

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA A ZOOM MEETING ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

Members present: -

Chairperson: Councillor S. Mlewa

Councillors: J. Reynolds, B. Davies, Y. Forsey, S. Jones, C. Larcombe, , N. Ireland, N. Upham, K. Hopkins,
M. Bentley.

Apologies were received from: -

Councillors: C. Evans, S. Bowen.

The Chairperson welcomed new Community Councillor J. Reynolds to the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Members briefly discussed the criteria for declaring an interest at a meeting.

2. MINUTES

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

1st December 2021

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Tregwilm Road Traffic Issue

Councillor Y. Forsey updated members on the above and advised that she will confirm details at the next meeting.

3.2 Lyndon Way Drainage Works

Members discussed the recent inclement weather and correspondence from a resident. The Clerk advised that the drainage at Lyndon Way is working as expected and that the reën is inspected every month by staff; any issues reported between inspections are dealt with promptly.

3.3 CCTV

The Clerk updated members on the installation of CCTV at Jubilee Park and the CCTV improvements at the Welfare Grounds. SSE has installed the power supply and replaced some lamps at Jubilee Park that were not working (£300 each).

3.4 Jubilee Park

Following information from a member about the comments submitted by the Community Council to Newport City Council regarding additional houses at Jubilee Park, members discussed the planning process further. The Clerk confirmed that all members have been sent copies of correspondence confirming the comments submitted were noted by Newport City Council.

3.5 Roof Glazing – Tydu Community Hall

The Clerk advised that working drawings are being submitted for the above works, and it will be established if double or single glazing can be fitted to the roof of Tydu Community Hall. Double glazing is the preferred option if practicable; work is expected to commence towards the end of January 2022.

3.6 Maintenance – Newport City Council

Members discussed the correspondence received last month regarding the grass cutting at open spaces in Rogerstone; the Clerk has written to Newport City Council and is awaiting a response.

3.7 Resident – Mount Pleasant Open Space

At the last meeting members discussed correspondence from a resident requesting play facilities at Mount Pleasant Open Space and it was agreed at that meeting that the resident be advised that at this point in time a play area was not feasible, due to the initial costs and ongoing maintenance. A play area in this area has been discussed previously and a feasibility study undertaken; a further study would incur additional fees and the outcome is very likely to be the same.

The Clerk confirmed that following the last meeting the resident was advised of the decision, however, has written again and members are in receipt of the correspondence.

Members discussed:-

- The cost for a new play facility and ongoing costs.
- The Community Council not having funds for a new play facility; if funding were available targeting the area with the greatest need would be the priority.
- Rogerstone as a whole and play facilities provided by the Community Council and Newport City Council.
- Newport City Council withdrawing the annual precept (approx. £64,000), which helped to fund facilities managed/maintained by the Community Council for many years.
- Open spaces and their recreational value to residents.
- Possible Section 106 funding via the proposed development at the former Old Oak Stave.
- Play facilities already being discussed for Cefn Wood, which has a large catchment area.
- Information provided by the resident, which would need to be substantiated.

- The Newport City Council document, 'Outdoor Play Space - SPG- Adopted Version Jan 2017'. Members agreed an updated version of this document would be useful.
- The Welfare Grounds play and recreational facilities use.

3.8 Members Absence

The Clerk advised that following Councillor Mrs V. Dudley's absence from meetings for over 6 months, with no mitigating circumstances forwarded, she has been disqualified from office, therefore the position is vacant. As the election is so close there is no requirement to advertise the vacancy, however, members may co-opt if they wish. Following discussion members agreed to consider this and the timescales at the next meeting.

Following consideration of information regarding Councillor Mrs A. Bailey, it was agreed to extend the dispensation for non-attendance until the May 2022 elections.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Police reports are emailed to members when received and put on the website.

5. CLERKS REPORT

Members acknowledged the Clerks Report and correspondence forwarded prior to the meeting.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils

The Clerk spoke briefly about the above document (link forwarded previously), and encouraged members to read the information, which will have implications for Rogerstone Community Council. Members agreed this can be discussed by a working group when the document is finalised.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Alex Donne – Disc Golf

Members were in receipt of correspondence from Alex Donne, which was received yesterday. Following consideration members approved Alex submitting a bid for the disc golf, subject to final agreement of the course layout with the Head Groundsman and possibly a reduced number of holes so that the cost is covered by the grant bid as outlined.

7. ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were approved:

Nathan Evans Ltd	
Budget Estimates	£ 510.00
Xero	£ 24.96
Monthly fee accounts JP	£ 240.00

M. Jones Gardening Services Grass cutting Jubilee Park JP	£1750.00
CQ Cleaning Tydu Hall & public toilets cleaning	£ 576.00
Welsh Water Water - Tydu Hall, Ty Du House, toilets, other outbuildings & grounds (1/2 yearly) (Insurance claim ongoing)	£6180.12
Ted Hopkins Grounds machinery repairs	£ 96.98
Grounds machinery repairs	£ 46.15
T. Carter - Amazon ink (SD), diaries/calendars	£ 81.00
TalkTalk Broadband & phone	£ 59.94
Screwfix Tools & sundries grounds	£ 129.52
Fuelgenie Fuel for van & machinery	£ 205.66
Zoom Monthly charge	£ 14.39
Monthly charge	£ 14.39
Utility Warehouse Gas & electricity	£ 306.99
Gas & electricity	£ 732.83
P J Rauch Ground work at Jubilee Park JP	£3480.00
Newport City Council Spring bedding – Welfare Grounds	£1362.24
Bins ½ RCC ½ JP	£ 340.56
L. Davies Electrical work - grounds	£265.00

8. PLANNING

Planning Committee members were in receipt of all planning applications.

Members briefly discussed plans for the former Old Oak Stave.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Budget Estimates

Prior to the meeting members were forwarded the budget estimates prepared by Nathan Evans Ltd. (Appendix 1).

The Clerk went through the budget estimates and discussed:-

- The RPI, which at the time of preparation of the budget estimates was based on the October 2021 percentage – 6%.
- Utility payback.
- Jubilee Park phase 2 and the reimbursement of expenses, such as salaries etc.
- Burial Board income – reimbursement for grounds services undertaken by staff.
- Other receipts, such as sale of old tractor, RWCC contribution to a new roller and wayleave payments etc.
- Salary increases (includes Jubilee Park labour, which is reimbursed).
- National increase for utilities and materials in general.
- Reinstatement of Section 137 payments.
- Election expenses
- Special items, Tydu Hall roofing etc. (former Citizens Panel funding).
- Transfers to and from renewals etc.
- The annual loss of approximately £64,000 following the withdrawal of funds from Newport City Council and the budget plan members agreed previously.

Following consideration members approved the budget estimates.

9.2 Annual Precept

Members approved the annual increase of 6% based on band D properties, £29.92 per annum (28.22 21/22), an increase of £1.70 per year. The RPI for November (published after the preparation of the estimates) was 7.1%, however, members agreed to apply the lower October rate.

9.3 Carbon Literacy Training

Following discussion, Councillor N. Ireland agreed to attend the course, and Councillor M. Bentley agreed to deputise in should Councillor Ireland not be able to attend the online sessions.

Councillor Ireland will contact Pamela Tasker at Newport City Council to make the arrangements.

9.4 Cleaning Contract

Members agree to exclude the press and public due to the commercial sensitivities.

10. MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT

Outdoor Table Tennis

The tables are currently situated on grass, which may become slippery when wet, therefore members agreed to have a new more suitable surface under/around the tables.

School Governor

Following resignation of Councillor C. Larcombe as School Governor of Rogerstone Primary School, Councillor J. Reynolds was nominated to take his place.

Meetings

Following a request by a member to resume meetings face to face at the hall, it was agreed to continue with Zoom meetings due to restrictions.

The Clerk reminded members that the The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils discussed earlier suggested multi location meetings, (nothing to do with Covid restrictions). Members may decide to continue with remote or hybrid meetings as this may suit members. It was agreed to look at this when the document is finalised.

Mount Pleasant Open Space- path replacement

Following consideration members approved a tarmac path at the above location, which will be more practical for public use and longer lasting than relaying a gravel path.

Members also discussed:-

- The new recycling bin for cans, which should have had a lid. Staff advise that so far this bin has been used for general refuse by the public rather than the purpose it was intended for.
- An email to Councillor S. Jones.
- Café tenders (closing date 31.1.22)

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 2nd February 2022 (Zoom) .

The Clerk gave his apologies for this meeting.