

**Langstone Community Council**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held Via Zoom conference call on.**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:00 pm**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**In attendance:**

Adrian Edwards Clerk  
Three members of the public in person  
via Zoom.

Time: at 19:00 hrs  
Zoom conference call

**23/448**

**Cllr's Present**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| C Bryant (Chair) | M Oliver-Mardon |
| L Humphries      | K Wilson        |
| J Humphries      | M Harring-Burn  |
| Mrs A Jarman     | J Harring-Burn  |

**Apologies received:**

M Griffiths  
Ms A Jarman

**Absent:**

Cllr Dorothy Tucker

**23/449**    **Agenda item 1.** Apologies for absence.

Cllr's Mark Griffiths, due to work commitments & Ms A Jarman due to illness

There was some discussion over Cllr Griffiths attendance, and it was explained that he's been working away and travelling long distances. A discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by members. After some debate it was:

**Proposed:** that 3 months extension should be considered. This was proposed by  
Cllr K Wilson seconded by Cllr Oliver-Mardon.

**All those present agreed**

The Clerk asked the chair if he would be able to read a statement from Cllr Humphries, as Cllr Humphries is having difficulty logging in but he was on a telephone, so he was able to hear everyone. The chair invited the Clerk to read the statement.

**Statement:**

Before Thursday's meeting commences, I would like to make the following statement regarding the Langstone Community Council meeting held on last Monday's evening:

1. The agenda notice for the meeting was unlawfully removed by a third party from the Langstone Community Council noticeboard without the knowledge of the Langstone Community Council Clerk or members of Langstone Community Council.
2. It is believed that the same thing also happened on a second occasion sometime between Friday AM and Monday PM leading up to Monday's meeting.

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3. Accordingly it was decided that insufficient time had thus been created for review by the general public, and the meeting was formally adjourned to Thursday evening. The agenda items were free for discussion on Monday evening (or any day/evening as necessary)
4. NO FORMAL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN ON THESE AGENDA ITEMS because, any such discussion/decision could be not then be formally ratified until the Thursday evening at the earliest in compliance with regulations.
5. In the meantime, a City Councillor has blundered on to the scene. He did not attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom, yet he has published on Facebook a number of scurrilous accusations and misinformation sneers, playing to the gallery. This is the same Facebook (Langstone Ward Matters) – of which he is the Administrator – that has officially banned from membership the Clerk to Langstone Community Council and other members of Langstone Community Council
6. None of the people making the slanderous Facebook accusations attended the Monday evening meeting in person or via Zoom. (Technically these accusations constitute libel)
7. In conclusion, I recommend that with immediate effect, Langstone Community Council suspends the arrangements for joint community access to Langstone Community Council noticeboards, in order to protect material published on these boards from mischievous third parties.

By the time the Clerk finished reading the statement, Cllr Humphries had been able to log in to the meeting electronically and he thanked the Clerk for reading the statement.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending this reconvened meeting from the 13 February. The Clerk gave an explanation for the adjournment. A brief discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by members. After some debate it was:

**Proposed:** by Cllr Bryant seconded by Cllr L Humphries the reconvened meeting should continue and approve the business that was proposed for the 13 February.

**No amendments were tabled and all those present agreed.**

**23/450     Agenda item 2:** Declarations of interest

Members will declare an interest as and when appropriate. The Clerk reminded those present about declarations of interest and the forms need to be completed.

**23/451     Agenda Item 3:** 15 minutes set aside for Community interaction and members of the community to ask the Clerk or elected members questions of local interest. **Any**

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questions should be submitted to the Clerk 3 clear working days before the meeting. All questions need to be relevant to the agenda.

There was some discussion relating to this matter which a member of the public raised on 13 February and it was explained that this matter is subject to a report for members to consider at a further meeting.

**23/452 Agenda Item 4:** To receive and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting on the 9 January 2023.

The minutes were noted at the adjourned meeting, and no amendments were made. This was:

**Proposed:** by Cllr C Bryant seconded by Cllr M Harring-Burn that the minutes are agreed.

**All those present agreed**

**23/453 Agenda Item 5:** Matters to report.

**No matters to report**

**23/454 Agenda Item 6:** To receive and sign notes from the deferred Meeting on the 13 February 2023.

All members received a copy of the decision notice with recommendations made relating to the agenda items from the 13 February 2023. The discussion on the decision notice was agreed:

**Proposed** by Cllr M Harring-Burn seconded by Cllr L Humphries

**No amendments were tabled and all those present agreed.**

**23/455 Agenda Item 6:** To consider any verbal or written reports from (Clerk)

**Clerks Report, Detailed Receipts & Payments by, Budget Heading to 31/12/2022**

|            |                                       | Actual Year<br>to Date | Current<br>Annual<br>Budget | Variance<br>Annual<br>Total | Funds<br>Available | Predicted<br>Budget<br>23/24 |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>100</u> | <u>Income</u>                         |                        |                             |                             |                    |                              |
| 1076       | Precept                               | 60,607                 | 60,607                      | 0                           |                    | 60,607                       |
| 1107       | Allocation for park repairs           | 0                      | 3,000                       | 3,000                       |                    |                              |
| 1108       | Allocation for playground inspections | 3,779                  | 4,680                       | 901                         |                    | 2,808.00                     |
|            | Income: - receipts                    | 64,386                 | 68,287                      | 3,901                       |                    |                              |
|            | Net receipts                          | 64,386                 | 68,287                      | 3,901                       |                    |                              |
| <u>200</u> | <u>Staff costs</u>                    |                        |                             |                             |                    |                              |
| 4200       | Staff costs                           | 11,661                 | 21,389                      | 9,728                       | 9,728              | 21,289.00                    |
| 4215       | Clerks' mileage                       | 157                    | 1,200                       | 1,043                       | 1,043              | 1,200.00                     |
|            | Staff costs: - indirect payments      | 11,818                 | 22,589                      | 10,771                      | 10,771             |                              |
|            | Net Payments                          | (11,818)               | (22,589)                    | (10,771)                    |                    |                              |

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|            |   |         |          |          |        |       |
|------------|---|---------|----------|----------|--------|-------|
| <u>300</u> | <u>Administration</u>                       |         |          |          |        |       |
| 4300       | Insurance                                   | 1,463   | 1,240    | (223)    | (223)  | 1,463 |
| 4301       | Bank Charges                                | 103     | 125      | 22       | 22     | 125   |
| 4305       | Membership subscriptions                    | 0       | 530      | 530      | 530    | 530   |
| 4309       | Postage                                     | 105     | 300      | 195      | 195    | 300   |
| 4310       | Stationery                                  | 145     | 300      | 155      | 155    | 300   |
| 4311       | Printer Ink                                 | 172     | 100      | (72)     | (72)   | 200   |
| 4315       | Office Equipment                            | 139     | 500      | 361      | 361    | 500   |
| 4316       | Information Technology                      | 672     | 1,000    | 328      | 328    | 1,000 |
| 4320       | Councillor expenses                         | 24      | 300      | 276      | 276    | 300   |
| 4321       | Councillor remuneration                     | 1,199   | 2,800    | 1,601    | 1,601  | 2,800 |
| 4325       | Councillor training                         | 0       | 500      | 500      | 500    | 1,000 |
| 4330       | Clerk training                              | 0       | 200      | 200      | 200    | 500   |
| 4331       | Books/reference material                    | 0       | 30       | 30       | 30     | 60    |
| 4335       | Conferences                                 | 0       | 200      | 200      | 200    | 150   |
| 4340       | Audit                                       | 312     | 600      | 288      | 288    | 600   |
| 4344       | Rent – storage                              | 90      | 180      | 90       | 90     | 180   |
| 4345       | Rent & Virtual – office                     | 689     | 570      | (119)    | (119)  | 600   |
| 4347       | Security                                    | 0       | 50       | 50       | 50     | 50    |
| 4360       | Chairman’s fund                             | 0       | 300      | 300      | 300    | 300   |
| 4370       | Website                                     | 445     | 900      | 455      | 455    | 900   |
| 4910       | Professional Fees                           | 198     | 0        | (198)    | (198)  | 200   |
|            | Administration: - Indirect payments         | 5,756   | 10,725   | 4,969    | 4,969  |       |
|            | Net payments                                | (5,756) | (10,725) | (4,969)  |        |       |
| <u>400</u> | <u>S137 Grants</u>                          |         |          |          |        |       |
| 4400       | S137 Grants                                 | 474     | 5,000    | 4,526    | 4,526  | 5,000 |
|            | S137 Grants: – Indirect Payments            | 474     | 5,000    | 4,526    | 4,526  |       |
|            | Net Payments                                | 0       | (5,000)  | (4,526)  |        |       |
| <u>500</u> | <u>Concurrent Expenditure</u>               |         |          |          |        |       |
| 4348       | LVH improvements                            | 0       | 1,000    | 1,000    | 1,000  | 0.00  |
| 4405       | Concurrent Grants                           | 0       | 1,000    | 1,000    | 1,000  | 500   |
| 4500       | Ground Maintenance                          | 550     | 570      | 20       | 20     | 3,000 |
| 4505       | Park Lease                                  | 30      | 32       | 2        | 2      | 30    |
| 4510       | Playpark inspections                        | 0       | 4,680    | 4,680    | 4,680  | 2,808 |
| 4517       | Litter picking                              | 0       | 100      | 100      | 100    | 100   |
| 4520       | Playpark repairs                            | 39      | 1,600    | 1,561    | 1,561  | 2,000 |
| 4605       | Street Furniture Maintenance                | 0       | 400      | 400      | 400    | 400   |
| 4610       | Annual Planting                             | 959     | 1,200    | 241      | 241    | 1,200 |
| 4735       | Road Safety                                 | 0       | 9,600    | 9,600    | 9,600  | 2,000 |
| 4740       | Street furniture purchase                   | 0       | 2,800    | 2,800    | 2,800  | 2,000 |
|            | Concurrent Expenditure: - Indirect Payments | 1,579   | 22,982   | 21,403   | 21,403 |       |
|            | Net Payments                                | (1,579) | (22,982) | (21,403) |        |       |
| <u>700</u> | <u>Community Events/Projects</u>            |         |          |          |        |       |

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|------------|---|----------|----------|----------|---------|--------|
| 4700       | Community Events                              | 4,203    | 2,100    | (2,103)  | (2,103) | 3,000  |
| 4701       | Christmas Concert                             | 0        | 400      | 400      | 400     | 0.00   |
| 4702       | Christmas meal – Seniors                      | 2,222    | 668      | (1,554)  | (1,554) | 2,000  |
| 4707       | Christmas Trees                               | 115      | 650      | 535      | 535     | 1,600  |
| 4708       | Autumn Event                                  | 0        | 406      | 406      | 406     | 0.00   |
| 4710       | Remembrance Day                               | 75       | 238      | 163      | 163     | 125    |
| 4711       | Spring Event                                  | 0        | 300      | 300      | 300     | 200    |
| 4713       | Children’s Party                              | 0        | 300      | 300      | 300     | 300    |
| 4714       | 70 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Beacon Lighting      | 492      | 800      | 308      | 308     | 0.00   |
| 4715       | 70 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Fish & Chip Supper   | 399      | 400      | 1        | 1       | 0.00   |
| 4716       | 70 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Family Day Community | 3,416    | 3,800    | 384      | 384     | 0.00   |
|            | Events/Projects:- Indirect Payments           | 10,924   | 10,062   | (862)    | (862)   |        |
|            | Net Payments                                  | (10,924) | (10,062) | 862      |         |        |
| <b>800</b> | <b>Capital Projects</b>                       |          |          |          |         |        |
| 4730       | Playpark Equipment Purchase                   | 0        | 210      | 210      | 210     | 200    |
|            | Capital Projects:- Indirect Payments          | 0        | 210      | 210      | 210     | 37,793 |
|            | Net Payments                                  | 0        | (210)    | (210)    |         |        |
| 999        | VAT Data                                      |          |          |          |         |        |
| 515        | VAT on Payments                               | 1,046    | 0        | (1,046)  | (1,046) |        |
|            | VAT Data: - Indirect Payments                 | 1,046    | 0        | (1,046)  | (1,046) |        |
|            | Net Payments                                  | (1,046)  | 0        | 1,046    |         |        |
|            | Grand Totals: - Receipts                      | 64,386   | 68,287   | 3,901    |         |        |
|            | Payments                                      | 31,597   | 71,568   | 39,971   | 39,971  |        |
|            | Net Receipts over Payments                    | 32,789   | (3,281)  | (36,070) |         |        |
|            | Movement to/(from) Gen reserve                | 32,789   |          |          |         |        |

A discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by members. It was:

**Proposed** by Cllr M Harring-Burn seconded by Cllr L Humphries

**No amendments were tabled and all those present agreed to accept the recommendations not to increase the precept for the forthcoming year 2023/24 and accept the report up to month 9.**

Cllr M Harring-Burn explained that members of the Community Council will recall in a personnel meeting relating to the Clerks working hours and pay scale will need to be considered in the next couple of weeks.

**All those present noted the comments made.**

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**23/456 Agenda Item 7:** To receive members declarations of interest forms.

The Clerk reminded all those present that he had only received some of the declarations of interest forms that were distributed following the election in May 2022. Those members that haven't presented the declaration form will do so in the several days.

**All those present noted the comments.**

**23/457 Agenda Item 8:** To consider events relating to the Kings Coronation (Cllr C Bryant)

The chair made a verbal statement relating to the Kings Coronation relating to local events within the communities. This statement was noted by those present.

Cllr M Harring-Burn expressed his views following the Jubilee event in 2022. He believes the Community Council should support any local group that would like to hold an event, but the Community Council should not be involved in the management of any events. There was some discussion with a range of views being expressed by those present.

Cllr Oliver-Mardon explained that the Community Council should hold an event in Langstone, as the Community Council held an event over the three days in June 2022. Again, there was some discussion with a range of views being expressed by those present.

It was explained groups that are constituted can apply for grant funding from the Community Council. Those groups will need to apply for the relevant consents from the Highway Authority and the Police. The groups would also be required to provide a copy of their insurance cover and any other certificates.

After some debate **it was:**

**Agreed:** The Community Council would support groups if grant funding is applied for. If groups and organisation wish to submit grant applications, they will need to be with the Community Council before the 8<sup>th</sup> April so the Community Council can consider the applications.

**23/458 Agenda Item 9:** To consider any verbal or written reports from Gwent Police.

Members noted the comments the Inspector gave in his verbal report on matters that had been reported over the last several weeks. The Inspector informed those present that there had been 23 calls from residents from Langstone Community and 22 criminal offences ranging from domestic to criminal damage. The Inspector explained that there's been an incident where damage has been done to a vehicle in Langstone. He explained that the Police are always on call and will attend.

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**All those present noted the comments.**

**23/459 Agenda Item 10:** Community Council storage space (Cllr J Harring-Burn)

The comments made in the deferred meeting were considered and an in-depth discussion took place with a range of views being expressed by members.

After some debate it was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Oliver-Mardon seconded by Cllr M Harring-Burn the third party has sole use of a storage container as below or it is sold,

- The rent should be set, around £75 pcm or
- The unit is offered for purchase at £800 or
- The unit is removed by the 1 April and sold.

**No amendments were tabled and all those present agreed.**

The Clerk should formally write to the Chairman of the Association and inform them of the proposal.

**23/460 Agenda Item 11:** Consider any Planning applications considered or received before the meeting

Members noted all the Planning Applications that the Clerk had forwarded since the last meeting and no observations have been reported back to the Clerk, therefore it was assumed the Community Council had no comment to make.

The Clerk informed members that members of the Community Council met with residents relating to a Planning Application for the development land to the rear of 12 Spartan Close Langstone. The Clerk explained that residents were against the proposed development.

**23/461 Agenda Item 12:** To note finance matters, including Income & Expenditure

The Clerk informed members that no further invoices had been received since the last payment on the January meeting minutes.

**All those present noted the verbal report.**

**23/462 Agenda Item 13:** To Note any miscellaneous items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

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Members noted the miscellaneous correspondence that was emailed direct to Members as appropriate. No further comments were made.

**Resolved: to note all correspondence  
All those present agreed**

**23/463     Agenda Item 14:** Reports from members on outside bodies

The chair gave a verbal report following the last meeting of the school governors. There was no significant information as the meeting was cut short due to employment action.

**Members noted the verbal report**

**23/464     Agenda Item 15:** Members requests for items for inclusion on the agenda (Motions need to be tabled with the Proper Officer at least 10 clear days before the meeting.)

**No matters reported for the next meeting**

The meeting closed at 20.25hrs and the date of the next meeting 13 March 2023

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