



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2022 AT DOWNSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

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

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

3076.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ballington, Martin and Smart. Cllrs. Price and Lever provided apologies for lateness.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair reminded members of the letter of resignation which had been received from Cara Lock, formerly a member for the Parkhurst & Hunnyhill ward.</p> <p>Due to Cllr. Smart being unable to attend, the Vice-Chair, Cllr. Garratt chaired the meeting in her absence.</p>
3077.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the charity.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Item number 6 on the agenda, the future of Medina Leisure Centre, as this falls under her portfolio as IW Council Cabinet Member for regeneration.</p> <p>Cllr. Ambrosini declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Gunville as a member of the Gunville Community Association.</p>

	No written requests for dispensation were received.
3078.	<p><u>SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from the team, but they will continue to be invited.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to send any questions or specific update requests to the Clerk, who will pass on and obtain updates accordingly from members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.</p> <p>The current Sergeant for the Newport Safer Neighbourhoods Team is now being posted in the West Wight area, however once the new Sergeant is known and in position the Clerk will let members know.</p>
3079.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 7th November 2022 were presented to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie requested a correction to item no. 3067. The minutes state that Cllr. Price presented the minutes of the Assets & Facilities Committee; however, this was actually Cllr. Martin, as Cllr. Price was yet to arrive.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 7th November be agreed and signed as an accurate record, with the addition of the requested correction to minute no. 3067.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>3062- Community Pantry- The Clerk informed members that the applicant who has applied to Connect4Communities in a bid to start up a community pantry in Newport is Newport Congregational Church. The Clerk will share further information and updates as they become available.</p>
3080.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>The finance lead presented. Members were presented with payments made during November 2022 for approval.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the accounts paid in November 2022 be unanimously approved.</p> <p>Members received the income and expenditure report to 30th November 2022.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 30th November 2022 be noted.</p>

	<p>Members received the balance sheet for November 2022.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the balance sheet for November 2022 be noted.</p> <p>Members expressed their thanks to the Responsible Financial Officer for her continued hard work on assembling these documents for members' reference.</p> <p><u>GRANT APPLICATION</u></p> <p>Members were joined by Lisa Gagliani, Chief Executive for Independent Arts, who provided a brief presentation on the grant application which had been submitted and also gave an overview of the organisation's activities and progress over recent years.</p> <p>The application was for £500 to support the ongoing running costs of the Newport Creative Hub. These running costs include heating, volunteer expenses, contribution to staff costs and compliance costs. Members had been provided with the 2021 Impact report and draft annual accounts, ahead of the meeting to support their consideration.</p> <p>Members showed their support for the application.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, Independent Arts be awarded the full amount requested of £500.</p>
3081.	<p><u>FUTURE OF MEDINA LEISURE CENTRE</u></p> <p>Cllr. Brodie provided members with a summary of the agenda item.</p> <p>At a recent meeting of the IW Council Corporate Scrutiny Committee, the cabinet member for Adult Social Care had made a remark that leisure centres may need to close in the future. This had caught the attention of Cllr. Price, as IW Councillor as the local ward member for the Medina Leisure Centre, and Cllr. Brodie as the IW Councillor for the neighbouring ward.</p> <p>Since the agenda item had been requested, Cllr. Brodie had been in contact with a senior officer at county hall to get further details and had been informed that a review on leisure centres is taking place prior to Christmas. Although not present at the time of discussion, Cllr. Price had been very clear that should a decision to close the leisure centre ever be made, the community council should do everything it can to take on the facility for the local community. Should a decision be required on this in the future, the community council would need to hold a community wide consultation due to the significant financial implications of taking on such a facility. Members were invited to comment on the item.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans, in her capacity as the IW Council cabinet member for regeneration, confirmed that there are no plans to close the leisure centres. There is a review which will be taking place, however there are no plans to close. The leisure centres are a very well used and much needed service.</p>

	<p>The Vice-Chair said that the IW Cabinet member who made this comment should be very careful not to send messages out which could alarm people if they are not true. As part of the NCCC strategic review, one of the items which will be looked at is the services of other councils and organisations which the community council could look to provide in the future, should they ever be at risk of being lost.</p> <p>Members reiterated that they hope no further statements which could cause unnecessary alarm should be made, and Cllr. Jones-Evans reiterated that there are no plans to close the leisure centres.</p>
3082.	<p><u>64 HIGH STREET</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with an update on the figures of the contract which had been entered into with MCM construction to complete the works to 64 High Street. As part of the conversations to instruct the contractor, it had been recognised that the shutters for the entrances to shoplets had been omitted from the quotation requested from ERM. As the shutters are required for the security of the shoplets, the Clerk had asked for the price to be revised to include these.</p> <p>The previously approved upper figure for negotiations was £340,500, including £10,000 for contingencies. The adjusted figure with the shutters included was £346,498.72. To bring the contract within the approved limit and not cause delay to the project, the difference in these figures has been taken from the amount set aside for contingencies. ERM therefore recommend that the council set aside £6,000 from outside of the contract to restore the overall contingency allowance.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members that the motion which he had included on the agenda was to be withdrawn as he had misunderstood the advice provided by the lead member for finance. Members should be mindful that although it is hoped that this contingency will not need to be utilised, should additional works be identified and an overspend of up to £6000 be represented in the accounts at the end of the project, it should not be treated in this way due to the background information which has now been provided as to why this may be.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members that MCM commenced their works on the property today and aim to have completed the works by Thursday 6th April 2023.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans, lead member for 64 High Street, provided a verbal report to members on the working party which had been held on Wednesday 23rd November. Key discussions which were held by the working party included how the shoplets and exhibition centre would function and an update on the heritage centre. She is currently in the process of putting a paper together which will contain suggestions as to how certain issues can be addressed. The Chair indicated Cllr. Jones- Evans will be invited to the next meeting of the GPWP to discuss the property further and look to provide some recommendations to Full Council.</p>

3083.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>Community Action IW has set up a fortnightly partnership meeting between the IW Council, town, parish and community councils, and voluntary sector organisations to share intelligence and concerns on the impact of and response to the cost-of-living crisis and winter pressures facing the community.</p> <p>The meetings are chaired by Chris Ashman (IW Council Director for Regeneration) and Ian Lloyd (IW Council). Attendees have included Citizens Advice Bureau, IWALC, Aspire, Ryde TC, Bembridge TC, Ventnor TC, West Wight TC, and Northwood TC.</p> <p>A summary of the Food Poverty Conference was provided by Ian Lloyd to those who were unable to attend. The Cost-of-Living pages on the IWC website are now live and being regularly updated.</p> <p>Common themes include more Warm Spaces popping up, and activity by town, parish and community councils to map these locally. Chris Ashman reported that IW Council have been notified of 34 locations so far. However there is inevitably more that they have not been made aware of that will need mapping.</p> <p>Aspire reported a “living well” van is touring the island. The van is a mobile information hub that carries leaflets and winter provisions such as hats, gloves, scarves etc for those in need. They are also a referral point for people with more complex needs. This is early days for the van and the colleague running it still has further training to undertake before developing the service further, and therefore currently concentrating on the more remote communities.</p> <p>The Clerk is able to provide contact information to any member who feels they have any areas that they wish to put forward for consideration as part of the vans route, if they demonstrate a need for the service.</p> <p>The Clerk will send future meeting notes to members and encouraged any members who wish to join the calls and contribute to take part.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 13th December.</p> <p>The Citizens Advice Bureau have plotted the local warm spaces on a map and details will be circulated to members for use in their local communities.</p> <p>Pan Together launched a community larder during November and are seeing an increase in demand by the week. Providing this facility is taking a lot of their resource, however they anticipated this was likely to happen. Once heating, which supplies both the school and the community centre, is operating correctly, Pan Together will also be utilised as a warm space several days a week which will be providing users with a hot drink and a bowl of soup. They anticipate this will commence in early January.</p> <p>Cllr. Lever arrived at 1930 and declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council as an IW Councillor.</p>
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3084.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p> <p>Members received a brief verbal update from the NCCC Shaping Newport representatives.</p> <p>At the recent Shaping Newport steering group meeting, members were informed that an update on the Newport Harbour regeneration will be provided once the IW Council has set its budget for 2023/2024, which will take place in February.</p> <p>The steering group discussed possible ideas for celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023 and Victoria Recreation Ground was put forward as a possible location for an event. The steering group will contact the community council if they wish to discuss this further.</p> <p>Chris Ashman, IW Council Director for Regeneration, will be holding a meeting with Newport Health Centre to obtain an update on their plans, as public anxiety continues to be caused by the current uncertainties.</p> <p>There is still a party that is interested in providing a Post Office in Newport, however due to the commercially sensitive nature, further details cannot be provided at this time.</p> <p>The free parking pilot continues to go well. Statistics show that there has been an increase in parking within the town and indicate that the pilot has been well received. Members requested that the statistics and data on the scheme be provided to the community council when available to inform their future decision making regarding the item. An officer of the IW Council will attend a future meeting to provide further detail on the data once further analysis has been completed. The lead member for finance informed members that the General Purposes Working Party (GPWP) met the previous week to discuss and construct a draft budget for consideration for the 2023/2024 financial year. One of the lengthier discussions which took place at this meeting was surrounding whether to support the free-parking initiative in the next financial year. The reason this point was raised was to indicate that there is currently no certainty that IW Council will be committing funds to this in 2023/2024. Cllr. Jones-Evans provided a brief overview as to why the contributions from IW Council for the second half of the financial year had only just been made and indicated that she would hold internal discussions with her colleagues at IW Council to try and establish if there is going to be a financial commitment to this next year. Members agreed that this certainty, accompanied with the data for the scheme, would be very useful to support NCCC budget discussions as the GPWP had agreed on trying to freeze the precept for the coming year, and any expenditure must be proportionate to the benefits it provides Newport residents.</p> <p>The Department for Transport discussed the possibilities of a cycle route going through Scarrots Lane and the possible conversion of a small section of IW Council owned land, currently used for parking, which could be converted into a small public space.</p>
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3085.	<p><u>HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE</u></p> <p>Members received a short, written report from the Clerk on the High Street Heritage Action Zone which included updates on the project's activities through November.</p> <p>The paper included discussions regarding an increased grant award limit for shopfront improvements, and reallocation of funds within the different budget lines of the project to support activities which will take place in the projects fourth year.</p> <p>The next steering group meeting will take place on 11th January 2023 and therefore the next update will be circulated for the February full council meeting.</p> <p>The lack of responses which the Clerk had received from emails on the project was highlighted and a short discussion held. It was noted that lack of responses is broader than those solely on the HSHAZ project.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans had recently met with Southern Water to discuss the SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) gardens which are looking to be implemented by them as part of the people first zone improvements. Southern Water have indicated that they will be communicating with the community council through this process.</p>
3086.	<p><u>ASSETS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The meeting of the committee held on 22nd November 2022 was chaired by Cllr. Jones-Evans in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee, and as such she presented the minutes to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the Assets & Facilities committee meeting held on 22nd November 2022 be noted.</p> <p>It was requested by the committee that the Chair of the committee write to Claire Kennard, Market Days CIC, to provide thanks on behalf of the community council for her involvement and contribution to the 2022 "Day of Christmas" event. The Vice-Chair, Cllr. Garratt asked members if they would be agreement with him writing to Market Days, or if they would prefer the Chair of the committee to do so. Members indicated they were happy for him to proceed.</p>
3087.	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the "Day of Christmas" event had gone well and positive feedback was received from both members of the public and local businesses reporting it had been on of, if not, their busiest day of trading. A positive wash up meeting has been held with Blueline Security following the event with recommendations from both sides as to what may be required for next year. Separate meetings will also be carried out between the Clerk/Deputy Clerk and other key contractors.</p>

	<p>Members expressed their thanks to the NCCC staff for their hard work on the event, and also the important partnership working which took place. Members provided positive feedback on the event and said how proud it made them to be able to provide a day where families and friends can gather, no matter their financial position and enjoy a free day together.</p> <p>The notice of vacancy for the Parkhurst & Hunnyhill ward was published on 30th November. The IW Council Proper Officer will notify the Clerk on Wednesday 21st December if he has received notice in writing from 10 or more local government electors that they wish an election to be held to fill the vacancy. If 10 or more have been received, then a by-election will be held. The date that this will take place would then be provided to the Clerk and the Proper Officer will publish accordingly.</p> <p>If the Proper Officer does not receive notice from the required number of electors, the community council be able to fill the vacancy by way of co-option. To allow for the minimum 6-week period which applications for co-option would be required to be open for, the Clerk asked members to consider setting a provisional date for a co-option meeting to be held, if required. This would then allow the Clerk to advertise the position, if required, in good time.</p> <p>The Clerk discussed potential dates with members.</p> <p>It was indicated by members that, if required, the co-option meeting take place immediately prior to the March meeting of full council due to take place on Monday 6th March 2022.</p>
3088.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p><u>IWALC</u>- Members of the association displayed interest in the planning enforcement position which NCCC is funding and may look into this further themselves. An area of uncertainty amongst NCCC members is the discussions taking place surround the future funding of voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE). Members wish to know who they are and what they provide for Newport, as this is still unclear. NCCC representatives on IWALC said that they believe this is community action, however more information is need. The Vice-Chair said that he will find out further information on the topic which will enable better discussions at the next meeting of full council.</p>
3089.	<p><u>MEMBER'S QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>Cllr. Oliver asked if there was any further update on the health of the Chair, Cllr. Smart. Cllr. Garratt said that he had spoken with the Chair and she was now home and recovering well. She wished to attend the meeting; however, she appreciates that it is also important to not rush back until she is well and able to do so. She is staying in contact to keep herself up to speed with NCCC business and is looking forward to returning soon.</p> <p>Cllr, Jones-Evans asked if members would like an update on the mural being created at Post Office Lane. The mural is of the white-haired streak butterfly, which is a symbol of the IW biosphere, and has now been completed. There will</p>

	be a press release on the works shortly. The Deputy Clerk was thanked for her work in arranging the project to be completed.
3090.	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u> No items to report.
3091.	<u>NEXT AGENDA</u> 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.
3092.	<u>NEXT MEETING</u> The next Full Council meeting will be held on Monday 9 th January, commencing at 1845 at The Riverside Centre.

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

CHAIR