



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 64 HIGH STREET COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

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

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Pete Luther, Newport Youth Café, attended the meeting and gave an overview of the organisation activities during 2023, and also a forecast of what they would like to achieve in the future with the annual donations which they receive from NCCC. Members were grateful for the visit, and Pete reminded them that should they have any other question regarding their work, not to hesitate contacting him

3253.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Cllr. Smart.
3254.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Brodie, 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. Cllrs. Brodie and 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 item 6 on the meeting agenda, Long Term Plan for Towns, as the Isle of Wight Council Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure. Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Newport Businesses as vice-chair of Newport Business Association. Cllrs. Ambrosini and Martin declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to Gunville as a member of the Gunville Community Association.

	No written requests for dispensation were received.
3255.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 2nd October 2023 were presented to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 2nd October be agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>3237. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising- Housing Needs Survey- A meeting had been held between NCCC and representatives of the IW Council, where an overview of what was required and suggestions as to how to proceed were made. The Clerk is waiting on information to be provided in follow up from James Brewer, IWC.</p> <p>3241. Wight Gift Card- The clerk told members that the questions put forward by members had been submitted to the IWC, however he had not yet received a response.</p> <p>3243. High Street Heritage Action Zone- Cllr. Jones-Evans told members that a letter had been send by Pete Fellows, on behalf of the Shaping Newport partners, to Mark Horton in response to his correspondence regarding the plans for the People First Zone. A copy of the letter will be sent to all members for reference.</p>
3256.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Members were presented with payments made during October 2023 for approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the accounts paid in October 2023 be unanimously approved.</p> <p>Members received the income and expenditure report to 31st October 2023.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans asked how organisations that have received grants from NCCC can be considered for recurring annual donations. The lead member for finance said these conversations can be had as part of the draft budget discussions.</p> <p>The Clerk said that he had reached out to all organisations which NCCC provides annual grants and donations to and invited them to send in a brief summary of how the funds have been used and what further funding in the next financial year would allow them to achieve. These will be circulated to members with the draft budget document for information.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 31st October 2023 be noted.</p> <p>Members received the balance sheet for October 2023.</p>

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the balance sheet for October 2023 be noted.</p>
3257.	<p><u>EXTERNAL AUDIT</u></p> <p>Members had before them a report which had been produced by the external auditors appointed by NCCC, BDO LLP.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC approve the conclusion of the 2022/2023 Annual Governance and Accountability Return, carried out by BDO LLP, and note recommendations and future requirements.</p>
3258.	<p><u>LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS</u></p> <p>The Chair summarised the item and the money which has been awarded to Ryde, as part of the government's long-term plan for towns.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie thanked Cllr. Ballington for bringing the item forward into members questions on his behalf at the last meeting, as he was unable to attend. He said that although the money has been awarded to Ryde, Newport & Carisbrooke also met the criteria. It was suggested that the community council write to the Secretary of State and a copy also provided to local MP Bob Seely, to ask how this decision was made.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans, said that in her capacity as an Isle of Wight Council cabinet member, she was not aware of the funding award before it was communicated to members of the public. Although she agreed that a letter should be sent, she reassured the council that she is pushing the IWC to ensure that there is a focus on funding opportunities for Newport when they arise. She also said that the leader of the IW Council, Cllr. Phil Jordan, should be copied in to any correspondence.</p> <p>A further discussion took place amongst members highlighting the need for funding for Newport and the implications which the award to Ryde could have on Newport & Carisbrooke, however all members were in agreement that a letter should be sent to the local MP, Secretary of State, and leader of the IW Council, highlighting the community councils disappointment that the county town was not recognised as part of this funding.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, NCCC write to the Secretary of State with a copy provided to Bob Seely MP for the Isle of Wight and the Leader of the IW Council, highlighting its disappointment that Newport & Carisbrooke were not recognised as part of long-term plan for towns funding.</p>
3259.	<p><u>FLOOD RESPONSE</u></p> <p>The Chair has contacted a member of the Environment Agency, inviting them to attend a meeting of the community council, and although they were unable to attend this meeting, would like to receive information from local members as to the implications the recent floods have had on their own wards. This will enable a fuller discussion to take place amongst organisations such as the Environment</p>

	<p>Agency, Southern Water, IW Council and Island Roads as part of their review of the recent flooding. The Chair asked that members email their responses directly to the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Members took turns sharing their own individual experiences of how their local areas had been affected and provided examples of what could have been done and feedback received from residents.</p> <p>There was a general feeling that although some organisations reacted well to the emergency response, the Environment Agency were absent throughout.</p> <p>Members expressed that if there is an indication of future weather warnings being put in place, a strategy of preventative measures which will be applied should be communicated in advance.</p> <p>Special thanks and recognition were given to Sam Loma and his accompanying group of volunteers for their hard work and efforts supporting Island residents with combating the floods around their homes, carrying out drain clearing and other activities. Cllr. Price said that partnership working was able to be established between this voluntary group, NCCC and IWC to allow a donated 10 tonnes of Sand by Wight Building Materials to be delivered to Seaclose, where sandbags were filled ready for those who needed them to collect. It is hoped that the bags will be able to be collected/dropped off and then stored again for future use.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie clarified how NCCC was able to react using money which had been previously set aside for the emergency flood wardens, in order to provide a timely contribution towards fuel costs incurred by the voluntary group whilst assisting residents during the floods.</p> <p>Cllr. Lowthion, Chair of the Planning & Consultation Committee, expressed her view to members of the importance of reviewing planning applications even more closely to ensure the correct infrastructure is in place to cope with the ever-increasing demands placed on it by new homes and the weather. She also highlighted that Gunville is one of the places with the most substantial planning applications which could cause strain if not properly addressed by the developers.</p> <p>It was suggested that a meeting be set up between NCCC, IWC, Environment Agency, Southern Water, Island Roads, and Newport Rivers to discuss the recent floods and future action which can be taken. After a short discussion around whether all of these agencies would realistically participate in a discussion, the Chair said that their willingness should not deter an attempt being made to pull them together.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the Chair will attempt to co-ordinate a meeting to take place between NCCC, IWC, Environment Agency, Southern Water, Island Roads, and Newport Rivers to discuss the recent floods.</p>
3260.	<u>REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES</u>

	<p>The Chair summarised the review which is currently taking place and that members have been invited to submit their comments regarding the new proposed polling districts and places. He informed members that the council would not be submitting a collective response and therefore members should be submitting their comments individually.</p>
3261.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p> <p>Members received a short verbal update from the NCCC representatives on the Shaping Newport Group.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans said that a small working group should be convened to review the results of the recent Shaping Newport survey and draft a response from NCCC on the Shaping Newport Action Plan. It would be good for this to happen before the next meeting of full council, where a response could potentially be agreed and submitted.</p>
3262.	<p><u>HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE</u></p> <p>The Clerk said that a meeting of the HSHAZ steering group had not taken place since the last meeting of full council, and that a further update should be able to be given at the next meeting. He suggested that he would look to invite the HSHAZ project manager, Fiona Capewell, to the next meeting of Full Council as there is likely to be questions members have about the next stages of the people first zone. Members agreed with this.</p>
3263.	<p><u>64 HIGH STREET</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with a brief update on the activities and bookings taking place at 64 High Street.</p> <p>Although the heritage area continues to be successful and bookings are increasing, he acknowledges the need to further drive the rental of the shoplets, now that both Footprint Trust and Living Well and Early Help have vacated. He will be focusing on Christmas/craft themed retailers the festive period and provide greater flexibility over the times and periods available to try and encourage more interest.</p> <p>Dimbola currently have the Isle of Wight festival exhibition in the building, which has been well received. They be returning in May 2024 with the exhibition.</p>
3264.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>Members had an opportunity to raise any questions and give any updates regarding the cost of living and its effect on local residents.</p> <p>Cllr. Lowthion spoke about the applications being received into the NCCC Community Support fund.</p> <p>The Clerk said that a conversation had been held with Connect4Communities, where the grant award to support the fund was received from, regarding the provision of financial aid towards utilities. At the current time, although some methods are available to do this, it is the preference of Connect4Communities that</p>

	<p>referrals are made to Citizens Advice Bureau, who are equipped to support people with financial contributions towards their utility costs. Members raised their concerns about the increase in time required to get an appointment with CAB.</p> <p>The Clerk said that the community council can apply for more money to top up the support fund in January, however there is a crisis application available through the connect4communities website which can be made for individuals in desperate need in the meantime.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie reminded members of the help and advice that Pan Together is providing a service that endeavours to replicate what would have been received from the Law Centre previously. This is open to all residents of Newport and Carisbrooke.</p>
3265.	<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 24th October 2023 to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the Assets & Facilities committee meeting held on 24th October 2023 be noted.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans said that the community council needs to put together a short plan of why it would like to take over the South Street toilet site and what it would be looking to achieve. Once done, this can be submitted to IWC for consideration. It is hoped that this could be done by the Assets & Facilities committee at its November meeting, and then approved by full council in December.</p>
3266.	<p><u>PLANNING & CONSULTATION COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The Chair of the Planning & Consultation Committee, Cllr. Lowthion, presented the minutes of the committee meetings held on 2nd October 2023 and 12th October 2023 to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the Planning & Consultation Committee meetings held on 2nd October 2023 and 12th October 2023 be noted.</p>
3267.	<p><u>STAFFING</u></p> <p>Members had before them a paper which had been produced by the Clerk, outlining a recommendation on the terms of employment of a new maintenance assistant.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie, as the lead member for finance, said that he had been reflecting on the Clerks paper, and now feels that it would be appropriate for the council to start the role at pay point on the NJC pay scale equivalent to the Real Living Wage. He also proposed that the council agree to not pay under the Real Living Wage in the future. Currently this is considered to be £12 per hour.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the role would be 30 hours per week.</p>

	<p><u>RESOLVED</u> THAT, the council agree the terms of employment for the maintenance assistant for 30 hours per week at a pay point on the NJC pay scale equivalent to the Real Living Wage.</p> <p>THAT, the council agrees to pay no less than the Real Living Wage in the future across all roles.</p>
3268.	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>No Items to report.</p>
3269.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p><u>IWALC</u>- Cllr. Garratt, the NCCC representative for IWALC, will be circulating notes from the meetings, and reports as received, to members.</p>
3270.	<p><u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>Cllr. Brodie noted that an important item had been missed from the agenda, which was to follow up on the meeting held between NCCC and IWC regarding conducting a Housing Needs Survey. Cllr. Brodie had sent a paper to the Clerk, which had not been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. He provided a verbal summary of his paper, looking for members endorsement. Members agreed with the approach outlined and it will be brought back to full council once there is further update to provide.</p> <p>Cllr. Price asked if the council thinks it would be appropriate to attempt to schedule a meeting with the local MP to discuss local matters. Members were in agreement, and it was asked if Cllr. Ambrosini could ask this question of the MP, after which the Clerk would be able to follow up.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans said that some residents of Drake Road were looking to establish a neighbourhood watch, and asked if they could submit an application to NCCC to consider as a one-off grant award. Agreed.</p>
3271.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u></p> <p>The Clerk said that although no immediate issues have been raised, he will ask the maintenance officer to inspect all sites to see if there has been any significant damage or disruption by the recent adverse weather which could cause health and safety concerns.</p>
3272.	<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>Cllr Jones –Evans – the 'Park That Bike' scheme</p>
3273.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th December, commencing 1845 at 64 High Street, Newport.</p>

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

CHAIR
