

**ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCILS MEETING HELD AT**  
**TYDU COMMUNITY HALL**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

Members present:-

Chairperson:- Councillor C Larcombe

Councillors:- S. Bowen, S. Jones, R. Lloyd, B Davies, Y Forsey, J. Gibbons, K. Gray, P. Smith,  
S. Meek, D. Mlewa, G. Foley

Apologies for absence:- A. Hobbs (unsuccessfully attempted to join online), 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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

3.1 **Allotment Working Group**

Members discussed the allotment working group meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, which was well attended; the next meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, which will be the first formal meeting of the Self Management Committee.

Members discussed:-

- Ongoing issues with arranging the visit to St Julians allotments.
- Inviting someone from Newport City Council to discuss allotment self-management.
- Providing additional funding to the allotment committee as well as the income.
- Considering funding proposals from the committee in future years.
- The possibility of Section 137 funding for the committee.
- The Community Council remaining as land owners.

It was agreed to:-

- Provide funding of up to £1,000 to the committee, which includes the rental income for 26/27.

### **3.2 Repair Café**

Members discussed the very successful second Repair Café, which was held between 10-12pm on Saturday 21st of February; the next event is March 28<sup>th</sup> 10-1pm

Members also discussed:-

- Promoting the monthly event.
- The various skills of the volunteers.
- Police attendance.

### **3.3 Casual Vacancy - West Ward**

Members were reminded that the closing date for applications for the casual vacancy is the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2026; unfortunately, no applications have been received yet.

Members discussed the ward boundary, and the Clerk confirmed anyone living within 3 miles of Rogerstone can apply to be a member.

### **3.4 Playground**

The Deputy Chairman, Councillor S. Bowen advised that the lottery grant expression of interest is progressing well. Updates are awaited from the National Lottery regarding this and will be provided when received.

### **3.5 River Ebbw Erosion– Footpath Diversion**

At the last meeting the Clerk outlined a proposal from Newport City Council to relocate the PROW that was recently closed due to riverbank erosion. The proposal is to move the path off the riverbank and through the open welfare grounds, which will be much safer than walking next to the unstable riverbank. Members approved the diversion in principle, subject to seeing and approving:-

- A detailed route plan.
- Entry and exit point details.
- Safety & risk assessments
- Proposed signage and surfacing.
- The extent of any tree work

The Clerk advised the information is still awaited, and updates will be provided when received.

Members discussed recent incorrect information on social media, that confused the above footpath diversion with the revetment works on the riverbank at Jubilee Park. The Clerk gave a brief update on the revetment works:-

- Planning consent requires a detailed method statement, which has to be very prescriptive.
- An engineering method statement which would cost up to £10,000 on its own and take up to four weeks which would delay the tender process.
- Options are being considered for a negotiated contract, which will incorporate a detailed method statement that should facilitate work on site at the earliest opportunity to meet the time constraints imposed by Natural Resources Wales.
- A practical and expedient choice for a contractor would be Walters, as they built the wall and have all the all existing survey and construction detail.

- Following a meeting with representatives from Walters, they have agreed to provide an estimate for work including a method statement.
- An issue that has arisen is the method of working in and around the river, which has to be on terms specified by Natural Resources Wales. Indications are that the preferred construction method could escalate costs.
- It is hoped that a resolution can be found so that work can start during the construction window specified by Natural Resources Wales.

Members discussed:-

- The importance of undertaking the works at the earliest opportunity to protect the flood prevention wall
- Newport City Council closing the riverbank footpath near Jubilee Park due to the riverbank collapse and asking Newport City Council to reconsider opening the path once the revetment work is finished.

### **3.6 Glade Café Development/Upgrade**

Members were advised that the gazebo has been erected and the electrical work is ongoing.

## **4. POLICE MATTERS**

A police report was circulated.

## **5. CLERKS REPORT**

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

### Cricket- Fine Turf Mower

The Clerk reminded members that there is £7,000 in the budget for a fine turf mower, which only benefits the cricket club. The current machine is in need of replacement and the cricket club has advised that there are grants available from a number of places, and asked if the Community Council would consider funding the mower at a reduced cost. Members agreed to this provided the machine is transferred to the Council's ownership at the earliest opportunity.

### Wales Audit

The Clerk circulated the recently received Wales Audit results prior to the meeting, which were for the 23/24 audit (received one year late), and 24/25 audit.

The following matters were discussed:-

- The 23/24 audit conclusion is well over a year late with no explanation.
- A formal complaint was made with Wales Audit Office 2023 regarding the previous 3 years audits all being finished and returned extremely late, with what appeared to be copied and pasted comments from one to the other. The delay and the fact that no explanation was given was deemed unacceptable. That complaint, aside from an acknowledgement has never been resolved by Wales Audit, despite this being chased up many times.

- Late audit results are of no benefit to any Community Council, and qualifications made many months or years before they are notified to members are not acceptable, especially, when they are then copied and pasted to conclusions on other Annual Returns.
- Invoices raised for very late audits with little retrospective benefit should be cancelled.
- Relationships with staff at Wales Audit remains strained, the manner in which emails are dealt with, or more usually not dealt with, by senior staff is not acceptable.
- As with the previous audits, the current conclusions have qualifications that appear copied a pasted between the 2 documents.
- 23/24 was a full audit and we provided everything that Wales Audit asked for, and should they have required anything else, then they should have requested this. The payslip mentioned should have been requested, which would then have negated the need for the qualification.
- We received an email 15.4.25 from a junior auditor advising that the 23/24 audit was ready (after being chased up) and just going to a senior auditor for review, there was no mention of anything outstanding.
- The basic accounting statement - any queries should have been raised at the time, not after the audit has been completed.
- 2013/14 audit – Nathan Evans (our accountants) were advised by the then auditor, Mazars how they wanted the assets shown, and this is how it has been done since then. Wales Audit could have requested a different format at any point in time, but have chosen not too.
- Governance statement - everything is circulated to members (Clerk Report) and no payment is ever done in isolation. The way the Council operates has enabled local suppliers and trades people to be paid promptly for over 20 years and not been previously raised by Wales Audit, so it comes as a surprise that this is mentioned now. The Council can however look to deal with the points made for 26/27.
- Comments regarding Standing Orders not being based on the One Voice Wales model are subjective, there is no reason that Rogerstone Community Council would change from our existing Standing Orders & Financial Regulations, which were reviewed during 2020 and were found to be satisfactorily; however they will be reviewed again for 26/27.
- The Community Council do not belong to One Voice Wales (annual cost £2,633).
- Precept Band D - Newport City Council ask us annually for the amount to be charged for Band D properties. This is reported in the minutes and the total amount is shown. The statement of accounts and budgets are a matter of public record..
- Audit completion notice was stated as not published; this is inaccurate and wrong, as the notice was published for the required 14 days. In addition to this, the statement of accounts are posted as soon as approved by members (before audit) and the Annual Returns (which contain all the audit information and figures) are always posted in full when received back from Wales Audit. Members of the public can view and download at any time.
- There is not a formal staff and member training plan; this can be looked at for 26/27, and decide if training is to be compulsory or optional; training will however come at a cost.
- Not meeting power of general compliance – this was discussed at length and will be resolved for the 25/26 Audit.
- An internal audit is conducted in full every year, with all aspects of the running of the Community Council scrutinised, all of which have been satisfactory and met the necessary criteria for over 20 years.
- Wales Audit do a light touch audit based on the completion of the Annual Return, which on several occasions takes them an unacceptable amount of time, usually at least a year late with no notice or explanation.

Members agreed that :-

- The audit qualifications are only partly accepted and several of the points disputed above will be notified to Wales Audit.
- The notice of conclusion of audit will be posted on the noticeboard and website, as well as the Annual Return as usual.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no further correspondence to report.

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

### **Accounts RCC**

OCD	
Cleaning, hall and outside toilets	£ 829.92
Nathan Evans Ltd	
Payroll	£ 114.00
Xero	£ 35.52
ZOOM	
Monthly fee	£ 16.79
VODAFONE	
Broadband	£ 30.00
FUEL GENIE	
Van & machinery fuel	£ 140.00
OCTOPUS	
Gas – hall/changing rooms, Electric – all buildings inc Glade Café	£ 852.11
NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL	
Bins	£ 289.00
SCREWFIX	
Grounds tools & sundries	£ 70.54
LEE TECH	
Heating repair - Hall	£ 96.00
GLADE CAFÉ	
Gazebo invoice	£3362.00

Carol Service refreshments	£ 68.94
J. CONEYWORTH	
Pat test course – Repair Café	£ 37.50
K. GRAY	
Pat test course – Repair Café	£ 37.50
D.E.A.L.	
2 Blowers (grounds)	£ 686.81
PERROT ENGINEERING	
Strip, wash, grease. Re grind reels and blades, set up.	
Minor service	
Scraper	£1095.60
<b>Accounts JP</b>	
NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL	
Bins	£ 289.00
NATHAN EVANS	
Account fees	£ 240.00
HANNABY PLANNING SOLUTIONS	
Revetment work	£1750.00
T. CARTER	
Voxi (CA) Jan/Feb	£ 20.00

## **8. PLANNING**

Members discussed planning applications received by the Planning Committee and there were no matters to bring to the attention of full council.

## **9. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS**

### **9.1 Members Allowances**

Following discussion on the information received from the Remuneration Panel for members allowances and expenses:-

- Members were advised to provide bank details to the assistant clerk for the payment of the £156 allowance; those not wishing to take this allowance should decline it by email.

- Members decided not to pay the optional Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons additional payments.
- It was agreed that expenses can be claimed by providing receipts, rather than one amount paid annually.
- All payments are published annually and are also on the minutes under accounts.

## **9.2 Section 137 Payments**

Members approved the following Section 137 payments:-

- RAFC £500
- Rogerstone Band £1000
- HCPT £250

Some members advised that they will be giving their allowances to charity and they requested that this is put alongside their allowance claim details when published for the Remuneration Panel. The Clerk advised that there will need to be evidence to support any donation for this to be added to any list.

## **9.3 Events**

Members discussed:-

- Sunflower trail planting in the grounds - Saturday 4th April and Saturday 11th April 10am – 12pm. Everyone is welcome, seeds, compost and cardboard tubes are provided, people can bring their own pots if they wish.
- Festival 21.6.26 – Welfare Grounds, everyone is welcome to join the committee, next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.
- Great Get Together 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026
- The Chairman, Councillor C. Larcombe is liaising with the Vicar of St Johns Church regarding the Remembrance Sunday Service and Carol Service discussed and agreed previously.
- The Deputy Chairman, Councillor S. Bowen provided the details in the Festival bank accounts.

## **10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no urgent matters.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

Council Meeting April 1st 2026 at 7pm.