

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 14 JUNE 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 Clive Carver, Cheryl Carver, Alan Diskin, Glenys Diskin, George Hardcastle and Helen Yale.

#### **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 10 May 2010 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

##### Provision of a Bus Shelter – Courtland Drive, Aston Park

The Clerk advised that there had been no formal contact from Flintshire County Council in connection with this match funding proposal, although it was understood that Councillor Yale had asked the Authority to make contact.

The Clerk said that he had sought a quotation from Queensbury Shelters Ltd, a company who had previously supplied bus shelters to the Council. The Company had quoted a cost of £1,198 to supply, deliver and install a basic 3 metre bus shelter. This compared to the figure of £10,000 previously quoted, although this included works to alter the footpath to assist wheeled access onto the bus.

Councillor Kevin Jones said that whilst he supported the provision of bus shelters the Council needed to be mindful of requests for similar provision at other locations such as Wood Lane and also sites which Councillor Clive Carver had previously referred to in the Hawarden Ward. He suggested that the Council should delay making a decision pending the forthcoming National Budget.

Councillor Small said that he supported the Council in proceeding with the provision of a shelter at this location in line with the quotation received from Queensbury bus shelters.

Councillor Halford proposed that as the bus shelter in Courtland Drive had been asked for it should be considered first and that the Council should proceed and a request be made to Flintshire County Council to match fund at a cost of approximately £600 per Authority. Councillor Halford further asked that Councillor K Jones should come forward with proposed sites in the Wood Lane area.

#### Toilets – Wepre Park, Connah’s Quay

The Clerk said that he had sent an email to Connah’s Quay Town Council asking for a copy of its letter and the details of the contact Officer at Flintshire County Council but had received no reply.

#### **POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chair welcomed PC Gill Lehrle, PCSO Adam Wilson and PCSO Gareth Price to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PC Lehrle reported that the problems previously referred to in the Holywell Road area of Ewloe appeared to have been resolved and no calls were presently being received from residents. She further commented that the level of antisocial behaviour in the area had reduced significantly and attributed this to the enforcement action which she and PCSO Wilson had been taking.

PC Lehrle advised that she had recently held a meeting with residents of Mossley Court in order to attempt to overcome difficulties which they were encountering in connection with vehicles parking there.

The Committee was advised that the next Neighbourhood Policing Panel was to be held at St David’s Park Hotel at 6pm on Friday 16 July. Other agencies and partners in the field were attending the meeting and Members of the Community Council were invited to attend also. Finally PC Lehrle advised that PCSO Adam Wilson was attending a PCSO mentoring course in the next month and was she said in recognition of the excellent work he was carrying out in the Hawarden and Ewloe area.

PCSO Gareth Price reported that antisocial behaviour in the Mancot area was significantly quieter than at the same time in the previous year. He also advised that he was in the process of organising a fun day in Mancot on Saturday 7 August which would involve most of the Emergency Services. The Chair thanked PC Lehrle and PCSO’s Wilson and Price for their attendance at the meeting and commended them for the work which they were undertaking.

#### **COUNCIL OFFICE:**

The Chair referred Members to the report which the Clerk had prepared in respect of the possible relocation of the Council’s office from its present position to The Lodge at Gladstone Playing Fields following the retirement of Mr David Heaton in March 2011. The Chair summarised the report and invited Members to comment. Councillor David Hough said that he was in support of the proposal which had many more advantages than disadvantages to the Council. Councillor Angell said that she was completely in favour of the proposal commenting that the Council had paid over £100,000 in rent to Hawarden Estate over the past 20 years, which the Council could have been put in to a

building of its own. She further commented that the Council could in the future consider extending The Lodge to provide a meeting facility for the Council. She noted the advantage of having both the maintenance and administrative staff at one site and the communal use which the staff could make of the kitchen facility etc.

Councillors David Mackie and Mike Jones confirmed their support for the proposal as did Councillor Kevin Jones who said that he would welcome further details in connection with costings etc. at a future meeting.

In response to Councillor Walker the Clerk expanded on the proposal together with the reasons for putting it forward. He also commented on the need for the Council to consider how it will proceed with regard to the letting of its tennis courts post April 2011. To this end a comprehensive record of the use of the tennis courts was being collated to assist the Council in this matter.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) the Council supported the principle of relocating its Office to The Lodge at Gladstone Playing Fields from April 2011

(b) that the Clerk should provide costings for the minor improvements and various installations which would be required.

(c) that subject to the costings being acceptable that a planning application for change of use be submitted to Flintshire County Council.

(d) that further consideration be given to the possibility of extending The Lodge to include a meeting room for the Council.

**PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING ON THE B5125 THE HIGHWAY,  
HAWARDEN:**

The Chair advised that the Council's views were sought on the proposal to site a puffin crossing to assist pupils crossing from Hawarden High School to the School Playing Fields and Gladstone Playing Fields. This crossing would also be of use to the general public. She said that the crossing had been previously supported by the Community Council and indeed it had been a contributor to the application made to the Welsh Assembly Government for funding.

Councillor Angell said that she very much supported the provision of the crossing but asked that the Council support her in requesting that it be relocated further to the east to avoid it being a nuisance to residents of 115/117 The Highway. Whilst this would site the crossing closer to The Lodge it should not be an issue if it was to become a non residential property. Councillor Angell agreed that the footpath was narrow at this position on the school side but said that this could be overcome by widening it into the School playing field and also providing a path directly to it from the School grounds.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to Flintshire County Council advising of the Community Council's support for the scheme but asking that it be located further to the east.

**A SHARED COMMUNITY/JOINT CHARTER BETWEEN FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS – DRAFT VERSION:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the document.

**CLERK’S REPORT:**

The following matters were raised:

- Local Government Pension Scheme Service Level Agreement

The 2011 Service Level Agreement had been received and he sought the Council’s approval to sign the document on its behalf.

- Speed Reducing Measures in Ash Lane/Colliery Lane, Mancot

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Flintshire County Council in respect of the Community Council’s representations in January 2010. The County Council advised that it was presently producing a revised policy in respect of physical calming measures and that any request for such provision in Ash Lane would have to be determined in accordance with the criteria being agreed. With regard to Colliery Lane, Mancot the County Council was already in discussions with local members of the public and County Councillors with regard to this issue but that at present the Authority was concentrating on category A and category B roads and that speed limits on category C road such as Colliery Lane would not be considered for some time.

- Flintshire County Council’s Mobile Office Service

The Committee was advised that this service would cease on 30 June 2010.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that the Clerk be authorised to sign the Local Government Pension Scheme Service Level Agreement document.

**ITEMS FOR MEMBERS’ PERUSAL:**

It was noted that the following documents were available for perusal:

- Model Concerns and Complaints Policy for Public Service Providers in Wales.
- A Strategy for Flintshire’s Libraries. (The Committee was asked to note that no reference was included in the document in connection with the improvement or replacement of Mancot Library.)

**MEMBERS’ INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.