



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

20th October 2025

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Darren Sterry

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Michael Crockford, Stephen Lancashire, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Margaret Redfern, Ralph Small, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas and Ant Turton.

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

Other: Tina Earley, Clerk & Financial Officer and Rachael Gill,
Place Plan Manager, Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Youth Representatives:

Callum Hodgson, Hawarden High School

78/25 PRESENTATION FROM BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL:

Tina Earley, Clerk and Financial Officer and Rachael Gill, Place Plan Manager from the Bay of Colwyn Town Council had been invited to attend the meeting to share their experiences of developing a Place Plan in the Bay of Colwyn.

Tina provided the background and explained that the Bay Of Colwyn Council covered six wards. The Place Plan had first been discussed in late 2018 as there had been a Master Plan in place that had dealt with the large physical appearance of the Town.

A steering group had been created with 6 Town Council members and members of the public and there had been unanimous support for the Town Council to develop a Place Plan.

A budget of £21,000 had been agreed in 2021 by the Town Council towards consultancy support from Planning Aid Wales who had gathered the baseline data. The information had then been shared with the public and the Town Council formally adopted the plan in late 2024.

Tina explained how the Town Council had organised drop-in events, school workshops to target the youth sector together with an online survey for members of the community and local businesses to provide feedback. £10,000 had been secured from the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns fund.

Overall six themes had emerged and a working group had been established for each theme and drawn up an action plan. Once the project had been clarified, further grant money had been secured to enable the Town Council to recruit a Deputy Clerk / Place Plan Manager for a fixed term. Tina then introduced Rachael.

Rachael said that she had been in the role for thirteen months and the biggest challenge had been the scale of work in supporting the six working groups, including twenty four meetings a year. This had been a necessity to ensure the community remained engaged. The six actions plans each had their own objectives which included homelessness and keeping public toilets open. Whilst these were not functions of the town council they had to be worked on with the relevant authorities as these had been some of the objectives from the community engagement.

Although there had been lots of projects over the year, some had been more evident to members of the public than others and local businesses had stated they preferred "less talking and more action"!

Rachael's main role following this work had been to work with the County Council's Planning Authority to get the Place Plan adopted as a Supplementary Planning Guidance note. (SPG)

In conclusion, Tina said that whilst there had been a tremendous amount of work, further time and investment had been required to deliver the plan. The community support had been incredible and a further £180,000 had been raised for various projects across each of the working groups.

The Chairman thanked Tina and Rachael for their impressive presentation and their attendance at the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the informative presentation.

79/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Elizabeth Kennedy and Connor Wynne and Joshua Stott, Youth Representative.

80/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Colin Randerson declared an interest in Item 12 - Planning and duly completed his Declaration of Interest form.

Councillor Sam Swash declared an interest in Item 13 – Community and engagement poll and duly completed his Declaration of Interest form.

Councillor Helen Brown declared an interest in Item 17 – Allotment Fees and Charges and duly completed her Declaration of Interest form.

81/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 8th September 2025 be approved as a correct record, save and except that Councillor Gillian Brockley had submitted an apology for absence.

82/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

83/25 HYNET UPDATE:

Members raised a number of concerns about the overall project and had received numerous complaints from members of the public, including the following:

Apparently the final route had not been agreed and there had been a rumour that the original route would be changed.

Residents had been advised that 24 hour drilling would take place and members were concerned about the noise and vibration nuisance.

Members had been of the opinion that no Traffic Management would be required, but had subsequently heard that Traffic Management would be required.

A resident has said that a stream had been culverted to gain access to a field. Apparently, the culvert had been taken out and replaced with a larger one.

A resident had been speaking to the contractors who had said that they had been undertaking a Bat Survey on a tree that required felling despite Hynet having assured the Council that no trees would be felled. The contractor had allegedly said that even if the survey had shown that bats had been present, the tree would still be felled.

The B5125 would see an increase in traffic which would make it more dangerous and members felt that the current road conditions would not cope with any increase in traffic.

Members had been frustrated with these issues particularly as there would be no community gain. They felt “let down” by Hynet and challenged the trust of the organisation.

A member reminded the council of a Drop-in session at Aston Community Centre the following day at 4.00 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. that would allow members of the public and elected members to raise their concerns directly with Hynet officials.

Members also commented that Hynet officials would say one thing then do another, mentioning that “they (Hynet) had not stuck to the script”. Members asked if Hynet could be invited to respond in writing to these concerns for consideration at the November council meeting.

A member suggested that Hynet be invited to the December meeting subject to the Council’s decision at its meeting in November.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer email the concerns of members to Hynet professionals and invite them to respond in time for consideration at the November meeting.

84/25 CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

The Chairman invited the Vice Chairman to speak as he had recently attended events on behalf of the Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman had attended the VE/VJ Day commemorative event in Shotton and two Civic Services; one in Connah’s Quay and one in Leeswood. All events had been well attended.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

85/25 POLICE MATTERS:

A member said that he had tried to contact 101 to report a traffic related issue. After waiting a long time on the telephone they tried to report the issue online but there had been no “drop down menu choice” for traffic incidents which had made it difficult to report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer inform PCSO Kayleigh Chiltern of this issue.

86/25 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

The following matter was raised, to be forwarded to the County Council's Senior Highways Officer, John Griffiths:

- That recycling hadn't been collected in the Aston ward for over six weeks and other residents had complained and that the hedge that had been cut to shoulder height had still not been resolved.
- The hedge on Old Aston Hill that belonged to the farmer had been cut at shoulder height and people had to walk on the road to avoid the branches hitting them in the face which was dangerous.

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

87/25 LIGHTING FAULTS:

A member reported a faulty street light on Willow Park for action.

88/25 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Nothing to report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

89/25 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.

A member referred to the Ash Lane Development Site. He had read the information available on the planning portal and had noticed a lengthy report added from Welsh Water that had raised several concerns regarding the development. Welsh Water had concluded that there was a high risk of flooding and sewage overflow and they had little confidence that the original pipe could sustain an increase as it had not been updated since 2004. The water authority had proposed three solutions to mitigate this problem ranging in value from £680,000 to £9.56m and £3.3m.

Members challenged the legality of this situation now that the planning application had been approved, despite this report. He asked whether the Community Council had any course of redress.

It was suggested that a Working Group of ward members and members of the community be established to discuss such matters. A similar group might be required for the development due to take place in Ewloe.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer email the Planning Department with reference to the report by Welsh Water to ascertain if anything could be done in relation to the already permitted development.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

90/25 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND POLL:

Members considered a report about whether a community engagement survey had been undertaken by the Community Council notwithstanding the presentation at the start of the meeting about Place Plans which would provide such an opportunity.

The report related in particular to the development at Ash Lane, Mancot and the opportunity for the public to have their say.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Community Council was not the planning authority but a statutory consultee for planning applications, but on occasion the community council had held community consultation events, for example, for play area development and improvements to the football field.

A member added that the Community Council issued an Annual Report that had been published on its website for members of the public to access. It had been suggested that a page be added to enable members of the public to write to the Community Council and share their views, opinions and comments.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that an extra page be added to the Annual Report as outlined above, together with the working group proposal at minute number 89/25 above which could address this matter.

91/25 2025 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER:

The Clerk and Financial Officer provided a verbal update on the arrangements for the Remembrance Parade and service including additional measures to safeguard young children. Meetings would take place with the Parade Marshall, Leaders of the Guides and Scouts together with Head Teachers to discuss this matter.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

92/25 2025 ANNUAL SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES:

A report had been received about the uptake of the Summer Play Schemes in 2025 which had shown progress in the delivery of the scheme and attendance numbers.

A member mentioned that the council had agreed to extend the three week scheme to a six week scheme and wished to know what other Community Councils did.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer write to the Play Scheme Leader to establish this information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

93/25 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Income and Expenditure Report be approved.

94/25 ALLOTMENT FEES AND CHARGES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Allotment Fees and Charges be approved as presented with an inflationary increase rounded to the nearest pound.

95/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £53,796.95 for October, be approved.

96/25 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation for the period ended 30th September 2025, be received and noted.

97/25/25 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer stated the recharges would be shared at the next meeting as she had a query about the Fleet insurance that impacted all three councils within the Service Level Agreement.

She reminded members that Flintshire County Council had launched a consultation about living in Flintshire, the deadline for which had been 9th November 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

98/25 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the council approve the exclusion of the public and press for the following items of business due to the confidential nature of the business.

99/25 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

Item deferred to the next meeting.

100/25 INVITATION TO TENDER FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS TO EXISTING TRACTOR AND SALE OF OLD TRACTOR:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Council agree to the new bracket arm to the existing tractor to enable it to be more “fit for purpose” Company C had been awarded the contract. In addition, the old tractor had been declared surplus to requirements and permission had been granted to the Clerk and Financial Officer to obtain the best price possible.