



HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting

held on

13th April 2026

PRESENT: **Chairman:** Councillor Darren Sterry

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Bill Cooper, Michael Crockford, Wendy Harrison, Sarah Hinks, Liz Kennedy, Stephen Lancashire, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Colin Randerson, Margaret Redfern, Ralph Small, Sam Swash, Linda Thomas, Ant Turton, and Connor Wynne.

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

Youth Representatives: Callum Hodgson, Hawarden High School

196/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley and Emma Preece.

197/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Helen Brown, Darren Sterry and Ant Turton declared an interest in Item 16 and duly completed their Declaration of Interest forms.

Councillors Colin Randerson, Sam Swash and Connor Wynne declared an interest in Item 13 and duly completed their Declaration of Interest forms.

198/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 9th March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

65 Chairman's signature: _____

199/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were none.

200/25 VACANCY IN HAWARDEN – MANCOT WARD, CO-OPTION:

A local resident had expressed an interest in the vacancy in the Hawarden – Mancot ward. The Chairman welcomed Wendy Harrison to the meeting and invited her to introduce herself to members of the Community Council. Wendy outlined that she was a local resident, had attended school in Hawarden and was now a retired teacher. She had always been interested in local community and environmental matters and enjoyed supporting community events.

A member asked Wendy if she had been a member of a particular political party to which she replied that she had stood as an independent member.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Councillor Wendy Harrison be co-opted as a Community Councillor for the Hawarden – Mancot ward. Councillor Harrison to be invited to the council offices for a formal Induction and completion of the necessary paperwork.

201/25 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2025/26:

The Clerk and Financial Officer stated that the Auditor had raised four issues. The Clerk had informed the Auditor that the council had been in the process of building a new community centre (issue 4) and the Chairman of Finance had been in discussion with the clerk about improving the way that the Service Level Agreement had been calculated and that these had been two of the four issues. (issue 3).

It was noted that for issue 1 council resolutions had been obtained for the two larger payments and issue 2 would be reviewed at the annual meeting in May.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Interim Internal Audit Report 2025/2026 be approved, noted and implemented where appropriate.

66 Chairman's signature: _____

202/25 2025/26 YEAR END ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT PROCESS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had shared with members a report that outlined the year end process for the accounts and audit arrangements and had managed to secure a small efficiency this year.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

203/25 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Bill Cooper, for attending the Connah's Quay, Holywell and Mold Annual Charity Dinners in his behalf. Each event had raised a significant amount of money for local charities.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

204/25 POLICE MATTERS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer shared that PCSO Kayleigh Chilton had attended the Council office and reported that there had been no major issues of a crime nature within the Hawarden community. If members had any issues they could be reported to PCSO Kayleigh via email to the Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

205/25 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

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

- (i) The zigzag road markings had faded completely outside the Post Office.

- (ii) A large amount of fly tipping, including domestic and industrial waste, had been left behind the large concrete blocks at the entrance to Vicker's Close play area; the land belonged to the Estate Office.
- (iii) Pot holes on Glynne Way had been repaired; it looked like a temporary arrangement as they needed to be redone.
- (iv) A member advised that he had been due to meet with two Highway Maintenance Officers from the County Council as he felt that the repairs on pot holes on Mancot Lane had been inadequate and required further work.

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

206/25 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

207/25 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

The Chairman mentioned that local residents had asked about the missing post box between Blackbrook and Overlea Drive, Hawarden. Another member had been informed that the builders that had carried out improvement works to the house had been responsible and had supposed to put the post box back into position.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

208/25 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) Planning Appeal: *change of use of land to a traveller's caravan site consisting of 1 no. mobile home, 1 no. touring caravan, car parking, landscaping and associated works. **Location:** Land off Church Lane, Aston Hill, Ewloe, CH5 3BF.*

That the original objections be restated, together with a statement about the timeline for a formal gypsy transit site as approved within the Local Development Plan.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

209/25 GWELLA – REQUEST FOR MATCH FUNDING 2026-27

The annual letter from Gwella had been received to offer match funding for play area improvements. A copy of the letter had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

69 Chairman's signature: _____

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a request for £10,000 match funding be put forward for the Trueman's Way play area.

210/25 VISIT TO THE HAWARDEN CRICKET CLUB:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised members that an invitation had been extended for all members to attend a site visit to Hawarden Cricket Club. The visit would take place after the 1st May and preferably on a Thursday afternoon.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the invitation be accepted and the Clerk and Financial Officer arrange a convenient date.

211/25 REQUEST TO USE THE GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:

A request had been received by Hawarden Strollers Walking Football who had recently agreed to join Hawarden Rangers Football Club. On Saturday 27th June they wished to arrange a charity 7-a-side walking football event at the Gladstone playing fields. The Charity event aimed to play walking football for 12 hours, raising funds for Prostate Cancer. The event would take place between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the request be approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

212/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer referred to transaction H/26/29 and advised that this payment relating to street lighting column replacement work not tree work. She also advised members that the council's office cleaning company 'Done N Dusted' had recently made a decision to close their business. A replacement company would be sought in due course.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £36,250.41 for April, be approved.

213/25 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer stated that the Service Level Agreement cost for April would be reported to the council meeting in May.

The Clerk also advised that Lloyd's Bank had recently shared a communication that its monthly banking fee would increase from £8.50 to £10.00 per month.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

214/25 BANK RECONCILIATION:

The Chairman of Finance highlighted that the bank reconciliation did not balance and therefore could not be approved by council. The Clerk and Financial Officer apologised for this oversight and said that she would issue a correct bank reconciliation in due course.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

215/25 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

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

216/25 NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT, GARY SPEED PLAY AREA:

The Clerk and Financial Officer had received three quotes from three play equipment companies for a new piece of play equipment and safety surfacing at the Gary Speed play.

Members considered all three quotes.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Company C be awarded the contract as members felt that the type of equipment included would be more beneficial and attractive to older children within the ward.