

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the STAFF AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on 15 OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor Brian Williams  
Vice-Chair: Councillor Ve Amos

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mr R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

As per the Council meeting

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

No declarations of interest were received by Members.

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 September 2012, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

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

- Communication to Chief Constable

The Chair of the North Wales Police Authority had replied to the Council's letter. He had stated that "The lack of response to your letter earlier this year is clearly unacceptable and I have discussed this with the Chief Constable". "He has agreed to investigate and feedback to me".

- Independent Review Panel for Wales

No response had yet been received.

- Redecoration of Council Chamber

The Clerk confirmed that he had met the decorator who had originally decorated the Council Chamber. His quotation was awaited.

- Old Aston Hill Residents Association

The grant application had been received and would be considered by the Finance Committee later in the evening.

## **POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chair welcomed Temporary Inspector Andy Griffiths to the meeting.

The Inspector said that he had considered the matter raised by the Council in connection with the policing of Ewloe being split between two separate Divisions. He said that he had asked for the issue to be reviewed and had set out two proposals. Firstly that Ewloe be placed firmly in one Division, secondly that the boundary remains unaltered but that South Flintshire be given responsibility for its policing. Inspector Griffiths said that he would attend the Council's November meeting to report back on this matter.

In response to Councillor Halford, Inspector Griffiths said that North Wales Police was working in a difficult financial climate which had resulted in the number of front line Officers decreasing although the Welsh Assembly Government had provided funding for the recruitment of a number of PCSO's. He said that performance targets had not been affected however and that crime and antisocial behaviour figures were down.

Inspector Griffith responded to a further question relating to 'found property'. He said that he had only just become aware that the Police would no longer be taking responsibility for found property. It was understood that whoever found the property was now responsible for keeping it until it was claimed.

The Chair thanked Temporary Inspector Griffiths for his attendance at the meeting and looked forward to receiving an update on the policing of Ewloe at the Committee's November meeting.

## **ARRIVA BUS SERVICE:**

The Chair welcomed Mr Keith Anglesea, the General Manager of Arriva Buses to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee.

Mr Anglesea said that there was a misconception of what Arriva Buses responsibilities were. He said that they were only responsible for the provision of buses and 'turning up'. He said that the Company was being hampered by sudden road closures, often with only short notice and sometimes none at all. He believed that the problem was being caused by Flintshire County Council's contractor for 'hot tar' who reacted to favourable weather conditions to carry out resurfacing. He said that that this was not only a problem for Arriva and its passengers but also for Emergency Service vehicles.

Mr Anglesea spoke of joint initiatives with the Police when the buses were stopped, tickets checked and questionnaires were distributed regarding antisocial behaviour. He referred to the presence of CCTV on all buses and the technology which enabled the Company to track its buses and analyse passengers' journeys.

He advised that all complaints about the bus service, drivers' performance etc. were logged and monitored.

The Chair thanked Mr Anglesea for his attendance.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to write to Flintshire County Council to ascertain the situation regarding sudden road closures to facilitate resurfacing works.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:-

- Details of Flintshire County Council's preparations for the winter had been received. An appeal for volunteers to assist with snow clearance of key locations was included on the Council's website.
- Details of the works in connection with the new Airbus entrance were circulated. It was expected that this would also benefit users of the A5104 by relieving congestion at peak times.
- Rector Drew V.A. School Centenary

Rector Drew VA School were holding a special evening at St Deiniol's Church at 6pm on Sunday 25 November. Members were welcome to attend.

- Statistics received in received in respect of the Buckley CAB Outreach Office showed that during the period of June to September 2012, 12% of the clients came from the Hawarden Community Council area.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the report be received.

**MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.