

**ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
TYDU COMMUNITY HALL WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2023**

Members present: -

Chairperson: Councillor S. Mlewa

Councillors: S. Bowen, S. Jones, C Larcombe, N. Ireland, N. Upham, K Hopkins, Y Forsey,
M Bentley, L. Cummings, R. Howells, A. Hobbs, B. Davies, J. Reynolds.

Apologies were received from: -

Councillors J. Gibbons

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. RIVER BANK EROSION

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded members of the public of the protocol at Community Council meetings. Members of the public are welcome to observe the meeting, but not take part.

Public questions may be permitted at the end of the meeting if time permits.

The Clerk explained that the meeting has been called to discuss the river bank erosion and the closure of the footpath by Newport City Council due to safety reasons.

The following was discussed by members: -

- The ownership of the land – which is unregistered.
- The meeting with Newport City Council on the 10th of January, where the City Council advised there was no appetite to register the land but suggested that Rogerstone Community Council may wish to, as then the City Council may be able to secure grants from the Welsh Government.
- The Clerk explained that there are certain actions that have to be clearly demonstrated for a successful possessory title claim, one of which is that the claimant has maintained the land for a period in excess of 12 years, which the Community Council cannot do. It would therefore be challenging for the Community Council to register the land.
- Grants only being secured on registered land.
- The risks associated with taking responsibility for the land, and the uncertainty of initial and continued funding of the land.
- The Community Council not having the resources to take responsibility for the land.
- Newport City Councils costs for flooding at Carnegie Court in Bassaleg.
- Responsibility by the local authority to maintain and repair rights of way.
- Active travel plan.
- The flood wall.

- Alternative routes.
- The benefits to residents having the path reinstated.
- Discussions on the issue of the footpath closure by the Community Council earlier last year.
- The Community Council requesting an options appraisal from Newport City Council and being advised in July 2022 that Newport City Council were carrying this out for the footpath and that it would be available in early 2023.
- A member read out comments made during questions at the Senedd (17.1.23) from Julie James MS, which stated that *'The local authority also needs to contact us—I notice that Newport isn't on my list, I'm afraid. So, they need to make sure that they're contacting us as the flood management authority to make sure that they're taking advantage of Welsh Government assistance as well, and I'll certainly make sure that we do that the other way round in this instance'*. Full information - <https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13187#A77123>
- The Cabinet Member for Climate Change (Newport City Council) was asked if Newport City Council would contact the minister's office; in response the member referred to the statement already published by Newport City Council.
- The Cabinet Member also stated that Newport City Council has to spend wisely on its statutory obligations before other areas, and this area is not a statutory responsibility for the City Council.
- Concern with the flood wall safety and the rigorous safety checks that are carried out.
- The flood walls design and purpose.
- Jubilee Park Management Company Ltd., who are responsible for the wall, but not the footpath.
- The planning process for Jubilee Park and the approval of the estate and wall by Newport City Council.
- Legalities and risks associated with this area of land.
- A suggestion for the Community Council to engage a barrister.
- The Welsh Government.
- Natural Resources Wales and their responsibilities.
- The local flood plans.
- Risk Management authorities and their role and responsibilities.
- Newport City Council, Jubilee Park Management Ltd., and the Community Council working together.
- The City Council taking the lead on the issue as they are the local authority have the resources.
- The urgency in addressing this issue.

To progress matters following a vote (11 for, 2 abstentions), it was agreed that: -

The Community Council will act as a conduit (not leading or taking responsibility for the land), in bringing together the Welsh Government, Newport City Council, Natural Resources Wales, Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company and Rogerstone Community Council and endeavour to find a solution to the issue.

The Chairperson, Councillor S. Mlewa will liaise with the Clerk regarding the arrangements for a meeting as soon as possible; any progress will be reported on the website.