**LANGSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Chair: Councillor Carol Bryant Clerk: Mr Robert Wade**

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**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANMARTIN CHURCH**

**ON THE 30TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**In attendance:** Mr R Wade, Clerk

 **Councillors: Apologies received:**

C Bryant (Chair)

 L Humphries

 J Humphries

 J Bryant

 M Oliver-Mardon

 A Jarman

 Angharad Jarman

7 members of the public

 **Newport City Councillors**: Ray Mogford and Will Routley

Robert Wade was welcomed as the new Clerk, and congratulations were given to Ray Mogford as the Mayor-elect.

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received

1. **Declarations of interest**

No declarations were made. The Chair reminded those present about declarations of interest and forms needed to be completed.

**3**. **To consider any verbal or written reports from Gwent Police**

Inspector Giles was in attendance. He said that a formal police report would be sent regularly every month from then on, and that there would be a representative of the police present if at all possible. He said that currently he had 19 persons overall but that he expected that to reduce because money provided by the Welsh Government for PCSOs would not be renewed. They were especially looking to prevent the use of off-road bikes in Ringland and Alway using drones and dedicated community officers, and also targetting fly-tipping. His was the lowest crime area. He gave percentage figures for different types of offences. The total figure in Langston was 272 in 2022. In the 10 month period up to January the figure was 154. He urged people to report crimes, whilst accepting that dialling 101 was not that effective. He encouraged the use of the yellow phones at unmanned police stations, and especially Maindee. The aim was to have a police officer at the home of the person reporting the offence within 15 minutes. From the floor, Miss Newport asked about Neighbourhood Watch. He said that a project known as Gwent Connect was being piloted in Blaenau Gwent, and the Council would be kept posted. The Chair thanked him for attending.

4. **To consider** **15 minutes set aside for Community interaction and members of the community to ask the Chair or elected members questions of local interest.** **Whilst members of the community should feel free to raise matters of importance, it is requested that any questions should be submitted to the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting.**

Stewart Voyle raised a number of questions:

(a) The risk assessment carried out for the Memorial for the purposes of the Remembrance Sunday service. Would this need to be repeated? Councillor Oliver-Mardon said that this should last effectively indefinitely.

(b) D-Day and the anniversary of the end of World War II in 2025. 80 years of peace. The Chair confirmed that preparations were already underway for the D-Day celebration by means of a service and a party, and full details would be provided. Stewart was wondering if there could be some decorative kerb-stones around the monument. City Councillors Ray Mogford and Will Routley said this would need the cooperation of the Highways department, but hoped this could be considered.

(c) Meeting to consider the furtherance of Langstone as a village. It was generally agreed that it was necessary to bring everybody together, and that a meeting would be set up.

Miss Newport asked if the Minutes could have “Action by Clerk” on them. The Clerk said he was not in favour of that, but attention was paid to things which required to be done.

Other issues which were raised were in relation to the removal of a sign at the Poppy Park, which Councillor Oliver-Mardon said he would attend to, and the web-site, which Jan Collins said was “archaic”. It was generally agreed needed attention. It was confirmed that Councillor Angharad Jarman would be attending to this, and also to the establishment of a Facebook Page.

**5.** **To receive and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 21st November 2023 and the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 11th December 2023**

This was agreed, the Chair proposing and Councillor J Humphries seconding.

6. **Matters arising from the Council Meetings on the 21st November and 11th December 2023**

No matters were identified that were not going to be dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda.

**7. To consider any verbal or written reports from the Clerk or Councillors. This item was expanded to include reports from Newport City Councillors**

**8. To consider matters to report**

No issues arose under this heading

**10. To consider any Planning applications considered or received before the meeting**

 **(a) 24/0013 - Little Brook, Old Chepstow Road – Proposed two storey side extension**

 No objection was put forward to this proposal

 **(b) 24/0016 – land South East of Langstone Hall - Installation of 25m mast.**

Concern was expressed by the meeting at this proposal because of the possible effect on thevalue of the houses in the vicinity.

 **(c) Proposed Equestrian Centre, Chepstow Road, Langstone – consultation**

This was purely for information only. The Clerk said that a formal application was expected in due course.

**11. Consideration of the bank account and whether to convert to online banking**

 The Chair said that she and the Clerk were still looking into this issue with a high street bank, and would report back**.**

**12. To note finance matters, including Income and Expenditure**

(a) The following payments were agreed:

Clerk’s salary £1,120

HMRC £224

Travel £43.20

Maintenance Contract from NCC £227.40

(b) The Clerk reported that he was still having great difficulty with the accounts because he had not been given access to the computer by the former Clerk. It was hoped that this would be resolved shortly, and, it was hoped, by the next meeting. It was clearly vital that this should be done because it was clearly vital for any Council that accounts should be kept properly. Meanwhile, a decision had had to be made about the application for the Precept had had to be considered, something which was strictly not possible without a formal budget being prepared. He reported that a decision had had to be made in the circumstances to leave the Precept as it was.

**13. To note any miscellaneous items of correspondence received since the last meeting.**

 No items arose under this heading

**14. To consider the issue of Defibrillators**

 The Chair said that it had been arranged for Phil Hill of the NHS to come to see the Council to explain the need to renew the Defibrillators. Unfortunately, because the Hall had been double-booked, it had been necessary to transfer to the Llanmartin Church, Phil had been unable to stay for long enough. It was therefore agreed that Phil would be asked to come for the next meeting. Some discussion ensued about the need for batteries and pads, and whether it would be wise to place the job of renewing them into the hands of a company, to make sure it was done regularly and correctly. All this would be discussed with Phil. It was agreed that details of the location of the machines should be put onto the web-site. The issue of training was raised, although it was agreed that in general the machines gave the instruction itself when the need arose.

**15. To consider any issues relating to the Langstone Memorial**

This had already been touched on when Stewart Voyles addressed the meeting. This would be put onto the Agenda for the next meeting.

**16.To consider and decide upon the issue of flower-boxes**

 The Chair said that this was a standard procedure which she and Councillor J Bryant had seen to for many years. The boxes were not done in the winter, and in the Spring she would come to the Council with estimates for the cost to be approved.

**17. Consider and decide on the issue of advertising**

The Clerk accepted that this had been an error in the Agenda occasioned by a misunderstanding between himself and the Chair, and by the fact that he had been suffering from Covid for most of January. It was supposed to refer to the proposed event on the 17th February to celebrate St Valentine’s Day which was still in the planning stages.

**18. Reports from members on outside bodies**

No issues arose under this heading

**18. Any Other business**

 In general, the Council put out a plea for people to come forward with ideas and suggestions and to work with the Council on projects that would benefit the community.

**19. Date of the Next Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was said to bethe **20th February 2024.**

**The Meeting was closed at 9.15 pm**.