



## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**PRESENT:** Chairman: Councillor Joyce Angell

**Councillors:** Janet Axworthy, Bill Cooper, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Margaret Redfern, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas and Ant Turton.

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

**Others:** Nick Henderson, Vice Chairman, Hawarden Rangers Football Club  
Kayleigh Chilton and Lucy Roberts, PCSO's,  
North Wales Police

### **160/24 PRESENTATION:**

Nick Henderson shared with members the proposed development that the club had considered. The land in question had been owned by Flintshire County Council and Hawarden High School so their consent would be required but out of courtesy Nick wanted to share the proposals with the Community Council. In addition, the Pavilion currently used had been outdated and had no proper disabled access.

The club anticipated a community hub for use by lots of other community organisations, meeting spaces, changing facilities and a café or bar area for parents and members of the public who attended matches and other community events. The club had outlined the difficulty with grass pitches and had been hopeful of a 4G all-weather pitch that would be the same size as the one at the High School. He outlined the number of cancellations required due to inclement weather since September 2024. It was anticipated that there would be a parking area which would run along the left-hand side of the rugby pitch.

In response to a member of the council about recent permission granted by the Community Council for a storage area behind the outdoor seated, Nick responded that the Football team had been demoted and there was no longer a need for this provision. A discussion ensued with a number of questions from members. A member offered his assistance if the project continued as he had previously been involved with the provision of a 4G pitch for a school in Cheshire and he could assist with any grant making applications.

Members requested that the draft plans be circulated to them to look at the proposal in detail.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the informative presentation and that the Community Council be kept informed of developments.

**161/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Hayley Selvester, Ralph Small, Amanda Wormald and Connor Wynne.

**162/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Darren Sterry declared an interest in the Community Youth Volunteer Item and duly completed a Declaration of Interest form.

**163/24 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

**164/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were none.

**165/24 JOINT SERVICE COMMITTEE:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Joint Services Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be received and noted.

**166/24 VACANCIES IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT AND ASTON WARDS:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that there remained two vacancies; one in Hawarden – Aston and one in Hawarden – Mancot. New posters would be advertised requesting electors to call a by-election, if no by-election had been called, the co-option process would be followed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the update.

**167/24 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:**

The Chairman had not attended any recent events.

**STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:**

**168/24 POLICE MATTERS:**

The Chairman welcomed Police Community Safety Officers Chilton and Roberts to the meeting.

A member asked if there had been any update on the concerns raised regarding the E-bikes and scooters. Officer Chilton advised that the Police encouraged people to report any incidents to 101 and a current operation had been planned to seize any e bikes that had been driven irresponsibly.

A member asked if there were any laws about setting off fireworks late at night. Officer Chilton advised that if they had been set off by under 16 year olds, then yes this was illegal but evidence needed to be provided. If adults had set them off and the address was known, then the Police can visit the house to advise the residents.

A member raised concerns about the speed of cars on Wood Lane and St. David’s Road. Cars had allegedly been driving over 20mph. Officer Chilton said she would report this matter to the “Go Safe” team and they might be able to position a Go Safe Vehicle in this location.

A member asked whether the recording of private wildlife cameras could be used for such instances as fly tipping. Officer Chilton advised that this could be considered as evidence subject to data protection and land permissions.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the information and acknowledge thanks to the officers for their presence.

### **169/24 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:**

Members raised the following issues for submission to the Senior Highways Officer, John Griffiths

- Two speed bumps were still missing on Wood Lane since the water repairs had been carried out around two years ago.
- The split in the middle of the road at the bottom of the Old Aston Hill had become larger and larger and concerns had been expressed about damage to cyclists.
- A member reported that the level of fly tipping under the dual carriage way from Alltami to Ewloe, at the Mold turn off, had increased recently and required action.

A member had been pleased to report that following discussion with John about the resurfacing of Ash Lane, a temporary solution had been proposed in lieu of an adequate budget.

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

### **170/24 LIGHTING FAULTS:**

A member reported a street light out outside Hill Crest on Old Aston Hall Lane.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the lighting fault be passed on to the Senior Maintenance Officer.

### **171/24 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A member advised that work had commenced at the water depot on Church Lane and to ensure the work had not been vandalised, four security men had been employed on 12-hour shifts.

Another member asked whether the Council had considered any commemorative plans for the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that commemorative events for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day be considered at the meeting in March.

### **172/24 COMMUNITY YOUTH VOLUNTEER:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had advertised the Community Youth Volunteer vacancies at Hawarden High School and two applications had been received. If successful, the Youth Volunteers would stand for a two-year period of office, they would not have a vote but could participate with the debate at meetings and provide a youth perspective on matters.

A member expressed his concern that the vacancies had not been advertised to the whole of years 12 and 13 and that this be amended to provide an opportunity for all pupils to express an interest.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the application be re-advertised to all pupils in Years 12 and 13, subject to confirmation by Hawarden High School.

### **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.

**COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

**174/24 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE EWLOE:**

There has been no update since the November meeting due to delays with Scottish Power about a parcel of land that would enhance the new development/Community Centre.

Mark Tami, M.P., had been involved and had been very keen to assist the Community Council with this exciting project.

MSparc had been appointed to assist the Community Council with bid writing support. They have produced a written business case and a detailed Decarbonisation Options Report, including options for solar, wind, air source, heating, insulation, lighting, battery storage, tree planting and biodiversity net gains.

The Clerk referred to the invoice elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting for an amount of £2,799.98 to MSparc and advised that she had managed to obtain grant funding for this full amount from the North Wales Ambition Board.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the information.

### **175/24 HYNET / VICKERS CLOSE:**

The Chairman advised that Hynet had offered to address the Council at its meeting in March to provide an update on the project.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that Hynet be invited the next Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

#### **176/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the list of payments in the sum of £37,947.13 for February, be approved.

#### **177/24 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 February as £14,799,31.

The Clerk and Financial Officer had asked the Council for a formal resolution to allow her to submit a resolution mandate that could be sent to Lloyds bank to authorise new signatories, remove old signatories and liaise with the bank on behalf of the Council, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve that a formal resolution be submitted to Lloyd's Bank as outlined above, in order to progress proper organisation and access to the Council's bank accounts.

#### **178/24 BANK RECONCILIATION:**

A member asked what the council's policy was in relation to investments and asked if the council had considered any alternative provision, or considered a Broker to act on behalf of the council, to ensure that the council received the best rates.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the council reviewed its Investment Strategy on an annual basis in May of each year. Historically, the council has always banked with Lloyd's Bank.

Approximately 18 months ago the Clerk had issued a report about investing with an organisation called CCLA but members had declined to move the money as it had been based on shares and appeared too much of a risk. She also outlined that during her attendance at the Practitioner's Conference, she had spoken to 'Unity Trust' who had been specifically targeted at this sector and offered incentive packages.

The member said that he would be content to review some options as he had experience as a member of the Finance Committee for a school in Chester who used a Broker each month, although he recognised the differences between schools and Community Councils and England and Wales legislation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** (i) that the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 be approved and (ii) that the Clerk and Financial Officer submit a report to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May about the options for investment with alternative suppliers.

#### **179/24 THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1966:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the exclusion of the public and press for the following items of business as they relate to confidential and commercial interests.

#### **180/24 GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS - PLAY AREA:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had obtained five quotes from different play equipment companies to provide an inclusive roundabout, an inclusive picnic bench, safety surfacing, inclusive footpath and new gate and safety surfacing under the current swing.

Details of all contracts had been shared with members.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to award the contract to Company B at a total cost of £17,849.05.

### **181/24 RESURFACING OF THE GLADSTONE CAR PARK:**

Meetings had been held with five Contractors but the quotes had yet to be received.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to provide the Clerk and Financial Officer, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Community Amenities Committee, delegated authority to review the quotes and accordingly award the contract. Any other interested member would be welcome to assist with this process.

### **182/24 HAWARDEN RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB:**

A draft Service Level Agreement had been circulated to members for approval following advice from the Council's Solicitors.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the Service Level Agreement be re-drafted following comments from members and be re-submitted to the council meeting in March including comments from Hawarden Rangers Football Club.