HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Hybrid Meeting
held on
15th June 2026

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Bill Cooper

Councillors: Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Helen Brown, Michael Crockford, Wendy Harrison, Stephen Lancashire, Dave Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Margaret Redfern, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash and Connor Wynne

Officers: Mrs Sharron Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Miss Georgey Griffiths, Administrative Officer

Also present: Callum Hodgson, Youth Representative – Hawarden High School and two members of the public.

PRESENTATIONS:

25/26 COMMUNITY VOLUNEER AWARD:

The Chairman presented Miss Ann Smith with her 2026 Community Volunteer Award and a short speech was provided from the Clerk and Financial Officer about Ann's volunteer work within the community.

26/26 HYNET PROJECT:

Cerys Percival, Mike Cobble and Rob Mackenzie had attended the meeting to provide an update on the Hynet Project. They outlined the work programme to date and the intended works which would continue until the end of the year.

Cerys informed members that they had engaged with all schools within the area and would continue to have Community drop-in sessions for residents to keep them updated and raise any issues.

Members raised the following issues:

- On lower Aston Hall Lane leading up to higher Aston Hall Lane the road had been covered in mud and stones which made it dangerous for cars. A number of residents had complained.
- Flintshire County Council's Streetscene had cleared the road and photographs had been sent via the Hub.
- The pavements had also been being covered in mud including the pathway on Glynne Way.

Mike apologised on behalf of Hynet and confirmed that the photographs had been received. He would review the instance and outlined that measures are in place to ensure the roads are kept free of mud and stones. He would track where it was, how it happened and try to ensure that it would not happen again. Mike advised that a Supervisor had been assigned to keep the areas clean and they should be swept regularly alongside the road sweeper.

A member asked if residents could be informed when work would commence in the area at 7:00 a.m. as the noise and vibration had been very loud.

Rob advised that the team should be warming up the plant at 7:00am, then a briefing would take place with work commencing at 7:30am. He said that there should not be any drilling before 7:30am. He would ask a colleague to look at what crew had been working in the area and speak to the Supervisor who would remind the team during the weekly briefing. Cerys said she would double check which properties had received letters advising them of the works.

Members in general said that the disruption in the area had been a frustration. Traffic lights had not appeared to minimise the disruption to which Hynet responded that the traffic lights had not been on sensors, but had been timed. Prior to the traffic lights there had been a man on site managing the traffic which had appeared to be more effective. Mike replied that the man had been allocated to another site and hence the traffic lights.

Members mentioned that the road works signs on Old Aston Hill had half blocked the pavement and the road and members asked if they could be removed when work was no longer taking place.

Mike advised that Hynet had awarded the Traffic Management to an independent company but that signs must remain in place ahead of scheduled works.

A member stated that the public right of ways had been blocked off whilst work has taken place and had now become overgrown and inaccessible. Hynet officials said that they would ensure these areas would be cut back.

A question was asked about a date for the commencement of work at Church Lane. Mike advised that there remained an issue with Welsh Water due to a burst main that required improvement prior to any work commencing.

A member asked if a risk assessment had been carried out on the Church building on Church Lane. Mike advised that he would ask the third party Structural Assessor.

In response to a question about cameras and privacy, Mike said that cameras would only be erected if the risk assessment advised that a camera had been required. They would be erected by a third party but would not face public areas, however, if they did, the background would be blurred out.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

<u>COUNCIL MEETING:</u>

27/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Gillian Brockley, Sarah Hinks, Liz Kennedy, Emma Preece, Colin Randerson, Linda Thomas and Ant Turton.

28/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

29/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the council held on 11th May 2026 be approved as a correct record.

30/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None.

31/26 STANDING ORDERS:

At its meeting in May, Council had approved that paragraph 13 of the Standing Orders had been incorrect and required amendment. It was agreed that Standing Order number 13, in its current form, be removed and replaced with the following:

In any year, if the current Chair of the Council has not been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a successor Chair of the Council has been elected. The current Chair of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council but shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

In any year, if the current Chair of the Council has been re-elected as a member of the Council, they shall preside at the annual meeting until a new Chair of the Council has been elected. They may exercise an original vote in respect of the election of the new Chair of the Council and shall give a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Standing Orders be amended as above.

32/26 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the Internal Auditor had suggested that a further budget monitoring report be produced, due to the council being in the '*large council'* criteria.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a further budget monitoring report be produced to Council in March of each year as required by the Council's Internal Auditor.

33/26 INTERNAL AUDIT 2025-26:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Internal Auditor's report for 2025-26 be received and the actions approved in relation to an increase in fidelity cover and an amendment to the Asset Register (due to an excel spreadsheet miscalculation).

34/26 ANNUAL RETURN 2025-26:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Return 2025-26 including the governance statements be approved, subject to the amendment notified by the Internal Auditor above for Fixed Assets.

35/26 ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Annual Report 2025-26 be approved subject to an amendment relating to the butterfly gardens.

36/26 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman had attended the Buckley Civic Service on the previous Sunday which had been well attended and a thoroughly enjoyable event.

STAFFING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

37/26 POLICE MATTERS:

The following matters had been raised to be forwarded to the PCSO, Kayleigh Chilton:

(i) The ongoing issue with E-bikes and scooters racing through the village both on the pathways and roads.

(ii) Vehicles, including a coach, driving the wrong way on the one-way road from Aston towards Shotton Lane, which was very dangerous.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the reports be emailed to PCSO Kayleigh Chilton.

38/26 HIGHWAYS/STREETSCENE MATTERS:

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

I. The hedge on Old Aston Hill, opposite Church Lane had still not been cut back properly.

II. Residents had complained about household waste bags being put in the dog waste bins in Ewloe and Mancot, this appeared to be an on-going issue.

III. Mossley Court, Hawarden: an old "H" bar was no longer visible which meant that people had been parking there and blocking access for the resident.

Members generally raised their frustrations at the delay of responses from the County Council's Streetscene and Planning departments. One member had waited for five weeks for a reply despite numerous calls and chaser emails being sent.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the above issues be reported to John Griffiths, Senior Streetscene Highways Officer and that the Clerk and Financial Officer write to Flintshire County Council expressing the councils concerns about the lack of replies.

39/26 LIGHTING FAULTS:

There were none.

40/26 MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Members had been reminded of the annual Hawarden Carnival that would take place on Saturday 11th July; all volunteers had been welcomed to assist with the event.

A member shared that he had received some complaints from residents in Mossley Court and Rectory Lane, Hawarden due to the ongoing difficulty with parking on the street outside their properties.

It was suggested that some members get together and look at a the feasibility of a resident parking scheme that could reduce the issue.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Clerk and Financial Officer arrange a meeting to discuss the feasibility of a residential parking permit scheme.

***PLANNING COMMITTEE*:**

41/26 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 was one planning appeal.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

42/26 REQUEST TO PURCHASE A NEW DEFIBRILLATOR FOR GLADTSONE PLAYING FIELDS:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that a new defibrillator be purchased and installed Gladstone Playing Fields.

43/26 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £42,804.76 for June, be approved.

44/26 BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliations for the periods ended 30th April and 31st May be approved and noted.

45/26 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk and Financial Officer confirmed that the costs to the council for the Service Level Agreement for the month of June had been £16,982.30.

She had received the final report from Flintshire County Council for the Boundary and Democracy Commission (Cymru), Community Review. The County Council had agreed with the Community Council's comments to retain Hawarden - Aston as a 'seven' member ward along with the Hawarden – Ewloe and Hawarden – Mancot wards.

The Clerk advised members that she had been in post for ten years this month which had flown by and she thoroughly enjoyed the role and thanked the council and members for their ongoing support.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to note the information.

46/26 FLINTSHARE GRANT APPLICATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the application be not supported due to the lack of evidence that the accounts related to Hawarden only and that the organisation appeared to be a limited company, although "not for profit".

47/26 FINANCIAL POLICIES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that he 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