

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Ralph Small
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 Veronica Amos, Joyce Angell, Clive Carver, George Hardcastle and Mike Jones.

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 9 November 2009 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 PCSO Gareth Price to the meeting and invited the Officer to address the Committee.

PCSO Price apologised on behalf on his colleagues who were unable to be present. He then updated on the following matters:

- The next Aston Neighbourhood Policing Panel was taking place at the Aston Community Centre on 14 January 2010.
- No members of public had attended the Hawarden Neighbourhood Policing Panel.
- PC Pullen had spoken to the Neighbourhood Coordinator in connection with the previously discussed problem at Cambrian Way and it was considered that a meeting was not required.

- Speeding on Ash Lane, Mancot continued to be a problem and a youngster had been knocked down by a vehicle in the previous week although it was not certain whether speed was a contributing factor to the accident.

The Chair thanked PCSO Price for his report and invited Members to raise any relevant matters.

Councillor Halford queried whether there had been any improvement in the antisocial behaviour issue at Gladstone Playing Fields. The Clerk responded that the CCTV system had been installed and that together with the local CBM having spoken to some of those involved and the worsening weather the situation was much improved.

Councillor Walker questioned whether the Highway Authority could install humps and/or speed repeater signs on Ash Lane to encourage motorists to reduce their speed. It was however noted that Flintshire County Council had a moratorium on the installation of speed humps at present and that repeater signs were not ordinarily erected in 30mph speed limits.

Councillor Small raised the issue of speeding along Colliery Lane which he said was a particular problem as there was no footpath along its length. It was noted that Flintshire County Council would be conducting a survey on speed limits throughout Flintshire but this was likely to result only in the reduction from 60mph to 50mph.

Councillor Judith Hough drew to PCSO Price's attention a report she had received that youngsters attending the Cross Tree Lane Schools did not always wear seatbelts when being collected and dropped off.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the various matters discussed be noted and that a communication be sent to Flintshire Highways Authority in connection with the issue of speeding along Colliery Lane, Mancot and Ash Lane, Mancot.

PLAYING OF BALL GAMES ON PUBLIC OPEN SPACES:

The Chair referred Members to correspondence received from Flintshire County Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services in relation to this matter, a copy of which was attached to the agenda. The Chair invited Members to put forward their views.

Councillor Halford commented that whilst she understood that the signs which were presently erected had no legal effect they nonetheless seemed to work and in her experience gave peace to residents living in proximity to public open spaces.

Councillor Small concurred with this view commenting on their positive effect in The Paddocks, Mancot.

Councillor Kevin Jones cautioned that whilst there was an issue to nearby residents, children had a right to play.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Flintshire County Council be advised that the Community Council favoured the retention of the existing system of placing ‘no ball games’ signs despite their lack of legal effect.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – BUCKLEY:

The Committee was advised that the Council had been invited to appoint two representatives to attend a special meeting of Buckley Town Council to discuss the establishment of an outreach station at Buckley.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillors Small and Judith Hough represent the Council at this meeting.

OPERATION FOCUS:

The Chair advised that North Wales Police had invited the Council to comment on its Operation Focus which aimed to reduce motorcycle casualties in North Wales.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the North Wales Police be advised that Hawarden Community Council fully supported the Operation which, from the statistics provided, clearly demonstrated its success in reducing motorcycle fatalities and serious injury.

CLERK’S REPORT:

The following matters were reported:

- Christmas Holidays

The Council Offices would be closed on the statutory Bank Holidays only and both administrative and maintenance cover would be in place during the festive and new year period.

- Street Naming – Off Wood Lane

The Clerk thanked Councillors Mackie and Kevin Jones for their useful feedback on this matter which had been passed on to Flintshire County Council’s Building Control Section.

MEMBERS’ INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.