

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **14 SEPTEMBER 2009**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle
Vice-Chair: -

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 Julia Royds

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 13 July 2009 be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Road Markings on Wold Court, Hawarden

Councillor Carver said the he had not been contacted by Councillor Royds about this matter.

POLICE MATTERS:

(a) General

The Chair welcomed PC Chris Pullen to the meeting and invited the Officers to address the Committee.

PC Pullen reported as follows:

- Antisocial behaviour in Hawarden and Ewloe had been at an acceptably low level over the summer period.
- There were no current issues in Aston other than antisocial behaviour taking place at the Community Hospital site.
- An Environmental assessment was being undertaken in Aston in October and the Neighbourhood Policing Panel was taking place on 8 October 2009.

- In conjunction with the 'Keep Wales Tidy' campaign the Police would be coordinating clean ups of Ewloe and Hawarden on 24 & 25 September respectively. Members wishing to assist were asked to meet at the Woodside Centre at 11am.
- A visit to the Police Force Airbase at Rhuddlan and the Control Room at St Asaph for Members of both Hawarden Community Council and Broughton and Bretton Community Council had been arranged for 23 October 2009. Members were asked to meet at the Hawarden Institute at 6.15pm. A similar trip was also proposed for residents of the Woodside Centre.
- It was not expected that the level of antisocial behaviour which had been endured recently at Crossway/Yowley Road/Holywell Road, Ewloe would reoccur due to actions taken. There were however still some issues in that area and a residents meeting was being organised.
- Chippy Lane/Meadowside, Ewloe –Youngsters congregating in the Chippy Lane footpath were causing a nuisance to residents of Meadowside whose properties backed on to the footpath. PC Pullen had issued Yellow Cards to some individuals and intended to arrange a meeting with the residents and local Members in connection with the problems being encountered.

The Chair invited Members to raise relevant matters with PC Pullen.

Councillor Halford said that she had not been contacted by residents from Meadowside in connection with the difficulties referred to by PC Pullen. In light of comments made by the Clerk she undertook to contact Flintshire County Council to ascertain the ownership of the footpath.

Councillor Carver referred to the ongoing parking problems for residents of Cross Tree Lane and also a burglary which had taken place at the home of an elderly resident of The Highway, Hawarden whilst she was in hospital.

Councillor Edwards expressed his surprise at the results of the speed detection which had been undertaken at Gladstone Way. The Chair asked PC Pullen to liaise with Councillor Edwards about this issue.

Councillor Walker raised the issue of low level antisocial behaviour which was occurring at Mancot Hospital and asked that his be relayed to the Mancot CBM.

Councillor Hardcastle referred to problems in Cambrian Way, Ewloe and suggested that it would be useful for a meeting to be held with the Police and the Neighbourhood Wardens. He then referred to the theft of 32 drain covers from the Aston Park Estate.

Councillor Amos expressed her concern that a young child had been shot at on Ash Lane, Mancot by a youth with a BB gun.

PC Pullen confirmed that he had noted these matters and advised that because of the close links between the Officers responsible for the Council's area only he or the Hawarden and Ewloe PCSO would attend future meetings of the Council. Information relating to the Mancot and Aston Wards would be passed on to the relevant Officers.

The Chair thanked PC Pullen for his attendance at the meeting.

(b) Meeting with Inspector Best

The Chair invited Councillor Judith Hough to give a brief account of the Inspector's meeting with representatives of Town & Community Councils which had taken place earlier in the month.

Councillor Hough said that it had been a relatively brief meeting at which Inspector Best had introduced himself to Members and given a background of his career to date. The Inspector had referred to petty thefts which had taken place in Hawarden but had not provided crime statistics for the month. Finally she advised that all Community Beat Managers were now expected to contribute to a quarterly newsletter. The Chair thanked Councillor Hough for her report.

HAWARDEN HIGH SCHOOL GLOBAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME:

The Chair welcomed Mrs Marion Williams and Miss Heather Parry-Williams to the meeting and invited them to give a presentation on the Programme.

Prior to starting her presentation Mrs Williams thanked the Council for its financial support to the Programme.

It was explained that the Programme was essentially a twinning between Hawarden High School and a School in Sankhu, a small town located some 18km from Kathmandu, which had arisen from a visit Mrs Williams had made to the Brick School in Kathmandu.

A selection of slides illustrating the way of life of the people of Sankhu was given which contrasted markedly from life in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Williams referred to the recent visit to Hawarden by representatives of Sankhu and the proposal for two teachers from the Sankhu School to visit Hawarden in 2011.

The Chair thanked Mrs Williams and Miss Parry-Williams for their presentation and congratulated them on their initiative in this matter which would clearly have benefits for both schools and their Communities.

CITIZENS ADVICE BURUEA, BUCKLEY:

The Chair referred Members to correspondence which had been received from Buckley Town Council requesting the assistance of neighbouring Town & Community Councils to bring a CAB presence to Buckley on a one day a week basis.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Buckley Town Council be advised that Hawarden Community Council was prepared in principle to support this proposal subject to the cost implication being acceptable.

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE ORDER RELATING TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENTS, RETENTION ALLOWANCES:

The Chair advised that the Welsh Assembly Government was seeking the Council's views on this proposed piece of legislation which was summarised on the correspondence attached to the agenda.

Members variously commented on their disquiet that this consultation had taken place during August when Town & Community Councils were in recess and that a response was required almost immediately, whilst the Assembly Government had almost three months to produce its report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government expressing the Council's concern about the lack of meaningful consultation and seeking further clarification as to the reason for this proposed legislation.

STRATEGY FOR FLINTSHIRE'S LIBRARIES 2009/2012:

The Committee was informed that Flintshire County Council's Library Service had invited comments on its strategy for the period 2009/2012, a copy of which was attached to the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) to advise the County Council that the community Council supported the objectives outlines in the strategy.

(b) to urge the council to carry out the required improvements to Mancot Library as a matter of urgency.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO PUBLIC COUNTER OPENING TIMES AT MOLD COUNTY COURT:

The Chair referred Members to the correspondence attached.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the proposal be noted.

CLERK'S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:

- Video of Community Events

A video of Community Life was being produced and a request had been made for permission to video Members arriving for the October meeting of the

Council and to video the beginning of the meeting. The footage filmed would be included in the main video to be shown at an event taking place at Hawarden Institute on 14 November 2009.

- Local Government Boundary Commission Workshops

These were taking place at Glyndwr University, Wrexham on 7 October 2009. Members were welcome to attend.

- Standards Conference Wales 2009

This was taking place in Cardiff on 15 October 2009 and any Member wishing to attend would need to submit their name to Flintshire County Council via the Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received and that permission be given for the videoing as reported.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none