**LANGSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Chair: Councillor Carol Bryant Acting 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 21ST NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

 **Councillors: Apologies received:**

C Bryant (Chair) K Wilson

 L Humphries Alison Jarman

 J Humphries Angharad Jarman

 J Bryant

 M Oliver-Mardon

 J Harring-Burn (by Zoom)

 M Harring-Burn (by Zoom)

7 members of the public

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from those named above.

1. **Declarations of interest**

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

**3**. **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.**

Jan Collins asked about the NCC Development Plan. The Acting Clerk said that he did not have details of this, and it was not going to be possible for Council to debate it prior to closing date for representations of the 20th December. However, Ray Mogford said that he would send through details, and, while it was of course possible for individual Councillors to make their own representations, it was agreed that the Acting Clerk would share these with Councillors and then draft a proposed response on behalf of the entire Council which could be seen by every Councillor before its despatch. The Chair said that it would be possible for there to be an Extraordinary Meeting, possibly by Zoom, if needs be. Ray Mogford referred to his public meeting the night before, from which he said the feed-back had been generally positive. However, contributions from Councillors and members of the public suggested that there was considerable concern at the scale of change this major event bring about, which would increase the population of the area by some 3,500 people, with all the implications for the amenities – schools, transport, sports facilities, cycling etc. – and which, as Stewart Voyle remarked, threatened to turn the area into a building site.

Miss Newport asked if the Minutes could be more precise not only about things to be done but who was to do them – for example, the removal of the sign at the Poppy Park saying that it was the responsibility of the LCC. Councillor Oliver-Mardon said he would deal with this, and meanwhile the Acting Clerk said this was something he would take into account in future Minutes.

**5.** **To receive and sign Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 30th October 2023**

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

6. **Matters arising from the Extraordinary Meeting on the 30th October 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 including a report regarding the Remembrance Sunday service. This item was expanded to include reports from Newport City Councillors**

(a) The Chair said that the weather for the service was poor, which meant she could not use the microphone and speakers. She accepted that the volume was not good, and said this would be looked at in 2024. Also, it meant that people were slipping. Councillor J Bryant suggested that the area should be widened for 2024. From the floor, Rosie Hollister said that she hoped the order of service would be proof-read, as there were a number of inaccuracies, and Stewart Voyle asked if something special could be done for the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in 2025. Miss Newport asked if a risk assessment had to be done every year. Councillor J Bryant confirmed that there did have to be a fresh assessment each year and done by somebody independent, although Councillor Oliver-Mardon said that it might be possible for a format to be agreed with NCC so as to prevent too much expense in subsequent years.

(b) City Councillor Will Routley asked for support for his campaign to have the speed limit on the A48 put down to 40 mph from 50 mph. The meeting unreservedly supported this. His concern extended to zebra crossings with a safe central area, although he said the cost of these could be as much as £30,000 to £40,000 each. He said the Community Council had a track-record of supporting road safety. There might be a call for some sort of fund-raising even if the City was prepared to match-fund part of the cost. Above all, he wanted to slow traffic down. City Councillor Ray Mogford affirmed his support, saying that it was sometimes dangerous even to walk on the side of the road in certain places.

(c) City Councillor Ray Mogford mentioned planning for Rosecroft, which had occasioned some concern. He said that the Council would only be advised of progress and/or amendments if it made representations in the first place, which had not happened in this case. It was a point to be aware of in future.

**8. To consider matters to report**

No issues arose under this heading

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

No reports had been received. The general feeling of the meeting was that it would benefit from the attendnace of police personnel. City Councillor Ray Mogford said he would contact the local PCSOs.

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

None had been received.

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

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

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

The following payments were agreed:

V Llewellyn (Audit) £320

Councillor Oliver-Mardon £75 for carrying and removing the barriers for Remembrance Sunday

The Chair £22.03 for printing and mileage

Storage Giant £87

Councillor J Bryant £140.98 for batteries for the Christmas trees

Newport City Council £227.40 for maintenance work

Sam Kellaway £2,100 for sourcing Christmas trees, which would include the cost of maintaining them, renewing batteries etc. during the Christmas period

The Scout Group £286.79 (as agreed at the meeting of 30.10.23

Rombourne £43.26 for the virtual office for December

The Acting Clerk salary for the period 31.10.23 to 21.11.23 £877.62

The Acting Clerk salary for the period 23.11.23 to 31.12.23 £1.635.56

The Acting Clerk’s travel £126.90

HMRC on Clerk’s salary £175.52 and £327.11

The Acting Clerk also asked for retrospective approval for the payments of £81.23 and £45 to the Langstone village Hall, £93.60 to Councillor Oliver-Mardon for the sourcing of the barriers for Remembrance Sunday and the £200 deposit to the Old Barn Inn for the Seniors Christmas Meal.

**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 co-option by Councillors to fill any empty seats on the Council**

The Acting Clerk explained about his meeting with two NCC representatives that afternoon when it had been explained that, contrary to his understanding, the Notice to Full a Casual Vacancy made by the then Clerk in August had been valid. Letters in response which requested an election had *not* been valid because they were insufficient and/or from ineligible people. The notice of co-option he had put out had been valid, and he was awaiting responses. It was not possible after such a notice for anybody to request an election, and certainly not (as certain people had suggested) a full election of the entire Council. He was unable to say why a letter in response to the earlier notice from Mr Voyle had not been acknowledged, but that was not going to happen with his letter handed in today. If there were more than two people asking to be co-opted, there would have to be interviews of candidates by a panel of Councillors, which was the normal method.

**15. To consider any issues relating to the Seniors Christmas meal**

There was some anxiety as to whether the meal was reaching the people it was truly intended to reach – namely, those who were lonely and/or disadvantaged socially. Clearly, anybody who was under the age of 65 had to pay for their meal, and likewise any Councillors. It was agreed to increase the total number of non-Councillors to 70. The Chair confirmed that the Old Barn was in a position to take up to 80 people.

**16.To consider and decide upon the issue of quotations for and ordering of Christmas Trees**

It was agreed that this was not a necessary item on the Agenda, since the issue had already been decided at the last meeting. In answer to a question from the floor, the Chair explained that others had been approached but could not guarantee to service the trees over the Christmas period, and it was agreed that this was necessary. Councillor Oliver-Mardon said that there might be lights available which would not need to have the batteries changed so frequently. This could be looked at in 2024.

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

No issues arose under this heading

**18. Any Other business**

(a) Grants of £500 each were agreed to the Air Ambulance and SARA.

(b) Councillor Oliver-Marden said that he wanted to hold a children’s party on the 16th December at a cost of £600, and he asked for funding from the Council. There was no seconder for this motion, which was therefore lost.

(c) Councillor Oliver-Mardon suggested that in January the issue of a quarterly prediction could be considered to monitor Council activity and expenditure. This was generally thought to be a good idea.

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

The date of the next meeting was said to bethe **16th January 2024.**

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