



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

17th April 2023

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Ralph Small

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Bill Cooper, Martin Davey, Lesley Evans, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Margaret Redfern, Hayley Selvester, Dale Selvester, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas and Richard Taylor

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

Also present: 1 member of the public

Councillor Ralph Small reminded members that texting on mobile phones during meetings would not be permitted and any members seen to do so, would be asked to leave the meeting.

Councillor Small advised members that a video recording of the meeting would be taken by a member of the public present and requested that if anyone was uncomfortable with this to advise him immediately. There were no objections.

197/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Helen Brown (personal), Sarah Hinks (family commitment), Emma Preece (work), Raphaëlle Soffe (personal) and Ant Turton (work).

198/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie and Margaret Redfern, declared an interest in *minute 190/20 King's Coronation Grants* and completed their Declaration of Interest forms accordingly.

75 Chairman's signature: _____

199/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 21st March be approved as a correct record, *save and except that* item 178/22 be amended to include Councillor Martin Davey on the Task and Finish Group.

200/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

With regard to item 190/22, the Clerk and Financial Officer advised that seven Coronation Grant applications had been received with a total of £2,000 in the budget.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to give each organisation a grant of £55 subject to receipts.

201/22 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022:

The Clerk and Financial Officer circulated a copy of the Annual Return following completion from the External Auditor. She advised that she had reputed the comments on page 5 as this had been incorrect at Year End and had requested a response.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2022 subject to the comment above.

202/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the arrangements for the External Audit of the Council's Accounts year ending 31st March 2023.

203/22 HYNET PROJECT:

Members had received a copy of the actions from the Task Group meeting held on 29th May, for information.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

76 Chairman's signature: _____

204/22 REDRESSING THE MINUTED, PUBLIC BREACH OF THE PROCEDURE OF ELECTING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL POLICY IN MAY 2022:

A report had been tabled, together with the council’s policy for appointing Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, which had provided a summary of the council’s alleged breach of policy in May 2022. The author said that the policy had been breached and reported to the Local Government Ombudsman for Wales, to which a reply had been received that stated that the case could be reported for mal-administration but that this had not happened at the time

He proposed that Councillor Emma Preece be re-instated as Vice Chair of Hawarden Community Council for the municipal year 2023-24.

In accordance with Standing Order number 47, a recorded vote had been requested. The vote was recorded as follows:

COUNCILLOR	DECISION
Joyce Angell	Against
Janet Axworthy	Against
Gillian Brockley	For
Billy Cooper	Against
Martin Davey	For
Lesley Evans	Against
Dave Mackie	Against
Doreen Mackie	Against
Margaret Redfern	Against
Dale Selvester	Against
Hayley Selvester	Against
Ralph Small	Against
Darren Sterry	Against
Sam Swash	For
Richard Taylor	For
Linda Thomas	For

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the proposal to reinstate Councillor Emma Preece as Vice Chair be not be approved.

77 Chairman’s signature: _____

205/22 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman thanked Councillor Janet Axworthy for her work as acting Chairman during his absence.

Councillor Janet Axworthy said that she had attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) interviews at Hawarden High School with Councillor Joyce Angell and the Clerk and Financial Officer. She also referred to the work of the students when undertaking the Welsh Baccalaureate and that some of their work on the development of a new Community Centre could be shared with members of the Ewloe Community Centre Task and Finish Group.

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

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

206/22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the contents of the letter from the Chief Officer Governance, Gareth Owens, following visits to Town and Community Councils by members of the Standards Committee.

207/22 VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS POLICY:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed she had made amendments to the policy following feedback from Members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the policy be approved.

Councillors Gillian Brockley and Richard Taylor requested that their names be recorded as having voted against this decision.

208/22 SUBSCRIPTION TO ONE VOICE WALES:

A report from One Voice Wales had been circulated outlining the cost of the annual subscription and a description of the service provided. A 50% reduction would be applied in the first-year subscription.

78 Chairman's signature: _____

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the subscription be not accepted.

209/22 POLICE MATTERS:

There were no incidents to report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

210/22 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

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

- Potholes at Park Avenue, Mancot Lane and Overlea Drive. John said that a large number of potholes had been repaired but due to the recent inclement weather they had disintegrated. The programme continued and he advised members to report any pot holes for urgent repair.
- The railings outside the pharmacy in Hawarden village had been repaired but then damaged again. The contractor for replacement railings had been made aware of the situation.
- Overgrown scrubland in Sheridan Avenue – to be maintained by Redrow Homes.
- Footpath opposite church at top of Main Road, Ewloe in need of clearing.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

211/22 LIGHTING FAULTS:

Members raised the following issues:

79 Chairman's signature: _____

- Christmas light in Hawarden village remained on a column; this had been due to health and safety reasons.
- Light out at Wood Lane/Kearsley Avenue.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

212/22 CONSULTATION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ETHICAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK (Richard Penn Report):

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillors Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Dave Mackie, Margaret Redfern and Sam Swash meet with the Clerk and Financial Officer to respond to this consultation on behalf of the council.

213/22 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Chairman said that the water pump in the centre of Hawarden required a re-paint and that the ivy surrounding the House of Correction required attention. Advice might need to be sought from CADW Wales.

The Chairman also advised council that a Charity Ball would be held at the A55 Holiday Inn, on Saturday 10th June 2023 in support of Nightingale House.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

214/22 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:

215/22: NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

The Chairman of the Finance Committee had recently attended the Delivery Team meeting on 4th April 2023, together with the Clerk and Financial Officer and Councillors Janet Axworthy, Bill Cooper, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie and Linda Thomas. A site visit had been held to look at the existing Community Centre in Level Road. The Working Group had agreed that the best governance model for the new centre would be a Community Interest Company (CIC) as the benefits outweighed a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO).

Discussions had been taken about the feasibility of the building being the *first carbon neutral community centre in the UK* and self-sustaining.

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

216/22 AURA LEISURE MATCH FUNDING FOR PLAY AREAS:

Aura Leisure had written to the Community Council offering match funding for play areas. As agreed at the Council meeting on 10th October 2022, Mancot play area had been identified as a priority for improvement and a contract had been awarded for two new pieces of equipment and the re-painting of the swings.

Due to the Hynet proposal, any improvements to Vicker's Close had been put on hold. It was suggested that as the Gary Speed play area had s106 money available that an inclusive roundabout be installed and that this play area should be the priority.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to request £5,000 match funding for the Gary Speed play area.

217/22 COMMUNITY DOG FOULING DISPENSER PILOT PROPOSAL:

A report had been circulated to consider a pilot scheme for the location of dog foul dispenser equipment to be provided throughout the community of Hawarden. A similar scheme had proved very successful in Higher Kinnerton, although it had been noted that the costs for Hawarden would be higher.

It had been suggested to pilot the introduction of the scheme with Community Councillors being responsible for the re-supply of bags. The scheme would be monitored over a six-month period and if the dispensing equipment had been abused, it would be removed. Members had been asked to confirm suitable locations for the dispensers.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to agree to the pilot scheme as outlined.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

218/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the updated list of payments in the sum of £36,410.30 for April be approved.

219/22 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st March 2023 be emailed as soon as possible.

220/22 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the cost to the council for the Joint Maintenance Agreement for April had been £14,740.46 and for March it had been £13,117.70.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the above.

221/22 THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

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

222/22 GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept and implement the legal advice received.