



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

08th January 2024

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Janet Axworthy

Councillors: Helen Brown, Billy Cooper, Dave Mackie, Sarah Hinks, Margaret Redfern, Dale Selvester, Hayley Selvester, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Richard Taylor, Linda Thomas, Sam Swash and Ant Turton

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

Also present:

162/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Joyce Angell, Gillian Brockley, Doreen Mackie and Emma Preece.

163/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

164/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

165/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

166/24 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman had hosted a Christmas Dinner at the Hawarden Golf Club for elected members, colleagues and members of staff and thanked the Clerk and Financial Officer for making the appropriate arrangements; it had been a lovely event.

The following day the Chairman had attended the Hawarden Village CP School Nativity play at St. Deiniol's Church which had been really enjoyable and well attended.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and note the information.

167/24 VACANCIES IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT WARD:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that all three vacancies would be advertised and re-advertised respectively on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

168/24 CONSIDERATION OF A WORK EXPERIENCE:

Members considered a report about the recruitment of work experience either in the office or within the Maintenance Team and shared positive and negative experiences. Members also discussed the many advantages of such a scheme to help members of the community gain valuable work experience and to promote the Community Council. Pupils from Hawarden High School had, in the past, asked if the Community Council provided this opportunity.

Members commended the idea but stipulated that the process must include provision for the contract to end in the unlikely event of poor behaviour or performance.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the introduction of a council work experience scheme.

169/24 POLICE MATTERS:

A member stated that following the invitation in December to attend an event with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Victoria Davies, he had attended the event but no PCSO had been present and the hotel had been unaware of the event. This had been disappointing.

Another member reported incidents in Aston of people trying to open house doors and windows on various properties. Members asked whether PCSO Davies could be invited to the next Council meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer invite PCSO Davies to attend a future meeting of the council.

170/24 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that John Griffiths could no longer attend Council meetings due to a Senior Management decision at County Hall about prioritisation of workload.

A member requested that this decision be challenged as the attendance of John ensured the swift resolution of issues and his attendance had always been welcomed.

A member reported a large pot hole at the top of Ash Lane, right on the junction in between the two cemeteries.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the issues for onward submission to John Griffiths and the Clerk and Financial Officer to write to the Chief Officer about the decision to no longer allow Senior Highways Officers to attend Community and Town Council meetings.

171/24 LIGHTING FAULTS:

A member reported that some of the Christmas lights had either gone out or had been faulty. The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that together with the Assistant Clerk and the Senior Maintenance Officer an audit had recently been undertaken and lights would be repaired or new lights purchased where appropriate.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

172/24 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A member shared that he had recently received an email from “Well Fed” which had been a mobile shop that sold wholesome meals for families at discounted prices. He asked whether the mobile shop could be parked up in Mancot to which the Clerk and Financial Officer advised that it would depend on where the land is located, who owned the land and what licence had been required.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the email be forwarded to the Clerk & Financial Officer for appropriate advice and action.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

173/24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) County Council Members:

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.

**174/24: FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN –
CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
GUIDANCE:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk & Financial Officer arrange a meeting with interested members before the closing date of 26th January 2024.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

175/24 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

There had been no update to report but a member shared that he had contacted the existing hirers at Level Road to ascertain their requirements in relation to space, frequency and storage within the new facility which had been worthwhile.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

176/24 HYNET UPDATE / VICKER'S CLOSE:

No further update had been received from Hynet.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

177/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £30,616.60. for January, be approved.

178/24 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer said that the final precept payment from Flintshire County Council had been received in the sum of £101,299 and the cost of the joint maintenance agreement for January had been £12,676.58.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note that the Council's contribution to the joint maintenance agreement for January was £12,676.58.

179/24 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations for the period ended 30th November and 1st December 2023 be emailed to members following the recent decision by Lloyds bank to issue statements online.

180/24 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive and approve the contents of the report that had outlined the council's financial position up to 30th September 2023.

181/24 DRAFT BUDGET 2024-25 AND PRECEPT DEMAND:

IT WAS RESOLVED: (i) to agree the draft budget proposals for 2024-25 which included a 10% increase on utilities, national insurance deductions and 5% salary increases and (ii) to set the precept at £334,762 which equated to a council tax band D property of £52.32 representing an increase of £4.76 per annum, £0.09 per week.