

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS MEETING
HELD AT TYDU COMMUNITY HALL 26TH JUNE 2024

Members present:

Chairperson: Councillor S. Bowen

Councillors: S. Jones, Y. Forsey, C Larcombe, B. Davies, J. Reynolds, N. Upham, D. Mlewa,
S. Meek, R. Lloyd. G. Foley, J. Gibbons

Apologies:

Councillors: A. Hobbs, K. Hopkins, N. Ireland. .

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 5th June 2024 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Defibrillators

Following discussion, members agreed to look into the possibility of using the telephone box located at Greenfield Road, (which is no longer looked after by a local school), as a defibrillator station; either powered by solar, or by wired in electricity.

3.2 Japanese Knotweed

Following on from discussions at the last meeting the Clerk advised:-

- That the Japanese Knotweed quotes/tenders are coming in with considerable variations, which will need to be compared before appointing a contractor. Usually the lowest tender is accepted, however if this isn't the case the Clerk will liaise with the Chairperson.
- A suitable contractor will be appointed to start work September/October, which is the usual time to treat the knotweed.
- The last triannual tree report, will be circulated to remind members which knotweed areas were highlighted when it was reported originally.

Members thanked Councillor Forsey for forwarding the Welsh Government link regarding rights of way and footpaths, discussed at the last meeting.

3.3 Fugitives Club Land Lease

The Clerk advised that the Fugitives Club/RAFC were happy with the terms members approved at the last meeting and all the Councils costs will be met by the Club. The lease cost has been estimated to be in the order of £750

3.4 Chess Tournament/ Sport in the Park

Members discussed ideas and dates for a chess tournament at the Welfare Grounds, possibly involving schools. Dates were also discussed, and it was suggested the tournament may be able to take place on the Sport in the Park day; members agreed to forward ideas to Councillors Forsey & Larcombe.

4. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk advised that the police had been invited to the meeting again, but were unable to attend, they have been asked to attend the September meeting.

5. CLERKS REPORT

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

6. NEW CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence.

7. ACCOUNTS

Accounts RCC

V. L. Llewellyn Internal audit fee	£638.60
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Fuelgenie Van & machinery	£340.02
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Applications Assist DBS applications	£156.00
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Dwr Cymru Half yearly bill, all buildings (Ty Du House, hall café, outside toilets), & grounds	£1798.44
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D. Evans	
Cleaning hall & outside toilet blocks	£472.00
Screwfix	
Tools & sundries - grounds	£ 67.22
Nathan Evans Ltd	
Xero & payroll	£142.80
23/24 Accounts	£510.00
T. Carter	
Amazon – ink (SD)	£ 42.65
Washroom Hub	
3 toilet roll holders – outside toilets replaced due to vandalism	£107.97
Royal Mail	
Special delivery – audit documents	£ 16.55
Eurooffice	
Toilet rolls, cleaning sundries (grounds/hall), stationary	£131.94
Castleton Turf	
Soil	£400.00
Accounts JP	
Nathan Evans Ltd	
Monthly accounts for JP	£240.00
Martyn Jones Gardening	
Grass cutting May	£3500.00

8. PLANNING

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

Members discussed the remit of the interim planning committee, and it was agreed that sensitive planning issues should be highlighted by the committee and discussed at full council meetings as usual.

Members discussed Newport City Homes and the planning progress for St Johns Court and Oak Road; the development is likely to start in spring 2025 and finish a year later.

9. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS

9.1 Remembrance Sunday

Members were saddened to hear that Russell Newton is no longer able to organise the Remembrance Day Parade, and asked for their thanks to be passed to Russell for all the years he has successfully arranged the event on behalf of the Community Council.

The following was discussed:-

- The cost and need for arranging the road closures etc., which was paid for by Newport City Council last year.
- The poor service received from the company appointed to do the road closures.
- The fantastic job the police have always done without issue or fee in the past.
- The increased cost this year, which is £700 plus VAT, which the Community Council will be responsible for.
- The fact that there will be no Parade Marshal due to Russell Newton unfortunately no longer able to assist.
- No Scout Band being available; the Rogerstone Band will be asked to attend, however, it is not likely they will take part in the parade.
- Respecting the event in the same way with regards to the laying of the wreaths at the library, and church, along with the full service as usual, but instead of a formal parade (which may not be viable without a Marshal and band etc), walking on the pavement from the library to the church instead of the road, thus negating the need for external services to be involved.
- Previous Remembrance Day Parades.
- The expertise needed to complete and take full responsibility for the risk assessments, emergency measures and stewarding, along with the logistics; this is in addition to the traffic management that has to be arranged and paid for.
- Appointing an outside company to complete all the necessary paperwork, provide sufficient stewards, risk assessment and emergency measures, which Members expect to be in excess of £2000.
- The important part of the event being the church service and laying of the wreaths.
- The Rogerstone Branch of the Royal British Legion, who may be able to assist.
- The usual schedule being arranged and published for the public, with the only difference being a walk rather than a full parade with bands and a Parade Marshal.
- Refreshments at the hall as usual (the Glade to be asked to provide this)

It was agreed to:-

- Ask the local branch of the Royal British Legion for assistance.
- Ask the Rogerstone Band to attend the event.
- Discuss the matter at the next meeting; it was suggested that be earlier than September.
- Invite the Vicar to the September meeting when the parade details are known.

9.2 Rogerstone Community Council Accounts 23/24

Members were in receipt of the 23/24 accounts and report prepared by Nathan Evans Ltd for the Community Council. (Appendix 1).

The Clerk went through the accounts page by page answering members queries satisfactorily.

Members also discussed:-

- The revised budget.
- Reasons for the increased income (Burial Board maintenance income, lettings etc).
- Short and medium term items the Council needs to consider, such as a new van (electric), playground upgrades based on the playground inspection, tennis court resurfacing, building and grounds maintenance, grounds machinery, etc.
- Charging point for an electric vehicle – this would be in the garage not the grounds.
- Vehicle lease charges.
- The low mileage the Council's vehicle does and it's increasing maintenance costs.
- The healthy reserves, which will in part be used to fund necessary items as well as keeping a contingency fund for unexpected items.
- District Audit expectations to keep a reasonable amount in the reserves.
- Increased Japanese Knotweed eradication fees, discussed previously.
- Cash flow and day to day expenses.
- A member suggested using the Councils reserves, (£50,000) for the riverbank path, which was closed by Newport City Council.
- The Clerk advised against funding unregistered land, which the Community Council has no responsibility for, and members discussed the issue with setting a precedent if funds were to be provided for this.
- It was suggested that taking on the maintenance and the liabilities for an unregistered area of land is not a good use of community funds.
- The riverbank path being unregistered and the reasons for Newport City Council closing the path and not funding the repair.
- The large loss of annual precept income from Newport City Council, which was unilaterally withdrawn some time ago.
- The responsibility for public rights of way being with Newport City Council.
- The offer made to Newport City Council by the Jubilee Park Management Company regarding the path, and the awaited outcome of the public consultation.
- Issues with a large proportion of Community Council reserves being used for a small part of the community.
- The precept paid by all households in Rogerstone.
- The former Citizens Panel ring fenced fund (part of the accounts).

The 23/24 accounts were approved unanimously.

9.3 Rogerstone Community Council Annual Return

Members were in receipt of the Internal Auditors Report (Appendix 2), as well as the Annual Return. Following consideration members approved:-

- The Internal Audit Report
- The Annual Return, as well as the governance statement contained therein.

The 2023 / 2024 Community Councils Audit is a full audit.

9.4 Rogerstone Community Council Annual Report

Following consideration, members approved the Report (Appendix 3).

9.5 Jubilee Park Annual Report

Following consideration, members approved the Report (Appendix 4).

10. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed to an additional meeting to discuss Remembrance Sunday, and possibly have the schools competition presentation before it. The Chairperson will advise the date and time of the presentation when he has contacted the schools.

The extra meeting was agreed as 7pm, 7th August, (this will be a full meeting).

The September meeting will be as scheduled, 4th September 2024 at 7pm