



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting
held on

13th February 2023

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Janet Axworthy

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Helen Brown, Billy Cooper, Martin Davey, Lesley Evans, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Dale Selvester, Hayley Selvester, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas and Ant Turton

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

Also present: 4 members of the public
Carole Roberts, Clerk of Acton Community Council

149/22 PRESENTATION AND Q&A ABOUT THE HYNET PROJECT:

The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the Hynet Project to the meeting: David Parkin, Project Director, James Prout, Progressive Energy Ltd and Carys Percival, Community and Communication Co-ordinator from Eni Uk Limited. The Chairman also welcomed members of the public to this section of the meeting that would allow members of the public to speak for a limited time.

Mr Parkin outlined that the Hynet North West project was an integrated carbon capture and storage (CCS) and low-carbon hydrogen production project being developed to reduce industrial carbon emissions in the North West England and North Wales. HyNet would reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from across the region by locking away the carbon dioxide emitted by heavy industry and by providing locally-produced low carbon hydrogen to power for industry, transport and to heat homes and businesses.

Mr Prout said that the project would take approximately 18 months with a completion date in 2025 and then presented a slide show to explain the route, processes and benefits of the pipeline. The pipe would be laid within a corridor of 100m diameter, buried 1.2m underground, mainly through agricultural land which would be re-instated on completion. At residential areas, the pipe would be drilled under the road with no practical inconvenience to residents.

A member of the public expressed his dissatisfaction with the communication from Hynet and that until this evening he had not been aware of the change of plans. A number of questions were raised to which the external representatives answered or promised that an answer would be forthcoming.

The Chairman surmised that the importance of communication and openness from Hynet was paramount. Good will from all parties involved was a key factor to the success of the project.

Hynet representatives thanked the Chairman and members for the opportunity to address the Council and promised to send more detailed plans and answers to outstanding enquiries as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked David, James and Carys for their attendance.

150/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Gillian Brockley (away), Margaret Redfern (illness), Ralph Small, (personal) and Raphaëlle Softe (medical).

151/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Helen Brown, Billy Cooper Martin Davey and Darren Sterry declared an interest in item 21, *permission to use the Gladstone Playing Fields for the Annual Hawarden Carnival*, and duly completed their Declaration of Interest forms.

152/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 9th January be approved as a correct record, save and except that: “*Councillor Doreen Mackie is Vice-Chairman of Finance at Shotton Town Council*” and not the Chairman as indicated.

153/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

154/22 JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Services Committee held on 18th January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

155/22 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Interim Internal Audit report had been received with two issues. The first one related to the use of the Council’s debit card for an amount of £610 where the Financial Regulations stipulate that the amount is limited to £500. However, the Council’s Internal Financial Controls refer to an amount of £5,000 and that this was considered a typo in the recently updated Financial Regulations which required amendment. (*Council resolution 11/19, 13th May, 2019 refers*).

The second issue referred to a duplicate invoice that would require amendment and a refund issued to Shotton Town Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the actions outlined above be endorsed.

156/22 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

The Chairman congratulated staff members and members of the Hawarden Events Committee who had recently successfully completed the Emergency First Aid at Work course on 27th January 2023.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Chairman’s update.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

157/22 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR THE COUNCIL'S MAINTENANCE TEAM:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a report for members information outlining the recent spend on PPE and the consideration of an “annual pack”.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to continue to purchase PPE on an ‘as and when required’ basis, which proved to be more cost-effective.

158/22 PUBLIC COMMEMORATION IN WALES: GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC BODIES:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had informed members of the above consultation, the deadline for which was 21st February. A member commented that the guidance should be received as it established a clear framework for inclusive decision making for public commemorations.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer respond to the consultation in support of the proposals.

159/22 TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE (TAN) 15 DEVELOPMENT, FLOODING AND COASTAL EROSION FURTHER AMENDMENTS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer informed members of the above consultation, the deadline for which was 17th April, 2023. Following discussion, it was agreed that the comment about an “*increased element of flexibility*” which had been suggested in the draft revisions document should not be approved as this could prove inconsistent.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer respond to the consultation in support of the proposals with the objection as outlined above.

160/22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

The Monitoring Officer had circulated guidance to members about declaring interests and a letter following visits by Standards Committee members to Town and Community Council meetings. Of particular importance was the exemption in the Code of Conduct to Town and Community Councillors (*not County Councillors*) that they do not need to declare a prejudicial interest in community organisations requesting grants of less than £500.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the contents of the letter and guidance.

161/22 POLICE MATTERS:

Members reported the following issues:

- Ongoing incidents of anti-social behaviour in Mancot. PCSO Gareth Lewis had been made aware of these incidents and would continue to provide additional patrols of the area.
- Children riding bikes with no lights and photographing cars in Mancot.
- Church window broken at Ewloe Green Presbyterian Church.
- Abandoned vehicle on Old Aston Hill which had subsequently been removed.
- Ongoing problem of inconsiderate parking on Old Aston Hill and transporters parked across the pavement; car repairs taking place on a blind bend; staff parking causing an obstruction and making it dangerous for moving traffic which had to drive in the middle of the road.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note and report the information accordingly.

162/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

John Griffiths had submitted his apologies due to being on call that evening.

Members commented on the following issues:

- Path outside Hawarden High School appeared very narrow due to overgrowth and dirt.
- Potholes on Upper Aston Hall Lane, Tinkersdale, Hawarden Way, Ash Lane and B5125 from Broughton roundabout towards Hawarden and on Gladstone Playing Fields car park.
- Litter at Ewloe roundabout toward Northop Hall.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note and report the incidents accordingly.

163/22 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

164/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A member advised that Theatr Clwyd would hold workshops for families during February half term. The organisation offered young people aged 10-17, their parents or carers, and members of the community an opportunity to participate in the workshop that would examine the consequences of criminal behaviour among young people.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

165/22 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.

61 Chairman's signature: _____

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:

166/22: THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY (QGC):

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that the council had previously agreed to plant seven trees to commemorate each decade of the Late H.M. Queen Elizabeth II's reign. One tree would need to be planted at the location of the recently felled horse chestnut tree next to the Scout Hut and she asked members for confirmation of the location of the remaining six trees with an appropriate commemorative plaque.

A member suggested somewhere that would be integral to the community and to promote this on the council's website and social media platforms via consultation with the community on a proposed site.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update and receive any suggested locations to the Clerk and Financial Officer.

167/22 TREE MANAGEMENT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that several trees within the Community Council's responsibility had recently required pruning and condition surveys carried out but that this work had not been budgeted for. She also sought confirmation that the advice of the Arboriculturist at Flintshire County Council be accepted on behalf of the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the use of the Council’s contingency fund for tree works and to accept any advice received from the Arboriculturalist at the County Council.

168/22 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

The Clerk and Financial Officer expressed the need to re-establish the Task and Finish Group to oversee the project management of a new Community Centre in Ewloe. The “product” would need to be developed in order to seek external funding and progress this matter.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer arrange a Task and Finish Group.

169/22 PERMISSION TO USE THE GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS FOR THE ANNUAL HAWARDEN CARNIVAL:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the use of Gladstone Playing Fields for the annual Hawarden Carnival on 8th July 2023.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

170/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the updated list of payments in the sum of £36,031.43 for February, be approved.

171/22 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 February had been £15,384.25.
- ii) Approval had been requested to set up a direct debit for the maintenance of the Council’s CCTV from IData subject to the council’s Standing Orders.

- iii) Approval had been requested for the virement of Councillor Sam Swash's mandatory member allowance of £150 to the Willow Park Residents Association.
- iv) Approval had been sought for the annual sponsorship of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) of £350 which had been budgeted for.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note and approve the above.

172/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st December, be approved and the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st January, be emailed to members.