

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS MEETING HELD AT TYDU COMMUNITY HALL
3RD JANUARY 2024

Members present:-

Chairperson: Councillor S. Bowen

Councillors: N. Ireland, S. Jones, K Hopkins, Y Forsey, B. Davies, A. Hobbs, C Larcombe, G. Foley,
J. Gibbons, J. Reynolds.

Apologies: S. Mlewa, N. Upham

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations at this point in the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 6th December 2023 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Remembrance Sunday

Following discussion members agreed to put Remembrance Sunday on the March agenda.

3.2 Carol Service

Following discussion members agreed to:-

- Arrange a date for this years carol service, which was agreed as 12th December.
- Ask Rogerstone Band to attend the service on the 12th December.
- Councillor Reynolds agreed that his community singing group will also attend the service.
- Consider a collection for a charitable cause at the service.
- Check with local schools regarding their concerts etc.
- Use more social media options to engage the community.
- Agenda the item for March.

3.3 Local Schools & Newport Norse

Members discussed the comments made at the last meeting regarding concerns with the way maintenance is carried out and the charges made by Newport Norse. The official process for raising issues and how they are progressed was also discussed.

3.4 RLDP Rogerstone Candidate Sites

The Clerk confirmed that the comments agreed by members to be submitted on behalf of the Community Council were as follows:-

CS-0027 Land at Chartist Drive 1.7 hectares up to 50 dwellings

We have concerns in respect of:

Traffic accessing the development off a busy roundabout at peak time

Additional demand on health facilities & schools

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

CS-0030 Newport Golf Club (Site 1) 3.2 hectare up to 70 dwellings

We OBJECT to this site being developed on the following grounds:

Road access off an unsuitable estate road

Traffic congestion to the Ruskin Avenue / Cefn Road junction

Deterioration in air quality levels from queuing traffic

Additional demand on health facilities & schools

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

Detrimental effect to the character of the area

Ecological impact

CS-0031 Newport Golf Club (Site 2) 1.2 hectares up to 25 dwellings

We have concerns in respect of

Traffic accessing the development adjacent to a bend on a busy road (at peak times)

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

CS-0033 Land at Cwrt Camlas 2.95 hectares up to 70 dwellings

We OBJECT to this site being developed on the following grounds:

Increase in traffic close to a children's hospital

Traffic congestion at the junction of Ffordd Camlas / High Cross Road

Deterioration in air quality levels from queuing traffic

Additional demand on health facilities & schools

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

CS-0036 Cwm Farm 15 hectares - not stated but anticipated to be 450 - 600 dwellings

We OBJECT to this site being developed on the following grounds:

The scale of this proposal is a huge overdevelopment of the area

Road access off a rural lane with severe restrictions (single carriageway pinch point) at 14 Locks & Groes Road

Severe traffic congestion to the Ruskin Avenue / Cefn Road junction

Deterioration in air quality levels from queuing traffic

Additional demand on health facilities & schools

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

Detrimental effect to the character of the area, it is close to Ynys-y-fro resevoir, the historic 14 Locks canal site & conservation area

Ecological impact

CS-0043 Land to the South & West of Bettws 13.2 hectares up to 450 dwellings & 1.5 hectare employment

This site is within the Bettws not Rogerstone boundary, however we have concerns over the potential traffic impact & congestion on Cefn Lane for vehicles heading West

CS-0044 Land at Risca Road North West of Woodland Drive

We have concerns in respect of:

Additional demand on health facilities & schools

Can the utilities cope with the additional demand

The comments were submitted and acknowledged as received by Newport City Council.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Members are forwarded the Police Reports when received.

5. CLERKS REPORT

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

Audit report & Response

Members discussed the audit response (circulated when received) and subsequent correspondence following that.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Section 137

An application from La Leche has been received and will be considered with any others received after the closing date 1st March.

7. ACCOUNTS

Where marked JP – charged to Jubilee Park not RCC. All include VAT where applicable (reclaimable for RCC not JP).

Approved –

Zoom Monthly charge	£ 15.59
Ryan PC Repairs IT equipment repair JP	£ 60.00
ICO Annual fee JP	£ 35.00
Fuelgenie Van & machinery	£240.01
Octopus Gas & electricity (this includes the Glades electricity, which is paid back monthly). (Includes credit of £326.16 for previous bill)	£923.28
Newport City Council Bins ½ RCC ½ JP	£450.67
Perrot Engineering Chainsaw repair	£ 48.00
Nathan Evans Ltd Budget estimates Monthly accounts JP Monthly accounts JP	£510.00 £240.00 £240.00
Dustpan & Brush Company Sweeping brushes & mop (hall)	£ 44.05
Branched Out Cut branches, Welfare Grounds, clear light column Reservoir Close, take down 2 dead trees in field & remove waste. Spray Japanese Knotweed behind defence wall JP	£840.00 £320.00
DEAL Blower & machinery oil	£647.11
Rogerstone Festival Section 137 (kindness award)	£ 56.95
Eurooffice Bin bags, toilet rolls, hand wash – wardens/grounds	£296.82

Amazon	
Metal bucket, mopheads, brushes	£ 87.88
(mop & some brushes, not received – refunded £38.97)	
Welsh Water	
Water/sewerage – grounds and all buildings, including café, house, hall, toilets	£2209.99
(half yearly)	
Francis Wilkes Jones	
Legal fees Jubilee Park	£ 405.00
Legal fees Jubilee Park	£ 54.00
Legal fees Jubilee Park	£ 81.00
L. Davies	
Electrical work JP	£ 105.00

Following questions from members, the Clerk advised that:-

- The Jubilee Park purchases are for information only and are paid for from the Jubilee Park account (or transferred as necessary). These purchases are in the Jubilee Park accounts at the end of the year.
- As previously discussed, the Francis Wilkes Jones costs are for debt recovery when the debt collection process by the appointed company has been exhausted; legal fees are recovered where possible.

8. PLANNING

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

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Casual Vacancies

The Clerk reported on the recent interest in the casual vacancies.

Following consideration, it was agreed to :-

- Circulate details to members.
- Advertise the vacancies again with no closing date.
- Consider a new advert to be drafted by the Clerk to include the role and responsibilities of a Community Councillor.
- Advertise the approved advert in the noticeboards and website and forward a copy to members so they can promote on social media etc.

9.2 Budget Estimates

The budget estimates (appendix 1) prepared by Nathan Evans Ltd were forwarded to members prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the estimates at length and following a number of queries, which were answered by the Clerk, the estimates were approved.

A member requested salary and hours for Community Council/Jubilee Park Management staff. It was agreed this would be forwarded confidentially to all members before the next meeting.

Councillor J. Reynolds declared an interest in the next item as a hirer of the hall.

9.3 Facility Fees

Following consideration, members agreed to increase all facility fees by 5% to the nearest 5p (appendix 2). This includes, hall fees, sports fees, Ty Du House (press & public excluded), allotments, garage spaces.

A member requested the tennis income for 2023, and made a suggestion to look into an online booking system.

The Café rent will revert to the original tender amount from 1st April 2024, the reduction period to end 31.3.24.

9.4 2024 /2025 Precept

Members discussed:-

- Concerns with being asked to set the precept by Newport City Council before the City Council has announced their increase.
- Last year's decisions.
- The previous agreement to raise the precept by RPI annually.
- The month that the RPI is taken from for the increase (usually November, published December).
- The RPI being considered – 5.3%

It was unanimously agreed to:-

- Increase the annual precept by 5%, which is an increase of £1.63 per year, taking the total amount to £34.30 for Band D properties.

9.5 Footpath 406/58/1 Closure Notice Consultation

Members were in receipt of the above notice received by Newport City Council on the 21st December for circulation/ display on the 22nd December.

The following was discussed:-

- The footpath has been closed for well over a year by Newport City Council, yet the notice was received close to the Christmas period and has a relatively short consultation duration, due to the Christmas holiday period.
- Active travel benefits of the existing route.
- An online petition
- Public opinion.
- The original traffic free route being well used (not just by Jubilee Park residents).
- The Community Councils endeavours to get the path reinstated.
- Newport City Council have advised there is insufficient funding available to consider a collaborative approach to reinstate the public footpath, when approached by the Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Ltd. However, no details of the proposal or costs were requested.
- Alternative routes, which need to be safe.
- A proposal by Newport City Council to review the safety of the proposed new route, which will incur costs.
- Other areas in Rogerstone that would benefit from road safety improvements.
- Alternative proposals that have been discussed for the path, such as a bridge etc.
- Childrens right to play.
- Other residential areas in Rogerstone, who access the Welfare Grounds via roadways.
- The importance of the flood wall being safe from erosion as a priority for the Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Ltd.
- The possibility of further erosion further down the riverside should the original footpath be reinstated.
- The land not being registered.
- The fact that most would wish for the path to be reinstated, but the reality that the funds are limited.
- Unpopular decisions that may have to be taken.
- Erosion in other areas.

It was agreed that:-

- The Clerk will draft an objection to the closure on behalf of the Community Council, and circulate for members to comment before submitting.*
- The Community Councils objections will be posted on the website and the minutes when finalised.
- As is usual, members are able to comment on the notice individually, as are members of the public.

Members of the public attending via Zoom were reminded of the meeting protocol, participation is To observe only. Persons who continued to speak despite being reminded of the protocol were removed from Zoom to enable the meeting to continue.

* Following a number of comments, the following objection was submitted:-

The existing public footpath is a traffic free route used for active travel which is (was) very well used by residents from the adjacent housing estate, comprising approximately 900 dwellings as well as being used by many others.

This route is an attractive riverside route which encourages active travel to the sports and leisure facilities at the adjacent Rogerstone Welfare Grounds. The alternative route is approximately a mile longer which involves walking along some busy roads, in particular Tregwilym Road, which is also a bus route with some serious areas of safety concerns. This route does nothing to encourage walking.

There are associated issues which relate to our objection which are also worthy of consideration:

The footpath has been closed for well in excess of one year, yet the formal consultation notice period was posted 3 days before Christmas, which is not conducive to achieving full and proper community engagement, therefore the period of consultation should be extended and re-publicised.

Jubilee Park (Rogerstone Management Company Limited) have offered to work jointly with Newport City Council, both in terms of operationally and financially to reinstate the riverbank in order to re-establish the footpath. This formal offer has been refused without what we would consider to be due consideration of the options and Rogerstone Community Council were surprised to hear very recently that Newport City Council were planning to review road safety measures on the proposed diversion route. Surely it would be mutually beneficial and more importantly in the community's interest for the proposed budget to be used in a collaborative approach with Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Company Limited to re-establish the existing riverside route?

*Councillor Y. Forsey has asked that the following be noted on the above submission:-
I do not agree with the statement on the following two points -
It is not an active travel route
NCC have given due consideration of the JPMC proposal.*

9.6 Flexible Retirement Request

Press and public excluded from the details of the request.

The request was subsequently approved unanimously.

10. URGENT MATTERS

The Deputy Chairperson discussed the historical fact that the Parish Council has now been the Community Council (in Wales) for 50 years.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed to be **Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7pm**