**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 LLANDEVAUD VILLAGE HALL**

**ON THE 19TH MARCH 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Councillors: Apologies received:**

C Bryant (Chair)

L Humphries

J Humphries

J Bryant

A Jarman

Angharad Jarman

Stewart Voyle

Russell Bevan

5 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were given

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**

The police report had been circulated. There were no particular observations from the Councillors or members of the public, but the Clerk said that he was trying to persuade the officer responsible to put a bit of detail in, whilst acknowledging the need for operational secrecy. It was to be hoped that this would be improved by the April meeting.

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.**

No particular points were raised at this meeting by members of the public.

**5.** **To receive and sign Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on the 20th February 2024**

The Minutes were agreed, Councillor J Humphries proposing and Councillor J Bryant seconding.

6. **Matters arising from the Council Meetings on the 20th February 2024**

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**

Neither of the two City Councillors was in attendance

**8. To consider matters to report**

No issues arose under this heading

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

24/0179 – Change of Use of Drake House, Langstone Business Village from office use to animal rehoming centre and offices. It was observed that, with the best will in the world, animal noises and smells would inevitably be transmitted outside the building, and there were houses in the vicinity. The Clerk was requested to convey the objections of the Council to this change of use.

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

Payments were agreed as on a list in the hands of the Clerk. The Clerk said that yet another obstacle had appeared in his quest for the financial records, in that the computer that had been passed on to him had broken down. He said that he hoped the information was all on the Cloud for which the Council was paying. If so, then it was to be hoped that this would mean that all that was required was a new computer. The present one was six years old, which was antiquated by computer standards, so perhaps the time had come for a change. He would investigate and report back.

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

No items arose under this heading

**12. To consider the issue of the election and/or co-option of Councillors**

The Clerk said that the election was to take place on the 11th April. He had not yet been advised of all the arrangements, but he would ensure they were properly publicised.

**13. To consider and confirm the order for Flower-Boxes**

Councillor J Bryant said that he had a quotation from a company of £150 per box for 16 boxes. This would be for emptying of the existing boxes, painting, renewing the earth and replanting and also disposing of the old soil, which was not a minor job. Councillor Voyle said he would draw up a plan by reference to What Three Words, so as to ensure that the locations of the boxes were precisely determined. Councillor Bryant said that the work had been done previously twice a year, but now it was thought that only once a year was needed. Councillor Bevan had pictures of all the boxes, and said he would send them out. Councillor Alison Jarman proposed (seconded by Councillor Mrs J Humphries) that the price should be accepted, and that was agreed.

**14.To consider and confirm the proposed plan of events for 2024-5**

Councillor Mrs A Jarman read out the proposed events –

The Russell Jones Junior concert on the 30th March;

the D Day Service on the 6th June

the D Day party on the 8th June with Russell Jones Junior again as guest singer;

the Macmillans coffee morning on the 27th September;

the Three Heartbeats concert on the 28th September;

Remembrance Sunday on the 10th November;

the Seniors Christmas meal on the 7th December

the Neil Diamond Tribute on the 14th December.

looking into 2025, there were plans for

a St Valentine’s Day concert on the 14th February with a Tina Turner tribute.

**15. To consider the situation regarding the Easter event**

This had already been well advertised for the 30th March at the Llandevaud Village Hall, and the Chair encouraged everybody to come along to what promised to be another successful evening with Russell Jones Junior

**16. To update the situation relating to the Play Park**

The Chair said that she had received a quotation from Tom Morgan and WM Gardening Services to try to remedy the problems. She proposed a meeting with him at which she and Councillors Voyle and Bevan would be present to discuss what was proposed. Councillor Voyle suggested that facilities for the disabled might attract grants, which would be a welcome assistance with the cost.

**17. To update the situation relating to the Langstone Memorial and the megaphone**

Councillor J Bryant said he was still waiting for Highways to contact him regarding the fencing issue. It was unclear why they were not at least responding. The Clerk said he would try to elicit a response. Looking ahead to D Day and Remembrance Sunday, it would not be necessary to obtain another Risk Assessment, but there was concern at the possibility that the company which was producing the fencing might not be prepared to carry it to and from the site. The Clerk suggested that members of Round Table might become involved, and the Chair said that she would make enquiries. There was some discussion of the way in which the sound could be amplified, especially if it was raining. It was agreed that that issue would be put onto the Agenda for April.

**18. To consider and decide upon the D-Day celebrations**

This had already been discussed, but would be on the Agenda for April. Mention was also made of the VJ Day celebrations in 2025.

**19. To consider and decide upon the future of the Council’s Notice-Boards**

It was noted that the Council had seven notice-boards. Councillor L Humphries said it was desirable to have one in each of the main areas of Langstone, Llandevaud and Llanmartin. Councillor Voyle said he would produce a list, and he and Councillor Bevan said they would volunteer to help out in filling them with the Council’s paperwork when the need arose. Clearly, they would need keys.

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

No issues arose save that the Chair mentioned that the Head Teacher at the school was retiring

**21. Any Other business**

**(a) Bus stop at Parkend**

Councillor Bevan said that this was impossible for the disabled to use, and this was generally recognised. The Clerk said he would write to Highways to see what could be done about this and the sundry pot-holes in the area

**(b) Old Hamlet of Llanmartin (OHL) grant requests**

Mark Robotham of OHL was on the floor of the meeting, and was invited to address it on behalf of OHL. He said that in previous years there had been a standard grant of £500 per annum. It had been £200 the previous year. They needed £400 to keep going. This included mowing grass by the cemetery, which members of the Council felt should be the job of the Newport City Council. OHL also wanted to buy a new mobile BarBQ for £300, and had asked for a separate grant for that, although members of the Council did question how often it would be used – OHL had mentioned only two specific occasions on their application form. It was agreed that the issue would be put onto the agenda for April for a decision to be made.

**(c) The Village Plan**

Councillor Voyle said that there might be benefits from Langstone being treated as a village as opposed to “Rural Area”. He referred to a scheme called Placeplan which might be part of the Welsh Government planning. It was agreed that this should be put onto the agenda for April to determine the precise nature of the benefits that might be procured by this.

**(d) the Asset Register**

It was said that this ought to be brought up to date

**(e) Councillors’ Allowances**

The issue of Councillors’ allowances was brought up. It was confirmed that these included not only the normal £152 per Councillor (up from £150 in the previous year) but also £52 for consumables

**(f) IT**

It was agreed that there should be a committee to determine the way ahead for this, led by Councillor Angharad Jarman, and assisted by Councillors Voyle and Bevan

**22. Date of the Next Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was said to bethe **16th April 2024.** It was confirmed that this was a permanent change to Standing Orders from the second Tuesday to the third Tuesday in the month, but with no meeting in August or December.

**The Meeting was closed at 8:42 pm**.