



## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting

held on

**14 DECEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor George Hardcastle

**Councillors:** Ve Amos, Joyce Angell, Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Bob Connah, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver, Lowri Earith, Sarah Hinks, Dave Mackie, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Ralph Small, Darren Sterry, Sam Swash, Richard Taylor and Ant Turton

**Officers:** Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer  
Fran Griffiths, Admin Assistant

**Also present:** 1 member of the public

### **60/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Ryan O’Gorman.

### **61/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillors Helen Brown and Darren Sterry declared an interest in item 72/20.

Councillor Dave Mackie declared an interest in item 76/20, planning application number one.

### **62/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be approved as a correct record, save and except that minute 58/20(b) planning application 061783 be amended to read Councillor Ralph Small and not Councillor Bob Connah.

In addition, Councillor Emma Preece asked why the text at minute number 52/20 had been emboldened below the recorded vote table as this was not normal practice. The Clerk and Financial Officer had said that she had felt it important to highlight why members had voted against the decision. It was agreed to remove the words “had all” from this minute but retain the emboldened statement.

Councillors Ralph Small and George Hardcastle wished to declare their objections to the statement made at the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 by Councillor Richard Taylor about the inaccuracy of minutes. Councillor Taylor stood by his comments and said that there had been inaccuracies in the minutes and that a better job could be done.

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that that minutes should not be verbatim reports and that short concise minutes with clear resolutions had been required.

**63/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

In response to item 51/20, the Clerk and Financial Officer had sought clarification from the Council whether to allocate this work to the already established Communications Sub-Committee or a separate working group.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the recording of Council meetings be reviewed by the Communications Sub-Committee in readiness for consideration at the Council's annual meeting in May 2021.

**64/20 PLAY AND RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a draft Terms of Reference for the newly established Play Area sub-committee and suggested that the remit be extended to include Tennis Courts, Football Licences and other outdoor activities and therefore rename the sub-committee Play and Recreation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Play and Recreation Sub-Committee.

**65/20 ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised that the External Audit report had not been received, but she had been informed that it had been completed and was awaiting sign off.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to defer this item for consideration to the next meeting.

**66/20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the list of payments in the sum of £33,677.18 for December be approved.

20 Chair's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**67/20 BANK RECONCILIATIONS:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 30<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November be received and noted.

**68/20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated an income and expenditure report for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> November that provided a summary report together with a detailed financial report. Within the report she had highlighted areas of over and underspend by the council due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the contents of the report.

**69/20 HARDSTANDING AT GLADSTONE PLAYING FIELDS:**

In accordance with minute number 08/20 the Clerk and Financial Officer had sought professional opinion about the hard standing at the Gladstone Playing Field and copies had been emailed to members. The hardstanding had been reported as fit for purpose with an adjustment required to tidy up the joint and no health and safety issues.

Councillor Richard Taylor provided a timeline of events that had taken place and said that retrospective permission had been provided. He said that the council should review its processes to ensure that this does not happen again to prevent breaking an agreement and undocumented problems.

Councillor Emma Preece suggested that a Scrutiny Committee might be established to review this matter and others in the future.

Councillor Sam Swash said that it had been the process that some members had challenged and supported Councillor Preece's suggestion of a Scrutiny Committee. The Council should acknowledge that mistakes had been made and move forward.

Some members queried the liability to the council should an accident occur on the hardstanding and that the issue of the hard standing had been for Hawarden Rangers to resolve not the Community Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:**

- (i) that as professional advice had been received and the hardstanding had been declared fit for purpose with no health and safety issues, that the council should accept the current position and move on;

21 Chair's signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Councillors Janet Axworthy, Gillian Brockley, Cheryl Carver, Clive Carver,

*Emma Preece, Dan Preece, Sam Swash and Richard Taylor requested that their names be recorded as having voted against this proposal.)*

- (ii) that consideration be given to the establishment of a Scrutiny Committee at the next meeting.

#### **70/20 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to defer any discussion on this item to December 2021 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on many organisations.

#### **71/20 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE, EWLOE**

Councillor Dave Mackie provided members with an update following the recent meeting of the working group. The new development had now been completed and the transfer of the land would proceed although there had been some outstanding issues between Flintshire County Council, the builder and the Community Council that required resolution.

The Level Road Community Centre had been extremely well used and discussions had been pending about potential funding opportunities for the erection of a new community centre. A work programme had been outlined and would be shared with council as soon as practicable.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the current position.

#### **72/20 HAWARDEN TENNIS CLUB, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Councillor Lowri Earith, Councillor George Hardcastle and the Clerk and Financial Officer had attended a virtual meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December with Rich Wilcock, local tennis coach, and representatives of Tennis Wales. She outlined a proposal from Tennis Wales to invest in the future of the tennis courts at Hawarden.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to invite representatives from Tennis Wales to the Council meeting in January and to defer the request for use of the tennis courts from a third party until after this presentation.

#### **73/30 PARC ADFER COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND – CONSULTATION:**

Councillor Clive Carver advised Members of the Community Benefit Fund which had been provided by Parc Adfer. He had been concerned that upon requesting an application form, Aston had been the only ward eligible in the community of Hawarden. He asked if the Community Council could make representations to Parc Adfer to extend the scheme to all wards and seek clarity of the map used to determine the Deeside strip boundary.

Councillor Bob Connah said that he would also be making representations as Queensferry had not been included.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that the Clerk and Financial Officer write to Parc Adfer as outlined above.

**74/20 EXTENSION OF MEETING:**

Councillors requested that Standing Order No 41 be invoked to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

**75/20 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SUBMISSION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) FOR EXAMINATION:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer had circulated a copy of a letter from Kerry Trueman, the Programme Officer for the LDP examination, outlining the plans for a pre-hearing meeting prior to hearing meetings.

Various members from Ewloe and Mancot wards confirmed that they would be in attendance.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** that Councillor Sam Swash be the Community Council's representative at the hearings.

**76/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS:**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:**

(a) County Council Members:

It was noted 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 were 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.

**77/20 POLICE MATTERS, HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS:**

Members reported the following issues:

- i) Fly tipping problem at Duckers Lane continued to be a problem but members thanked Councillor Ant Turton for removing recent waste.
- ii) A robbery had occurred at Overlea Drive where garden furniture had been stolen and a drone might have been used.
- iii) Members expressed concern about the lack of presence at meeting by local Police Community Support Officers.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to note the update and request the Clerk and Financial Officer to write to North Wales Police to request police attendance at meetings or monthly incident reports for all wards within Hawarden Community Council.

**78/20 EXTENSION OF MEETING:**

Councillors requested that Standing Order No 41 be invoked to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

**79/20 CLERK AND FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The Clerk and Financial Officer advised of the following matters:

- i) the Council's contribution to the Joint Maintenance Agreement for the month of December had been £13,455.
- ii) She had received letters of thanks from all recipients of the annual grants awarded by the Community Council.
- iii) The van used by the Litter Collector had recently been involved in an accident, caused by a third party, and had been taken off the road. Discussions had been ongoing with the insurance company to buy the vehicle back as salvage, repair it and make it road worthy again. In the meantime, a van had been hired at a cost of £108 per week which would be paid for out of the vehicle settlement amount.
- iv) The Clerk and Financial Officer had been pleased to report that she had recently completed her first year of study for the Community Governance Certificate and had achieved a Merit.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to receive and approve the updates.

**80/20 MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Councillor Ralph Small commented on the excellent work that Deeside Round Table had undertaken during the pandemic delivering food parcels and Christmas presents to residents and also to the Rainbow Hospital. He asked if the Council could consider sending a letter of thanks.

Councillor Janet Axworthy suggested that 'thank you' letters be also sent to all care homes and schools in the area for the good work that they had been doing during the pandemic.

Councillor Bob Connah suggested a letter of thanks be sent to the Postmaster in Flint for the van serving as a post office, which had been operating in Mancot once a week for the past few months.

**81/20 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Councillor George Hardcastle wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

25 Chair's signature: \_\_\_\_\_