

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA A ZOOM MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2021

Members present: -

Chairperson: Councillor S. Mlewa.

Councillors: Y. Forsey, C Larcombe, N. Ireland, C Evans, S. Jones, K. Hopkins, S. Bowen, N. Upham.

Apologies were received from: -

Councillors: Mrs A Bailey.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

2. MINUTES

As the last meeting was held via Zoom, the following minutes were approved prior to publication on the website to comply with legislation: -

Full Council meeting 2nd December 2020

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Toilet Block – Welfare Grounds

The toilet block rebuild is now complete and open. The Clerk advised that the Community Council has been paid for the use of welfare facilities during the rebuild.

3.2 Tydu Hall Reopening

Members were in receipt of the schedule of regular bookings that attended the hall prior to the March 2020 lockdown. Due to the current Covid 19 restrictions, Tydu Community Hall will remain closed for the time being, and will be discussed further when the restrictions are lifted.

Members acknowledged information received from Newport City Council last month regarding guidance for voluntary managed community centres. Newport City Council's leisure facilities are currently closed for general use.

3.3 Bethesda Rise

At the last meeting members discussed correspondence from residents of Bethesda Rise, Llanmoor Homes and Newport City Council Development Control, in respect of encroachments on the environmental buffer zone between Bethesda Rise and Cefn Wood. At that meeting members agreed that the zone is a necessary environmental buffer between the estate and Cefn Wood therefore Llanmoor Homes have been advised that the Community Council would require the area reinstated as a buffer zone as per the original planning application before accepting the transfer back. Consequently, it was agreed not to consider selling the land to the adjacent residents.

Further correspondence was discussed from a resident of Bethesda Rise, and the Clerk informed members that he had advised the resident of the Council's decision.

3.4 Head Groundsman

Members were very pleased to be advised that Steve Davies is recovering well at home, following an operation; members asked the Clerk to pass on their best wishes to him.

3.5 Dwr Cymru

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that Dwr Cymru have recently taken a water meter reading and advised that the water usage is showing as extraordinarily high. A potential leak was reported to Dwr Cymru earlier in the year by the Head Groundsman, therefore Dwr Cymru were asked to investigate as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk has since contacted the insurers who are arranging to repair the leak; once the leak is repaired and the cause known, hopefully then a further claim for the excess water billed can be made. The bill has been paid by direct debit; details are on the accounts.

4. POLICE MATTERS

4.1 Police Reports have been circulated to members, which members discussed briefly. Questions can be raised at the February meeting when an officer will be attending.

5. CLERKS REPORT

Members acknowledged the Clerks Report.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Public Health Wales - V for Vaccination, the History and Importance of Vaccinations.

The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board IWN Team are offering to give talks to local groups in relation to the history of vaccination and why getting the COVID vaccination is important in terms of containing and significantly reducing the virus in our communities. This is to support the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine to priority groups in Wales which includes people in care homes, older people and people who have a chronic health condition. The talk generally takes around 30 minutes and there is an opportunity for questions. If you are interested in this talk about vaccination please contact Marietta directly at - Marietta.Evans@wales.nhs.uk

Members considered the above email correspondence and agreed that the representative be invited to a meeting of Council. Councillor S. Bowen suggested that he could contact other community groups who may also be interested in the talk.

7. ACCOUNTS

Members approved the following accounts:

Utility Warehouse Gas Tydu Hall, Electric Tydu Hall & outbuildings	£ 338.92
Zoom Monthly fee	£ 14.39
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Screwfix Tools & grounds sundries	£ 304.21
C. Arlett Tydu Hall decoration	£7021.20
S. Davies Smart Lighting – light for hall porch	£ 16.49
A. Griffiths Jubilee Park Management Company contribution to Xmas lighting Jubilee Park residents committee JP	£ 167.98
D. Evans Hall cleaning	£ 364.00
Talk Talk Broadband & phone	£ 62.34
Nathan Evans Xero	£ 23.04
Fuel Genie Fuel van and machinery Part JP	£ 120.02
NCC Bins half JP	£ 443.23
Soil	£ 50.00
Innovation Group Insurance excess (water leak)	£ 125.00
Dwr Cymru Half yearly bill - grounds, all outbuildings, Ty Du House, Tydu Hall	£6709.53
S. Bowen 2 x £50 school competition prizes	£ 100.00
Tracey Carter Diaries, calendars, stationary	£ 37.59
Oliver Budd Chartist plaque CP	£ 60.00

8. PLANNING

8.1 Planning Committee members were in receipt of planning applications.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Precept 2021/22

Members have previously agreed that the precept will be increased annually in line with RPI, and this would ordinarily be discussed at a Finance Committee meeting. As Newport City Council require the information by the 8th of January 2021, it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for this meeting.

Following consideration, it was agreed to increase the annual council tax by RPI (1.6%), which will be an increase of 44.46p per year for a Band D property (rounded to 44p per year), making the annual payment £28.23. (£27.79 2020/2021)

Members also discussed:-

- The number of properties in Rogerstone.
- The rate of build at Jubilee Park.
- The loss of the precept payment from Newport City Council.

9.2 Co-option

The Clerk advised that the 3 applicants for the 2 casual vacancies were invited for an interview (via Zoom), however only 2 candidates turned up.

The interview panel (Councillors, S. Mlewa, S. Bowen & N. Ireland) agreed that both applicants were excellent candidates and recommended they be appointed as members of the Community Council.

Members unanimously approved the recommendation and Thomas Jaynes & Martin Bentley will be advised of the decision.

10. MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT

Lyndon Way

Members discussed at length flooding issues at Lyndon Way and correspondence received from a number of residents in relation to it.

Following consideration of a number of suggestions for remedying the situation, it was agreed that:-

- The flooding issue needs to be investigated, however, the responsibility for the investigation is not a matter for the Community Council.

- The three organisations who are responsible for the various areas under discussion are, Newport City Homes, Newport City Council, and Rogerstone Community Council, therefore a multi agency approach is necessary.
- Rogerstone Community Council are responsible for Cefn Wood, which is a protected ancient woodland. The Council will arrange for a tree survey as soon as practicable; unsafe trees will be removed for safety, any other tree work that needs to be undertaken, will be reported to members for consideration.
- Newport City Homes (as the main land owner) will be asked to undertake a survey.
- Newport City Homes will then be asked to facilitate a meeting to discuss the survey with Newport City Council and Rogerstone Community Council.

Area Recycling

Members discussed the amount of funds in the former Citizens Panel account, which can only be used for capital expenditure. The Clerk agreed to ascertain the amount and report to the next meeting.

Members suggested that the former recycling area on Tregwilym Road could be tidied up, possibly with joint funding from Newport City Council and the former Citizens Panel fund.

Following lengthy discussion members agreed that:-

- The area does need to be made safe and tidied up.
- As the area belongs to Newport City Council, it is their responsibility to undertake the work.
- Funding Newport City Council for work on an area that is their responsibility, after they withdrew the concurrent funding, would not be acceptable to members or residents.

Risca 19 Volunteers

Members discussed the excellent work undertaken by the Risca 19 Volunteers, and the recent Christmas toy collection, which the Community Council was involved with. Members thanked Councillors S. Mlewa, Y. Forsey and S. Bowen for all their hard work assisting with the collection.

Following discussion members agreed that they would like to support the group further, therefore Councillor S. Bowen will liaise with the group at their next meeting.

The Chairperson, asked if Councillor Bowen could arrange a meeting with the two group representatives who attended the Council meeting, so that support could be discussed. The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Forsey will attend.

Section 137

A member asked if some funding could be made available for Section 137 payments (possibly from the former Citizens Panel fund).

Members were reminded that the Community Council have not budgeted for Section 137 applications, due finance decisions made following the concurrent funding being withdrawn. Members can consider reinstating Section 137 payments when considering the new budget estimates however, the former Citizens Panel fund can only be used for capital expenditure.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on the 3rd February 2021.

It was suggested by members that the representative giving the vaccination talk should be invited to a meeting on a different date as the talk is half an hour before questions are taken.