

Langstone Community Council
Notes of the Public Meeting held at Langstone Village Hall
Monday 12 June 2023 at 6:30 pm

Date: 12 June 2023

In attendance:
Adrian Edwards Clerk
16 members of the public

Time: at 18:30 hrs

23/538

Cllr's Present

C Bryant (Chair)	J Bryant
L Humphries	M Oliver-Mardon
J Humphries	K Wilson

City Councillor W Roughtly

Apologies received:

M Harring-Burn
J Harring-Burn
Ms A Jarman
Mrs A Jarman

Absent:
M Griffiths

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance for attending this evening.

Agenda item 1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies received by those named above. The council received no paper apologies

Agenda item 2. Declarations of interest.

No Declarations were made

Agenda item 3. Chairs opening remarks.

Agenda item 4. Open questions from the floor

4.1 Only one person at a time to speak.

4.2 Each person will be given 2 minutes to pose a question.

4.3 If the Council are not able to answer, the person will be asked their name and contact details and a written response will be provided as below.

4.4 No question should be repeated more than once.

4.5 In accordance with Standing Order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

The Chair opened the meeting and asked if anyone would like to ask any questions.

q) A member of the public stated that she was a former member of the Community Council, and she gave some background to her knowledge, and she has moved back to the community. The member of the public asked what the structure of the Community Council is, and what process in place to work with

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Chairman's initials

Newport City Council and its councillors when there are concerns and issues in the wider community, and how do the Community Council liaise with the Police and other agencies.

r) The Chair explained that Police attend meeting when possible, and the City Councillors attend meetings as and when.

q) The same person asked how many councillors are on the Community Council. It was said that no-one knows who the Councillors are and where they come from. It was said that Councillors elected for Langstone ward were from Langstone and Councillors elected for Llandevaud ward were from Llandevaud.

r) The Chair invited those councillors who were present to introduce themselves.

q) How are questions answered.

r) If councillors are unable to answer the council has a clerk

q) it was asked about asking questions at a council meeting and giving three days' notice. It was explained the person said that he is dyslexic and has a fear of emailing or writing. It was also said that the community has several milestones on the Chepstow and Magor roads, and he would like to be involved in restoring them.

r) it was explained this would be a Highways matter as it's on the Highway.

q) what facilities are the Community Council responsible for, for example the community as two play parks. It was explained that the equipment in the parks is not compatible for all age groups to play at the same time.

q) was asked about the precept and the spend from the budgets, and why can't the Community Council be more involved in the public transport.

r) The City Councillor gave a response to the public transport concern. It was explained that Newport Transport are responsible for local transport provision. It was explained that Newport City Council know the Community Council doesn't have any responsibility for this provision. The City Councillor gave some background information, explaining it was set up by the Welsh Government, and this includes the

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frequency of the service. He gave some examples with some services only being one per hour and no service on a Sunday, and this can be insulating. He also explained that Newport Bus is a private entity.

q) one attendee said the bus service runs every two hours through Langstone. The Fflexi bus service was mentioned but it was explained that this service has been scrapped as residents weren't using the service.

r) The City Councillor said the Fflexi bus service was a limited to a ride scheme set up by Welsh Government, and the service failed as the system was a booking system and not everyone was able to use the service, and the service didn't service the whole Langstone ward. It was believed that the service wasn't run effectively and efficiently and that contributed to its failing. It was explained that a proposal was put forward to use Private Hire companies to provide a service to the wider community.

q) It was explained if you stand on the side of the Highway and note the number of people using the service you will see that some of the busses are empty and no-one using the service.

The Chair asked the attendee what the other questions where he asked.

q) He would like to see the parks refurbished and how many benches does the Community Council have in the Community and what other assets are there.

q) It was asked how many people here this evening have used the bus service today? It was said by another attendee if the service was more user-friendly people would use them and use their bus passes if they had one.

r) on behalf of the Community Council, it was explained the bus service is run by different organisations and doesn't come under the Community Councils remit. It was explained how the current service links with other principle councils like Monmouthshire or City of Cardiff. The City Councillor said the services don't link with other Councils and their services.

q) was asked, what would those present like the Community Council to do in partnership with the current City Councillors for Langstone.

It was explained that the Community Council and the City Councillor should lobby the service providers and the City Council. Council/Councillor presentation is required. The City Councillor said that he would provide information to the Community Council on this matter.

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It was explained that the community doesn't always need to have large busses to provide a service, and smaller busses would be able to service the outlying communities.

r) The clerk explained that he is unable to answer all the questions relating to assets in the community at this time. It was explained that the Community Council has responsibility for one play park in the community and that is Centenary Park.

The Community Council doesn't have responsibility for Poppy Park at Maplewood. It was explained the City Council and the former Community Council administration never signed a lease or agreement for this Play Park, and the responsibility still lies with the City Council and their departments. It was also explained at this time the Community Council will not be looking to take on any tenancy for this play park due to the risks that are associated with it.

q) it was asked, why correspondence has been seen relating to the Community Council maintaining Poppy Park.

r) the Community Council since 2017 have been paying a Department of City of Newport Council to maintain this park from funds that were allocated from section 106 funding from developments in Langstone and surrounding communities. The Community Council were under the understanding it had formal agreements but following further discussions with City of Newport it's been noted that Langstone Community Council doesn't have a formal agreement and therefore the Community Council have informed the City Council it is not undertaking any further maintenance.

The City Councillor explained that this was news to him, and he wasn't aware of this. He explained that both City Councillors inspected the play equipment at Poppy Park with a Community Councillor, and they weren't aware of this.

It was explained that the City Councillor attended the meeting with the relevant department in November 2021 where this was discussed. The City Councillor didn't recall that meeting.

The City Councillor asked who would be responsible if any accidents should occur and where would any claim need to be directed.

r) any claims or records of accidents or damage would need to be reported to City of Newport. It was also explained that a Community Councillor sent several emails relating to Poppy Park regarding the ground conditions and concern over some of the play equipment, and both City Councillors were copied into

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those emails and the replies from the Community Council informing everyone that Langstone Community Council were not responsible for the maintenance.

It was also explained that Langstone Community Council has asked for a report on the annotation tanks that are located under the ground at Poppy Park, and no-one can provide evidence of the condition of the tank/s and therefore the Community Council passed a resolution not to sign any formal agreement for this play park and the equipment within it.

The Community Council were unable to insure this play park without any formal agreement therefore again that's why the play park is not the responsibility of Langstone Community Council. It was explained this was down to the former staff member and elected members of the former administration of the Community Council for not completing all the formal documentation.

The City Councillor said that the responsibility was Langstone Community Councils, and he would take further steps to understand the ownership. The City Councillor was corrected, Langstone Community Council incorrectly assumed responsibility until this was investigated, and the errors were found and reported to the relevant officers at City of Newport. No formal signed agreement has been evidenced. Further discussion took place with a range of views expressed.

The City Councillor stated that he will action this with officers from City of Newport and will provide copies to Langstone Community Council.

q) was asked about Poppy Park by a resident of Maplewood who has lived on this development since it was built and can recall the meetings relating to provision of a memorial. It was explained that funding was provided and transferred to Langstone Community Council. It was proposed that the memorial was going to be installed directly on top of the annotation tanks, and this was objected to by residents at the time.

It was explained that the former developer provided funding for the installation of the play park at Maplewood, and the resident would like to know what the amounts were and who received the funding.

r) it was explained that, that funding was not passed to Langstone Community Council.

r) the City Councillor believes the funding was around £300k. He explained that no funding was held by Langstone Community Council, it was held by a department within City of Newport. The Community

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Council where part of the process where the funding should be allocated. He explained that he didn't know the amount that was spent on the memorial, but he believes it was around £100k.

q) it was thought that any funding should have been held for any ongoing maintenance, and not expect the residents to fund any ongoing repairs and maintenance.

r) the City Councillor explained that all projects were overseen by an officer from City of Newport Council.

The clerk explained that the funding was section 106 funding, and this was administered by officers from the Planning Department before consent was given and the funding would have been transferred to City of Newport Council. Any projects would have been overseen by officers from City of Newport and the Community Council would have made representations for the allocation of the funding. The clerk explained that to the best of his knowledge the cost to construct Poppy Park was around £98k.

It was explained that Community Council receives funding around £4,808 PA to maintain the play parks and the Community Council are invoiced for the same amount by City of Newport Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the parks. Since the start of the financial year 22/23 the Community Council has not received any funding for Poppy Park.

It was explained that any claims need to be reported to the City Council or the City Councillors to deal with.

It was explained that an estimated amount from several developments within the community totalled around £490k and an estimated amount of around £350k, was allocated to Langstone Village Hall. There was also the cost for upgrading Century Park and the memorial.

The clerk explained that he would try to answer any further questions.

q) the City Councillor asked are the figures in the public domain or are the amounts written down in another place.

r) every effort will be made to provide a briefing note to the next Community Council meeting.

Several other questions were asked about this location and one attendee said the tanks/s are constructed from concrete and he surveyed them as an engineer, (there's no evidence provided)

q) what plans do the Community Council have for improving the play parks and the memorial.

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It been noted that concern has been expressed over the land drainage in Centenary Park, but are there any plans to upgrade them, and provide more benches.

r) the Community Council has budget headings, and those amounts can be found in the minutes of the Community Council.

q) was raised about the planting containers in the community. It was explained that several of the containers have not been maintained. An example was given about the container on the end of Park End and there is a small tree growing out of it.

r) it was explained that 13 containers have been planted this year throughout the community. The one container on Cat sa Road has a tree growing out of it and plants can't be planted. It was asked can anyone confirm the ownership of the container.

q) was asked about planting the plants and does the planters receive sponsorship, and its only the Community Council that plant them.

r) It was explained if anyone would like to help, please come forward to help maintain and replant in the autumn.

r) it was explained that the memorial was installed in 2017 and the cost was around £98k and the Community Council were the applicants for the Planning Permission and officers from the City Council were the agents for the project. It was confirmed that the Community Council do not have a formal agreement at this stage, like Poppy Park, no formal agreement has been signed.

The clerk informed those present that concern needs to be expressed as the Community Council doesn't have any formal agreement for this memorial, and it is not clear if a Service of Remembrance can be held this year and going forward. The Community Council may not be able to have any Public Liability Insurance, due to holding a service so close to a live highway. It is not that the Community Council doesn't wish to hold a service but it's the liability and the risk to third parties.

It was also explained the memorial has not been constructed as per the Planning Application that was submitted. The agent on behalf of the Community Council submitted an amendment requesting that a condition was removed.

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It was explained again the Community Council have informed officers from City of Newport Council that the Community Council doesn't wish to have an agreement for the memorial due to the ongoing risk the owner or tenant may have in relation to this.

The Community Council have taken legal advice over the risk to the Community Council and its members, and the Community Council have been advised without a formal agreement the Community Council should not convene a Service of Remembrance without any confirmation from the City Council.

It was expected that some residents will be upset by this, but the decision has been made so the Community Council will not be put at risk.

It was explained if any individual or organisation would like to hold a Service of Remembrance it would be for that person/s or organisation to provide their own Risk Assessment and insurance policy and inform the City Council.

It was explained by a Councillor that consideration will be given to undertake a Risk Assessment. It was explained that last year, 2022, many people attended and a number of those stepped back onto the Highway which was live with traffic movement.

It was explained that the Police that were in attendance did assist with the crowd control but individuals continued to step back onto the Highway. The Community Council must take steps to protect those attending events or services like this.

The City Councillor didn't know anything about this and didn't know about any legal advice the Community Council had sought. He explained that he was aware that the former Chair and officer of Langstone Community Council were involved in the negotiations to have this memorial located in this place. It was explained that its to early to walk away from holding a Service of Remembrance without considering a Risk Assessment. The City Councillor believes it won't take too much to put this right.

The City Councillor will ask officers from City Newport Council about the formal agreements in due course.

q) was the memorial constructed in the correct place.

r) it was said the Community Council submitted the Planning Application and an officer from City of Newport Council acted as an agent. The agent and the Planning Authority considered and amended the conditions set out in the approval.

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q) it was indicated that it should be knocked down and put in the right place. The Planning Authority would expect anyone else to do that.

r) the memorial was constructed inline with the condition

q) why can't the Council work with the police to manage the traffic and cordon the Highway to make it safe.

r) Consideration will be given to undertake a Risk Assessment and that will need to be presented to the Highway Authority for approval and that will take an estimated 10 to 12 weeks so all partners can be informed and make any observation or objections.

It was explained that this has been discussed for several months, and it has been agreed that a small working group will be set up to draft a Risk Assessment and present it to a formal meeting. Suggestions have been presented and so far, those suggestions have been rejected.

q) was asked about the precept and the number of dwellings in Langstone. If the Community Council are not going to maintain the memorial or the play parks what is the precept going to be spent on as the precept goes up every year. There was a comment that Langstone has the third largest precept, and the Community Council has no assets.

r) it was explained that no Councillor would like to return any asset, but the Community Council must be mindful of protecting itself and any third parties and its legal responsibility to the public and themselves. It was explained that any funds that have been allocated for maintenance comes from any section 106 funding that's been awarded from any development.

q) a question was asked about the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA). Could you explain if SWTRA or the Highway Authority considered road improvements on the A48 and without any formal agreement, could the Community Council object to any improvement, as the Community Council constructed the memorial and made the relevant Planning Application but doesn't have an agreement from City of Newport.

r) it was explained that SWTRA look after the main trunk roads in south and west Wales and the A48 is the responsibility of Newport Highways Authority. The City Councillor said that the land where the memorial is located is Newport City Council land.

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q) was raised with the City Councillor over the condition of the roads like the A48 and Magor Road, and the road surface, also, the impact traffic is having on Langstone due to the redirection of traffic from the M4.

r) it was explained that Highway issues have been actioned by the City Councillors and improvement works have been programmed but that's in the current system and managed by officers from the Highway authority not the Community Council.

q) about the speed awareness signs on the A48, and it would appear, three VAS signs are not working. It was asked when will those signs be serviced and work again.

r) The City Councillor will investigate the road surface and the VAS signs.

r) it was explained that Langstone Community Council are aware of the concerns about the speed of the traffic in the community, and everyone is aware that there was a group that used to monitor the speed in the community, but that group has disbanded. The Community Council are in the process in setting up a group to start the relevant training in partnership with Gwent Police and the Speed awareness panel.

The Community Council and volunteers are unable to do this on its own and needs the support of the Police and the speed awareness panel.

q) was asked about a decision of the Community Council relating to a steel shed that is located at Llanmartin. It was said that this shed was purchased in 2013 by Langstone Community Council. It was explained that the shed was for the sole use of residents of Llanmartin where a local organisation stored tables and chairs for events that are run in the community.

It was explained in June 2019 the Community Council considered and voted if the shed was going to be gifted to the organisation, but the Community Council resolved to keep it on the Community Council asset register.

It was explained in March 2023 without any prior notice the Community Council voted to decide to charge the organisation an estimated £900 PA to continue to use the shed, or to purchase the shed from the Community Council for a figure of £800.00. It was explained that neither option was feasible as the organisation has no funds.

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It was noted that the shed was placed on the Community Council social media page for sale for any reasonable offer. Therefore.

- ❖ why didn't the Community Council offer the shed to the organisation at a reasonable cost.
- ❖ why didn't the Community Council gift the shed to the organisation under the NCC asset transfer policy?
- ❖ why isn't it on the agenda of the next Community Council meeting.

r) an item was included on the agenda of the February meeting, and the actions were proposed and resolved. The actions were sent to the Chair of the organisation for information. The item was placed on the agenda following a request from a Community Councillor under the wording provided. The clerk explained that this matter was discussed over two meetings with a resolution proposed by one Councillor and seconded by another.

Another attendee said that this was discussed at a meeting that was adjourned and considered at the next meeting. Members of the public wasn't aware what this meant.

r) a question was asked if the attendee has an interest in the shed, and would you like to make an offer on the shed as a storage unit.

q) the City Councillor said that he would offer £100 towards the purchase and transfer it under the Community Asset Transfer process.

r) it was explained that the Community Council had received an expression of interest in the shed and those expressions are outstanding for the Community Council to consider.

There was some discussion around this. It was explained that a resolution has been made. Consideration needs to be given to the rule following a resolution of the Community Council. The City Councillor explained that this meeting is a major step forward, resetting the status quo between some of the residents and the Community Council. The chair explained that the City Councillor has put in an offer, therefore, will the Llanmartin organisation be showing an expression of interest.

q) was asked why the Community Council decided to sell the shed, what was/is the reason for the sale.

r) the clerk explained that he included an item on the agenda following a request and he presented a letter following the decision of the Council. It wasn't his decision to sell anything.

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The clerk explained that a resolution cannot be changed within 26 weeks of passing a resolution. It was also explained if a Community Asset Transfer is considered there is a process to follow.

q) it was explained it is so good to see the number of people who have attended this to talk about local things that affect the community and working together. For example, road safety and issues of storage. It was explained that it's not clear how many people read the Community Council agenda that published.

q) The agenda is generic; the agenda items are the same. It was explained that the attendee has looked at other council agenda's and attended other council meetings. (*Attached is an example of a neighbouring council's agenda for comparison*).

q) it was said that matters arising can't be just several words, it needs to be more defined.

r) it was explained that matters arising in the minutes are not for discussion, it's to report back on any actions that were debated in the previous meeting.

q) it was said the Community Council should be more dynamic and have plans going forward; Councillors should have roles and responsibilities.

r) the Community Council cannot delegate powers to one Councillor. A Council sub-committee could take the lead but not have delegated powers.

q) a point was made about some of the pages on the Website are not current and need updating

r) it was explained that the website will be discussed in the next meeting.

q) why can't the website and the social media page be linked

q) communications need to be open between the Community Council and the Community.

q) how was this meeting advertised.

r) a Councillor said that he looked on one of the social media pages in the community, and the meeting was on the Community Council social media page as well as advertised in all the notice boards.

q) was asked about a newsletter

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r) it was explained that will be discussed by the Council shortly. Those present were also informed that when the Community Frist page announced that it was going to be closed, Langstone Community Council contacted the editor to see if the Community Council could help, and the Community Council was told it was too late to provide any help.

q) about putting a list of dates on the website.

The clerk explained that there are issues with communications, and social media. Not everyone would know that the clerk has been banned or blocked from Langstone Ward Matters. The City Councillor is aware of this as one of the administrators, therefore the Community Council have been silenced in that way. One of the reasons that the Community Council have been blocked is, because I (clerk) won't put my photograph on the Community Council Facebook page, but it has been noted that other groups/ persons don't have any identification or have a photograph of a pet or someone standing looking out over a view.

r) the City Councillor said that LWM doesn't allow anonymous posts. The City Councillor said that he would remove the block on LWM and to give access so the Community Council can post and contribute.

It was explained that the Community Council Facebook page is not a debating platform it's a notice board solely for information.

q) was asked to the attendees, are all the social media platforms open or are they closed platforms, for example the platforms in Llandevaud, Llanmartin, Maplewood. It was asked if anyone has contact with the relevant platforms, would they like to see Langstone Community Council represented on these platforms.

r) no reply was given

q) a question was asked about the proposed speed limits in the Community, when are they going to take place and who will enforce the proposed new speed limits. It was explained that there are speed cameras in the community and speed restrictions, for example along the Magor Road and Llanmartin.

r) it was explained that the new proposed speed limits will be introduced on the 17 September 2023. The City Council will still be lobbying the Highway Authority and there is a lack of enforcement.

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q) a question was asked about some of the comments made on Facebook by a small number of people and criticised the Community Council and individuals.

r) there was some discussion over this, and it is hoped that this will move on.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending

The meeting closed at 20:40

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To members of the Penhow Community Council

You are hereby summoned to the **Ordinary Meeting** to be held on

Wednesday, 5th July 2023 at 7.15pm

This meeting will be held **St John's Hall**. Members of the public are invited to attend. The meeting will be held face to face.

Clerk – Nicola Sutherland (01633 401106) email clerk@penhowcommunity.org

Agenda

1. **Apologies** – to receive and accept apologies
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Previous Minutes**
 - To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 7th June 2023
4. **Matters Arising** (that are not included as part of the agenda) to include but not limited to:
 - Community Councillor Vacancy
5. **Public Participation** (limited to 15 minutes)
6. **Ward Councillor Matters**

Discussion and feedback from the NCC Councillors. To include:

 - Speeding day of action
7. **Councillor Areas of Responsibility Matters Updates**
 - (i) Community Liaison – Cllr John Wagstaff
 - (ii) Green Spaces – Cllr Michael Weekes
 - o Walking Path
 - (iii) Recreation Grounds and Street Furnishings – Cllrs John Wagstaff and Keith Jones
 - (iv) St John's Hall – Cllr Keith Jones
8. **D-Day Anniversary Event June 2024**
 - Update regarding the planning of this event
9. **Village Matters**

Highways Issues

 - Road maintenance across the whole area, including the A48 through Langstone

Other village matters

 - Blocked Stile
 - Defence of green spaces in Penhow
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Offer of a donation to support the work of Penhow CC
10. **Planning Applications**

No new planning applications have been received.

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**BISHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED TRESEGOB**

Clerk's Office – 15 Caerau Road – Newport – NP20 4HL
07988624393– bishtoncc@live.co.uk

To members of Bishton & Underwood Community Council

You are hereby summoned to an **ORDINARY MEETING** to be held on Tuesday 11th July at 06:30pm
(ending no later than 09:00pm)

The meeting will be held at The Conference Room - Underwood Community Centre. Members of public are invited to attend. The meeting will also be held via Zoom – please contact the Clerk for online access details.

Jacob Richards-Powell

Clerk for Bishton Community Council – bishtoncc@live.co.uk

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of interest
4. Public participation (Limited to 20 Minutes)
 - a. Bishton Village Hall Report
 - b. Questions from Members of Public
5. City Councillor Participation
 - a. Update on matters involving City councillors
6. Approve Minutes from Ordinary Meeting
 - a. Tuesday 13th June 2023
7. Action Points & Clerk Report
 - a. Update on Actions from last month
8. Finance & Procedure
 - a. Review and agree bank reconciliation for June 2023
 - b. Note bank balances
 - c. Review co-option application for new councillor
9. Maintenance
 - a. Review Duty of Care Contract with Active Underwood Request
 - b. Review quotations received for solar improvement at UCC
 - c. Review quotations received for improvement works to Football club
 - d. Agree quotation for Fire system installation works at Bishton Village Hall and Underwood Community Centre
 - e. Review complaint over cleanliness of UCC
10. Underwood, Bishton & Wilcrick
 - a. Allotments
 - i. Review update to hosepipe use amendment
 - ii. Review waiting list
 - b. Confirm receipt of complaint of hedge in Bishton and notice to NCC
11. Planning
 - i. CONNEX/ 23/0529 - DOUBLE STOREY EXTENSION, INTERNAL ALTERATIONS, DEMOLISH GARAGE AND REBUILD LARGER GARAGE
 - ii. DNS/3220457 - APPLICATION BY RUSH WALL SOLAR FARM LIMITED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR PARK WITH AN APPROXIMATE DESIGN CAPACITY OF 75MW AND INCLUDES ANCILLARY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS TRACKS, SECURITY FENCING AND CCTV.
 - iii. Confirm receipt of decision notice reports from NCC
12. Date and location of next meeting. Tuesday 8th August 2023 at Bishton Village Hall & Online at 6:30pm

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