



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

13th January 2025

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Joyce Angell

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Margaret Redfern, Hayley Selvester, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Linda Thomas, Amanda Wormall and Connor Wynne.

Officers: Sharron Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Georgina Griffiths, Assistant Clerk

Others: Kayleigh Chilton, North Wales Police.

143/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Sarah Hinks, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson and Ant Turton.

144/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None given.

145/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 9th December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

146/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

A member reported that a meeting had taken place regarding the replacement of the River Dee A494 Bridge. The proposal had been for two lanes and possibly hard shoulders, which would cost £140m.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

147/24 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

There were no reports.

148/24 VACANCIES IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT AND ASTON WARDS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that an additional vacancy had been created in the Hawarden – Ewloe ward due to the disqualification of Richard Taylor for non-attendance at council meetings for six consecutive months. This vacancy and the Hawarden – Mancot vacancy would be advertised in due course

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the vacancies be advertised.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

149/24 POLICE MATTERS:

The Chairman welcomed Police Community Safety Officer Chilton to the meeting.

A member stated that there had been an increase in car theft in the area and asked Officer Chilton if the Police had been made aware.

Officer Chilton said yes, in Mancot and the Sandycroft area but due to the lack of CCTV in the areas there had not been any suspects.

A member raised concerns relating to E-Bikes and people not wearing helmets or highlighted clothing whilst riding them. Officer Chilton responded that members would be required to report any incidents on 101 as there had been insufficient data to date.

A member stated that they found the North Wales Police updates page on social media very useful and had shared it on their own social media platforms.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

150/24 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

Members had no reports to be shared with Senior Highways Officer John Griffiths, but had been disappointed with the refuse collection and chaos with the black bins and recycling collections over the Christmas period. Some areas had not had their recycling collected for two weeks and there had been an increased amount to the Christmas period.

Members suggested that the black bin and recycling calendars be placed on the Hawarden Community Council website and copies available in the Community Council Office.

Another member added that a branch has fallen down just past the Cenotaph at the back of Wold Court and it had been there since the previous storm.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be sent to Streetscene.

151/24 LIGHTING FAULTS:

A member wanted to thank the Maintenance Team for repairing the street light faults so quickly. There had been a light out between Liverpool Road and Yowley Drive that belonged to Streetscene.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the lighting fault be passed on to Street Scene.

152/24 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

A member asked whether any work could be carried out on the Gladstone Car Park as the pot holes had become large and dangerous.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that she has been liaising with Flintshire County Council about tarmac suppliers; the Maintenance Officers repaired the large pothole outside the gate but quotes would be sought for an improved car park surface.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

153/24 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:

154/24 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE EWLOE:

There had been no updates for the Community Centre other than Mark Tami, M.P., had offered his support in liaising with Scottish Power and asking them for support.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

155/24 HYNET / VICKERS CLOSE:

There were no updates.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

156/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £34,372.63 for January, be approved.

157/24 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised members of the costs to the council for the Joint Services Committee in January as £15,121.06.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

158/24 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31st December 2024 be approved.

159/24 DRAFT BUDGET 2025-26 AND PRECEPT DEMAND

The Chairman of the Finance Committee referred to the comprehensive budget report, including the precept proposals, and said that the Finance sub-group meeting had been worthwhile, with every line in the budget scrutinised.

The report outlined inflationary increases on utilities, an update on the street lighting contract, a salary provision of 5% including the additional requirements of Employers relating to National Insurance and the Clwyd Pension Fund surplus of £26,200.

Mandatory member allowances had been included at the new rate of £206 per member, subject to written confirmation by Members who wished to decline this. The Ear-Marked Reserves as presented were approved.

During discussions, members referred to the condition of the shed at the Lodge and agreed to add £5,700.23 to the budget for this purpose. Earlier in the meeting members had also referred to the state of the car park and options for improving it. Options to be explored by the Clerk and Financial Officer.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) That the budget proposals for 2025-26 be approved and a precept of £367,243 be agreed; this represented an increase in the Band D charge of £5.23 that equated to £0.10p per week.
- (ii) That the surplus relating to the Clwyd Pension Fund of £26,200 be added to Ear Marked reserves.
- (iii) That options to repair the car park and replace the shed be explored.