Item 13

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2021

Present: Councillors R. Taylor (Chairman), Helen Brown, Bob Connah, Lowri Earith, George Hardcastle, Dan Preece, Emma Preece, Darren Sterry and Sam Swash

Also present: Sharron Jones, Clerk and Financial Officer

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

   There were none.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

   There were none.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

   IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 29TH June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4. **INFORMAL AND FORMAL FACEBOOK PAGE:**

   The Chairman said that a complaint had been received about this page by Councillor Helen Brown and asked her to elaborate. Councillor Brown indicated that she had concerns about the informal page following a recent post that had included personal comments and that this was against the principle of the establishment of the page. Any personal comments should be limited to personal Facebook pages.

   A discussion ensued during which members raised concerns about personal comments whilst other members said that this had been a fact not a personal opinion. Members further argued that no personal comments, fact or otherwise, should be posted on the page as agreed.

Other members had also been concerned about the reputational damage to the community council following recent posts and subsequent comments from members of the public.

Members discussed the removal of this page due to the concerns mentioned above but the Chairman refused to delete the page as the page had been set up by him personally. He also said that had he have been able to turn the comments off he would have done and that the point of the page was to share information. Members referred to the need for formal council approval of any decisions and recommendations of the sub-committee with some members stating that formal council resolution had not been required to post notifications.

Councillor George Hardcastle said that he was very disappointed at how this discussion had ensued and requested this his name be removed from the Communications Sub-Committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(i) That as the pilot page had not succeeded it be disbanded and a new Facebook page created managed by the officers at Hawarden Community Council;

(ii) that an item be placed on the agenda for each council meeting to review items to be shared with members of the public for example consultations and good news stories.

5. **RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

The Chairman summarised the separate elements required in order to take this forward as follows:

Implementation
Process and training
Costs
Pros and Cons
Fears or objections

He suggested that members of the sub-committee review and research these areas for consideration at the next meeting but one member suggested that the Clerk and Financial Officer should undertake this work. During discussion an additional element was added as follows:

Legal framework (including new Local Government (Wales) Bill proceeding to parliament.

A discussion ensured where Members discussed their views on costs and resource implications, what can and cannot be recorded (i.e. confidential contract and staffing information) and Data Protection issues.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the sub-committee work to a deadline of May 2021 for the recording of meetings, as previously agreed by council, and that by this time a full costed scheme and transitional process will have been established.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting would take place in approximately four weeks to enable research to be undertaken for item 6 above.