



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Virtual Annual Meeting
held on
9 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle

Councillors: Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Bob Connah, Lowri Earith, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, 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: 3 members of the public

41/20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Chairman requested that a minute silence be observed in respect of Remembrance day which was duly observed.

Councillor George Hardcastle expressed his thanks to staff members and Marshalls who had organised and supported the Remembrance Day event on Sunday 8th November. It had been a much reduced service with a limited number of organisations allowed to lay wreaths. The event had been live streamed by Ian Gibbons from Radio Deeside and had received over four thousand views.

On behalf of all Members, Councillor Helen Brown thanked the Chair for representing them and laying a wreath.

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that several organisations had laid individual wreaths after the service on the Sunday and on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at timed intervals.

Councillor Janet Axworthy also expressed her thanks for a well organised event.

42/20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2020/2021:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the current Chair, Councillor George Hardcastle, be appointed Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of civic duties.

13 Chair's signature _____

Councillor George Hardcastle confirmed that he had signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and expressed his thanks to all members for supporting his appointment.

43/20 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2020/2021:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the current Vice Chair, Councillor Helen Brown, be appointed Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of civic duties.

Councillor Helen Brown signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked members for supporting her appointment.

44/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley and Ryan O’Gorman.

45/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

46/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 12th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

48/20 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the External Audit report had not been received and that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer this item to the next meeting.

49/20 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, the Council’s standing committees had not met but would resume in due course.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to designate the standing committees of Staff and General Purposes, Community Amenities, Planning and Finance.

50/20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the appointment of the Chairmen of Committees as follows:

Community Amenities – Councillor Lowri Earith

Finance – Councillor Dave Mackie

Planning – Councillor Cheryl Carver

Staff and General Purposes – Councillor Darren Sterry

51/20 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Members' Code of Conduct be accepted and adhered to.

52/20 STANDING ORDERS:

Following a request by Councillor Richard Taylor to consider the recording of council meetings in the interests of transparency, the Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a briefing report of key considerations.

Councillor Richard Taylor read from a prepared statement and proposed that Hawarden Community Council records meetings and makes those recordings available to the public in perpetuity, barring any confidential items. This would provide a high level of transparency into why and how the Community Council acts, would provide more context and detail, and therefore accuracy, to the minutes, and would go towards providing a level of meaningful accountability to councillors.

Members debated this issue at some length noting the advantages and the practicalities.

In accordance with Standing Order number 47, Councillor Richard Taylor 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 Helen Brown	AGAINST
Councillor Cheryl Carver	AGAINST
Councillor Clive Carver	AGAINST
Councillor Bob Connah	AGAINST
Councillor Lowri Earith	AGAINST *
Councillor George Hardcastle	AGAINST
Councillor Sarah Hinks	AGAINST
Councillor Dave Mackie	AGAINST
Councillor Dan Preece	FOR
Councillor Emma Preece	FOR
Councillor Ralph Small	AGAINST
Councillor Darren Sterry	AGAINST
Councillor Sam Swash	FOR
Councillor Richard Taylor	FOR
Councillor Ant Turton	AGAINST

Each member who voted against this decision indicated that they had no objection to the recording of meetings, in principle, but that further exploratory work would be required to establish costs, training needs and practicalities.

*Councillor Lowri Earith wished to dispute the statement about the inaccuracy of minutes. At every council meeting, Members are asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) To defer this item for consideration at the annual meeting in May 2021 following a review of the practicalities, resources and training requirements.
- (ii) To approve and adhere to the Council's Standing Orders.

53/20 EXPENDITURE POLICY AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the Council's Expenditure Policy
- (ii) To defer the review of the Council's Financial Regulations against the national model to the annual meeting in May 2021.
- (iii) To approve and adhere to the Council's Financial Regulations.

54/20 MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) That the current membership of the Communications Sub-Committee and Personnel Sub-Committee be retained for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (ii) That a Play Area Sub-Committee be established and comprise the following members:

Councillor Ve Amos
Councillor Janet Axworthy
Councillor Helen Brown
Councillor Lowri Earith
Councillor Ralph Small
Councillor Darren Sterry
Councillor Ant Turton.
- (iii) That a Finance Working Group be established to review the draft budget for 2021-22.

55/20 OUTSIDE BODIES:

Councillor Dan Preece requested that his name be removed from the working group for Hawarden Tennis Club.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to agree the Council's representation on outside bodies as per the current list, with the deletion of Councillor Dan Preece from the Tennis Club.

56/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of November was £12,154.19.

57/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £29,112.12 for November be approved.

58/20 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 were 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.

59/20 HAWARDEN HIGH SCHOOL BURSARY AWARDS:

Councillor George Hardcastle welcomed Hawarden High School bursary students to the virtual meeting and said that to date 64 students had been supported by the bursary scheme. Members of the judging panel had comprised the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and the Chair of Community Amenities. He said that the standard of applications received continues to improve each year and that the panel had been impressed by the quality of the applications.

Eight students had each been awarded £750 for their three years of study and Certificates of Achievement had been posted to the successful applicants.

The Clerk and Financial Officer provided a resume of each student's application, their key achievements and aspirations and members applauded the awards in turn.

Councillor George Hardcastle thanked the students for their attendance. He said they were a credit to Hawarden High School and to their families and wished them every success in the future. Members echoed these sentiments.