



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

10th June 2024

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Joyce Angell

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Margaret Redfern, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Richard Taylor, Ant Turton and Amanda Wormald.

Officers: Mrs Sharron Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer

24/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Sam Swash and Linda Thomas.

25/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

26/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 13th May 2024 be approved as a correct record, save and except that the minutes referred to King Charles III.

27/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

28/24 VACANCIES IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT AND ASTON WARDS:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Colin Randerson to the meeting who had expressed an interest in one of the casual vacancies in Mancot. Mr Randerson gave a brief summary of his background and his experience within the community.

Members voted in favour for Mr Colin Randerson to become a Community Council for the ward of Mancot and Councillor Randerson signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillor Colin Randerson be elected as a Community Councillor for the ward of Mancot.

29/24 INTERNAL AUDIT 2023-2024:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the Internal Auditor had completed the Annual Return with a small number of actions to be addressed. An action plan had been presented to members.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee said that he had reviewed the report and actions with the Clerk and Financial Officer and agreed with the recommended action plan.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Internal Auditor's 2023-24 report and action plan be approved.

30/24 ANNUAL RETURN 2023-2024

The Chairman of Finance said that the balances brought forward had been similar to the previous year which had been a positive position to be in.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Return 2023-24 including the governance statements be approved.

31/24 HYNET UPDATE:

There had been no update to share and the Clerk and Financial Officer had been asked to write to Hynet to request an update and attendance at a future meeting of the council when appropriate.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that an email be sent to the Hynet Officials requesting whether any update is available and that an invitation be issued to attend a future meeting.

32/24 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman referred to the D-Day Commemoration events that had taken place on the 6th June 2024 and commended the Clerk and Financial Officer for these well organised events. She also thanked the Royal British Legion for their attendance and had been pleased to report that a number of Councillors and members of the public had attended both events.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

33/24 POLICE MATTERS:

A member asked whether there had been any update on the anti-social behaviour that had occurred around the St. David's housing estate. Another member reported some of the behaviour had not been due to local members of the community. It had been understood that some of the anti-social behaviour related to a visiting football team.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that any Police matters be reported to the Clerk and Financial Officer for onward submission to the Chief Constable / Duty Sargent or Police Community Safety Officer.

34/24 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

The Chairman asked that any matters be reported to the Clerk and Financial Officer for onward submission to the County Council's Senior Highways Officer, John Griffiths.

A member said that whilst the work on Wood Lane had been completed there were a number of pot holes that still required filling. It hadn't helped that the utilities company had to do work after the County Council and it was a shame that the County Council and Utility companies had not liaised.

Another member had had correspondence with a constituent about the same issue and the B5129 with "rips" in the tarmac. She advised that the fisher gap is getting worse and that the Senior Highways Officer needed to be reminded about this work.

Further issues included:

- Pot holes on Tinkersdale and Hawarden Way; a ticket had been raised by John Griffiths for this and Ash Lane.
- Hedge at Cottage Lane, Mancot, by the cutting up to the farm gate, access is restricted for prams and wheelchairs due to overgrown hedge.
- Fencing at Co-op near Hawarden; chain-link fencing is rusty, poles are broken and leaning; can this be removed? Fence serves its purpose in preventing cyclists but does need repair. There is also a telegraph pole at a 45-degree angle that requires repair.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the above issues be reported to John Griffiths, Senior Streetscene Highways Officer.

35/24 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

36/24 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A member advised that a Facebook group had been established to obtain a map of the area so that the grids could be identified and cleared. A leaflet would be shared with members at the meeting in July.

A member for Mancot asked if the Summer Playscheme dates had been made available. He suggested that it be moved to the primary school rather than the playing field, due to the problem with dogs and dog mess. He suggested that the School be approached about this.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the updates and actions required.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

37/24 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.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

38/24 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

The Delivery Team met on a monthly basis and plans had been progressing with initial drawings being presented. The Delivery Team had considered changes to the drawings and was hopeful that the plans could be shared with members very soon, prior to a public consultation.

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 19th June, 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

39/24 REQUEST FOR ACCESS ONTO GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

A request had been received to install a gated pedestrian access onto the Gladstone Playing fields by the driveway to the Depot. After consideration, and following advice received from the Rights of Way Officer at Flintshire County Council, members declined this request due to health and safety issues. Vehicles frequented this driveway to access and egress the depot at various times throughout the working day and it was considered too much of a risk to allow this request. This could also set a precedent for other play areas and open spaces which the council were not minded to do.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that this request be not acceded to.

Councillor Janet Axworthy requested that her name be recorded as having reservations about this decision.

40/24 AURA LEISURE AND LIBRARIES PLAY GRANTS:

The annual request for match funding for play area improvements had been received from the County Council. Following an earlier decision by the Community Council to ensure each play area had an inclusive piece of play equipment it was suggested that the Gladstone Play Area be considered for matched funding towards an inclusive roundabout.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that an inclusive roundabout, safety surfacing and access be considered for match funding at the Gladstone play area.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

41/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £32,214.34 for June, be approved.

42/24 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations for the periods ended 30th April and 31st May be received and approved.

43/24 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the cost to the council for the Service Level Agreement in May and June was £12,398 and £15,019 respectively.

A certificate of participation had been received for the council's contribution to the events held for the for D-Day commemoration on 6th June 2024.

Betsi Cadwalladr Health Board, Play Park Communication Boards Project had offered the Community Council one free language board to be sited at a children's play area within the community. It was agreed that this be placed at the Gladstone playing area and that the Council's Maintenance Team would install it.

The Clerk and Financial Officer had previously circulated information from Ken Skates, AM about a public consultation on the controversial 20 mph schemes; members were asked to complete the survey direct.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the above information and actions required.

44/24 FINANCIAL POLICIES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the following policies be approved and adopted:

- i) Policy on income
- ii) Annual Investment Strategy
- iii) Financial Risk Assessment
- iv) Internal Financial Controls
- v) Reserves Policy (New policy)