



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting
held on

10th October 2022

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Ralph Small

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Martin Davey, Lesley Evans, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Margaret Redfern, Dale Selvester, Hayley Selvester, Raphaëlle Soffe, Darren Sterry and Ant Turton.

Officers: Mrs Sharron Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs Fran Griffiths

Also present: 3 members of the public

A one-minute silence was held in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

67/22 PRESENTATION:

The Chairman welcomed Haydn Ellis to the meeting. Hayden had been selected to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) scheme for 2022 along with Leola Roberts-Briggs who could not be present.

Haydn said that he had attended five days in Barmouth and outlined the benefits of the course which had enabled him to improve his confidence, become a better leader and work with a team where each member was able to learn from and support each other.

He had participated in several outdoor activities which had pushed him out of his comfort zone and enabled him to make leadership decisions to help his team communicate and work together to complete given tasks. Leola had had a similar experience. Haydn said his participation in the RYLA scheme had increased his confidence and communication skills and thanked the Community Council for continuing to support the scheme.

The Chairman thanked Haydn for his contribution and said he should be proud of himself and his achievements and wished him best wishes during his apprenticeship training to become a pilot. He also wished Leola best wishes for the future.

68/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Gillian Brockley (medical appointment), Sarah Hinks (family commitment), Emma Preece (illness), Sam Swash (personal) and Linda Thomas (illness).

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Margaret Redfern to her first meeting of the Community Council.

69/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

70/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 11th July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

71/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

With reference to minute 57/22 a member said that training companies continued to drive through Hawarden deliberately to experience the congestion with narrow roads and pavements. A member stated that the weighbridge in Ewloe did not allow wagons during peak school times and it was suggested that training companies should adopt the same rule.

72/22 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer outlined that the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW) had asked local town and community councils to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge in an attempt to reduce the number of cases of bullying within the sector. To sign up to the pledge a template tick list had been circulated and members of the council reviewed each pledge and agreed to sign up as follows:

- *Our council has agreed that it will treat all Councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.*
- *Our council has put in place a training programme for Councillors and staff*
- *Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for Councillors.*
- *Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.*
- *Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.*
- *Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.*
- *Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council.*
- *Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.*

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve that the council signs the Civility and Respect Pledge.

73/22 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman said that he had attended a corporate day arranged by the Clerk and Financial Officer for members in July. He thanked the Clerk for an excellent workshop with some really good presentations and also thanked Councillor Dave Mackie, as Chairman of the Finance Committee for his very informative presentation.

The Chairman had recently attended three meetings with the Hawarden Jubilee Allotment Association committee and allotment holders in response to complaints of bee stings during the summer. He confirmed that an action plan had been drawn up to try to alleviate the situation.

He had attended the reading of the Proclamation of the Appointment of King Charles III held outside County Hall, Mold on Sunday 11th September 2022.

He had attended the reading of the Proclamation by Lord Barry Jones outside the Hawarden Community Council offices on Sunday 18th September and thanked the Clerk and Financial Officer for organising such an important event at short notice which had been well received by members and members of the public.

He referred to a complaint that had been submitted to the Local Government Services Ombudsman by a member of the public about the protocol followed for the election of the Vice Chairman at the Council's Annual Meeting on 16th May. The Ombudsman had confirmed that they would not investigate the complaint. He reported that the process had been transparent and the vote had been carried out in a democratic manner.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the comments.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillor Joyce Angell, Chair of Staffing and General Purposes, presented the following items:

74/22 POLICE MATTERS:

Councillor Ant Turton confirmed he had met with PCSO Daniel Jones who had expressed his wish to attend future meetings and to work with the Community Council.

Members commented on the following issues:

- Unlicensed, off-road bikes in the area with riders not wearing helmets. Advised to ring 101 to record incidents.
- Theft and mutilation of sheep from a local farm. Rural police had been made aware and advised if members of the community had been offered reduced price meat to report it to North Wales Police.
- Distraction incident at Mancot local stores – a group of people had entered the shop and exited into the garden.
- Incidents of underage drinking had been witnessed near the weighbridge at Ewloe.
- An intruder had been found at Penarlag CP school and a response from the police had been awaited.
- Incidents of drugs and anti-social behaviour appeared to be on the increase in the local community.

75/22 HIGHWAYS/ STREETSCENE MATTERS:

Members raised the following issues:

- Footpath narrowed by overgrown trees near the old nursery on Liverpool Road.
- Footpaths by Grange Court/Ashlea Close overgrown.
- Flooding by bus stop on Wood Lane.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

76/22 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

77/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.

Councillor Darren Sterry, Chair of Planning, presented the following items:

78/22 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.
- (d) There were no planning appeals.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

79/22 PLAY AREAS TASK AND FINISH GROUP:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report following a meeting of the Play Areas Task and Finish Group. The group had reviewed previous reports and recommendations of the Community Council and recommended that:

- The Vicker's Close play area be put on hold due to the implications of the proposed Hynet project and the potential for funding.

- That Mancot play area be considered a priority for any investment.
- That the earmarked reserves of £1,524 in Mancot be retained for the addition of a cone climber at Mancot. New Quotes to be obtained.
- That the earmarked reserves of £4,969.50 be retained for improvements to Gary Speed play area. That the existing spinning pole be removed or relocated and an inclusive roundabout be added in the future, subject to funding.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the above recommendations for Gary Speed play area.
- (ii) To put the proposals for Vicker's Close on hold pending the Hybrid project.
- (iii) To obtain quotes for an inclusive roundabout and cone climber at Mancot with appropriate safety surfacing and to obtain quotes for the repainting of the existing equipment. The approval of matched funding from Flintshire County Council of £10,000 to be utilised for this purpose.
- (iv) That quotes be obtained for this work, but a decision be deferred pending consideration at the council's budget meeting in January 2023.
- (v) Confirm the history of Gary Speed play area located under the management of Hawarden Community Council when it is actually situated in Shotton.

80/22 2022 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORTS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note and approve the inspection reports received from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

81/22 GATE ACCESS TO MANCOT PLAYING FIELDS:

A discussion took place regarding the location and type of the gates at Mancot playing fields.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Chairman meet with the maintenance team to discuss the possibility of replacing the kissing gate with an ordinary spring-loaded gate.

82/22 TENNIS WALES PROPOSAL:

Members had recently held discussions about the proposal from Tennis Wales to assist in the management of the tennis courts, install an electronic gate and promote the tennis courts. The proposal had subsequently been revised.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to decline the proposal from Tennis Wales and continue to use the tennis courts as normal with free play available for members of the public.

83/22 2022 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the event would be held on the 13th November and that invitations had been issued and the road closures requested. A member requested that the ivy growing up the monument be removed and that the older wreaths be removed and replaced after the service.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

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

84/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £28,741.35 for October be approved and that the list of payments for August in the sum of £50,142.28 and September in the sum of £42,257.68 be noted and approved following the summer recess committee and the meeting convened using the Scheme of Delegation during the sad period of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Councillors requested that Standing Order No 41 be invoked to extend the meeting by 15 minutes which was approved.

85/22 MANDATORY MEMBERS ALLOWANCES (MMA):

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the virement of three member allowances of £150 each to the Aston Park Bowling Club, Mancot Library and the Hawarden Bursary awards respectively

86/22 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a half year financial report outlining the council's current expenditure to date. Within the report underspends and overspends had been identified together with the need to draw on the Council's reserves for the cost of public lighting and the national pay award 2022. Christmas lighting was also mentioned due to the current energy crisis but as the costs for LEDs was low and the council's own workforce installed the lights, it was considered beneficial to members of the community in lifting their spirits and contributing to positive health and well-being.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the report.

87/22 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported on the following issues:

- a) that the costs to the council for the joint maintenance agreement be noted as follows:

July £12,499.99

August £16,298.72

September £12,181.05

October to be declared at the November meeting.

- b) A 'mop up' session of Code of Conduct training provided by the County Council would be held on 12th October 2022.
- c) To note receipt of the second instalment of the precept of £92,182.33.

- d) To agree to the request from a member of the public to install a commemorative bench at the Gladstone Playing Fields subject to the member of public paying for all purchase and installation costs and that the necessary insurance policies be in place. A commemorative ceremony could be arranged when installed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the above decisions.

88/22 BANK RECONCILIATIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st July and 31st August be received and that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th September be circulated in due course.