



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE PAVILION, NEWPORT VICTORIA RECREATION GROUND, COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

Councillors Present: Andrew Garratt (Vice-Chair), Geoff Brodie, Julie Jones-Evans, Joe Lever, Vix Lowthion, Terry Martin, Martin Oliver, Matthew Price, Ray Redrup and Michael Smith.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Phil Rudd, a resident of Brooke Road, attended the meeting to ask the council for support in reducing the risk of flooding from the Lukely Brook. The resident provided an overview of his proposal. Cllr. Garratt who chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr. Smart asked that the information be passed to him and he will liaise with the local members and look to assist in the matter in any way they can.

Pete Luther, Newport Youth Café, thanked NCCC for their support in previous years and asked that the council consider providing further support in the 2023/2024 financial year. A brief summary of the work completed in 2022/2023 was given, followed by future plans and aspirations, should the necessary financial support be obtained.

3109.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Cllr. Smart. Apologies were received for Cllrs. Lever and Price for lateness.
3110.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Brodie, Garratt, Jones-Evans, Oliver and Redrup declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as Isle of Wight councillors. Cllr. Brodie declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the charity.

	<p>Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport Businesses as a member of Newport Business Association.</p> <p>Cllr. Martin declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to Gunville as a member of the Gunville Community Association.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair noted a general dispensation to all members regarding the 23/24 budget discussions, as local rate payers.</p>
3111.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 9th January 2023 were presented to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie requested several corrections to the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillors Present- Cllr. Martin was present at the meeting and should therefore be included. - Public Question Time- An amendment on line 5 from “border” to “bordered”. - 3098. 2023/2024 Draft Budget- “Continued funding for 2 environment officers”. NCCC provides funding for 1 environment officer post, however it is the IWC that have chosen to divide the post across 2 part time officers. - Duplication of wording which needs to be removed during the same item. <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 9th January 2023 be agreed and signed as an accurate record, with the amendments requested accepted into them.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>Public Question Time- Cllr. Brodie said that he had followed up the enquiry with Cllr. Phil Jordan, IW Council Cabinet Member for Highways, as promised and will continue to progress the matter.</p> <p>3096- Newport Free Parking Pilot- Cllr. Brodie asked if an update had been received from IW Council regarding any commitment to future funding of this item. Cllr. Garratt had been told by Cllr. Jarman, IW Council, that the pilot would end in May. Cllr. Jones-Evans said that this is correct, however the results of the pilot would need to be assessed at that stage. The Clerk said that he is awaiting a response from Chris Ashman, IW Council Director for Regeneration, as to any information he can share on future funding.</p>
3112.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Members were presented with payments made during January 2023 for approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the accounts paid in January 2023 be unanimously approved.</p>

Members received the income and expenditure report to 31st January 2023.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 31st January 2023 be noted.

Members received the balance sheet for January 2023.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the balance sheet for January 2023 be noted.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members had in front of them a grant application from Naturezones. Members were joined by Angela Hewitt, Naturezones, who provided a summary of the work that the organisation does and what the funding would enable them to do.

The application asked members to consider funding for school classes to attend Naturezones. Every increment of £210 provides funding for one class to visit.

After a brief discussion, and a summary from Cllr. Brodie in his role as lead member for finance, it was proposed that NCCC award half of the money requested for each of the 8 primary schools across Newport and Carisbrooke, including Medina House, which would be a total award of £840. This financial contribution would allow each school to have a trip for one class to Naturezones 50% subsidised.

RESOLVED:

THAT, £840 be awarded to Naturezones.

2023/2024 DRAFT BUDGET

Members had in front of them a draft budget proposal from the General Purposes Working Party. Cllr. Brodie, lead member for finance, provided members with an overview of the proposal. The draft proposal had been amended since the January meeting of Full Council to include a contribution to Newport Youth Café of £7,500. The updated proposal equates to a precept of £738,659. This represents a 1% increase on 22/23, however with the increased tax base it will ultimately result in a 0.1% overall decrease.

Cllr. Jones-Evans asked if by approving the budget proposal it would commit the council to providing funding for a community development role, should the IW Council not commit to future funding of the Newport Parking Pilot. Cllr. Garratt said that the budget proposal does make a provision for this, however a paper outlining the item and the decision to be made would appear before members at a future meeting of Full Council, if required. Cllr. Jones-Evans indicated that she would be hesitant to commit such a large sum of money to this role at this stage as other ideas could come forward if the money for the free parking is not utilised. Cllr. Brodie summarised what had been discussed by the GPWP about the community development role when constructing the budget proposal and confirmed that a paper would come forward at the appropriate time to allow

members to consider. Cllr. Jones-Evans appreciated this but referenced a previous role which had been funded by the community council, and how lessons could be learnt from it before committing to the role. She said that if the money is committed within this budget to the community development role, then she would have to abstain from voting based on the information she currently had available about the role.

A brief discussion took place regarding the community councils' subscription to IWALC.

Cllr. Lever joined the meeting at 19:42 and apologised for lateness. Cllr. Lever declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the IW Council as an IW Councillor.

Cllr. Brodie requested that a named vote was taken.

RESOLVED:

THAT, NCCC agree a precept of £738,659 for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The votes were as follows:

Cllr. Andrew Garratt- For
Cllr. Julie Jones-Evans- Abstained
Cllr. Martin Oliver- For
Cllr. Terry Martin- For
Cllr. Ray Redrup- For
Cllr. Joe Lever- For
Cllr. Geoff Brodie- For
Cllr. Vix Lowthion- For
Cllr. Michael Smith- For

IWALC Subscription Renewal

The Clerk informed members that the invoice for the 2023/2024 subscription to IWALC had been received and requested that members consider if the council wishes to re-subscribe for the following financial year.

This item had been discussed previously and was to be reviewed during 2022/2023 as to whether the council receives sufficient value from the subscription to continue its membership. There was a lengthy discussion between members with a variety of opposing views. Some members wished for further information to be obtained and a paper produced to allow the item to be considered at a future meeting, whilst other members felt they were sufficiently aware of the services IWALC provided to enable them to make a decision during the meeting. Members experiences of IWALC in the past, including times which the council have used their services, were shared by members as part of the discussions.

Cllr. Price arrived at 19:53 and apologised for lateness. Cllr. Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the IW Council as an IW Councillor.

Cllr. Brodie proposed that NCCC does not renew its membership and requested a named vote.

The votes were as follows:

Cllr. Geoff Brodie- For
 Cllr. Matthew Price- For
 Cllr. Vix Lowthion- Against
 Cllr. Michael Smith- Against
 Cllr. Andrew Garratt- Against
 Cllr. Julie Jones-Evans- Against
 Cllr. Martin Oliver- For
 Cllr. Terry Martin- For
 Cllr. Ray Redrup- For
 Cllr. Joe Lever- Against

For- 5
 Against-5

As the results were tied at 5 votes for and 5 against, Cllr. Garratt in his capacity as Chair utilised his casting vote. He voted consistently with his original vote and voted against the proposal, meaning that the proposal was not approved.

Following the vote there was a further discussion as to where this now left the council in regard to its subscription.

Cllr. Brodie made a further proposal that NCCC resolves to receive a paper of benefits and disbenefits of membership of the council to allow for a decision to be made in time for the IWALC AGM in July 2023. Cllr. Jones-Evans requested a named vote.

RESOLVED:

THAT, NCCC resolves to receive a paper of benefits and disbenefits of membership of the council to allow for a decision to be made in time for the IWALC AGM in July 2023.

The votes were as follows:

Cllr. Geoff Brodie- For
 Cllr. Matthew Price- For
 Cllr. Vix Lowthion- Against
 Cllr. Michael Smith- Against
 Cllr. Andrew Garratt- For
 Cllr. Julie Jones-Evans- Against
 Cllr. Martin Oliver- For
 Cllr. Terry Martin- For
 Cllr. Ray Redrup- For
 Cllr. Joe Lever- Against

	For- 6 Against-4
3113.	<p><u>ROAD SAFETY</u></p> <p>Following the recent serious incidents within the town centre where pedestrians have been struck by vehicles, members discussed the safety of pedestrians within Newport.</p> <p>There was a consensus amongst members that this issue needs reviewing it was suggested that the Vice-Chair write a letter on behalf of NCCC to Cllr. Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Highways, to provoke a discussion on the lack of safety for pedestrians around Newport. One aspect which members would like the IW Council to engage on is the future use of Newport town centre for heavy vehicles over 7.5 tonne who are using the town as a route through as opposed to those who need to be there to carry out work.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the Vice-Chair will write to Cllr. Phil Jordan to open dialogue on pedestrian safety within Newport.</p>
3114.	<p><u>64 HIGH STREET</u></p> <p><u>Works update</u></p> <p>Members had before them an update on the improvement and development works to 64 High Street, which had been produced by the Clerk.</p> <p><u>Temporary Inclusion of co-working spaces within 64 High Street</u></p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans presented a paper which she had produced for members, seeking appetite for potential co-working spaces to be included as part of the initial offering of 64 High Street. Members were satisfied with the concept and recognised it would be additional income for the property.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider allowing Cllr. Jones-Evans and the clerk to explore the possibility and details surrounding introducing co-working spaces to 64 High Street, with a paper for final decision to come back to the March Full Council Meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, Cllr Jones-Evans and the clerk can explore the possibility of co-working spaces within 64 High Street.</p> <p><u>Virtual Reception</u></p> <p>Cllr. Brodie highlighted to members that as part of the 23/24 budget proposal, it had been decided by the GPWP that a dedicated receptionist would not be included for this financial year. Instead, it had been agreed with the Clerk that</p>

	<p>possible solutions would be explored as to how the existing staff could assist in this function initially.</p> <p>An idea which Cllr. Brodie wished members to consider was a virtual reception, which could include a link screen or digital solutions to enable members of staff who may not be in the office to assist members of the public. The clerk also indicated that any solution could possibly include a customisable interface to allow other functions to be included as part of the package, such as links to fix my street and other local organisations.</p> <p>Members were supportive of this idea and would like the clerk to explore options, including costs, which can be brought back to a future meeting of the council for further consideration.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC agree in principle to the concept of a virtual reception, and that the clerk explore potential ideas and obtain costings to allow for further consideration to be given at a future meeting.</p>
3115.	<p><u>HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION</u></p> <p>Members received a short, written report from the Clerk on the High Street Heritage Action Zone.</p>
3116.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>The clerk was unable to attend the last winter partnerships meeting, however he will send the link to the recording of the meeting to members for their reference.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans informed members that Newport Congregational Church had been approved to establish a community pantry.</p>
3117.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p> <p>Cllr. Garratt, as Chair, asked members to consider extending the meeting by 15 minutes to allow for the remaining business to be transacted.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the meeting be extended by an additional 15 minutes.</p> <p>Cllrs. Brodie and Martin then left the meeting at 20:45.</p> <p>Members received a brief verbal update from the NCCC Shaping Newport representatives. Cllr. Smith has circulated notes from Shaping Newport Forum. Cllr. Oliver said that the meeting looked to review Shaping Newport now it is at the 4-year stage, and despite a poor turnout the group were able to achieve some good outputs.</p>

3118.	<p><u>ASSETS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>Cllr. Price, Chair of the Assets & Facilities Committee, presented the draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2023 to members.</p> <p>The discussion regarding the future use of Victoria Recreation Ground was highlighted and that it will be on the next agenda to discuss further.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the Assets & Facilities committee meeting held on 24th January 2023 be noted.</p>
3119.	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3120.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p><u>IWALC-</u> Cllr. Smith had circulated the latest meeting notes and updates to members ahead of the meeting but welcomed any questions councillors may have which they wish to be put to the IWC Cabinet at their next meeting.</p>
3121.	<p><u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans asked if papers could be provided for key discussions at future meetings.</p>
3122.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u></p> <p>No items to report.</p>
3123.	<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>
3124.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th March, commencing at 1845 at Downside Community Centre.</p>

Contact: Joshua Tombleson – 01983 559119 or clerk@newportwight.org.uk

CHAIR
