

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS MEETING HELD AT TYDU COMMUNITY HALL
6th MARCH 2024

Members present:-

Chairperson: Councillor S. Bowen

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

Apologies:- Councillors: A. Hobbs

Members discussed the recent funeral that was held for Sally Mlewa, which was well attended by family, friends and members of the community. Members spoke about the amount of involvement that Sally had in various community matters, not just in Rogerstone, which some people were unaware of. It was agreed that Sally was a wonderful person who spoke from the heart and that the funeral was a celebration of life.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J. Reynolds declared an interest in an application he had submitted for the Section 137 agenda item, and it was agreed that he will leave the room while that is being discussed.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 7th February 2024 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Members are forwarded the Police Reports when received.

A member was pleased to note that the recent report included a number to contact if drug dealing was suspected.

5. CLERKS REPORT

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

The following was discussed:-

Resident Correspondence – Lyndon Way

Members discussed the correspondence from a resident at Lyndon Way regarding the reën, as well as the Clerk and Head Groundsman's information.

The Clerk had advised members prior to the meeting that:-

Works were carried out in the area a few years ago and the reën has not overtopped since then; the Community Council worked with Newport City Homes who put a substantial land drain adjacent to the reën, so that if it did ever overtop, the water would be taken away and not flood houses.

The Community Council staff inspect the area at least weekly in the autumn and winter months and more often if the weather is particularly bad.

A hedge will be planted across the open area adjacent to the car park to stop litter being blown in or debris being dumped there.

The profile of the reën will be bottomed out during the summer months when it is dry and the work can be carried out effectively.

The Chairperson read out information from the Head Groundsman received that day:-

'I have again attended Lyndon Way and everything is running perfectly. There is an issue where the ditch needs to be bottomed out, but as Colin explained in a previous email this can't be done until conditions dry out, however there is very little chance if any of the reën overtopping and flooding occurring'.

Following consideration of the information:-

- Members agreed that they fully understand residents concerns due to past flooding of houses.
- A member questioned the Clerks information and suggested that the reën work could be undertaken sooner.
- A member explained the rationale for undertaking the works later in the year when the weather is drier and discussed the exceptionally heavy rain recently during which time there has been no flooding of the reën.
- Pictures of the area taken by a member today were discussed in relation to the Clerks information, which helped those not familiar with the area understand the silted area referred too.
- A member suggested that litter, branches and leaves are not helping the issue and suggested staff visit and maintain the area more frequently.
- A member advised that the information from the Clerk stated the frequency of visits.
- The Councils staff and the inspection/maintenance of the reën were discussed at length.
- A member advised that they were voted in to bring forward/highlight residents concerns/complaints.
- Some members disagreed on a number of issues that were discussed and were unhappy with comments made.
- A member questioned the Chairperson on the way the meeting was being conducted.
- Meeting protocol and Standing Orders were discussed.

Councillor B. Davies left the meeting during the above discussion.

To progress matters:-

- The hedge that the Clerk advised (in his email) will be planted across the open area adjacent to the car park to stop litter being blown in or debris being dumped there, was formally proposed by a member and subsequently approved.
- It was agreed to notify the resident of the information in the Clerks email to give some reassurance to them.

Signage – Jubilee Park

A member thanked the Jubilee Park Directors for agreeing to new dog fouling signage outlined in the Clerks email.

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

There was no further correspondence to discuss.

7. ACCOUNTS

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

Zoom	
Monthly charge	£ 15.59
Fuelgenie	
Van & machinery	£ 170.01
Octopus	
Gas & electricity (this includes the Glades electricity, which is paid back monthly).	£1501.18
Newport City Council	
Bins ½ RCC ½ JP	£450.67
Nathan Evans Ltd	
Monthly accounts JP	£240.00
Payroll	£114.00
Xero	£ 28.80
Vodafone	
Broadband	£ 38.90
D. Evans	
Cleaning hall & outside toilet blocks - December	£ 520.00

Rob Campbell	
Rail around hall	£ 540.00
T. Carter	
Tesco – pack milk	£ 5.80
Eurooffice	
Toilet rolls	£ 59.06
Paper & envelopes JP	£ 65.99
Energieo JP	
Supply & install new LED lantern & cell JP	£426.00
Francis Wilkes Jones Law JP	
Legal fees JP	£ 75.00

Wales Audit bill – on hold (see Clerks email)

A member commented on a grass cutting invoice for Jubilee Park in the accounts for November/December, which a resident had commented on, as grass cutting that time of year seemed late. Members were reminded that invoices are received after work has been completed, therefore the invoice on the minutes would have been for an earlier period.

A member requested a further copy of the debt collection policy used for Jubilee Park.

8. PLANNING

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

Members discussed the plans submitted by the Fugitives Club, which have now been approved. This application was delegated to an officer and determined by the planning committee. Members will discuss this further at the next meeting to consider whether or not to approve the proposals on the land leased to the Club by the Community Council.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Section 137 Applications

Members were in receipt of the Section 137 applications and accounts for the final round of applications for the 23/24 period.

The current criteria was discussed and it was suggested that this be made clearer, with more detail provided for those applying as well as for members.

The following were considered and approved:-

Councillor J. Reynolds left the meeting while the application below was discussed.

Jolly Rogies Community Singing Group	£400
--------------------------------------	------

Councillor J. Reynolds returned to the meeting.

HCPT Group 99	£500
---------------	------

RWCC	£300
------	------

La Leche (Newport)	£150
--------------------	------

The following were considered and not approved:-

Rogerstone Primary School PTA

Private resident

It was agreed to take agenda item 9.2 after 9.3 & 9.4

9.3 Welfare Grounds – Pitch Flooding

Councillor Forsey asked for this item on the agenda, and members discussed information provided by the Clerk, which advised the Welfare Grounds pitches have fared better than other pitches in Newport City Council, with just one weekend lost, despite February being one of the worst on record for rain.

Members discussed:-

- The pitch hotline, and the unusable pitches in Newport.
- The cost of the pitch drainage when it was undertaken around 2014/15, thought to be approximately £180,000
- Climate change.
- Drainage issues on the highway (not the responsibility of the Community Council).
- The football season.
- The Welfare Grounds having one of the best pitches in the Newport City Council area.

The Clerk had offered (in his email) to discuss the design of the drainage etc. under matters arising in April, and it was agreed that this is the best way forward.

9.4 Defibrillators

Members discussed the defibrillators in the Rogerstone area as well as correspondence from Mount Pleasant Primary School requesting funding to install their defibrillator outside the school gates where it will be available 24/7.

- Councillor S. Bowen has compiled a list of defibrillators in the area and agreed to share the information with members and staff so that this can be placed in the noticeboards and website.
- Councillor Bowen advised that the defibrillator at the Welfare Grounds is unregistered, and it was agreed that staff will re-register this.
- A member advised that the British Heart Foundation and Ambulance Service can register this.
- It was agreed that organisations should be encouraged to register their equipment.
- The defibrillator at Squires Gate is available to residents; it is on an outside wall.
- The defibrillator the Community Council has stored, that was being offered to the Alcan Club, will be followed up by the Chairperson.
- The request for funding for the defibrillator to be sited outside the Mount Pleasant school gates was considered and members were advised there were problems because the electrical supply is a considerable distance away from the outside area, which may cause additional issues and expense. It was suggested that they could apply for a Section 137 payment; the next round is September for the 24/25 period.

9.2 Plans for the Year Ahead

- Following consideration, members did not approve the suggestion for the free portrait of King Charles being applied for.
- School Competition – members agreed for the competition to go ahead, with prizes to be as previous, the subject to be the Olympics.
- Kindness Day – consideration to be given to a coffee and cake event on the 13th November.
- 50th year of the Community Council (previously parish council) – it was suggested that a book on Rogerstone with before and after pictures could be commissioned. Costs and sponsorship will be investigated by the Chairman for consideration at a later meeting. It was suggested that the Rogerstone through the ages Facebook page may be worth looking at.
- Rogerstone Festival - Members discussed if it is feasible to hold a festival this year, given the loss of Sally who contributed so much to the event. The lack of committee members in general was also a concern and it was suggested that:
 - Costs to employ an outside agency to run the event should be sought, the Chairperson agreed to get 3 estimates for consideration.
 - It was suggested that notices on social media could be placed appealing to Rogerstone residents to get involved in organising this well attended successful local event.
 - A smaller event for 2024 was suggested.
 - Risk assessments and health and safety issues were discussed.
- Community Awards – Members discussed a suitable memorial for Sally Mlewa and several suggestions were made. It was agreed that before any further discussion the family should be contacted for their feelings and ideas on the matter. This is to be discussed further once the family has been contacted.

10. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed to be **Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7pm**