



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER AT 64 HIGH STREET COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

Councillors Present: Andrew Garratt (Chair), Martin Oliver (Vice-Chair), Joanne Ballington, Julie Jones-Evans, Robin Jordan, Joe Lever, Vix Lowthion, Terry Martin, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart and Michael Smith.

<u>Clerk:</u>	Joshua Tombleson
<u>Public:</u>	1
<u>Outside Organisations:</u>	2
<u>Press:</u>	1
<u>Other:</u>	0

The Chair formally opened the meeting by welcoming back Cllr. Smart.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Debra Greening attended the meeting and asked the community council to consider becoming a pesticide free town. As a member of Pesticide Action Network UK, Debra provided details on the organisation and highlighted some of the reasons why other town and parish councils are considering becoming a pesticide free town.

The chair thanked Debra for attending and said this could be something that the council discusses and considers in the future.

3233.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Cllr. Brodie.
3234.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Garratt, Jones-Evans, Lever, Oliver and Price declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as Isle of Wight councillors. Cllr. Ballington declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the charity. Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport Businesses as vice-chair of Newport Business Association. Cllr. Martin declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to Gunville as a member of the Gunville Community Association.

	<p>Cllr. Jones-Evans said that she would be absenting herself from the Wight Gift Card discussion due to her previous involvement with bringing the project forward and also as her businesses in Sandown and Newport are sites where the Wight Gift Card is accepted.</p> <p>No written requests for dispensation were received.</p>
3235.	<p><u>IWC ENFORCEMENT OFFICER</u></p> <p>Mary Mitchell, IWC enforcement officer for the Newport and Carisbrooke area, attended the meeting and provided members with a background to the position and an overview of the types of work which have been completed as a result of the community council's funding contribution. The additional capacity has really shown what they have been able to achieve when they are usually limited on resource.</p> <p>One of the main areas highlighted was the focus on the condition of the High Street properties. Mary has been able to dedicate more of her time and attention to the lower priority properties which they usually may not have been able to do. Members agreed that this has had a big impact of the general appearance of the High Street and what she has achieved so far has been really positive.</p> <p>The NCCC initiative to work with IWC for planning enforcement, and the associated financial contribution made, has been noted by other councils and something which the IWC is keen to encourage others to follow suit on.</p>
3236.	<p><u>COMMUNITY CAPACITY GRANTS</u></p> <p>Members were joined by Teresa Brimble-Brennan, an IWC officer within the Supporting Families team. Teresa provided an overview of the community capacity grant funding which is shortly becoming available to organisations, groups and clubs through the supporting family's programme. The funding comes through their payment by results programme which is allocated for families who have received successful support and have moved forward. This money is then reinvested back into the community through these funds.</p> <p>The funds are available to help applicants deliver new provisions. The provisions must support local families in the community to help and develop community resources, spaces, and activities. They are looking to support youth provisions, family-based groups focusing on perinatal mental health, mental health clubs, peer support groups, outreach support and community led groups and activities.</p> <p>Grants up to £3,000 are going to be available. Applications will be accepted between 9th October and 11th November. They have to promote emotional resilience and encourage positive mental health, meet an evidenced need, be an inclusive provision and be a sustainable provision. They will be providing application support sessions, a training package through the IWC including aspects such as safeguarding, and also ongoing support to help the activity become sustainable.</p>

	<p>Teresa was thanked for attending the meeting and members indicated that they will be considering any applications which could be made into the scheme.</p>
3237.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 4th September 2023 were presented to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 4th September be agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>Public Question Time- The Clerk informed members that the query raised by the member of the public had now been resolved, and although Sheila Hall had not heard further from Cllr. Ambrosini, a chance meeting with ex-NCCC councillor, John Hobart, had allowed him to provide a key for the noticeboard in question.</p> <p>3214. Environment Officer- Sophia Hellyer, IWC Environment Officer, although absent for the last meeting of Full Council, she had since been able to attend a meeting of the Assets & Facilities Committee and introduce herself to members.</p> <p>3215. Shaping Newport Survey- As discussed at the meeting, Cllr. Jones-Evans is going to convene a working group, via the clerk, to discuss the Shaping Newport survey action plan.</p> <p>3218. Shaping Newport- Cllr. Jones-Evans is still in discussions with IWC over the possibility of NCCC taking on the asset and is also still attempting to locate previous plans for the building.</p> <p>3220. Housing Needs Survey- The clerk told members that a meeting with IWC planning officers had been arranged to take place prior to the evening meeting of full council. However due to the need to hold a meeting of the Planning & Consultation Committee at this time, the housing needs meeting had been cancelled. He is currently in the process of arranging an alternative time and date for this to take place and will communicate with member when details are known.</p> <p>On behalf of the lead member for finance, Cllr. Price reminded members of the budget setting process for 2023/2024 and key dates.</p>
3238.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Members were presented with payments made during September 2023 for approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the accounts paid in September 2023 be unanimously approved.</p> <p>Members received the income and expenditure report to 30th September 2023.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p>

	<p>THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 30th September 2023 be noted.</p> <p>Members received the balance sheet for September 2023.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the balance sheet for September 2023 be noted.</p> <p><u>GRANT APPLICATION</u></p> <p>Members had in front of them a grant application from Sight for Wight for £150 to support the entry of pupils from Newport and Carisbrooke Schools into the Short Story Writing Competition.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the grant application for Sight for Wight be agreed for the full £150 requested.</p>
3239.	<p><u>COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members were asked to consider a response to the Isle of Wight Council Tax Reductions Scheme Consultation. The Chair reminded members of the response which the community council has provided to the consultation in the previous year.</p> <p>A discussion took place amongst members, who were in agreement that although it is aspirational to see the level of support increased as much as possible for residents during these tough times, it also needs to be financially viable to do so, and therefore if the level can remain the same then this would hopefully preserve services which may otherwise be cut by IWC to enable this.</p> <p>The Chair reminded members, for the purpose of the recording, that NCCC is only providing a response to the consultation, and not deciding the outcome.</p> <p>Cllr. Price proposed that NCCC respond to the consultation and recommend that the scheme stay the same as it is currently, with the maximum level remaining at 70%, however also indicating that it would be desirable for the maximum level of support to increase in future years if not detrimental to the provision of IWC services.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC respond to the consultation and recommend that the scheme stay the same as it is currently, with the maximum level remaining at 70%, however also indicating that it would be desirable for the maximum level of support to increase in future years if not detrimental to the provision of IWC services.</p>
3240.	<p><u>NEWPORT FREE PARKING PILOT</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with an overview of the most recent Newport Parking group meeting, where IWC officers had asked if the community council would consider extending its financial support to enable the free parking pilot to extend until the end of February, to allow a deeper conversation to take place regarding the equal treatment of parking in Newport and Ryde and future pricing structure.</p>

	<p>Cllr. Price proposed that the recommendation should be approved, and funding be provided until 26th February to allow for the relevant discussions to take place as outlined.</p> <p>Members said it would be useful to see a deeper breakdown of data in regard to footfall, to show where pedestrian traffic is come from, in order to see how much has come from the car parks into the town centre, and how much may have come from the reduced bus fare scheme which has coincided with the pilot. Cllr. Jones-Evans said that the new data provider will be able to provide this information as part of their analysis.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC continue its financial support towards the Newport Free Pilot until 26th February 2023.</p>
3241.	<p><u>WIGHT GIFT CARD</u></p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans left the room for the duration of the item.</p> <p>Members had before them a paper which had been provided by the IWC, seeking sponsorship towards the future operation of the Wight Gift Card. Members were asked to discuss and consider if they would like NCCC to contribute to this.</p> <p>Members shared mixed views on the Wight Gift Card, with some members being supportive of the scheme and feeling that it fell within the remit of NCCC to consider financially support, whereas others did not. However, members were in agreement that further information would need to be provided to enable a fully informed decision, and where the item is not budgeted for, it would be preferable if the lead member for finance be present and involved in discussions.</p> <p>The clerk asked that members send an outline of any additional information they require to make a decision on the item to him by close of business on Friday 6th October.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the item be deferred until the November meeting of full council.</p>
3242.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p> <p>There has not been a Shaping Newport meeting since the last meeting of Full Council, however Cllr. Jones-Evans did indicate that Historic England are keen for improvements and refurbishment works to take place on the Guildhall and have been supporting the Shaping Newport officer in getting an application for funding to a suitable stage.</p>
3243.	<p><u>HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE</u></p> <p>The Clerk shared an update on the HSHAZ project for members, with a main focus being the upcoming works to Newport High Street as part of the People First Zone element of the project. There are currently discussions taking place between the HSHAZ project officer, Southern Water and Island Roads to enable a final scheme of works to be designed. The outcome of these discussions will shape the next</p>

	<p>stages of the works. The HSHAZ project officer will gladly attend a meeting of full council to discuss once at the appropriate stage and is also very keen on bringing the public on board through consultation and media releases throughout. More information will be shared once available. It was stressed that engagement with all those affected should be timely and based on full information.</p>
3244.	<p><u>64 HIGH STREET</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with a brief update on activities and progress within 64 High Street, including shoplet opportunities, the ongoing success of the heritage display area, increased bookings of the meeting room and also the upcoming Isle of Wight Festival exhibition, which will feature in the building until 10th November, and then be held again, in full, around the time of the Isle of Wight Festival 2024.</p>
3245.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>Cllr. Lowthion asked the Clerk if he could look into NCCC providing support to people's energy costs, alongside the current food vouchers which are being issued. This was not previously an option and was wondering if this could be revisited.</p> <p>Cllr. Smith informed members that it is currently a 10-15 day lead-in period for people to get an appointment with the Citizens Advice Bureau.</p>
3246.	<p><u>ASSETS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Assets & Facilities Committee, Cllr. Price, presented the minutes of the committee meeting held on 19th September 2023 to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the Assets & Facilities committee meeting held on 19th September 2023 be noted.</p> <p>Members had before them a recommendation, made by the Assets & Facilities Committee, to explore the taking over the South Street facility with either the freehold or longest lease possible and reprovion of the site into a modern multipurpose facility.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC explore the taking over the South Street facility with either the freehold or longest lease possible and reprovion of the site into a modern multipurpose facility.</p>
3247.	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>No Items to report.</p>
3248.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p><u>IWALC-</u> Cllr. Garratt, the NCCC representative for IWALC, outlined the discussions at the most recent IWALC executive meeting and that he would circulate his notes of the meeting in due course</p>
3249.	<p><u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u></p>

	<p>Cllr. Price asked members if they will be thinking of the future provision to the number 39 bus service as part of the 2024/2025 budget discussions. He noted that the bus runs through 4 wards and people will be impacted if it is not supported.</p> <p>Cllr. Ballington had received a question for the council from Cllr. Brodie, who was not able to attend the meeting in person. He asked if the council would be considering writing a letter to Bob Seely, and potentially the levelling up secretary, to explore why Newport was not included, in the government funding which will mean that Ryde will receive £20 million over the next 10 years as part of the governments “long term plan for towns”, considering we have the most deprived areas on the Island, particularly Pan & Barton and also Parkhurst & Hunnyhill, both of which feature in the top 10% of deprived areas. The Chair said that this would feature as a topic for discussion at the next meeting of full council. Cllr. Jones-Evans, as IWC cabinet member for regeneration, said she did not know anything about the announcement, and said she was curious about the methodology used. Despite this, she said that it is great news for Ryde and the Island is one community. She would like to know if there is more levelling up money coming available, which could support other projects which have been consulted on with the public. The Chair would like to know if Newport & Carisbrooke will benefit as an off shoot of this funding in some way, or even be affected if resources have to be directed that way.</p> <p>Cllr. Martin asked the Clerk if there was any further news from the festive lighting contractor on when the missing motif will be reinstalled within his ward. The Clerk said that there was no further update to provide, however he will keep Cllr. Martin informed when there is further news, as previously indicated.</p>
3250.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u></p> <p>There has been some damage incurred to the recently installed seats on the hurricane swing at Downside recreation ground. These will be removed, and replacements purchased and installed.</p>
3251.	<p><u>NEXT AGENDA</u></p> <p>Any items which members wish to be included as part of the next full council agenda should be sent to the clerk in good time in the usual way.</p> <p>- Government Funding Award for Ryde</p>
3252.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th November, commencing 1845 at 64 High Street, Newport.</p>

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CHAIR