of the scale and subject to a six month probationary period.

The Clerk thanked Councillor Clive Carver for his assistance with the formal interviews.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that the actions of the Interview Panel be supported.

SKIPTON – EAST LANCASHIRE RAIL ACTION PARTNERSHIP:

The Clerk referred to the campaign for the reopening of the Colne to Skipton missing rail link, details of which had been sent to Councillors by the Rail Action Partnership.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a letter of support for the reopening of the missing rail link be sent to the Rail Action Partnership.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:

- A meeting with Members or the Flintshire Standards Committee was taking place at Mostyn Community Centre on 11 April 2011 to which Members were invited to attend if they so wished.
- The Citizens Advice Bureau statistics for the period October – December had been received and were circulated for Members information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.