



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

12 JULY 2021

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Helen Brown

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Bob Connah, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, George Hardcastle, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ralph Small, Sam Swash and Richard Taylor.

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

Also present: Simon Budgeon, Head Teacher, Hawarden High School
Jamie MacDonald, Assistant Head Teacher
Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner
Inspector Ioan Jones
PCSO Ryan Thomas
2 members of the public

25/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley (external appointment), Lowri Earith (caring commitment), Ryan O’Gorman (work commitment), Darren Sterry (caring commitment) and Ant Turton (illness).

26/21 PRESENTATION FROM HAWARDEN HIGH SCHOOL:

The Chair welcomed the Simon and Jamie to the meeting.

Simon provided a presentation outlining the school response to the pandemic and shared what procedures had been introduced to help alleviate the increased number of incidents of anti-social behaviour within the community in recent months. He said that during the pandemic 1,152 pupils and 111 staff had required support in addition to key workers and vulnerable children. They had been ‘clopen’ weekends and bank holidays and providing remote learning via zoom with many pupils having assessments hand delivered to their homes.

The school had had 50 confirmed cases of Covid amongst staff and pupils and an additional £63,000 had been spent on conducting risk assessments and introducing control measures.

Jamie continued to say that during the past 18 months it had been a challenging period for everyone concerned and with many pupils showing signs of disruptive behaviour and struggling to return to new school routines, the school had employed a Learning Coach. The school had also had to refer pupils to agencies such as Children and Adolescent Health Mental Services (CAHMS) and Careers Wales for additional support. He said that they would continue to maintain relationships with North Wales Police and hoped that the services of a local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who would visit the school regularly could be re-instated.

He felt that pupils in Year 10 appeared to have been most impacted by the pandemic and many had given up on their aspirations for the future and become disheartened. Year 7 pupils joining the school in September had been unable to visit beforehand and it would be a challenge to restore the school's high standards whilst encouraging the children to adapt when the school reopens in September. Jamie said that any problems raised would be logged and monitored on their Central Point of Management system together with the actions taken to help resolve the issues.

Inspector Ioan Jones confirmed that they had encountered problems with Years 10 and 11 pupils across the County and North Wales Police would continue to help to restore relationships with pupils and schools when the new term commences in September.

Members suggested that pupils be invited to a meeting of the Community Council and that a youth representative from the school be appointed.

Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner said that he would support the local community with any initiatives North Wales Police put into operation.

Councillor Helen Brown thanked Simon, Jamie and NWP for their informative presentation and attendance.

27/21 PRESENTATION BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER:

Councillor Helen Brown thanked Andy Dunbobbin for attending the meeting. Due to the length of discussion for the previous item and his input, Andy suggested that he attend the next meeting of the council in September to deliver his own presentation which was welcomed by members.

28/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest.

29/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous virtual meeting of the Council held on 14th June 2021 be approved as a correct record, save and accept the following:

Minute number 9/21: Councillor Sarah Hinks had not been included in the recorded list vote.

Minute number 9/21: Councillor Richard Taylor requested verbatim amendments to the minutes as indicated:

1st paragraph – replace the words “but if it became mandatory, grants might be available for the appropriate software and technology to be purchased” with “although Welsh Government are actively encouraging transparency at this local government level”.

3rd paragraph – add the words “though it had been pointed out that the technology required for blended meetings (see minute 10/21) could be used for this purpose”. Delete the words “concerns were also expressed about the invasion of privacy by recording meetings whilst they are being conducted virtually from private homes” and replace with “a member argued against recording as he felt it would impact on his family”.

4th paragraph – add the words “it had been pointed out that many Parish Councils in England already record meetings, some Community Councils in South Wales have started and our own Flintshire County Council record and post meetings”.

Minute 10/21 - Councillor Richard Taylor requested verbatim amendment to the minutes as indicated:

1st paragraph – add the words “A member pointed out that the technology researched for the previous item re. Recording and Posting Meetings would be easily utilised to implement “blended” meetings.

Minute 15a/21 – Item 14 – Observations to Planning Consultation FCC be amended. Local objections had been received, more information had been requested and the reason why the access was required.

30/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

31/21 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to agree to the appointment of JDH Business Services Limited as the Council's Internal Auditor for the year 2021-2022.

32/21 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) ANNUAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2021 – PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Where not mandated, each determination required a formal decision by Council on an annual basis. A Council can adopt any or all of the non-mandated determinations but if it does make such a decision, it must apply to all members. An individual may wish to forego this entitlement on written notification to the Clerk and Financial Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- i. That determination number 42 be accepted as mandatory, noting that some members had elected to forego this entitlement.
- ii. To accept determination numbers 45, 46 and 47.
- iii. determination numbers 44 and 50 are not applicable; and
- iv. determination numbers 43, 48 and 49 be not approved.

33/21 PROVISION OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer this item until the September meeting.

34/21 GENERAL PRACTITIONER'S PRACTICE, QUEENSFERRY:

A report had been presented to members outlining the proposal by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to temporarily re-locate the General Practitioner's surgery at Queensferry to Connah's Quay. This move would impact approximately eight thousand patients. Concern had been expressed about the number of elderly and vulnerable patients who would have to use a limited bus service, with only 3 operating in the morning and the traffic flow on the main road was often slow. This would impact on the patients' ability to secure appointments.

Members had also been concerned that the temporary move may become permanent and considered that a bespoke new building would be the preferred option at Deeside Leisure Centre. Members suggested that alternative, closer sites be examined first.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO:

- i) arrange a joint meeting of the three local community councils and invite the relevant politicians to attend the meeting; and
- ii) write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board outlining the council's concerns.

35/21 HYPNET NORTH WEST:

A report had been circulated to members following attendance at a virtual meeting with HyNet to discuss the proposal to lay a pipeline through Hawarden and Mancot (*planning application 063069*) to transport carbon dioxide as a by-product of Hydrogen and store it at Liverpool Bay.

Members agreed that more information was required and that they would research the proposal prior to meeting with Hynet.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to invite Hynet to a special virtual meeting in the future.

36/21 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chair had recently attended two Volunteer Award Presentations for outstanding work carried out by representatives from 1st Hawarden Scout Group and 3rd Hawarden Brownies. She also reminded members that the closing date for contributions to the school hampers was 12 noon on Tuesday 13th July.

37/21 POLICE, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

There were no issues raised.

Members had been advised that information on the North Wales Police website about recent events and police activity was outdated.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

38/21 MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

No items had been raised.

Councillor Joyce Angell, Chair of Planning, presented the following item.

39/21 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 Helen Brown, presented the following item.

40/21 COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT SITE – CONSIDERATION OF PHASE TWO AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY ORCHARD:

A report had been presented to members to consider the approval and creation of Phase 2 of the allotment site to increase the number of community allotments available and to consider the enhancement of the community orchard.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- I) To accept the proposal to extend the allotment site subject to the relevant planning permission requirements; and
- II) To agree to the enhancement and improvement of the community orchard.

Councillor Helen Brown, presented the following item.

41/21 REQUEST FROM TENNIS WALES:

A report had been circulated to members following the request from Tennis Wales to co-manage the tennis courts on behalf of the council. Following a lengthy discussion, members requested that legal advice be sought to ensure the correct procedures would be followed and that a service level agreement would need to be drawn up to ensure the needs of the community council are considered, if the proposal were to go ahead. A public consultation would also be required.

A member suggested that the Tennis Club be known as Herbert Gladstone Tennis Club and not Hawarden Park Tennis Club.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer further discussion until legal advice had been sought.

42/21 REQUEST TO USE GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

A request had been received for the use of the Gladstone Playing Fields by Sharlands Fairground on Thursday 15th to Saturday 18th July 2.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that Covid.19 risk assessments had been completed and the organisers had the necessary indemnities and insurances in place. North Wales Police had also been advised, as per the previous weekend.

Members said that they had not received any complaints regarding the fair during the previous weekend and a local resident had called into the office to report that they had been content with the way the fair had been managed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to authorise the use of the playing fields.

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

43/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £34,448.00 for July be approved.

44/21 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that she would advise of the cost to the council for the joint maintenance agreement for July be reported at the next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the update.

45/21 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th June 2021 be emailed to members following the meeting.

46/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councillor Dan Preece commented that he had seen the Council's Litter Collector at work on Sunday, collecting litter, checking cars and monitoring large numbers of children at Gladstone Playing Fields, whilst the fair was in operation. He also said that he was doing an excellent job across all four wards.

Councillor George Hardcastle requested that a card be sent to John Griffiths wishing him a good recovery from his recent period of ill health.