



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

11 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Helen Brown for items 82/20 to 87/20
Councillor George Hardcastle for items 88/20 and 89/20
Committee Chairs as outlined below.

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bob Connah, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Lowri Earith, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ryan O’Gorman, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Richard Taylor and Ant Turton.

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Fran Griffiths, Admin Assistant

Also present: 7 members of the public and representatives from Tennis Wales

82/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer welcomed members of the public to the meeting and asked them not to record or take photographs of Community Council meetings without the consent of the council prior to the meeting, due to potential Data Protection issues and in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor George Hardcastle, who was having problems joining the meeting due to information technology issues, Councillor Helen Brown opened the meeting as Chair.

83/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies had been received.

84/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Helen Brown and Sarah Hinks declared an interest in item 15 and would complete their declaration of interest form electronically.

85/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous virtual meeting of the Council held on 14th December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

86/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

In response to minute number 75/20, Councillor Bob Connah said that Councillor Sam Swash should not be the Council's representative at any Local Development Plan (LDP) hearings as previously resolved by the Community Council. After seeking clarity from the Clerk and Financial Officer, Cllr Sam Swash had agreed to attend the hearings as a representative of the local residents' campaign group, rather than as Council representative.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Dave Mackie as the Council's representative on any LDP hearings.

Councillor Sam Swash wished to remind members about the procedure for members of the public attending meetings as he had overheard a member relaying some information to someone within his household. The member apologised for this oversight.

87/20 SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE:

A report had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting including a proposal to establish a Scrutiny committee with Terms of Reference provided. Members expressed their concerns about this as the Community Council did not have a Cabinet/Scrutiny structure in place similar to the County Council. Councillor Emma Preece, who proposed this, said that it would not need to be called a Scrutiny Committee but more of an investigative, research committee to ensure the council acts with due diligence to assist in the research of information in order to enable members to make informed decisions.

A Member stated that there was already provision in the Standing Orders to appoint a sub-committee but that this item should be withdrawn and reviewed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to defer this item to the next meeting where a different committee and terms of reference would be proposed and; (ii) members to provide feedback to the Clerk and Financial Officer.

NOTE: *At this juncture, Councillor George Hardcastle had managed to join the virtual meeting during the discussions held above and resumed his position as Chairman for the remainder of the council items.*

88/20 CHANGE OF VIRTUAL MEETING SOFTWARE:

Councillor Emma Preece had suggested that the council consider changing its virtual meeting software to Zoom Pro as more facilities could be enabled included the raising of hands and polls on decisions. A discussion took place about the pros and cons of upgrading the current virtual platform including security issues, recording, storage of meetings and waiting rooms.

A training session would be held with members before the next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve, in principle, the new virtual meeting platform for the next meeting.

89/20 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Councillor George Hardcastle referred to the recent sad death of Flintshire County Councillor, Kevin Hughes, from Covid-19 and asked that a letter of condolence be sent to the family.

***NOTE:** Councillor Lowri Earith, Chair of Community Amenities, chaired the following items.*

90/20 PLAY AND RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE:

Members commended the recommendation to have at least one piece of inclusive equipment in each of the Community Council's play areas.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Play and Recreation Sub-Committee held on 22nd December 2020 be approved and endorsed.

91/20 TENNIS WALES PRESENTATION:

Luke Williams, Mike Herd and Rich Wilcock had attended the meeting, at the Council's request, to discuss a possible investment in the tennis courts at Hawarden. Data had been shared to show how successful the courts could be and any income received from such a proposal would be invested with the council for the future maintenance of the courts.

Members asked a number of questions to which the representatives from Tennis Wales answered accordingly. Members had been concerned about the balance of free and easy access to members of the public with the proposal but agreed that further discussions would be required. Copies of the presentation would also be shared with members to review the detail.

28 Chair's signature _____

In summary, the proposal would include Tennis Wales taking over the

management, insurance and security of the courts and assisting with all promotional activities and bookings but any income generated would be given to the Community Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to refer this matter to the Play and Recreation Sub-Committee for further detailed discussions and that the Clerk and Financial Officer seek legal advice in relation to the position of the Trust.

NOTE: Councillor Dave Mackie, Chairman of Finance chaired the following items.

92/20 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020:

The Chairman advised that the Annual Return had been received following completion of the Audit by the Council's External Auditor and had been a clean audit. There had been four minor issues for consideration, one of which had been challenged by the Clerk and Financial Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Report and issues report be accepted and approved except for the issue relating to the Council's Asset Register which had been challenged.

93/20 COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021-22

The Chairman said that he and the Clerk and Financial Officer had met with Members of the Finance Working Group on two previous occasions and had reviewed the budget line by line in order to recommend the budget and Council Tax precept to the Council for approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the budget proposals for 2021-22 and the council tax precept at 4.99%.

94/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £32,470.31 for January be approved.

95/20 BANK RECONCILIATIONS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the Bank reconciliation would be emailed in due course. Councillor George Hardcastle wished to thank Councillor Dave Mackie for his hard work in reviewing the bank reconciliations and the council's finances.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations be circulated by email for approval once completed.

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NOTE: Councillor Darren Sterry, Chair of Staffing and General Purposes, chaired

the following items.

96/20 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS (WALES) BILL:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a summary of the key information related to Community and Town Councils following the approval of the Bill by the Senedd on 18th November. The Bill now awaited Royal Assent before becoming law.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the report and await Royal Assent.

97/20 NATIONAL NHS, SOCIAL CARE AND FRONT LINE SERVICES DAY:

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined the proposal for a national NHS, Social Care and Front Line Workers Day on 5th July 2021, Covid-19 permitting. This would become an annual event and be a day for members of the public and community organisations to express their gratitude to all NHS, Social Care and front line workers and to remember those who had lost their lives due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The commemoration would include a two-minute silence, 73 church bells ringing, (to commemorate the 73 years of the NHS) and a national toast at 1pm.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the commemorate day and participation in a national event. Activities to be considered in line with current restrictions.

98/20 PARKING ISSUES AT PENARLAG SCHOOL:

The Clerk and Financial Officer provided a verbal update of the issues surrounding parking at Penarlag School. Approximately 18 months ago the Community Council had agreed to pay for the yellow lines to be installed in order to protect the health and safety of the children and residents, particularly at busy school traffic times. A request had subsequently been received from residents to have these lines removed and other measures such as residential parking bays, single yellow lines and increased enforcement be implemented.

A meeting had subsequently been held with the residents and members of the County Council and a further meeting arranged between the Community Council representatives and County Council officials. If the councils were to revoke the Traffic Regulation Order this would cause difficulties for both authorities due to the concerns around health and safety in the initial request.

The Clerk and Financial Officer surmised that the only option to take forward was to request increased enforcement patrols to target persistent offenders and the consideration of an automatic camera to issue permits.

Councillors George Hardcastle and Helen Brown endorsed this update.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to continue to work with Flintshire County Council officials to campaign for increased enforcement patrols and the possible provision of an automatic camera.

99/20 EXTENSION OF MEETING:

Councillors requested that Standing Order No 41 be invoked to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

100/20 POLICE, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

Members reported the following issues:

- i) Lights appeared to be permanently on at the Gladstone Memorial.
- ii) Light on by farm entrance near the T junction on Mancot Lane and the need for additional light as the junction had been very dark.
- iii) Light facing the wrong way by the square on Mancot Lane.
- iv) Road sign at the top of Ash Lane had been in poor condition.
- v) A motorbike without lights continued to be a nuisance in Mancot.
- vi) No social distancing appeared to be observed at Mancot playing fields.
- vii) More litter bins had been requested in Mancot.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised members to complete the Police and Crime Commissioners survey recently circulated. She had also advised that North Wales Police had confirmed that they did not have the resources to attend each council meeting but would ensure that a report is compiled for both North and South divisions at each meeting.

Councillor George Hardcastle thanked members of the maintenance team for the erection of the Christmas lights throughout the community.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

101/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of January had been £13,329.17.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the update.

102/20 MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEMS:

Some members complained about the length of time meetings appeared to be taking over recent months and the need to avoid repetition of comments from Councillors. Other Councillors argued that good detailed debates about key issues had been important, as Councillors were representatives of their communities and the detailed discussions ensured that Councillors made informed decisions.

NOTE: *Councillor Cheryl Carver, Chair of Planning, chaired the following item.*

103/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) County Council Members:

It was noted that the participation of those Councillors who were also Members of the County Council, in both the debate and subsequent vote, was on the basis that the views expressed had been preliminary views taking account of the information made available to the Community Council.

The County Councillors reserved their final views on the applications until they were in full possession of all relevant arguments for and against.

(b) That the County Planning Authority be advised of this Council's observations on the applications submitted to it for consideration, as per the attached schedule.

(c) That the planning decisions be noted.

(d) There were no planning appeals.