



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

12 APRIL 2021

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle

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; Andrew Nuttall – The Leader

A one-minute silence had been observed in memory of His Royal Highness, The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, who had recently passed away.

The Clerk and Financial Officer reminded Members of the public not to record or take photographs of the meeting and for members of the public to ensure that their cameras had been turned off and microphones muted.

141/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were none.

142/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

143/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous virtual meeting of the Council held on 8th March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

144/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

145/20 RECENT EVENTS AND MEDIATION:

The Clerk and Financial Officer shared the concerns of many members who had spoken to her following recent events. The recent incident had been under investigation by North Wales Police and the Information Commissioners' Office. She had however sought external mediation via the Monitoring Officer at Flintshire County Council, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, at a cost of £595 plus VAT. It had been vitally important that all members attend this session which would cover the role of Community Councils, Declaration of Interests, Council decisions, member to member relationships and officer to member relationships.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the engagement of a mediator from Flintshire County Council.

146/20 NOTICE OF MOTION:

Councillors Clive and Cheryl Carver had submitted a Notice of Motion that had been included with the agenda for the meeting. The motion had proposed the abolition of all sub-committees and a reversal back to the 2017 committee structure.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to abolish all sub-committees and revert back to the Council and committee structure in 2017 of six committees.

147/20 RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that this item be referred pending the receipt of a full report at the June meeting of council.

148/20 STANDING ORDERS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer circulated a draft revised Standing Orders and thanked members for their feedback. The key changes consisted of legislative change, a recommendation from the internal auditor, re-numbering, deletion of 28 (p), change s/he to "they" and the introduction of a "template" for completion when items had been added to the agenda. This template would ensure that all members had a full and proper report available in order to make an informed decision.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the changes, in principle, ready for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

149/20 THE HAWARDEN STANDARD:

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that in view of recent events, she had spoken to the Monitoring Officer at Flintshire County Council who had suggested adopting 'The Hawarden Standard'. This document had to be read in conjunction with the Council's Code of Conduct and Social Media policies.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to adopt the 'The Hawarden Standard'.

150/20 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had reminded members of the Council's social media policy and circulated a copy with the agenda for the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer email the policy to Members for review with any comments to be submitted by Friday 23rd April.

151/20 ANNUAL REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had prepared the Council's second annual report and sought contributions from members. The Chairman wished to amend his covering letter and the Councillor details would be corrected.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Report for adoption at the annual meeting.

152/20 COUNCILLOR TRAINING:

Two councillors had recently attended One Voice Wales training on the role of the Chairman. The course had been informative and worthwhile and both Councillors recommended that other members attend. It was suggested that incoming Chairman and Vice-Chairmen attend this training and the member also referred to the outdated and archaic policy of appointing Chairmen at Hawarden Community Council based on seniority. He felt that no account had been taken of the individual member's ability to act as Chairman recognising the importance of such a role. It was proposed that the training of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be mandatory.

In accordance with Standing Order number 47, a member requested that a recorded vote be taken. The vote was recorded as follows:

COUNCILLOR	DECISION
Councillor Ve Amos	AGAINST
Councillor Joyce Angell	AGAINST
Councillor Janet Axworthy	AGAINST
Councillor Gillian Brockley	FOR
Councillor Helen Brown	AGAINST
Councillor Cheryl Carver	AGAINST
Councillor Clive Carver	AGAINST
Councillor Bob Connah	AGAINST
Councillor Lowri Earith	FOR
Councillor George Hardcastle	AGAINST
Councillor Sarah Hinks	FOR
Councillor Dave Mackie	AGAINST
Councillor Ryan O' Gorman	ABSTAINED
Councillor Dan Preece	FOR
Councillor Emma Preece	FOR
Councillor Ralph Small	AGAINST
Councillor Darren Sterry	FOR
Councillor Sam Swash	FOR
Councillor Richard Taylor	FOR
Councillor Ant Turton	FOR

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the proposal be not approved.

153/20 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Councillor George Hardcastle said that this meeting would be his last as Chairman of Hawarden Community Council. He wished to express his thanks to Councillor Janet Axworthy who had suggested that a donation be sent to John Griffiths, Flintshire County Council, Highways Supervisor, who had been off work due to illness. He also thanked Fran Griffiths for the arrangement of a food hamper sent to John on behalf of the council.

Councillor Darren Sterry, Chairman of Staffing and General Purposes presented the following items:

154/20 POLICE, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

Members advised of the following issues to be forwarded to the appropriate authorities:

- Vehicles had travelled the wrong way along the temporary one-way system in place at St. David's Park – refer to Highways Department, FCC.
- Continued traffic congestion on Yowley Road/Old Aston Hill.
- Footpath from Leaches Lane to Hawarden Way had been in need of repair.

- A Freedom of Information (FOI) request had been submitted to North Wales Police, Flintshire County Council and the Community Council about excessive speeding along The Highway, Hawarden.
- Double pole bracket awaiting delivery for installation on column by the square in Mancot.
- Goal posts on Mancot playing fields should be removed as they are currently buried in water.
- Request North Wales Police to continue with monthly incident reports for Flintshire North and South areas.
- Gladstone goalposts had been damaged again can they not be removed after each game.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: to note the updates and forward to the relevant agency.

155/20 MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEM:

A member said that he was disappointed that when the minutes had been approved earlier in the meeting, another member had raised his hand to comment. He said that this member should have been listened to and not told to wait until 'matters arising' and that this was unprofessional.

Councillor Cheryl Carver, Chair of Planning, presented the following item.

156/20 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.

- (a) 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.
- (b) That the planning decisions be noted.

Councillor Dave Mackie, Chair of Finance, presented the following items:

157/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report outlined the steps involved in the external audit of the Council's accounts for members' information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the report.

158/20 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had reviewed the Council's Financial Regulations against the National Model and outlined the key changes. Another change in relation to contacts had been recommended by the Council's Internal Auditor for review.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the amendments as outlined ready for adoption at the annual meeting in May.

159/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £38,273.01 for April be approved.

160/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the cost to the council for the joint maintenance agreement for April amounted to £17,681.88.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the update.

161/20 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 28th March 2021 be received and noted.