

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA A ZOOM MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2021

Members present: -

Chairperson: Councillor S. Bowen

Councillors: Y. Forsey, C Larcombe, N. Ireland, C Evans, S. Jones, K. Hopkins, , N. Upham, L Hearn,
T. Jaynes, M. Bentley.

Apologies were received from: -

Councillors: S. Mlewa, Mrs A Bailey.

It was agreed that the Deputy Chairperson, Councillor S. Bowen will Chair the meeting.

It was agreed to take item 4. Police Matters, after Declarations of Interest, followed by item 9.1 Marrieta Evans (Public Health Wales - Vaccination Importance).

The Chairperson welcomed new Councillors, T. Jaynes & M. Bentley to the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. POLICE MATTERS

Members welcomed Sergeant Paul Turner to the meeting and invited him to discuss local police matters. The latest Police Report has been circulated to members, and Sergeant Turner read this out.

The following was discussed:-

- Police Surgery dates (on the Police Report), and the possibility of holding virtual surgeries.
- The Rogerstone Ward priority – drug dealing.
- Drug issues in Rogerstone that were reported, and the lack of attendance and feedback.
- Sergeant Turner explained the procedure when crimes are reported.
- Drug issues in the Wern Terrace area.
- Vehicles being driven recklessly in the vicinity of the former Old Oak Stave.
- Police visits to vulnerable people in the Rogerstone area. (Operation Senior).
- Risca CV19 Volunteers and the work they do.
- Breaches of Covid regulations.
- Issues with vehicles parking in streets as the 14 Locks Car Park is closed; officers have taken registration numbers and Covid warning letters have/will be sent.

- The issuing of fixed penalty notices.
- Areas that are currently being patrolled by officers.

The Chairperson thanked Sergeant Turner for attending.

9.1 Marrieta Evans (Public Health Wales - Vaccination Importance)

The Chairperson welcomed Marrieta Evans to the meeting and invited her to give the Public Health Wales Vaccination presentation. Members were provided with a copy of the full presentation prior to the meeting, and the NHS link –<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/about-the-vaccine/#Eligibility>

Ms Evans introduced herself to members and explained that the presentation usually takes an hour, however, this has been reduced to half an hour to allow members to continue with their meeting; members are welcome to email any questions about the presentation if there is not enough time.

Following the presentation members discussed:-

- The anti-vaccine campaign.
- The percentage (85%) of people needed to take up the vaccine to have 'herd immunity'.
- Surveys conducted that suggest 82% to 96% of people are likely to have the vaccination.
- The types of vaccine currently on offer and their effectiveness.
- Side effects, allergies and the vaccine ingredients.
- People who are vaccinated still needing to do Covid safety measures.
- The length of time between vaccine doses, which has now been increased.
- Frontline workers who choose not to have the vaccine and possible implications to their employment.
- Vaccine eligibility.
- Foreign travel.
- The vaccine not being compulsory.
- Vaccine invitations not having the correct telephone number or no telephone number.
- People being offered a vaccine when they have already received their first dose.
- Other events promoting the importance of the vaccine.

Ms Evans advised members that she will email any answers to queries made at the meeting, and reminded them that they are welcome to email her with further questions/queries.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Evans for attending and for giving a very interesting and informative presentation.

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 6th January 2021

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Toilet Block – Welfare Grounds

Following discussion, members agreed to keep the toilet block at the Welfare Grounds closed, due to the difficulty in managing social distancing. The accessible toilet in the grounds is easier to manage as it's one in one out.

3.2 Bethesda Rise

Prior to the meeting the Clerk forwarded a copy of correspondence regarding the buffer zone and Llanmoor Homes. The area needs to be planted in accordance with Newport City Councils planning departments landscape and biodiversity management strategy document (2013) before it can be accepted.

3.3 Head Groundsman

Members were very pleased to hear of the ongoing progress of Steve Davies recovery.

3.4 Dwr Cymru

The Clerk updated members with the Dwr Cymru insurance claim, which is ongoing. The leak has not yet been stopped as the company dealing with this are awaiting specialist equipment. Therefore there will likely be another high water invoice.

3.5 Lyndon Way

Members discussed progress with Newport City Homes arranging a meeting to try and resolve the flooding issues at Lyndon Way. Suggestions for alleviating the issues were discussed as well as the areas of the Community Councils responsibility.

The Clerk reminded members of the decisions made at the last meeting :-

- *The flooding issue needs to be investigated, however, the lead 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.*

The Clerk advised that the boundary trees in Cefn Wood adjacent to Lyndon Way have been inspected and some remedial works will be undertaken by staff; there is nothing that appears to be immediately unsafe in the area, however, a tree specialist will be engaged in due course.

Following further discussion, it was agreed:-

- To request that Newport City Homes involve Dwr Cymru with any meetings/discussions.
- That this needs to be resolved as quickly as possible to ensure the residents do not suffer further flooding in their properties.

3.6 Capital Expenditure

A capital expenditure update was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

It was agreed to discuss projects at a future meeting.

3.7 Section 137

A member again asked if some funding could be made available for Section 137 payments (possibly from the former Citizens Panel fund), and the Clerk reminded members that this was discussed at the last meeting :-

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.

5. POLICE MATTERS

Discussed earlier.

5. CLERKS REPORT

Members acknowledged the Clerks Report (emails are forwarded to members when received), and discussed the following:-

Bee Hive – Allotment

Members considered a request from an allotment tenant to place a poly hive on his plot. Some screening will be utilised to get the bees to lift their flight path above head level. The applicant has experience as a beekeeper and has hives at other locations as well as being a member of the Gwent beekeepers association. It is planned to adopt a natural approach providing bees with a safe stable base to allow better pollination in the area they are located over using them for honey production. This could be of great benefit to the surrounding plots if it was allowed to progress.

Following consideration members agreed to this request subject to:-

- Adjacent allotment tenants being asked for their comments by the next meeting of Council.
- The Head Groundsman agreeing the final location.

It was agreed to place signs (a member agreed to forward a contact for these) on the bee friendly roundabout near Jubilee Park and on the website to let residents know what Rogerstone Community Council is doing to encourage bees in the area.

The Clerk advised that the vacancy for a new Community Councillor has been advertised and the final date for a resident to call for an election is the 3rd February 2021. The Clerk will advise members when information is received from Newport City Council.

Play Park Facilities

Following consideration of a request for the Community Council to provide play facilities on Mount Pleasant Open Space.

Members discussed:-

- The request to fund a neighbourhood survey to see if this is something that is wanted.
- Previous requests for play facilities in the area and members agreeing to keeping the area for residents to use as informal play, exercise and dog walking.
- A feasibility study carried out for a project such as this in 2016.
- The cost, which would be well in excess of £100,000.
- The ongoing costs to inspect and maintain a play facility.
- The facilities provided at the Welfare Grounds.
- Play facilities at Jubilee Park (Jubilee Park Management Company)
- Covenants on the land.
- Newport City Council withdrawing the precept, which supported facilities.
- Newport City Council providing a play facility in the area (on land owned by them).
- The Community Council not having available funds to facilitate this request.

It was agreed to advise the residents that for many of the above reasons, members cannot consider a new children's play park in the area, which is to be retained as public open space for recreation, informal play and responsible dog walking.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence to consider.

7. ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were approved:-

Zoom	
Monthly fee	14.39
Aviva	
Van insurance	608.00
Burial Board	
20/21 precept	992.00

T. Carter

Galleon Supplies – Wiper rolls – grounds	94.05
CBG – face masks (500) – grounds	92.94
Newport CC Bins (half JP)	443.23
Fuel Genie Fuel	77.31
Post Office JP	1.53
Amazon Stationary	3.50
TalkTalk Broadband & phone	67.14
Screwfix Tools sundries – grounds	26.19
Utility Warehouse Gas Tydu Hall & electricity Tydu Hall & outbuildings	451.59
Blueton Folding bollard JP	313.20
Ted Hopkins – all JP Kawasaki bedliner	8016.00
Kawasaki ½ cab	1908.95
Backpack	67.20
Blower	252.00
Oil & sundries	134.17
Chainsaw	467.24
Chain	30.00

8. PLANNING

- 8.1** Planning Committee members were in receipt of planning applications and discussed the planning application on the former Old Oak Stave site, which has received approval.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Marrieta Evans (Public Health Wales - Vaccination Importance)

Discussed earlier.

9.2 Burial Board

Members discussed:-

- The last Burial Board meeting minutes.
- The positive improvement in meetings and the running of the Board.
- The cemetery survey, which is being firmed up.
- The change in in the number of burial plots available.
- The Board no longer needing to 'wind up' due to a lack of burial plots.
- The revise drawing show 45 plots available, with an additional 40 being available if the unused road area is used for plots (as previously discussed), over 90 pre-purchased and not yet used plots as well as a significant capacity for second interments in existing plots. There are also over 50 cremated remains plots available.
- The demand for plots since January 2020 has been 22 burials (including cremated remains), which are 50% new plots & 50% second interments in existing plots.
- Fees and charges, are to be revised to be in line with Newport City Council from April 2021.
- Reserves are healthy (£75,000), therefore the Burial Board precept will not be increased for the Community Councils, RCC - £992 (62%) & GCC- £608 (38%) for 2021/22.
- The tribunal update from Graig Community Council.
- Handing over the running of the Burial Board to Newport City Council.
- Graig Community Council still wanting equal representation and not wanting the running of the cemetery to be handed over to Newport City Council.
- Graig Community Council stating that they are happy for Rogerstone Community Council to be the employer of the new Clerk to the Burial Board.
- Rogerstone Community Council having staff policies etc. already in place, and the preference to employ the new Clerk 'on the books'.
- The improvement of the maintenance of the burial ground in the past year.
- Newport City Council may not maintain the burial ground to the same standard that it is now if they were to take on the running of the Board.
- A formal request for Newport City Council to take over the cemetery not proceeding.

Members agreed that they wish to continue with the current representation of members on the Board, and not request the service is transferred to the City Council.

10. MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT

New Members Pack

It was suggested that a members pack could be produced to show areas of land etc. managed by the Council.

Chartist Mural

The Clerk agreed to arrange for a sticker to be removed from the site.

Litter Pick – Cefn Road Garage Area

The Clerk advised that a litter pick had recently been undertaken by staff and that some other remedial works had been carried out. A member asked if a further litter pick could take place to the area leading to field gate.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on the 3rd March 2021. A separate Finance and Leisure meeting will not be held as the precept has already been decided, and the charges for facilities have previously been agreed to rise by RPI. The budget estimates and fees will be an agenda item at the main meeting.