



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

11th September 2023

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Janet Axworthy

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Helen Brown, Gillian Brockley, Bill Cooper, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Margaret Redfern, Hayley Selvester, Ralph Small, Raphaëlle Soffe, Sam Swash, Darren Sterry, Richard Taylor, Linda Thomas and Ant Turton

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

Also present: John Griffiths, Senior Highways Officer

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Lesley Evans (work) and Dale Selvester (work).

67/23 PRESENTATION:

Kate Tyndall attended the meeting as she had been recognised as one of the Community Volunteers who had received an award in May 2023, but had been unable to attend the Annual Meeting. The Chairman presented her with her certificate and thanked her for her sterling work as a volunteer in the local cricket club. Members echoed these sentiments.

68/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted for Councillors Lesley Evans (work) and Dale Selvester (work).

69/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

16 Chairman's signature: _____

70/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous hybrid meeting of the Council held on 10th July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

71/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

The Chairman referred to page 2 of the minutes regarding the Councillor vacancy in Hawarden - Mancot and advised that a casual vacancy had been advertised with a deadline of Friday 22nd September 2023.

72/23 HYNET UPDATE:

The Chairman advised members that she had recently met with colleagues from Hynet. Following the hearings in the Summer the Hynet representatives had shared some key dates about the next stages.

Hynet had been aware that the Council wanted the offer for Vicars Close to be revised, however they were still awaiting confirmation from the Estate Office.

A member mentioned that following some research, there appeared to be a drinking spout on Holywell Road. The drinking spring dated back to 1056 and it was requested that Hynet be informed of this to ensure that it would not be affected by the proposals as it was a significantly important landmark.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the issue be raised with Hynet for reassurance and responsibility.

73/23 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The 20mph limit would be introduced across Wales with effect from 17th September 2023.

The Chairman had recently attended the Flintshire County Council Chairman's Civic Service on 23rd July at St. Cynfarch and Cyngar Church in Hope.

The Chairman welcomed Georgey Griffiths to her first meeting of the council. George had recently been appointed as the new Assistant Clerk.

A recess meeting had been held on 25th August 2023 for planning and financial matters.

A dog charity fun day had been held on Sunday 10th September 2023 which the Chairman had attended along with Councillor Ant Turton.

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

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

74/23 POLICE MATTERS:

There had been no direct contact from the Police. Nothing to be reported.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that there were no outstanding issues.

75/23 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

John Griffiths had been welcomed to the meeting and members raised the following issues with him:

- The road onto Wood Lane: lots of debris and sand had been left by Welsh Water; John advised that he would pass this on to Welsh Water.
- Openreach had completed work after 10:30 p.m. on The Highway between numbers 120 and 112; when approached they said they had been instructed to do so by Flintshire County Council to avoid the disruption of day time traffic. John explained that if work due to be carried out clashed with other works on that network, then Openreach had to delay and return at a later day. They are never told to continue work after dark. John would speak to his colleague in Street Works.

- A resident had requested a tidy up on Hampton Avenue, Mancot.
John confirmed it had already been sprayed and once the weeds had died they would be cleared. John had spoken to the resident and they had been content with the work that had and would be carried out.
- Hawarden Way footpath on the right-hand side needed repair as it had been reported that elderly residents had tripped on the pavement. John confirmed that he was aware of the pavement surface, but due to it being a large job, as both sides needed to be resurfaced, the job had been allocated to the Capital Works Team.
- The issues of flooding due to a water burst at the top of Wood Lane, junction with the B5125, had been resolved.

Members thanked John for his attendance and for dealing with these issues. Members of the Carnival Committee thanked him for sorting the traffic cones for The Highway on carnival day.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates and action as required.

76/23 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

77/23 NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

The Chairman said that a quiet demonstration would take place outside the fire station in Queensferry to protest about the changes included within the consultation. There would be a representative from the Community Council at this protest.

Flintshire had one of the biggest industrial areas in North Wales on the Deeside strip and more housing had been planned which raised concerns around the fire station being closed down or capacity reduced.

A member attended the presentation that had been shared in County Hall regarding the above. The reduction in the coverage being provided from the Deeside Fire Station was the main concern. The current arrangements stem from the second world war and are no longer fit for purpose.

There are 36 retained stations throughout North Wales with a building and a fire engine which are manned on a voluntary basis. To be able to man the fire station, the person had to live or work within 5 minutes of the fire station. The proposals included the option to extend this to 8 minutes which would be a threat to life.

Out of the 36 stations, on average only two and a half are able to respond to a call out. The consultation proposed a 20-minute response time. Two stations are retained in Buckley and Mold and it is believed a person could travel from Deeside to either of the stations in 20 minutes. However, the new 20 mph speed limits may affect this.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a group of members meet to go through the on-line consultation and complete a response on behalf of the Community Council. Councillors Angell, Axworthy, Brockley, D. Mackie, Redfern, D. Selvester and Thomas volunteered.

78/23 LETTERS FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

Two letters had been received from the Standards Committee for sharing with members. A member referred to the first letter not being relevant to the Community Council as a member of the Standards Committee had not attended a meeting of the Community Council until this evening and asked if an action plan needed to be drawn up?

The Clerk and Financial Officer explained that the Standards Committee had representatives that attend all Town and Community Councils and collectively feedback to the Standards Committee. The letters are then sent as a result of that feedback and all Community and Town Councils are encouraged to note the useful comments shared.

The member advised that he had accessed the web link and he would share with the Clerk and Financial Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the contents of the two letters received.

79/23 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A Member asked if the Cenotaph could be cleared of old wreaths in readiness for the 2023 Remembrance Day.

A Member asked for an update on the gate in Mancot which required replacement. The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the gate had been on the work list but that it was not considered a priority and would be completed in due course.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

80/23 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:

81/23: NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

The Chairman advised there had been no progress as the Delivery Team awaited plans from the Architect.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

82/23 VICARS CLOSE PLAY AREA – RENEWAL OF LEASE, TERMS OF LEASE AND APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITORS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer informed members that the original lease had been drafted over 40 years ago and required updating. It included a yearly fee of £50.00 which had been payable by half yearly payments. However, the Community Council had paid £25.00 per annum to date as invoiced by the Hawarden Estate Office.

The Hawarden Estate office had asked the council to consider an increase in the rent from £25.00 to £250.00 per annum. Members expressed their concern that this was too expensive and a big increase from the original payment of £25.00.

The Community Council would be responsible for the cost of Solicitors to re-draft the lease and members asked that the maximum term be requested.

Members asked to review the contents of the lease prior to any contact being made with the Hawarden Estate Office.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Council appoint Solicitors to redraft the lease, decline the increase in rent of £250.00 and ensure the maximum term of lease possible.

83/23 GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS - RENEWAL OF FOOTBALL LEASE, TERMS OF LEASE AND APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITORS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer referred members to previous council reports and minutes dating back to 2015 when it had been agreed to draw up a formal lease with Hawarden Rangers Football Club. Due to the lack of availability of Solicitors this had been outstanding for some time.

The terms of lease had been shared with members. A Member asked why the Council maintained the exterior of the building on the playing field if it is leased to Hawarden Rangers? Another member referred to the 2015 discussion when it had been agreed that the Community Council maintain the exterior so that no changes could be made to it.

The Chairman stated that there needed to be a legal form of words with Hawarden Rangers as soon as possible.

Members raised a few questions to which the Clerk and Financial Officer advised that once the new lease had been drawn up by Solicitors, a report would be submitted to this committee for members to approve the contents of the lease.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Solicitors be requested to draft a new lease for members consideration and that the Community Council meets the cost, as originally agreed in 2015.

84/23 TREE POLICY AND TREE INSPECTION SYSTEM:

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to the Council's previous employee, Fran Griffiths, who had compiled this report prior to her departure and acknowledged the comprehensive work involved.

The Chairman suggested that a clause be added about the replacement of trees if required.

23 Chairman's Signature _____

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the County Council's Arboriculturalist had reviewed and commented on the Tree Policy.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the policy with the additional clause to replace any trees if removed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

85/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £73,793.42 for August and £27,355.07 for September be approved.

86/23 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st July 2023 be received and the bank reconciliation for the period ending 31st August 2023 be emailed to members.

87/23 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the Joint Maintenance contribution for August 2023 had been £12,643.05 and £11,351.03 for September 2023.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the Joint Maintenance contributions for August and September as above.