



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

09th June 2025

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Darren Sterry

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Michael Crockford, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Margaret Redfern, Hayley Selvester, Ralph Small, Sam Swash, Ant Turton and Connor Wynne.

Officers: Mrs Sharron Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer

Other: Elizabeth Kennedy
Joshua Stott & Callum Hodgson, Hawarden High School Youth Representatives
PCSO Kayleigh Chilton & her colleague.

23/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley, Sarah Hinks and Linda Thomas.

24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

25/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 12th May 2025 be approved as a correct record.

26/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

27/25 VACANCIES IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT AND ASTON WARDS:

Elizabeth Kennedy had expressed an interest in the vacancy in the Hawarden – Mancot ward. The Chairman welcomed Elizabeth to the meeting and invited her to introduce herself. Elizabeth outlined her family background and work experience including teaching in Manchester City and working on the Manchester and Chester Benches. She had recently retired and wished to give something back to the community.

A member asked Elizabeth if she had been a member of a particular party to which she replied that she had been independent.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillor Elizabeth Kennedy be co-opted as a Community Councillor for the Hawarden – Mancot ward.

The Chairman and members duly congratulated Elizabeth upon her appointment and welcomed her to the meeting. An induction would be arranged in due course and Elizabeth would sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

28/25 INTERNAL AUDIT 2024-2025:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Internal Auditor's report for 2024-25 be received and the actions noted and approved.

29/25 ANNUAL RETURN 2024-2025

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Return 2024-25 including the governance statements be approved, subject to the amendment notified by the Internal Auditor.

30/25 ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Report 2024-25 be approved and added to the Council's social media platforms.

31/25 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman referred to an email he had received from '*Volunteering Matters*' about a service they provide for older people living in the Hawarden community. The Charity had asked if they could attend a future Council meeting to outline what the Charity does. This was agreed.

The Chairman and members had received an update from Hynet, via email, that had been presented at the meeting. It had been agreed that both Hynet and the Contractors be invited to the July Council Meeting to address concerns raised within the community.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

32/25 COMMUNITY REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE:

Members had been asked to reconsider its response to the questionnaire that had been circulated in October 2023.

A member commented that he had spoken to residents that live on the end of Liverpool Road who had indicated their wish to remain within the Hawarden community. Another member commented that he felt the existing ward of Hawarden should be revisited as opposed to the current seven member wards.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the comments be notified to Flintshire County Council.

33/25 POLICE MATTERS:

PCSO Kayleigh Chilton reported that the electric scooters continued to be a nuisance to the public and that last month 28 had been seized.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

34/25 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

Members reported the following issues to be forwarded to the County Council's Senior Highways Officer, John Griffiths:

- The hedge on Old Aston Hill had been trimmed up to shoulder height which had an overhang which residents had to avoid;
- Hawarden High School and Upper Aston Hall required tidying up along the kerbside.
- The footpath at the end of Church Lane and the little gate that provided access to the barn had been blocked and people had to walk around. The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Estate Office had confirmed that this had never been a public footpath and had belonged to the home owner. The path had not been closed.
- At the top of Wet Lane there had been a lot of fly tipping.

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

35/25 LIGHTING FAULTS:

No reports.

36/25 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a poster advertising the 2025 Summer Play Scheme for members' information.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

37/25 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:

38/25 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

The Chairman of the delivery team said that a full update would be shared with members at the September meeting. A site meeting had taken place on 10th June 2025 with representatives from Scottish Power.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the update.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

39/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £47,004.73 for June, be approved.

40/25 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31st May, 2025 be received and approved.

41/25 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer reported that the cost to the council for the Service Level Agreement in June would be shared at the next meeting.

She also referred to the council's previous decision about a Place Plan and suggested that the council receive a presentation from the Clerk to Colwyn Bay following the successful delivery of its plan. Another member referred to refresher training for the newer members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information and invite the Clerk of Colwyn Bay to attend the council meeting in September or October to discuss the Place Plan.

42/25 GRANT APPLICATIONS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had asked members whether they wished to continue to accept grant applications in March and November or whether they would be open to discussing applications on an "as and when" submitted basis. Members talked about the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal.

A member referred to the process at a neighbouring Town Council when both of these options had been operational.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the grant applications continue to be discussed at March and November meetings but if an organisation wished the council to consider a grant outside of this timeframe, due to other grant funding applications, then these could be considered.

43/25 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