

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
TYDU COMMUNITY HALL WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2023

Members present: -

Chairperson: Councillor S. Mlewa

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

Apologies were received from: -

Councillors: M Bentley, L. Cummings, R. Howells, B. Davies, A. Hobbs.

Members agreed to take item 4, 'Police Matters', prior to other agenda items, to allow the officer to return to duty.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Members welcomed Sergeant Paul Turner to the meeting, who read out the December police report out for Members.

The following was discussed: -

- Police Surgeries – 24th January & 23rd February 2-3pm, at the 14 Locks Canal Centre. A member asked for this information to be provided to members directly so that it can be shared with members of the public.
- Drugs in Rogerstone, arrests made and ongoing investigations.
- The importance of the public reporting all crime.
- Burglaries in the area.
- Sexual offences mentioned in the report.
- Traffic incidents.
- Parking and leaflet drops.
- Residents being encouraged by seeing the PCSO's out and about; the Chairperson asked that thanks be passed on to the officers.
- Issues at the schools discussed previously which has improved.

The Chairperson thanked the officer for attending.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 7th December 2022 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Newport Transporter Bridge

The Clerk confirmed that the presentation had been received and forwarded to members as requested.

3.2 The Glade Café

The Clerk confirmed that he had met with the proprietor of the Glade Cafe, and had agreed the following: -

- All electricity usage will be paid for by the Glade Cafe proprietors.
- Payment will be in arrears, and begins from the December reading, and charges won't be backdated.
- The rent for the hut will be temporarily reduced by half, £75 for the winter period and £150 thereafter up until April 2023, when the contract will be reviewed, in accordance with the tenancy agreement.
- £250 to be paid on account towards the electricity (this was reduced from the £600 requested).

Members approved the actions of the Clerk and agreement made, and discussed the following: -

- Inaccurate information on social media pages, which hopefully has been rectified.
- The importance of the proprietors working with the Community Council and ensuring any inaccurate social media information posted on their site etc. is addressed quickly.
- The financial help provided to the proprietors, as well as closing the tennis courts early and permitting free use of the tennis court area and extended opening times.
- Members agreed that the use of electricity by the Glade Cafe is out of the Councils control and can only be addressed by the proprietors.
- Members reiterated that the Community Council cannot subsidise any independent business from public funds.

The Clerk agreed to report any changes to members.

3.3 Traffic /Parking/Jubilee Park

Members noted the Health Boards response to Councillor Y. Forsey's freedom of interest request to Aneurin Bevan UHB made in November 2022 –

With reference to FOI 17088 – this stated that the Rogerstone "Practice is looking to reconfigure its premises to allow more consultation space in the future."

This FOI reply was issued on 20 March 2017.

Please can you tell me if the premises were reconfigured?

And if so please can you tell me how many consulting rooms were added and how many there are now?

The practice wrote to the Health Board in 2017 to ask for the Health Board to consider the increase in new housing stock in the immediate area and the impact of accommodating the potential increase in patients at their practice. The practice submitted an improvement grant proposal which was prioritised by the Health Board, but not progressed due to funding constraints on both the practice and the Health Board, therefore the number of consulting rooms remained the same.

Members discussed other issues at Jubilee Park and it was noted that as the developer is responsible for areas prior to Newport City Council taking over the adopted areas, planning enforcement won't address the issues.

3.4 Dog Control Signage – Welfare Grounds/Jubilee Park

The Clerk advised that he had received a small amount of correspondence regarding the above, however, as staff have not had enough time to monitor the situation in the grounds, a summary will be presented at the March 2023 meeting.

3.5 Festival Committee

Councillor S. Bowen advised members of the balance in the Festival Committees accounts and advised members that no invoice has been received from St Johns Ambulance Services yet.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Police reports are circulated via email when received, no report has been received for December, therefore this will be requested.

Police matters were dealt with at the start of the meeting.

5. CLERKS REPORT

Members acknowledged the Clerks Report and the correspondence received prior to the meeting. The following was discussed: -

RWCC

Members acknowledged correspondence received from Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club and approved the club's improvement plans.

Cross Country Race 12.3.23 9-12.30 - Lliswerry Runners

Members approved the request to hold this at High Cross Open Space, subject to the usual proviso's: - litter pick after the event, risk assessment, insurance, reinstatement of any damage etc.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

There was no additional correspondence.

7. ACCOUNTS

Zoom

Monthly charge

£ 14.39

Newport City Council Bins ½ RCC ½ JP	£ 433.33
Nathan Evans Ltd	
Xero fees	£ 26.88
Salary fee	£114.00
Xero fees JP	£240.00
Xero fees JP	£240.00
Budget estimates	£510.00
Vodafone	
Broadband	£ 34.00
T. Carter	
Amazon - fridge (grounds staff)	£129.99
Lamps Direct – led bulbs room	£ 47.52
Amazon – conference speaker	£ 53.54
Amazon – sound core mini	£ 17.79
Fuel Genie	
Fuel for van & machinery	£288.04
D. Evans	
Cleaning hall & outside toilets Nov	£520.00
Cleaning hall & outside toilets Dec	£520.00
Griffiths Signs	
Signs JP	£840.30
S. Davies	
Auto Spares – van part	£ 8.16
Screwfix	
Tools & sundries (grounds)	£ 149.93
Utility Warehouse	
Utilities (hall, grounds, grounds buildings, Glade Cafe)	£2175.74
A. Holdaway (Glade Cafe)	
Remembrance Sunday refreshments	£ 200.00
Half rent refund December	£ 75.00
Welsh Water	
Half yearly usage (Hall, grounds, grounds buildings, Glade Cafe, Ty Du House)	£1458.17
Water JP	£ 42.91

Branched Out Tree Services		
Tree cutting work		£ 840.00
Tree cutting work JP		£1260.00
Shaw Heating		
Mains stop tap replacement		£ 84.00
ICO		
Annual fee JP		£ 35.00
Saldo (Purideal)		
Tydu Hall – toilets/ drains unblocked		£ 96.00
Francis Wilks Jones		
Legal fees	JP	£ 138.60
Legal fees	JP	£ 183.60
Legal fees	JP	£ 891.00
Legal fees	JP	£ 731.00
Legal fees	JP	£ 370.00

8. PLANNING

Members on the interim planning committee are emailed plans as and when received.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Budget Estimates

Members were in receipt of the budget estimates for 23/24, prepared by Nathan Evans Ltd. on behalf of the Council (Appendix 1).

The Clerk went through the document page by page and the following was discussed: -

- The tax base that was notified by Newport City Council, which is 25 properties less than the previous year. (The Clerk has asked Newport City Council the reason for this).
- The boundary changes.
- The estimates being based on 10.47%, which was the RPI when the estimates were prepared by the accountant. As the precept has not yet been agreed this can be adjusted when members have finalised the precept.
- Newport City Councils council tax increase, which has not yet been finalised.
- Utility costs.
- Insurance claim and the possibility that the part of the money refunded for water usage, may have to be paid back.
- Staff pay, NJC rise, ni & pension costs.
- Jubilee Park income.
- Expenditure items for 23/24 and beyond, such as the car park at the Welfare Grounds, building maintenance, electric van etc.

- Transfers & renewals.
- Facility fees.
- Hall income, which has improved since the Covid closures.
- Election costs.
- The withdrawal of funding by Newport City Council.

Following consideration, members approved the budget estimates, subject to the precept amount for 23/24 being confirmed on the next agenda item.

9.2 2023/2024 Precept

Members discussed the current precept amount, which is £29.92 per annum for Band D properties, and the need to balance increasing the precept to support the public facilities, whilst being mindful of the current financial difficulties for many people. Members felt that 10.47% discussed earlier (an extra £3.13 per annum), was too high. Following further debate, it was agreed: -

- To increase the precept by the same percentage as Newport City Council, which is likely to be less than 10%
- Not to increase any of the facility and sports fees for 23/24.

9.3 Annual schedule of events

Members discussed: -

- The events in the diary for 2023
 - Remembrance Sunday
 - Carol Service
- Possible events for 2023
 - A number of small events, for example, a drop in coffee morning
 - Coronation celebration around the 6th May
 - Rogerstone Festival, usually the first Sunday in September
- Encouraging new members to join the committee.
- Promoting events via social media.
- Holding a committee meeting.

It was agreed that the committee will meet arrange a meeting to discuss events, and all members are welcome to attend an/or to make suggestions for events.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **1st February 2023** in the Chambers and via Zoom.

Councillors N. Ireland and K. Hopkins gave their apologies for the next meeting.