

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT- TYDU COMMUNITY HALL 7TH MAY 2025

Members present:-

Chairperson:- Councillor S. Bowen

Councillors:- S. Jones, D. Mlewa, C Larcombe, R. Lloyd, J. Gibbons, A. Hobbs, S Meek, G. Foley.

Apologies for absence:- Y Forsey, J. Reynolds, B Davies, K. Hopkins.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. APPOINTMENTS 25/26

2.1 Chairperson of the Council

Following nomination & a vote, Councillor C. Larcombe was elected as Chairperson for 25/26

The new Chairperson, Councillor C. Larcombe assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2.2 Deputy Chairperson of the Council

Following nomination & a vote, Councillor S. Bowen was elected as Deputy Chairperson for 25/26

2.3 Committees of the Council:-

- Interim Planning Committee (6 members representing the wards)

The following members were appointed to this committee:-

Councillors S. Bowen, C. Larcombe, B. Davies, R. Lloyd, S. Meek, Y. Forsey.

It was agreed that if Councillors B. Davies & Y. Forsey do not wish to remain on this committee, this can be amended at the next meeting.

2.4 Representatives to Public Bodies:-

- Rogerstone & Bassaleg Burial Board (7)

The following members were appointed to this committee:-

Councillors S. Bowen, S. Jones, A. Hobbs, R. Lloyd, D. Mlewa, G. Foley.

A member suggested that Councillors Y. Forsey or J. Reynolds may like to join the committee, however, it was agreed that the vacant position could be filled later in the year when new members have been co-opted.

- 14 Locks Committee (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust) (2 members)

The following members were appointed to this committee:-

Councillors J. Gibbons & R. Lloyd

Members agreed to discuss the 14 Locks Committee further with Councillor Y Forsey, as it is not clear if the committee currently meet.

Members also discussed the proposals for a new building at 14 Locks and the lack of information available to the public; it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting, when it is hoped the City Councillors will be able to give an update.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 7th April 2025 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Allotments

Members discussed:-

- The working group site meeting at the allotments last month.
- The condition of the cultivated plots.
- The need for the working group to meet and discuss the following, prior to arranging a tenants meeting:
 - The changes required for the new allotment tenancy.
 - How a tenants self management committee could operate.
 - Tenants responsibilities and the Community Council's involvement.
- Arranging to meet tenants who have expressed an interest in self-management, once the working group have submitted proposals/suggestions for its operation for Council approval.

3.2 Remembrance Sunday

Members discussed arrangements for the 2025 Remembrance Sunday Service:-

- The events that are being held elsewhere, which mean groups cannot attend the Rogerstone event.
- No available marching band.
- Road closure issues.
- The possibility of just holding a wreath laying ceremony and church service with no march.
- Laying wreaths at the war memorial in the library, which has limited space.
- St Johns Church and the availability of a vicar for the service.
- Arranging a small and well run service rather than a bigger event.

Although members were disappointed that the full parade and service cannot practicably take place, members agreed that the best way forward so that arrangements can be made, is to hold the wreath laying service in the library (timings as usual), followed by the wreath laying and service in St Johns Church (timings as usual). The Deputy Chairperson agreed to contact the Reverend Stone and make the arrangements and to also arrange the opening of the library for the wreath laying.

3.3 Festival

The arrangements for the Festival are progressing well (see Clerks Report) and the next meeting is 14th May at 7pm, in the Chambers of Rogerstone Community Council.

The Clerk advised that following discussions with the Council's insurance agent, Ecclesiastical Insurance have been recommended for the Community Council, which may mean that the Festival and Remembrance Sunday will be covered by the policy. The Insurers may also be able to assist with risk assessments; the Clerk will pass contact details onto Councillor Bowen to progress directly.

3.4 Jubilee Park

Members discussed the revetment works planning application (which is on the website), and agreed to comment individually to Newport City Council.

Application Summary - 25/0328

Address: Land Adjacent To 7 Ebbw Close Rogerstone Newport South Wales

Proposal: PROPOSED ENGINEERING WORKS FOR THE REPAIR AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE COLLAPSED BANK OF THE RIVER EBBW

3.5 Members Remuneration 2024 – 2025

Members were reminded either to email and decline the £156 payment or provide bank details.

3.6 Casual Vacancies

At the last meeting it was agreed that members encourage people to attend the June 4th meeting of council between 6-7pm for a chat about the role of a Community Councillor and possibly stay to observe the meeting at 7pm. As well as members promoting this on social media, it was agreed to put in the notice boards and on the website.

3.7 Jubilee Park Primary School

At the last meeting, Councillor Meek spoke briefly about an idea for the Community Council taking over the responsibility for pitch hire at Rogerstone Primary School and discussed this further with members.

The following was discussed:-

- The income revenue that would be generated if the Community Council were to take over the management, booking, opening & closing of the facility.
- The income that would stay with the school if they were to manage and let out the facility themselves like other local schools, for example Rogerstone Primary School.
- The school approaching Newport City Council to manage the facility, especially as it appears to be an under-used asset.
- The possibility of the school paying a caretaker to open and close the facility using some of the projected income.
- Timed automatic gates.

- School Governors – they should be involved and discussing this at their meetings.
- Issues with supervision and maintenance of a facility that belongs to a third party.
- The various budgets the schools manage.

Members agreed that this is not something they will be able to assist with, the City Council would be best placed to facilitate this if the school are not able to undertake this, for the income that could be generated. It was suggested that the City Councillors could liaise with Newport City Council on behalf of the school.

3.8 Newport City Council - Leader

At the last meeting the Chairman suggested that the Leader of Newport City Council could be invited to attend a meeting. It was also agreed that a time limit for the visit should be agreed and that questions are prepared and submitted ahead of time.

4. POLICE MATTERS

Members discussed:-

- The lack of police attendance at meetings, which has largely been due to annual leave and shift patterns.
- Requesting that a senior officer attends the next meeting to discuss a number of issues, including the outstanding gate request made by an officer, which cannot be practicably resolved until the police attend to discuss this.
- Members discussed a residents email regarding electric bikes, drugs and other issues, which appear to be primarily a matter for the police and will be discussed when they attend.
- A members request for a gate/barrier was briefly discussed, however, members wish to discuss this in full with the police first as originally agreed.
- There is more than one entrance/exit to High Cross Open Space, therefore simply putting a gate/s or barrier/s in place, is unlikely to resolve the ongoing issues in the area.

5. CLERKS REPORT

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

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Members were in receipt of correspondence from a resident regarding dogs not on leads in the Welfare Grounds and dog excrement not being picked up

The following was discussed:-

- Previous discussions on byelaws and Newport City Council's advice on Public Space Protection Orders, which have to be applied for by a Local Authority and carry a high cost.
- Public consultations.
- Enforcement wardens & their cost.
- Dog wardens/community wardens.
- Previous monitoring of the situation by the Council's staff.
- The Council's staff approaching people in the grounds.
- The danger of dogs off leads in public parks.

- Staff uniforms, currently blue with 'Rogerstone Community Council' on them; a suggestion was made to make staff easily identifiable.
- The number of temporary and permanent grounds staff employed undertake many duties, but other than polite requests, staff have no powers to insist owners keep dogs on leads and clear up dog mess.
- Educating dog owners.
- Signage already in the grounds, and additional signage, which may help.
- Newport City Council assisting with this issue as they must have measures in place in their own managed parks.

It was agreed to ask the City Councillors to arrange for a representative of Newport City Council to come to a meeting and discuss what they can do to help alleviate this problem efficiently.

7. **ACCOUNTS**

Accounts RCC

EUROSEC	
Alarm service - cafe hut & Ty Du House	£226.80
POPPY SHOP	
RBL wreath	£ 42.90
ZOOM	
Monthly fee	£ 15.59
VODAFONE	
Broadband	£ 47.85
NATHAN EVANS LTD	
Payroll and Xero	£145.68
S. DAVIES	
Maxus van service (Euro Commercials)	£289.00
HCPT	
Section 137 payment	£500.00
NCC	
Bin collection (1/2)	£257.88
FUEL GENIE	
Van & machinery fuel	£200.02
OCTOPUS (March)	
Gas – hall/changing rooms, Electric – all buildings inc Glade Café	£574.39
ROGER JAMES CLEMENTS	
Field in Trust fees	£180.00

Y. FORSEY Allowance	£156.00
G. FOLEY Allowance	£156.00
NCC Rates car park at Cefn Road	£516.88
Rates Tydu Community Hall	£443.04
EUROFFICE Toilet rolls (wardens outdoor toilets) 12x12 packs, tape, blu tac, batteries	£321.31
JORDANS SURFACING Grasscrete – grounds	£7680.00

Accounts JP

NCC Bin collection (1/2)	£257.88
S. DAVIES Padlock & keys	£137.40
HANNABY PLANNING SOLUTIONS Planning – revetment works	£2476.91
NATHAN EVANS LTD Monthly account fees	£240.00
Monthly account fees	£240.00
ROBERTSONS Legal fees	£1501.20

8. PLANNING

The Chairman reported on planning applications received from Newport City Council on behalf of the Planning Committee. (The Jubilee Park revetment work application was discussed earlier).

9. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS

9.1 Pickle Ball

The Clerk advised that there were 20 responses to the Pickle Ball notice, with 18 in favour of a pitch being marked on the existing tennis courts, therefore one court will be marked out when the tennis courts are repainted.

Members discussed marking more than one court and portable removeable nets, however it was agreed to try one court with the existing nets first; hire cost to be the same as tennis.

9.2 Wreath

Members were advised that a wreath from the Community Council will be placed at St John's Church at 11am, tomorrow to mark the VE80 Day anniversary.

10. URGENT MATTERS

GP Surgery

Members discussed issues with getting an appointment at the local GP surgery and previous discussions regarding additional services when the Jubilee Park estate was being built. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board deemed an additional surgery unnecessary. An area of the Bowls Club at Jubilee Park was set as a planning condition for the final phase of Jubilee Park to facilitate a nurses station for Aneurin Bevan Health Board should this be requested over a 5 year period (2 years left to run). Residents need to take any issue up directly with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

BBQs

Members discussed the bbq area at the Welfare Grounds, which is used for disposable bbqs and suggestions for improvements were discussed. Members also discussed the management of bbqs in public areas, which is difficult due to health and safety issues and hot coals left behind by people.

River Pollution

Members discussed water tests on various parts of the river at Bassaleg and were pleased to learn that the Bassaleg area was excellent, however, there were other results not so good, further along.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed as 4th June 2025 at 7pm.

Meet and greet with members of the public to discuss the role of Community Councillor is at 6pm.