

SGJ/H.17.04.2023

12th April 2023

To: **ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Dear Councillor,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the **HYBRID MEETING** of the **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL** to be held on **MONDAY 17th April 2023** at **6.30 P.M AT THE SCOUT H.Q., GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS, THE HIGHWAY, HAWARDEN, CH5 3DN.** The remote access meeting link will be sent out on Monday afternoon on request.

The agenda and papers are attached.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the meeting. Please contact the Clerk and Financial Officer on **07931 231770** direct if you require log-in details for the meeting, or if you have any problems logging in.

No recording, broadcasting or photographs may be taken of the council meeting without the prior approval of the Community Council.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sharron G Jones
Clerk & Financial Officer



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HYBRID MEETING

17th April 2023

A G E N D A

6.30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To receive any declarations of interests from Members.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the council held on 13th March 2023, copy attached.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

5. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022:

To receive the attached annual return for the year ended 31st March 2022 that has been finalised by the Auditor General for Wales.

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS:

Report attached.

7. HYPNET PROJECT:

A copy of the actions from the meeting of the Task Group held on Wednesday 29th May 2023 has been emailed to members on the 5th April 2023 for information. Members are asked to note the actions or raise any questions/concerns.

8. REDRESSING THE MINUTED, PUBLIC, BREACH OF *THE PROCEDURE OF ELECTING CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL POLICY* IN MAY 2022.

Report attached.

9. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

10. STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

To note the attached letter from the Chief Officer (Governance) at Flintshire County Council about the recent visits to Town and Community Councils by members of the Standards Committee.

11. VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS POLICY:

To consider and approve the attached policy following a deferment of one month to allow members to consider and contribute to the policy.

12. SUBSCRIPTION TO ONE VOICE WALES:

To consider the contents of the attached letter.

13. POLICE MATTERS:

To consider any matters of concern.

14. HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

To consider any matters of concern with John Griffiths, Senior Highways Officer, who may be in attendance.

15. LIGHTING FAULTS:

To raise any lighting issues.

16. CONSULTATION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ETHICAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK (Richard Penn report):

In March 2021, the then Minister for Housing and Local Government commissioned an independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (“the Framework”) for local government in Wales established by the Local Government Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”). The Framework extends to county and county borough councils, corporate joint committees, national park authorities, fire and rescue authorities and community and town councils. Where the term council(s) is/are used throughout this document this also extends to all member(s) of the above-named bodies.

The Framework has remained largely unchanged over the last 20 years, so an independent review was felt important to maintain confidence in the system and ensure developments in the way councillors and their public lives are reflected in its operation.

An effective ethical framework is essential to ensure people and councillors from all backgrounds have confidence to engage with local democracy or stand for elected office. It is part of making Wales a diverse and inclusive nation and its review is an action in our Anti-racist Wales Action Plan.

Terms of reference for the review

The independent review (“the Review”) was undertaken by Richard Penn, a former local authority chief executive and former chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The terms of the Review were as follows:

- a) an audit of the codes of conduct adopted by all the required authorities against the Model Code of Conduct to identify any local variances
- b) an analysis of the effectiveness of the Framework in fostering high standards of conduct in local government in Wales and public confidence in those arrangements
- c) consideration of whether the Framework is still 'fit for purpose', including whether the 10 principles of conduct are still relevant and whether the Model Code of Conduct needs updating. This included identification of areas where improvements could/should be made to the current arrangements
- d) consideration of the role of standards committees, including their role in relation to community councils and whether the establishment of sub-committees has any impact on the process of supporting community councils and dealing with complaints
- e) an analysis of the arrangements and protocols in place within authorities to support members and staff in preventing the need for issues to a) arise in the first place, and b) be escalated beyond local resolution. This included areas such as clear communication and signposting, training and awareness and the authorities' approach to addressing concerns
- f) consideration of the current sanctions and whether they are still appropriate

The full consultation can be accessed via the following link:
<https://www.gov.wales/consultation-recommendations-independent-review-ethical-standards-framework-richard-penn-report>

The deadline for responses is **23rd June 2023**.

17. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

To consider any relevant information items from Members.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

18. PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:

County Council Members:

- (i) To formally note that the participation of those Councillors who are also members of the County Council, in both the debate and subsequent vote, is on the basis that the views expressed are preliminary views taking account of the information presently made available to the Community Council.

The County Councillors reserve their final views on the application until they are in full possession of all relevant arguments for and against.

- (ii) To consider the planning applications received to date for the month of April.

Members are asked to view the applications on-line prior to the meeting via

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Home.aspx>

- (iii) To note any planning appeals.

- (iv) To note the attached planning decisions for April.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

19. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

To receive a verbal update from the Clerk and Financial Officer following the monthly meetings of the Delivery Team.

20. AURA LEISURE MATCH FUNDING FOR PLAY AREAS:

To consider the contents of the attached letter and agree whether to request match funding for one of the Council's play areas.

21. COMMUNITY DOG FOULING DISPENSER PILOT PROPOSAL:

Report attached.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

22. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

To approve the attached list of payments for April 2023.

23. BANK RECONCILIATION:

To receive the bank reconciliation statement for the period ending 31st March 2023, copy to follow.

24. CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

- (i) To receive a verbal report on the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Committee for the month of April.
- (ii) The cost for the Joint Maintenance Committee for March was £13,117.70 for members' information.

25. THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

To consider the exclusion of the public and press for the following item which relates to privileged legal advice.

26. GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

To consider the attached privileged legal advice provided to the Community Council about the Herbert Gladstone Playing Fields.