



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

13 SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Helen Brown

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

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

Also present: Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner
Dan Collings, Site Communications Manager, Airbus
2 members of the public

47/21 PRESENTATION BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER:

The Chairman welcomed Andy Dunbobbin to the meeting. Andy outlined that he had completed a public consultation and developed a plan, to be presented to the North Wales Police and Crime Panel on 20th September, that set out his strategy for policing in North Wales.

The priorities of the plan included delivering safer neighbourhoods, supporting victims and communities and ensuring a fair and effective criminal justice system. Andy had made a pledge to have more police officers on the street where they can give reassurances to the public and gather intelligence. With a more visible presence they could tackle local crime, including drug dealing and rural crime and help to build positive relationships with members of the public.

He also highlighted some additional priorities in the plan including road safety to reduce fatalities and serious injury; tackling and preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence; reduce reoffending by strengthening rehabilitation measures and introducing a victims' panel to support those who have suffered from crime.

Andy outlined that due to his background in technology he knew that online attacks and scam accounts accounted for nearly half of all crimes. He had recently been elected by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners as the deputy lead for policing technology and the digital lead for economic and cybercrime.

The Welsh Government had promised that 100 new Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would be recruited and the role of the Special Constable would become more efficient.

Andy had also spoken with North Wales's neighbouring police forces and had been building relationships with them.

The Chairman thanked Andy for his informative presentation and suggested that he be invited to return in approximately twelve months to provide a progress report. Andy confirmed that he would be content to do this.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the informative presentation.

48/21 PRESENTATION BY DAN COLLINGS, SITE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, AIRBUS

The Chairman welcomed Dan Collings to the meeting. Dan outlined that he had been appointed to replace Phil McGraa, who members had previously met, and that he had joined Airbus as an apprentice 11 years ago. His role would be to provide support for the community and internal systems and he had been in his current post for three months.

Dan had been working on the annual Community Awards. The final 10 nominations would be published in 'The Leader' and he encouraged members to vote for their favourite schemes. The winners would be decided by votes from members of the public.

The Clerk and Financial Officer asked if a visit could be arranged for members to have a tour of the Airbus facility at some time in the future to which Dan said he hoped that it would be possible, but probably not until the new year, notwithstanding Covid restrictions.

The Chairman thanked Dan for his presentation and requested that he send a link to 'The Leader' for members to vote on the Community Awards.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the informative presentation.

49/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Lowri Earith (caring responsibility) and Councillor Ryan O'Gorman (work commitment).

50/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor George Hardcastle declared an interest in item 8 on the Planning Applications for August and would complete his declaration of interest form respectively.

51/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous virtual meeting of the Council held on 12th July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

52/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

In relation to minute number 34/21, the Clerk and Financial Officer said that a meeting had taken place between Hawarden Community Council, Queensferry Community Council and local politicians to discuss the proposal to relocate Queensferry GP practice to Connah's Quay. Whilst no decisions had been made, the views of the community had been heard and would be considered. Councillor Dave Mackie confirmed that he would be happy to discuss the matter further outside of the meeting.

53/21 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 23rd July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

54/21 WELSH GOVERNMENT BRIEFING FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a briefing from Welsh Government about proposed changes to future meetings of Community and Town Councils meetings. There had been three main changes including the enablement of hybrid meetings to take place so that members, members of the public and press could attend virtually, electronic agendas to be published and a decision notice to be issued within seven working days of the meeting.

In relation to the technology required for hybrid meetings, a review had been undertaken and with the purchase of a large screen TV and speakers it could amount to approximately £1,500. A member suggested the use of a projector screen rather than a TV to reduce costs.

A lengthy discussion took place with members putting forward suggestions on how they wished to proceed and what equipment may be required to provide for an inclusive meeting. A member proposed that prior to obtaining exact costings and ascertaining what equipment was required, those Members not wishing to attend face to face meetings could dial in using their phone

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT: face to face meetings resume in October with the option of members using their mobile phones to dial in, if they do not wish to attend in person.

Note: Councillors Sam Swash and Richard Taylor requested that their votes be recorded as having voting against this proposal.

55/21 RESIGNATION OF GOVERNOR:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that Councillor Lowri Earith had resigned as a Community Councillor Governor at Hawarden Village Church School and sought nominations for a replacement.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillor Ant Turton be appointed as the Community Councillor Governor at Hawarden Village Church School.

56/21 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE, EWLOE:

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that the Ewloe Working Group had met on 9th September to discuss the progression of the transfer of land at Wood Lane from Edward Homes to Hawarden Community Council. Edward Homes had recently put in a planning application to build seven houses on the land in question and continued to deny that they had been in breach of the S106 agreement to transfer the land to Hawarden Community Council.

The working group had considered an offer from Roger Griffiths, an independent Property and Development Consultant and an independent solicitor, who had offered to negotiate and enter into discussions with Edward Homes to get the land transferred to the Community Council as soon as possible. The working group recommended this for approval to full council.

Flintshire County Council had confirmed that Hawarden Community Council should proceed with the transfer of the land and appoint a solicitor.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Roger Griffiths and an independent solicitor be appointed to negotiate the transfer of the land on behalf of the community council.

57/21 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

There were none.

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

58/21 POLICE, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

Members reported on the following issues:

- Teenagers riding around on e-scooters – advised to ring 101.
- Green Lane had recently been tarmacked and a heap of unused tarmac had been left behind blocking two gateways – advised to contact FCC to remove.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

59/21 MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.

Councillor Clive Carver, Chair of Lighting, presented the following item:

60/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

A proposal had been presented to members to leave the Christmas lights on for 24 hours, seven days a week. This would result in savings to the maintenance team work programme and the purchase of individual timers. Due to the Christmas lights using LEDs there would be minimal increases to the cost of the lights remaining on for this length of time.

Members expressed concerns about this proposal particularly in relation to the "green" agenda and light pollution together with concerns where lights had been located outside residential homes.

A Member suggested speaking with residents in the locality to obtain their views and report back to the next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO: establish the exact costings involved and report back to a future meeting.

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

61/21 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 Ant Turton, Chair of Community and Environment presented the following items:

62/21 PROVISION OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) WITHIN THE COMMUNITY:

A report had been circulated to Members, including quotes from three companies, for the replacement of new and upgraded CCTV cameras in several locations. The Clerk and Financial Officer said that she'd like to withdraw the proposal for a mobile camera as she had established that a re-deployable camera could be loaned from Flintshire County Council at a low cost and could be used in agreement with North Wales Police following a risk assessment.

IT WAS RESOLVED TO:

- a) Replace the cameras at the council offices with the quote from company B to install and maintain.
- b) Replace the cameras at the Aston shops with the quote from company B to install and maintain.
- c) Obtain a further quote for the installation of a camera at the Bowling Club, Gladstone Playing Fields.
- d) Pursue the refund from AGS Security for the lack of maintenance at Ewloe Post Office following the decision of the owners to purchase their own CCTV.

63/21 PROVISION OF SAFETY CROSSING:

A member confirmed that the problem of safe parking at Hawarden Village Church School continued to be an issue. Double yellow lines had recently been installed on Cross Tree Lane, and although proven successful, had created other problems such as cars travelling faster and parents parking at Tinkersdale with concerns about crossing the main road and footpaths overgrown with nettles.

A county member for Mancot provided an update on the scheme and said that he would pursue the proposal to relocate the lollipop lady from the top of Gladstone Way to the top of Ash Lane and install a crossing on Gladstone Way.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the current position.

Councillor Helen Brown, presented the following item.

64/21 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report following the annual play area inspections. There had been no major issues identified and the reports would be available for inspection in the office if required.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

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

65/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) that the list of payments in the sum of £63,177.79 for August with the amendment of a credit of £2.19 at item at H/21/140 be approved and (ii) the list of payments in the sum of £29,041.75 be approved for September.

66/21 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the cost to the council for the joint maintenance agreement for September had been £12,569.86.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the update.

67/21 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the periods ending 31st July 2021 and 31st August 2021 be approved.