



## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor Janet Axworthy

**Councillors:** Joyce Angell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Martin Davey, Lesley Evans, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Hayley Selvester, Raphaelle Soffe, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas, Richard Taylor and Ant Turton

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

### **173/22 PRESENTATION BY JAMES HUNT, NANNY BISCUIT:**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hunt to the meeting who provided a very informative presentation about the work of Nanny Biscuit. He explained that Nanny Biscuit was a multi-faceted project designed to identify, develop and embed a series of smaller community focused projects, initially in the North East Wales area, and all of Wales and beyond.

He referred to the “Grand Week in Wales” which had been an event to help key charities to support the most vulnerable in our communities across Wales and to bring people together through fundraising events, to combat isolation and spread positivity in a time when needed most.

The name given is in recognition of Wales’ 1,000-mile circumference, and the event delivers a variety of community challenges based around the theme of 1000. Everyone had been encouraged, of all ages and abilities, to join in the grand Welsh activities.

James said that he would send a copy of his presentation, a downloadable '*pack for schools*' and a website link to the Clerk and Financial Officer to forward on to members and residents within the community.

The Chairman thanked James for his attendance and wished him every success.

#### **174/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Emma Preece (holiday), Margaret Redfern (personal), Dale Selvester (work) and Ralph Small, (holiday).

#### **175/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Helen Brown, declared an interest in item 24, *Small Grants Application* and would complete her Declaration of Interest form in due course.

#### **176/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> February be approved as a correct record, *save and except that* item 166/22 be amended to read '*via consultation with the community on a proposed site*' at the end of paragraph two. The resolution to read '*to note the update and receive any suggested locations to the Clerk and Financial Officer*'.

#### **177/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were none.

66 Chairman's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **178/22 HYNET PROJECT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that a Task and Finish Group required establishing to work closely with Hynet officials, meet on a regular basis and report back to the Community Council.

Councillors Janet Axworthy (Chairman), Joyce Angell, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper and Linda Thomas will form the “Task and Finish” Group.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to establish a Task and Finish Group to liaise with Hynet and to include Councillors Axworthy, Angell, Brockley, Brown, Cooper and Thomas.

### **179/22 REPORT ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

The Chairman said that she had been disappointed at the tone and wording of the report presented. The language had been absolutely disgraceful, scurrilous and defamatory and undermined the work of the Community Council.

A robust debate ensued and the Chairman said that Chairman Ralph Small had addressed this issue at the October Council. The issue had been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman for Wales in August and her decision had been that there was no complaint to uphold. The Chairman requested the Clerk and Financial Officer to read out the following paragraph from that letter:

*“As a result, it appears to me that the matters you have alleged could not in fact constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct. This is because they appear to relate to the decision-making of the Community Council as a whole. Accordingly, I do not propose to investigate your complaint”.*

67 Chairman's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

In response, the author of the report outlined his reasons for presenting the report in the 3-minute allocation he had been given by the Chairman. He pointed out to members the background to his report following the decision of the Council at its Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Upon the Chairman requesting members to take a vote on the recommendations within the report, the author withdrew his report.

### **180/22 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

The Chairman said that £10,000 had been received from Flintshire County Council as match funding for the improved play area at Mancot.

She would attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award interviews at Hawarden High School on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, along with the Chair of Staffing and General Purposes, the Chairman of Community and Environment and the Clerk and Financial Officer.

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

### **STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:**

#### **181/22 PERSONAL ID CARDS FOR STAFF AND MEMBERS:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised members of a number of options to provide ID badges for all elected members and members of staff.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the quote from Total ID in Mold at £315.00 be accepted.

*Note: some members said that they would pay for the cost of their own badges as they felt that this was an excessive amount of money.*

68 Chairman's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **182/22 VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS POLICY:**

A copy of the above policy had been circulated for adoption.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the policy be deferred until the April meeting to allow members to contribute to the policy.

### **183/22 TRAINING NEEDS SURVEY:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer shared the details of a training needs survey that the Society of Local Community Clerks (SLCC) and One Voice Wales (OVW) had circulated to all Community and Town Councils in Wales for completion. The closing date had been 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** (i) that the Clerk and Financial Officer and the Chairman of the Council complete the survey and (ii) that a report be considered in April about the options and costs involved to subscribe to One Voice Wales.

### **184/22 POLICE MATTERS:**

A Member reported a recent incident of an alleged dog-snatching whilst being walked by its owner in the location of the Co-op. Members had been encouraged to report incidents via 101.

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

### **185/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:**

John Griffiths had been welcomed to the meeting and Members shared the following issues:

- Sandbags left near Electricity substation at Level Road/Wood Lane.
- Damaged railings by the cemetery sign in Hawarden village.
- Road sign at the top of Shotton Lane covered in hedging.

69 Chairman's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- Potholes had extended into a fissure in the road around St. David's roundabout and the white lines had disappeared on the entrances/exits.
- White lines had disappeared at Hillside towards Gladstone Way and there had been some paint spillage at Dale Road.
- Members praised John and colleagues at the county council for repairing many of the potholes however, due to the recent inclement weather, the pot hole repairs had already begun to disintegrate and come loose.

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

**186/22 LIGHTING FAULTS:**

There were none.

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

**187/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

**188/22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:**

“Northopia”

Members expressed their concerns about the pre-planning application consultation for the proposed change of use of Northop Country House Hotel to housing for 400 single male immigrants. A member provided the dates and times of the public consultation meetings to be held locally.

## **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.
- (e) That a group of members meet to review the application and provide a response on behalf of the Community Council by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

### **189/22: NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that a meeting had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 with Councillors Janet Axworthy, Bill Cooper, Dave Mackie and Linda Thomas to progress the project and discuss grant applications. It was likely that the project would be set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC) although it was very early on in the process.

It had been agreed to hold monthly “delivery” meetings and provide regular updates to members.

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

**190/22 H.M. KING CHARLES III CORONATION:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** not to purchase commemorative coins but to provide small grants to local community groups for celebrations and street parties to commemorate this national event, and that this be advertised on the Council’s website and social media.

**191/22 BIODIVERSITY SECTION 6 DUTY:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had provided an Environmental Action Plan that had incorporated the Section 6 Duty requirements, together with a list of initiatives that Town and Community Councils could do to combat Climate Change, taken from the Friends of the Earth organisation. A suggestion was made to include a comment about the “green spaces” within the community.

An email had also been received from the County Council’s Biodiversity Officer about establishing more “wild flower” areas within the community. It had been suggested that the land on both sides of the entrance to Circular Drive be approved.

A discussion also took place on the location of the late HM The Queen’s Tree Canopy scheme. A member highlighted that free trees had been available from the Woodlands Trust.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** (i) to receive and note the contents of the report (ii) to plant the Queen’s trees at the Gladstone Playing fields with a commemorative plaque and (iii) make representations to the County Council, Welsh Government and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency to plant trees alongside the A494 to help shield residents from excessive traffic noise and pollution.



## **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

### **192/22 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES (IRPW) FINAL REPORT:**

The final report had been issued that referred to the tax element of mandatory member allowances. Although the IRPW could not provide specific advice on matters of taxation, they had concluded that the mandatory allowance of £150 would be below the threshold for Income Tax. As previously reported, mandatory member allowances would be paid in March 2024 for the municipal year 2023-24.

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

### **193/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the updated list of payments in the sum of £37,779.60 for March, be approved.

### **194/22 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 March would be circulated in due course.
- ii) The maintenance team had re-organised the council's depot and received £461.00 from the sale of scrap metal that had been deposited in the council's bank account.

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

### **195/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 be received and noted.

**196/22 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that a grant of £500 be given to Aston Bowling Club for the purchase of a defibrillator, with a request that it be purchased from the Ambulance Service and added to the circuit.