



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

13TH DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Helen Brown

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

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

Also present: One member of the public

103/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley, Bob Connah (family), Sarah Hinks (family), Ryan O’Gorman (working) and Ant Turton (family).

104/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

105/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 8th November 2021 be approved as a correct record, save and except that item 91/21 should read ‘*To avoid congestion and disruption the pipeline may be laid by horizontal drilling which would take place under the A494 and test boreholes will be drilled to ascertain what is under the ground*’.

106/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

107/21 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR:

Councillor Lowri Earith had submitted her resignation on the 9th November 2021. Due to the Local Government elections in May 2022 there was no need to advertise for a by-election but the council could co-opt if it so wished.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the current position and not consider a co-option.

108/21 HERBERT GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS TRUST:

Following notification from the Council's Solicitor, the council had been asked to consider formal written advice about the position of the Trust due to the 1971 conveyance.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive written advice from Mariam Baraki, Solicitor.

109/21 PILOT SCHEME – SELF-EVALUATION TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES:

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that the council had previously agreed to take part in the pilot scheme and suggested that a small working group be set up to work through the toolkit. There was a two-month deadline and a couple of working groups could be held with members. It had been anticipated that the Toolkit would be ready to launch in time for the new elections in May 2022.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a working group of four to six members be established and if there were insufficient members who had volunteered, the chairs of the committees would form the group.

110/21 COUNCILLOR INDUCTION TRAINING:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had written a report on a suggested Induction Programme for new members following the elections in May 2022. She said that the Induction would commence with information about the Community Council and that she would like to arrange a corporate day to set out the council's vision and priorities with the new council.

Councillor Sam Swash thanked the Clerk and Financial Officer for the work that she had undertaken to prepare for this training in a short period of time.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the Induction training programme.

111/21 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Councillor Helen Brown reported on the following:

- i) She had attended the Remembrance Day service which had been very well organised and managed. Attendance had been good and members of the public who stood at the Memorial had sufficient space around them to maintain their safety.
- ii) A successful Santa Dash had been held in the Hawarden Castle grounds with approximately 70 adults and 40 children taking part. Medals had been donated by Queensferry Sports. Refreshments afterwards had been held in the Glynne Arms and all money raised had been donated to the League of Friends at Deeside Hospital with Charles Gladstone personally matching the amount raised.

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

112/21 POLICE, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:

Members reported the following issues:

39 Chair's signature: _____

- Ewloe and Aston had experienced incidents of eggs and tomatoes being thrown at cars and windows being knocked on. It is a current Tik Tok craze and the police had been informed with many of the culprits known to them. Residents had been advised to ring 101.
- There had been a recent incident of a person threatened with a knife on Clay Lane. Police had been in attendance with additional patrols to be carried out in the area.
- There had been a query over the accuracy of the latest crime statistical information available. In Hawarden, depending upon which side of the road you lived it appeared that one side experienced many incidents whilst the other side had not experienced any.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

113/21 MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Richard Taylor expressed his disappointment over the lack of attendance by some members at the recent Place Plan training which had been arranged by the Clerk and Financial Officer and paid for by the Community Council. A couple of members had struggled to gain access to the meeting due to IT issues. Councillor Helen Brown said that the training had been recorded and a copy of it would be sent to all members for their information.

Councillor Janet Axworthy referred to the recent pre-planning consultation meeting about the Glanrafon site and expressed her concern that the junction of the B5125 and B5127 was dangerous and has been for many years, with lots of traffic and pedestrians attempting to cross the road. She also referred to the weighbridge that appeared to be unused.

The Clerk and Financial Officer said she had written to the County Highways department to request an officer to attend the December or January meeting; a reply had been awaited.

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

114/21 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.

(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.

Councillor Clive Carver, Chairman of the Lighting Committee presented the following items:

115/21 STRUCTURAL SURVEY:

The council had received an update on the structural survey that had been undertaken for the council's steel lamp columns. A total of 603 columns had been inspected with 2 identified as rusty and in need of replacement and 8 damaged by impact, for example, a car. The two rusty ones had already been scheduled in for a service transfer and the 8 damaged columns would be repaired in due course, they were not of an urgent nature.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the current position.

116/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised the council that due to recent Health and Safety concerns, there had been a delay in the installation of some of the council's Christmas lights and some had not been able to be installed at all. Arrangements would be made to review the council's Christmas lighting installation for 2022.

Councillor Helen Brown, Chair of the Council presented the following items:

117/21 VICKERS CLOSE PLAY AREA – CONSULTATION:

Councillors Cheryl and Clive Carver declared a personal and prejudicial interest but confirmed that they had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee at Flintshire County Council; they had been able to speak at the meeting in relation to the issue and answer any questions from members but had been unable to remain in the meeting whilst the matter had been debated or to vote on the issue.

Following the recent public consultation which had taken place about the future of the Vickers Close play area, a report had been presented to members outlining a summary of the consultation responses and proposed a number of options for consideration. Members discussed the various options.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept Option 2, *“to replace the current equipment with more modern equipment and an inclusive piece of equipment (which might encourage more local people to attend).*

Councillors Ralph Small and Dave Mackie wished to have their names recorded as having voted against this particular option.

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

118/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £41,132.97 for December be approved.

119/21 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported on the following:

- i) that the cost to the Council for the joint maintenance agreement for December had been £16,122.54.
- ii) the Council offices would close from Wednesday 22nd December until Wednesday 5th January, 2022.
- iii) that she had completed Year 2 of her Community Governance qualification with an overall Merit.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

120/21 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th November be approved.

121/21 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

The Chairman presented the report on the council's financial position as at 30th November 2021 and provided an update on any overspends or underspends and ear-marked reserves. A member requested that the £1,500 available to spend in Mancot play area be used for the addition of a cone climber, as this piece of equipment appeared to be very popular in other play areas.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the Income and Expenditure Report and the provision of a cone climber at Mancot Play area.

122/21 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES:

The Chairman presented a report on the proposal to increase fees and charges. A discussion took place with several members suggesting that the fees should be increased in line with commercial rates and similar to that charged by the Principal Authority for football licences. However, other members wanted to continue to encourage users of the playing fields and not to increase the charges unreasonably.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to defer any decision until a meeting of the 'Trust' had taken place and advice received from the solicitor about the 1971 conveyance.

123/21 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the exclusion of the press and public as the following item contained sensitive legal information.

124/21 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the current position with the transfer of the land into the council's ownership.

At the close of the meeting, the Chair wished all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.