



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

12th January 2026

PRESENT: **Chairman:** Councillor Darren Sterry

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Bill Cooper, Michael Crockford, Sarah Hinks, Liz Kennedy, Stephen Lancashire, Dave Mackie, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Ralph Small, Sam Swash and Connor Wynne.

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

Youth Representatives: Callum Hodgson, Hawarden High School

142/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Helen Brown, Doreen Mackie, Margaret Redfern and Linda Thomas.

Joshua Stott had also issued his apologies.

143/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

144/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 8th December 2025 be approved as a correct record.

145/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

A member referred to page 48, paragraph 133/25 and stated that the work had started on the St. David's roundabout. There had been a query about the boundary, which had been resolved and hedgerow and trees had been planted on the grass verge that borders the dual carriageway.

146/25 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman thanked members who attended the Christmas dinner at the Holiday Inn and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Bill Cooper, for his attendance at the Mold Town Council event.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

147/25 POLICE MATTERS:

There were none.

148/25 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

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

A member asked why traffic lights, signs are erected at least two to three days prior to actual road works commencing as the traffic lights on the A494 roundabout were up before work started and it does cause a lot of back tailing traffic in the community.

A lot of highway signs are left on the roads or footpaths after road works had been completed and they are there for some time.

Warning signs for the Hynet project have been up and for around two to three months and they are half on the footpath, half on the road.

The B5125 road between Ewloe and Northop Hall is covered in litter and there is also pot holes that need filling which had been reported previously.

There is pot holes on the A494 on the roundabout by Asda, outside Willow Park.

Commercial fly tipping has appeared on Moor Lane going up the lane that is outside the Cricket Club and it is also on the right further along the road. It is building rubble including toilet basins, sinks etc.

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

149/25 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were no reports, however the Clerk and Financial Officer thanks members for agreeing for the Christmas lights to be lit up day and night as it has resulted in less maintenance on the lights for the Maintenance Officers and due to the lights being LED it is a minor cost.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

150/25 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

151/25 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.
- (e) That the Clerk and Financial Officer submit a complaint to the County Council's Monitoring Officer about a potential conflict of interest with the Chief Officer, Planning and Place Plans in respect of the Ewloe planning application.
- (f) That Councillor Connor Wynne represent the Community Council at the Planning committee on the 17th December outlining the council's concerns as noted above, particularly, in relation to the water and density issues and the comments made previously by the Chief Officer, Planning and Place Plans.
- (g) That Councillor Helen Brown be nominated as the adjoining ward member to speak against the Ewloe Planning application for the reasons outlined in (f) above.

A member added that they had attended two Flintshire County Council meetings regarding the Ash Lane development and he asked what address the houses would be under due to the boundary between Hawarden and Mancot.

He received various answers but neither of them answered the actual question. They did say it was up to Royal Mail as they need to fit it in with their delivery routes, however the application states the development lies within the boundary of Hawarden and boarder Mancot.

Another member informed members that the housing development in Ewloe had been rejected in December.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

152/25 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT EWLOE:

There was no new updates due to ongoing discussions with Scottish Power.

153/25 HYNET/VICKER'S CLOSE:

There was no new updates

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

154/25 SMALL GRANTS SCHEME APPLICATION:

The application had not been received from the Donkey Sanctuary. If received, to be discussed at the February meeting.

155/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £39,904.03 for January, be approved.

156/25 DRAFT BUDGET 2026-27 AND PRECEPT DEMAND:

The Clerk and Financial Officer referred to page 2, paragraph 5.4 and she informed members that Flintshire County Council are no longer able to supply the street lighting energy despite a contract being agreed in April. However they have suggested an organisation called CCS which is the supplier Flintshire County Council uses but Hawarden Community Council will need to open an account with CCS alone (several other Community Councils are doing the same).

Paragraph 5.6 the valuation has now been received from Clwyd Pension fund and the percentage is now 20% not 23.1%.

Paragraph 5.13 regarding the Hawarden Library, £500 has been budgeted however the library usually only ask for £300.

A member queried the budget regarding the Village Clock. The Clerk and Financial Officer stated that she is looking at a Heritage Lottery Fund as the cost of the maintenance work being £24,000 is too much.

There is also another clock repairer in the Cumbria area who she is going to contact to ask for another quote but it is looking like applications for grant funding.

All members felt the £24,000 quote for the repair of the clock was too expensive and that funding would be the most appropriate.

Some members felt the village clock should be removed from the budget as all members have rejected the quote.

A vote took place on whether the £24,000 should stay within the budget for the repair of the Village Clock.

Vote:

6 members - in favour for it to remain

7 members - objected

Unanimous decision for the £24,000 repair for the Village Clock to be removed

A few members also queried the £20,000 budget for the Place Plan as they felt it would be too early to start commence work on creating the Place Plan due to Flintshire County Council's Plan potentially not being in place to at least 2030 and then the Community Council's Place Plan could be out of date and then more money is spent.

They felt delaying the process of the Place Plan would be more appropriate as Flintshire's could be delayed. They suggested using the next twelve months to start the work on the Place Plan that has no financial cost.

Before the Place Plan is created they need to see what impact the new estate will have on the community as it will change and then the Place Plan may not be right for the community.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Place Plan can take up to a minimum of two years to create.

A vote took place on whether the £20,000 should stay within the budget for the costing of support from Planning Aid Wales for the Place Plan.

Vote:

12 members – in favour for it to remain

3 members - objected

The vote was carried and the £20,000 would remain within the budget.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Budget and Precept Demand be approved with the amendments: the £24,000 cost for the Village Clock to be removed and the Hawarden Library budget be amended to £300 instead of £500.

157/25 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer stated that the council's contribution to the Service Level Agreement in January will be shared at the next meeting.

158/25 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation be shared at the next meeting.