



## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor Ralph Small

**Councillors:** Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Billy Cooper, Martin Davey, Lesley Evans, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Emma Preece, Margaret Redfern, Hayley Selvester, Raphaëlle Soffe, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash and Linda Thomas.

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

**Also present:** Police Community Support Officer 2248 Daniel Jones

**Also present:** A member of the public

### **132/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Doreen Mackie (Vice-Chairman of Finance at Shotton Town Council meeting), Dale Selvester (work) and Ant Turton (work).

### **133/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were none.

### **134/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved as a correct record, save and except that:

- i) One-minute silence had been called by the Chairman of the Council in respect of the recent death of the husband of a member of the Community Council.
- ii) Reminder that members should not use their phones during council meetings.

**135/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were none.

**136/22 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

The Chairman said that he had attended a very enjoyable carol concert at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the Chairman's update.

**137/22 VACANCY IN ASTON WARD:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that a by-election would be held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The nomination period would be open from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, with the vacancy notice displayed from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The cost of the bi-election would be in the region of £5,000 to £6,000 with the distribution of poll cards.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the update and approve the distribution of poll cards.

**STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:**

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

**138/22 POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chairman thanked PCSO Daniel Jones for his continued attendance.

The PCSO said that he had not received any reports of new incidents. He would, however, contact the owner of an abandoned vehicle in Mancot as it had been parked on double yellow lines. Flintshire County Council would be responsible for the enforcement aspect.

PCSO Jones had circulated his contact details and requested members to contact him if they had any issues of concern between meetings.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note and receive the updates.

### **139/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:**

Apologies had been received from John Griffiths who had been on call that evening.

Members commented on the following issues:

- Ongoing problem of flooding at Hawarden monument, despite previous cleaning and camera investigation for blockages.
- Flooding at Holywell Road junction Old Mold Road, near the new apartments.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the updates.

### **140/22 LIGHTING FAULTS:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the lights at Willow Park/Colliery Lane had been repaired by Scottish Power.

The Chairman highlighted that a Christmas light had not been erected outside the White Bear Public House in Mancot and requested that it be erected in 2023.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the updates.

## **141/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A member commented that the Hynet consultation process would close on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January and any letters of objection/queries should be submitted by that date.

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that she had received confirmation that representatives of the project would attend the February or March meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that a small group of members meet on Wednesday afternoon to compile a letter putting forward the Council's objections but that members be encouraged to submit their own letters. (*Councillors Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Martin Davey, Ralph Small and Sam Swash volunteered for this purpose*).

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

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

### **142/22 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.

52 Chairman's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(d) There were no planning appeals.

*Councillor Sarah Hinks, Chair of Community and Environment, presented the following items:*

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

**143/22 REQUEST TO USE COUNCIL CAR PARK:**

Members had previously discussed a request from a pizza company to sell takeaway wood fired pizzas from its horse box trailer. The company had indicated that they could not afford to pay £15 per hour due to their overheads and that sometimes they made a loss during an evening session.

After discussion, it was proposed to accept £15 for one evening session per week, for a three-month trial, with a view to increasing the rate to £25 if it proved successful.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve a three-month trial period, at a cost of £15 for one evening session per week, to be reviewed in three months.

**144/22 MANCOT PLAY AREA:**

Further to the Council's decision in December 2022 to award the contract for improvement works at Mancot, it had become apparent that an additional hard standing pathway had been required to the accessible roundabout due to changes in legislation. The successful company had provided a quote in the sum of £1,538. The Clerk and Financial Officer also said that the County Council had confirmed that it would issue £10,000 in matched funding towards this play area.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the update and to approve the additional costs.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**145/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the updated list of payments in the sum of £31,513.60 for January, be approved.

Members raised a question about the frequency that work wear had been purchased and requested a list of items purchased in the last six months. It was suggested that an “annual pack” of safety clothing/personal protective equipment be considered.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the list of payments and provide a report to the next meeting on work wear and Personal Protective Equipment.

**146/22 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER’S REPORT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported on the following items:

- i) The costs to the council for the Joint Maintenance Agreement for January had been £13,909.76.
- ii) The final precept payment of £92,000 had been received.
- iii) A payment of £1,900 had been received from Wales and West Utilities to accommodate their welfare cabins on land owned by HCC in Wood Lane.

**147/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, be emailed separately to members.

**148/22 DRAFT BUDGET 2023-24 AND PRECEPT DEMAND:**

The Finance Working Group had reviewed the budget line by line and recommended it to Council.

54 Chairman’s signature \_\_\_\_\_

The Chairman of Finance advised members to be mindful of the Council's assets, buildings and vehicles and the ongoing maintenance costs.

The budget included the following recommendations of the Finance Working Group:

- i. Inflationary increases on utilities and other annual costs at 11%;
- ii. Increases on gas and electric based on existing data and expected increases;
- iii. Salaries had been budgeted at an increase of 5% based on an average of other councils;
- iv. National Insurance contributions for both the employer and the employee increased by 1.25% in April 2022 but had been reduced again in November 2022;
- v. Employer pension contributions had increased by 1.3% from 21.8% to 23.1% following the recent three-year actuarial valuation from the Clwyd Pension Fund.
- vi. Mandatory Member Allowances had increased to £156 per member, plus consumables upon receipt.

It had been recommended that an annual budget provision be earmarked for replacement vehicles and local elections, year on year and that £10,000 be added to the ear-marked reserves as a contingency.

The Clerk and Financial Officer also commented that the cost of tree maintenance should be added as an extra budget line due to the increase in costs recently.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman of Finance for his knowledge, advice and hard work on the budget recommendations.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** (i) to approve the Draft Budget 2023-24 as outlined above and (ii) approve the precept at £303,896 which equated to an increase of £3.93 per annum therefore £0.08p per week per Band D property.