

ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS MEETING HELD AT TYDU COMMUNITY HALL 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025

Members present:-

Chairperson:- Councillor C Larcombe
Councillors:- S. Bowen, S. Jones, D. Mlewa, R. Lloyd, A. Hobbs, B Davies, Y Forsey,
J. Gibbons, S Meek, G. Foley.
Apologies for absence:- K. Hopkins, J. Reynolds.

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 2nd July 2025 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 High Cross Open Space Gate (Ty Du View)

The Clerk advised that the original quote for the gate at above site has increased, therefore the next lowest tender will be accepted; the timescale for installation is approximately 2 weeks (weather permitting).

3.2 Allotments

Members discussed:-

- The last allotment tenant meeting on the 6th August 2025.
- Tenants seeming to favour a self-management arrangement.
- The ballot for allotment plot tenants, to choose if they want to progress this. (Closing date 15th September).
- The next meeting with tenants, which has been provisionally scheduled for 24.9.25, in the chambers.

3.3 Remembrance Sunday

Members briefly discussed the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, which will not include a parade.

3.4 Planning - Gazebo

The Clerk confirmed that the planning application for the above has been resubmitted.

3.5 School Competition

The Deputy Chairperson advised members that the school competition presentation went very well at Mount Pleasant School, and many more people were able to attend due to the location and the time of day it was held.

3.6 Body Camera

Members were advised that one body camera has been purchased, as there is only one warden on duty at a time. The encryption software was also purchased (DEMS Licence), and GDPR training is not required to use the camera.

3.7 Tennis/Pickleball

The following were discussed:-

- Members were advised that usage of the courts from the middle of June (opening delayed due to repainting of courts) to 31st August:-
Tennis court hire - 107
Pickleball court hire – 3
Takings £270
- A comparison with last year will be undertaken at the end of the season.
- The lock has been removed from the gate to enable the public to access the facility, and staff approach players and collect the fee as usual.
- Councillors Bowen & Lloyd publicised the facility as discussed at the last meeting.
- It was agreed to publicise the courts earlier next year, the usual opening time is end of April/ mid May.
- Following a suggestion from a member, issues that may occur with a third party taking cash on the Councils behalf were discussed.
- It was agreed to leave the matter with the Clerk and Head Groundsman.

3.8 Jubilee Park

The Clerk updated members on the planning process for the revetment works at Jubilee Park. It is anticipated that the work can begin towards the end of April 2026 (subject to no delay in planning conditions approval). Information is posted on the website when received.

4. POLICE MATTERS

- The police report has been forwarded to members. (For members information only and is not for the general public).
- It was agreed that the police will be invited to the next meeting.
- Members discussed a suggestion to request comparisons of the crime figures contained in the police reports with the previous months.

5. **CLERKS REPORT**

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

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following was discussed:-

Newport City Council – Active Travel Plan

Members discussed correspondence regarding the information circulated today regarding the Active Travel Plan. Members also discussed the revetment work, and the Public Right Of Way, which was closed by Newport City Council for safety reasons.

7. **ACCOUNTS**

Accounts RCC

ZOOM

Monthly fee	£ 16.79
Monthly fee	£ 16.79

VODAFONE

Broadband	£ 47.85
Broadband	£ 47.85

FUEL GENIE

Van & machinery fuel	£ 140.00
Van & machinery fuel	£ 245.04

OCTOPUS (June & July)

Gas – hall/changing rooms, Electric – all buildings inc Glade Café	£ 256.40
Gas – hall/changing rooms, Electric – all buildings inc Glade Café	£ 334.27

REGEN AMENITY

Sports pitch seed/chemicals	£ 701.10
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NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Bins	£ 289.00
Bins	£ 289.00
Summer bedding	£2854.56

TED HOPKINS

Machinery parts	£ 75.70
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ICO

Annual fee	£ 47.00
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ROYAL MAIL	
Stamp	£ .87
BITDEFENDER	
Anti virus renewal	£ 46.75
ROGER JAMES, CLEMENTS SOLICITORS	
Band legal fees (to be repaid)	£ 420.00
N. D. DAVIES	
Tree work	£ 700.00
PERROT ENGINEERING	
Mower repair	£ 81.00
NATHAN EVANS LTD	
Payroll & Xero	£ 145.68
Payroll & Xero	£ 145.68
AMAZON	
Litter pickers – wardens	£ 31.98
OCD	
Hall and outside toilet cleaning June	£ 829.92
Hall and outside toilet cleaning July	£ 829.92
RBL	
Poppy wreath	£ 42.90
INTERCONNECTIVE	
Body camera & DEMS licence	£ 418.96
<i>(One purchased, as one warden on duty at a time)</i>	
T. CARTER	
Tesco – bleach for wardens	£ 6.60
Amazon – bin bag hoops – wardens	£ 13.77
Moonpig – cards (competition)	£ 28.33
C. ATYEO	
Amazon – cables	£ 28.36
CARTRIDGE PEOPLE	
Ink (CA)	£ 54.71
S. DAVIES	
Amazon - table leg ends £18.30 x 2	£ 36.60
Antifriction – grounds tools	£ 41.96

VISION ICT	
Annual hosting fee	£210.00
GORDONS PLAYGROUND	
Play equipment inspections WG & JP (annual)	£420.00
EUROFFICE	
Stationary (inc. wardens), toilet rolls, hand soap, washing up liquid	£163.11
Accounts JP	
MARTYNS GARDENING SERVICES	
Monthly mowing & strimming Jubilee Park Phase 1 x 2, Phase 2 x 2	
June	£3500.00
July	£3500.00
NATHAN EVANS	
Monthly accounts fee	£ 240.00
Monthly accounts fee	£ 240.00
ROYAL MAIL	
Postage	£ 3.60
NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL	
Bins	£ 289.00
Bins	£ 289.00
ROBERTSONS	
Legal fees	£ 425.00
GRIFFITHS SIGNS	
Clips/clamps	£ 21.96
CLEAR INSURANCE	
Annual insurance renewal	£2034.21
NATHAN EVANS LTD	
Monthly accounts	£ 240.00
Monthly accounts	£ 240.00
EUROSEC	
Repair CCTV fault Jubilee Park	£ 120.00
T. CARTER	
VOXI monthly fee (CA)	£ 10.00

Councillor Batrouni , the Leader of Newport City Council arrived, therefore it was agreed to take item 9.1 at this point in the meeting.

9.1 City Council/Rogerstone Matters - Councillor Batrouni

Members welcomed Councillor Batrouni, the Leader of Newport City Council, to the meeting and invited him to talk about Newport and Rogerstone matters. Prior to this, members briefly discussed the revetment works and the footpath that was closed by Newport City Council for safety reasons.

Councillor Batrouni discussed the following:-

- Newport is the fastest growing city in Wales (9.5%)
- The two drivers for the growth are over 65's and under 16s
- Housing and schools pressures are a huge concern, followed by social care.
- Most of the building is in the east of Newport.
- Private rental prices have shot up over 20%
- West of the city the schools are full, this is due to growth.
- The City Council is looking at a school programme and investment to increase the pupil spaces available.
- Investment in schools at Caerleon and Bassaleg that has been, and is being undertaken. Other schools such as St Julians etc. to follow.
- Lliswerry school issues.
- Social care is not as critical, however is still of concern, not so much residential care, more care in the community; the demand to support people living in their own homes is over-spent
- Social care for children is an issue, there are more children in care, many with complex needs.
- The pandemic has had a bizarre effect on a generation; schools with children lacking social skills and basic knowledge, some still wearing nappies at the age of 4; this puts a huge pressure on schools and staff.
- If the population carries at the level of growth it currently has, Newport will be a power house.
- A recent estimated that Newport's population would grow 14.2 per cent by 2040, the fastest in the region.
- The prospects for the city are good.
- People from Bristol settling in Newport, as the houses are cheaper, as is the council tax.

Members discussed the following:-

- LDP Consultation - The Rogerstone Candidate Sites.
Rogerstone Community Council submitted their comments (2023) and there are some big developments proposed for Rogerstone with implications for schools, health, infrastructure, transport, etc. This has been chased up several time with Newport City Council and the Policy Team has recently advised that they are currently working on the Deposit Plan, which is the next consultation stage for the RLDP. This stage includes a full draft of the proposed RLDP and our complete assessment of the submitted Candidate Sites, along with their recommended allocations. The CS assessment will take into account all comments made at the Preferred Strategy stage. Discussions are still going on with the Welsh Government and Council members to establish a new timeline.
Members discussed their concerns with a number of the sites and Councillor Batrouni agreed to look into this and get back to the Clerk on any progress.
- Affordable homes so that people can stay in Newport.
- The Jubilee Park housing estate, and the lack of additional doctors surgeries to adequately service the area. People are frustrated at not being able to get appointments and the refusal of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to recognise that additional provision and services are needed urgently. Wales is far behind the rest of the UK in terms of surgeries per population.

The infrastructure is not in place, housing estates are being built without consideration for peoples basic health needs.

Councillor Batrouni agreed that the City Council need to work more closely with the Health Board and discuss many frontline services; reducing those having to visit A&E instead of a GP appointment is desirable. Councillor Batrouni advised that he engages regularly with the Health Board and will discuss this issue with them. He also said that with growing populations, housing, roads, drains etc and other services are needed and it is important to increase and improve these also.

- Members discussed the Jubilee Park situation, whereby the Health Board will not take up the provision of a nurses station for primary care in the old drill hall, which was part of the planning process back before the houses were built.
- Councillor Batrouni advised the Heath Board have their own pressures, but they are able to do more. The City Council meet and work with them on the Public Service Board, however they are not able to force the Board to increase services.
- Local primary schools in Rogerstone are full and oversubscribed, there is a big catch up on services that need to be undertaken to cope with demand. Ideally this should be in place before more houses are built.
- Newport City Councils poor response time, usually well over the 7 days stated.
- Blue badge provision, which could possibly be tiered, so that those not physically able to walk a distance can park near buildings. Persons, who may have badges for non-physical issues, and are able bodied, could have a different badge, so that parking spaces aren't taken up by those that do not need them. Members discussed different types of disability and need, as well as persons with wheel chairs etc. Some people could be severely disabled, but may use a motorised disability chair, and are able to park further away. Members agreed that it would be very difficult to differentiate and administer different types of badges. Councillor Batrouni advised this wasn't within his remit, however, he will ask if there has been an increase in the issue of blue badges, and ask if this is something that could be considered.
- A member asked, to what degree has central government constraints on spending affected plans for the improvement of facilities for Newport, particularly the effects of damage caused by environmental conditions such as flooding?

Councillor Batrouni spoke about local government not being awash with money and they have to prioritise. Newport prioritised health, social care, and education. There is some money for climate change, though probably not enough, however that's the same for any location near rivers or the sea. The whole of the UK probably doesn't have enough funds to improve and complete the climate change proposals.

- Members discussed the footpath erosion at the river bank near Jubilee Park (no one would claim responsibility for this). The Jubilee Park Management Company has extended their flood protection works to widen the path, so that when its finished, Newport City Council can reinstate and maintain the footpath.
- Bassaleg road bridge, which like other areas is a safe route to school, is not being reinstated. Councillor Batrouni spoke about inflation, cuts and the budget. 75% of the budget is spent on social care and schools. To replace the bridge would be more than the whole budget for highways in Newport, and priorities have had to be made.
- The foot bridge at Tredegar Park is also out of action with no update on its reinstatement.
- Active Travel Plan – the proposal is to have a footpath 30m away from the original eroded footpath (discussed earlier). The revetment works are widening the area so that the footpath can be reinstated and incorporated in the Active Travel Plan (once the work completed) . Any footpath would have to be maintained by Newport City Council, therefore there is no reason not to reinstate the path in the same location, there is no capital cost to the City Council and

the maintenance costs would be the same regardless of location. Members suggested that it would be helpful if Councillor Batrouni could persuade the public rights of way people to reinstate the path. Members of the public would be very pleased if this can be reinstated and incorporated in the Active Travel Plan.

- Councillor Batrouni advised that the City Council want to do all the things people want them to do, however the budget has to balance by law.
- Members discussed the Welsh Government, the CCR (a regional organisation that sets priorities for capital projects) and lack of available funding.
- Climate issues; the UK as a country not doing enough, there is a lot of work and adaptation to be done.
- Flooding around Usk and Caerleon and all the different organisations involved; these also have their issues with funding.
- Riverbanks eroding and nothing being done; central government need to step up and start addressing these issues.
- Canal issues in the area.
- Areas in Newport and their priorities.
- The Leisure Centre in Newport, which is on track and will hopefully be open 2026.
- Coleg Gwent.
- Not building houses near any rivers was suggested. (Planning regulations regarding this were discussed).

The Chairman thanked Councillor Batrouni for his interesting talk as well as answering members questions.

8. PLANNING

A member suggested that there could be a planning committee working group so that comments are submitted by the Community Council to Newport City Council.

The way the current interim Planning Committee operates is as follows:-

- Plans are emailed to members, (Councillors – Bowen, Larcombe, Forsey, Davies, Lloyd & Meek), when received from Newport City Council
- Comments are forwarded to the Chairperson by the committee members, who then either brings the comments to the attention of all members at the full council meeting (if within the timescales), or forwards the comments to the assistant clerk to submit on the Councils behalf.
- Submitted comments (if there are any) are reported at the full meeting.
- Plans that are likely to be contentious are forwarded to all members.
- Any members wishing to have the plans emailed to them regularly along with the committee are welcome, they will need to inform the assistant clerk.

9. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS

9.1 City Council/Rogerstone Matters - Councillor Batrouni attending

Discussed earlier.

9.2 NJC Pay Award

Members were in receipt of the agreed NJC award documentation, and following consideration, approved the new rates (which are slightly lower than the budget estimates).

The documentation also advised that SCP2 not be part of the grades next year, therefore those on SCP2 will go to SCP3, which may cause an issue of differentials that will need to be addressed.

9.3 Co-option

Following interviews before the meeting, members approved the co-option of:-
Kevin Gray & Paul Smith.

The documentation will be forwarded to the new members who will need to complete this and return it for signing for the next meeting.

9.4 Section 137 Applications

The following Section 137 applications were considered:-

- Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club – request £1,000
- MoMa Breast Feeding - £250
- Hiking Mums Wales - £5,350

The following applications were approved:-

- Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club £1000
Members requested that the Club be asked, that when refurbishing the pavilion, they do so with a view to reducing their carbon footprint wherever possible.
Members also noted that the Club allow the pavilion to be used by staff for breaks.
- MoMa Breast Feeding - £250

9.5 Children's Play Park Refurbishment

Members discussed:

- The previous decision not to move the play park to another location in the grounds at an earlier meeting.
- The resurfacing tender for the play area that was accepted, with the work due to start in October.
- A previous feasibility study to install a play park at Mount Pleasant open space, which had estimated costs of around £150,000.
- The cost of the existing play equipment and surfacing, which was approximately £115,000 when installed several years ago.
- The approximate costs for moving the current park to another part of the grounds, (near the bbq area), as well as the existing play park decommissioning costs.
- Feasibility study costs, which could be £500-£1000.
- The current play equipment, which is well used by younger children throughout the year.
- The annual play ground inspection that highlighted a few things that need to be undertaken.
- Patching up the play surface rather than replacing it.

- Closing the existing play ground if its unsafe, though the Clerk advised that it is not currently unsafe.
- Repairing and replacing equipment as needed for safety reasons.
- Insufficient funds available for a new relocated play park.
- The possibility of funding from Newport City Council, or the Lottery Grant etc. Though it was noted, based on the discussions with the Leader earlier in the meeting, Newport City Council are unlikely to have any funding available.
- Keeping the current play park and planning for an additional facility up near the bbq area, in a few years time.
- The importance of proper financial planning for such a large project.
- The budget that was set with the resurfacing costs included.

It was agreed to:-

- Patch and repair the current surfacing and replace/ repair the equipment as needed.
- Commission a feasibility study.
- Discuss this further when the study is completed and more is known about the costs and work involved.

9.6 Surfacing of Access to Allotments

Members discussed:-

- Resurfacing an area in between houses on Cefn Road (not the car parking area).
- The area is not a designated car park, though up to a dozen residents use it for access and parking.
- The usual method of repairing the pot holes with GSB (Granular Sib-Base) which has recently undertaken).
- The cost to tarmac the area, which has been estimated to be £10,000.
- The high cost which would benefit a small number of residents and provide a few car parking spaces
- The car park the council already provide in the area.
- Residents in other areas of Rogerstone without car parking facilities.
- The Community Council's duty to look after and keep tidy, land that they own.
- Residents having difficulties putting out their wheelie bins for Newport City Council to collect.

Members decided:-

- Not to tarmac the area, which is not unsafe and has been repaired.

10. URGENT MATTERS

Anti-Social Behaviour

Members discussed anti-social behaviour and other issues, such as fly tipping etc in an area at Jubilee Park.

Members discussed this, and it was agreed that it is a matter for:-

- Gwent Police (reports can be done online or by phone)
- The Housing Associations who are responsible for their tenants
- Newport City Council (report can be made online or by telephone)

Councillor Meek agreed to make representations to the Social Landlord (s) on behalf of the Community Council

Festival

Unfortunately this years Festival had to be cancelled due to weather and grounds conditions.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was agreed as 1st October 2025 at 7pm.

The Allotment Working Group are meeting with tenants at 6pm on the 24th of September to progress matters.