



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024 AT 64 HIGH STREET COMMENCING AT 6.45PM.

Councillors Present: Cllrs. Martin Oliver (Chair), Matthew Ambrosini, Geoff Brodie, Joanne Ballington, Andrew Garratt, Julie Jones-Evans, Vix Lowthion, Matthew Price, Terry Martin, Deborah Matthews, Louise Rippon and Michael Smith

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were joined by Victoria Lawton, Youth Trust, and a representative of the Youth Council, who asked what NCCC is doing for young people in Newport & Carisbrooke. Members thanked them for attending the meeting and responded by highlighting several areas which NCCC provide grant funding for local organisations to support their work with young people, and projects which NCCC are involved in new opportunities such as "The Port". Members will be discussing the 6-Point plan, created by young people with the support of the Youth Trust, later in the meeting. Victoria welcomed feedback on the plan once members have had an opportunity to discuss.

3462.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Cllr. Tiltman. Cllr. Price apologised for lateness and will also need to leave early.
3463.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> Cllrs. Brodie, Garratt, Jones-Evans, Oliver and Price declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as Isle of Wight councillors. Cllrs. Ballington and Brodie declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as a trustee of the charity. Cllrs. Ambrosini and Martin declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to Gunville as a member of the Gunville Community Association. Cllr. Jones-Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters to relating to Newport businesses as Vice-Chair of Newport Business Association.

	No written requests for dispensation were received.
3464.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 4th November 2024 were presented to members.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans abstained from the vote as she was not present at the November meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 4th November be unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p> <p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>3457. Reports From Outside Bodies- Cllr. Lowthion said that she attended the most recent meeting of the IW Bus and Rail Users Group and although Southern Vectis have been written to, no further progress has been made.</p>
3465.	<p><u>COMMUNITY CAPACITY FUNDING</u></p> <p>Members were joined by Teresa Brimble-Brennan, IWC Supporting Families Project Officer. Teresa provided members of a brief overview of the next round of grant funding, which is coming available in January 2025, which will welcome applications of up to £5000 to support new groups to provide activities for young people up to the age of 19, or 25 if still in full time education. A document containing the full qualifying criteria has been provided to the Clerk and will be circulated to members.</p> <p>Teresa said that she would be pleased to see an application from the community council and that if any support is required to complete an application, or if members wish to discuss any potential ideas, there is support available to do so.</p> <p>Members were keen to submit a grant application and will consider the activities that it could support.</p> <p>Applications go live on 2nd January and close on 20th January. Support sessions to assist applicants will be run on 11th January and 15th January. There will also be training provided to individuals and organisations to support the running of their group such as safeguarding.</p>
3466.	<p><u>FINANCIAL MATTERS</u></p> <p>Members were presented with payments made up to 25th November 2024 for approval.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans asked if the council could look local first for our purchases as a council before looking to large online companies? Cllr. Brodie, lead member for finance, said that this could be formally looked at as part of the financial regulations, although he recommends this is reviewed as part of the usual process before adopting the updated version at the annual meeting of the council in May. The Clerk said that best endeavours are made where possible to shop locally where possible, and usually only not done so if better value is found elsewhere or the desired items cannot be found/don't quite match what is needed.</p>

	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the accounts paid in November 2024 be noted.</p> <p>Members received the income and expenditure report to 25th November 2024.</p> <p>A brief discussion took place about the anticipated shortfall for the 2024/2025 financial year for the income from PO Lane toilets. Cllr. Brodie suggested that this could be due to the 40p charge, and an option could be to consider this. The Clerk said that there could be a variety of reasons for this, and although reducing the price is an option which could be explored, it could also be for other reasons such as the issues the site sees in the way of homelessness, drink and drug issues etc. and these could be contributing factors into the downfall in income if people feel the site is intimidating. He said he is not sure what could be done, but it would be worth further exploration before committing to a price reduction, as usage would need to double at a reduced cost just to reach the income figure that is currently seen, and there is no guarantee of this. Cllr. Jones-Evans proposed that the Assets & Facilities Committee explore this further.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the income and expenditure reports to 25th November 2024 be noted.</p> <p>THAT, the Assets & Facilities Committee investigate and explore options which could increase the income from PO Lane toilets.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie, lead member for finance, reminded members of the importance of reviewing the income and expenditure closely as part of the 2025/2026 budget setting process, and his continued reminders around the council not feeling the need to spend every penny as the council needs to increase its reserves for future years. He hopes that councillors listen to his advice.</p> <p>Members received the balance sheet for November 2024.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the balance sheet for November 2024 be noted.</p>
3467.	<p><u>SURVEY TO INFORM NCCC STRATEGIC PLAN</u></p> <p>Prior to the main item being discussed, Cllr. Brodie provided objection to an aspect of the survey, which has recently gone out to residents as part of the consultation for the updated strategic plan. The question he raised issue with was regarding people's views on an increase in the precept, however he objected to the fact that the options available to people do not include either an inflationary rise, or a 5% increase which would likely be in line with the principle authority, and although there was a 0% option, if you were in favour of an increase the lowest increase available to people is 10%. He was disappointed that the survey was not circulated to all members of the council, and given the opportunity to comment prior to its issue, and therefore he does not feel the survey has any validity and will be ignoring the results. Due to this he does not see that it is appropriate to spend any money as proposed from the Newsletter budget as this money could be used to start contributing to a contingency fund as he had previously highlighted. He</p>

	<p>proposed that the survey be rejected, and the survey redesigned to inform the strategic plan and budgetary decisions of 2026/2027, as opposed to 2025/2026, and looked for a seconder to the proposal. Cllr. Oliver seconded the proposal.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion amongst members, with many opposing opinions. Members heard what Cllr. Brodie had said in the way of the options available, however they were strongly against the survey being retracted and felt lots of valuable information would be lost. Discussions were held as to how the survey can move forward and if either the option of an inflationary increase and a 5% increase be added, or if there was a way of removing this section or how to treat the results which come in as a result.</p> <p>The Clerk said that the work around the strategic plan had been delegated to the Assets & Facilities committee, and then appears to have been delegated further for a smaller group of members to see through to a conclusion, and therefore it was not felt that it was something which then had to come back round to all members of the council. He hears that some members may feel it should have been handled differently, however this is the rationale behind the decision.</p> <p>Although he would prefer any questions relating to the precept to be removed, Cllr. Brodie accepted an amendment to his proposal for the survey to still continue, but an amendment made to it to include the options of an inflationary increase and an increase of 5%, but with the results marked to show which surveys had been received before the amendment had been made.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the survey would be amended to include the options of an inflationary increase and an increase of 5%, but with the results marked to show which surveys had been received before the amendment had been made.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans presented the proposal to members, to utilise the budget allocated to Newsletters to enable a paper copy of a reduced version of the survey to be circulated to each of the houses within Newport & Carisbrooke.</p> <p>Members engaged in a constructive discussion around the pros and cons of doing so and the costs involved. Following this debate, it was suggested that the council could post A6 postcards containing a QR code and link to the online survey, as opposed to paper copies of the survey. It was suggested that there be a separate QR code and URL for this so that the council can see how many responses were received as a direct result of the postcards.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, subject to a quotation for printing and delivery coming in within the Newsletter budget available, then the Clerk can proceed in instructing A6 postcards containing a separate QR code and URL to be distributed to each of the homes within Newport & Carisbrooke.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie voted against this proposal and Cllr. Oliver abstained.</p>
3468.	<u>ASSETS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE</u>

	<p>The Chair of the Assets & Facilities committee, Cllr. Matthews presented the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th November to members for noting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting of the Assets & Facilities committee held on 18th November be noted.</p>
3469.	<p><u>SHAPING NEWPORT</u></p> <p>Cllr. Rippon provided a brief overview of the recent youth focused Shaping Newport meeting and summarised the 6-point plan. This is a good piece of work which has been constructed by young people with the support of the Youth Trust.</p> <p>Deboarh, Louise and Vix to man the stall at the youth conference.</p> <p>Cllr. Jones-Evans proposed that NCCC adopt the 6-point plan and for the community council to align itself to it. Members agreed that it was a good, informative document, and that rather than adopt it would be more suitable for the community council to express to the Youth Trust that NCCC endorses the document, and it will inform members supports during the construction of the strategic plan. Cllr. Jones-Evans accepted this amendment and asked that the Chair write to the Youth Trust to inform them.</p> <p>The Clerk suggested that members of the council attend the January Youth Conference to represent the council and speak to the young attendees to seek their views and opinions to inform the strategic plan. Cllrs. Matthews, Rippon and Lowthion said that they would attend on behalf of NCCC.</p> <p>Cllr. Lowthion proposed that NCCC look to apply to the community capacity fund for ways to bring the council and young people together to integrate them into the discussions.</p> <p>Cllr. Rippon asked if we could offer the youth council 64 High Street to use as a meeting space, to offer the council as an ally.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, an application is made to the Community Capacity Fund to enable activities to take place which allow NCCC to engage and gain the views of young people within Newport & Carisbrooke.</p>
3470.	<p><u>COST OF LIVING</u></p> <p>Cllrs. Smith and Lowthion summarised the applications being received through the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Support Fund, and that a lot of applications are being received and likely going to increase in the lead up to Christmas.</p>
3471.	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Clerk said that the community council had been successful in its application to Southern Water to purchase water butts to offer to the businesses of Newport & Carisbrooke, to reduce the speed that rainwater enters the drain during adverse weather.</p>
3472.	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p>Cllrs. Garratt and Ambrosini provided brief summaries of topics discussed at the most recent meetings of IWALC.</p>

	<p>No reports from other outside bodies were received.</p> <p>Cllrs. Martin, Brodie and Ballington left the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair requested that, in line with the councils' standing orders, members consider extending the meeting by up to 15 minutes to complete the remainder of business outlined on the meeting agenda.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the meeting be extended by up to 15 minutes.</p>
3473.	<p><u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3474.	<p><u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u></p> <p>No items to report.</p>
3475.	<p><u>NEXT AGENDA</u></p> <p>To the Clerk in good time.</p>
3476.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING – DATE, TIME AND LOCATION</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the council was originally arranged for Monday 6th January 2025, however the Clerk informed members of the dates that the agenda would need to circulate and when papers would then follow, and this would give members a shorter period than usual to review.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the next meeting of full council will now be held on Monday 13th January 2024, commencing 18:45 at 64 High Street.</p>

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CHAIR
