

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2023 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

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| <u>Members:</u> | Cllr D Crichton (Chair) | (P) | Cllr O Barneveld | |
| | Cllr A Berry | (P) | Cllr A Carden | |
| | Cllr A Kirby | | Cllr J Parry | |
| | Cllr L Price | (P) | Cllr M Read | (P) |
| | Cllr C Brook | (P) | | |

Also present, County Councillor Patricia Stallard and District Councillor Neil Cutler, Gordon Tate – Responsible Financial Officer and Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council and one member of the public.

- 086/23C Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Barneveld, Carden, Kirby and Parry.
- 087/23C Declarations of Interest:** Cllr C Brook and Cllr M Read declared interests as they are Ward Councillors for Winchester City Council.
- 088/23C Minutes:**
The minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 5th January 2023 were received. **A typo error was noted. Upon this correction it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**
- 089/23C Matters arising and outstanding matters from Previous Minutes:** There were no matters arising. **NOTED.**
- 090/23C Public Participation:** One member of the public was present he observed the meeting and had no comments to make.
- 091/23C County and District Councillors Reports:**
D/Cllr Cutler gave a verbal report. The WCC budget meeting is due to take place next week. The major item requiring discussion is the regeneration of central Winchester. A development partner will be selected. Land for the project will be released in phases. It is a step-by-step process which will also be scrutinized by WCC. He urged all members to look at the plans to see if they are in agreement with where the project is going.
There had been a proposal for a 2.96% increase (£4) on council Tax band D. D/Cllr wished to point out that the council offers a very good council tax reduction and hardship scheme which also continues. Council housing rental increases are being restricted to a 7% increase. The city council is concentrating on helping those who are likely to struggle the most with the increased cost of living.
Cllr Price queried what happens after the mayor of Winchester resigned? D/Cllr Cutler stated that there would be an election. There currently was no more to report on the matter.
Cllr Read in his capacity as District Councillor gave a verbal update, also mentioned that the accounts for WCC will be discussed at the next meeting. He stated that a 1% raise on council tax used to be around £50,000. Looking at a 4% increase overall it is isn't a vast amount due to the increase in the population etc. **NOTED.** Cllr Read felt that D/Cllr Cutler had previously covered everything in his report.
C/Cllr P Stallard previously circulated a written report. She went on to give a verbal report. A full council meeting at HCC will shortly be taking place. Council tax increase will be determined. C/Cllr Stallard feels that there will be a 5% increase. 2% is ringfenced for adult social care. Any more for schools is also ringfenced. There is a budget of £10 million for Highway maintenance, it is no where near enough. HCC managed to scrape together another £7 million. The council

does have some reserves which it can call upon. Work has been done to improve the deficit. HCC is in a better position than some councils as the reserves are there. The budget is tough and tight, but the council are managing. She went on to mention that county councilor grants are now closing and they will not open again until June. This puts organizations in a difficult place if they are wishing to apply for grants for coronation events. Permission has been given, to allow grants specifically for the coronation, if they are submitted now. **NOTED.** Cllr Berry queried car-parking enforcement. What happens regarding car-parking that use private companies. C/Cllr Stallard reported it is determined by who lands the land. If land is owned by the county council, HCC can do their own enforcement. If HBC own land they do their own enforcement. Cllr Berry queried whether HCC will take out contractors for enforcement work or keep it in house? HCC are currently looking at and reviewing contractors. **NOTED.**

Cllr Price raised the query regarding one of the roads in the Town Park, where responsibility is as yet undermined. The issue will be raised with Grainger. **NOTED.** Thanks were given for the reports.

092/23C Parish Matters:

- (a) Developments and Adoptions: The Chairman gave a verbal update. He reported that the section 106 agreement was complete for the open space land in Wellington Park. It now is waiting for final sign off for the final planning application. Traffic road orders will be the first thing to implemented. Building costs have risen, there is a high demand for the smaller industrial units at the southern plot. There is no update on the Night searcher planning application. The contract for the work to the sickle Way entrance has been determined. Work will commence shortly. The entrance will be closed for 3 weeks. The use of bollards in the area is still undetermined. **NOTED.** On the Grainger side of the development work continues on the highways. No update to report. Cllr Read explained that there had been a legal problem, holding up the land adoption of open space in the Wellington Park area. The land inspection should be arranged shortly. **NOTED.**
- (b) Community Plan Group: There was no feedback to report at this meeting. It was noted that the group had become a community group and no longer a community plan group. The clerk was asked to write to the neighbourhood officer at WCC to ask for an update regarding the community plan. **NOTED.** It was asked that the clerk write to the neighbourhood officer at WCC regarding the community plan. **NOTED.**
- (c) HBC Land: The Chairman reported that he still had heard nothing from HBC regarding the adoption of the long-awaited land. He will chase for some response before the next West Waterlooville forum due to be held in March. He reported that Grainger had been able to make contact with HBC. HBC had responded by saying that they do not wish to work with a part-time council after being asked to consider jointly working with Newlands with regards to open space land. The Town Park is currently owned by both WCC and HBC. The Parish council wish to work closely with HBC to avoid any potential issues and are hoping to have a clearer management system in place upon adoption. **NOTED.**
- (d) Bi-monthly Grainger meetings: There was no update to report. The next meeting is due shortly and will be reported at the next meeting of Full Council. **NOTED.**

093/23C Communications:

Website: The website was up to date and there were no issues to report.

Correspondence: **The item of correspondence which had been received was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to move to exempt business.**

094/23C Outside Bodies:

- a) Southern Parishes: Cllr Berry attended the last Southern Parishes meeting in person. He reported that the majority of discussion had been about the additional houses required in the district. There were also plans to try and get more speakers to attend the meetings. Rob Humby had attended the latest meeting. **NOTED.**
- WACA: As the representative of WACA, Cllr Kirby was absent no update was received. **NOTED.**

095/23C Finance:

- a) Orders for Payment: **it was unanimously RESOLVED that the payments detailed on the orders for payment list 12 should be APPROVED in the sum of £0 including VAT and that further payments of £5,222.08 including VAT were RATIFIED and that nil receipts are NOTED.**
- b) Budget/Precept Setting:
- i) A copy of the budget for the financial year 23/24 had been circulated. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the budget.**
 - ii) The amended precept request had previously been circulated. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the precept and submit this to WCC.**

096/23C Amenities Storage/Office Facility and vehicle: This item will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee. **NOTED.**

097/23C External Noticeboard Community Building: This item will be discussed at the next meeting with Grainger. Grainger are currently proposing to install a noticeboard for the community group. It is therefore unclear whether it will be necessary for the parish council to also install a board. More information will be circulated as and when available. The matter should also be covered by the Amenities Committee. **NOTED.**

098/23C Annual Council meeting arrangements: Arrangements for the meeting were discussed. Cllr Berry suggested publicizing the meeting and circulating posters. The agenda will include items for future parish council plans as well as progress updates. Each committee will provide a report. It is hoped that some residents may be in attendance this year as this had not been the case in previous years. **NOTED.**

099/23C Allotments:

- i) **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to open a separate bank account for allotments, but to defer it's opening until after the next election, as signatories on bank accounts may change.**
- ii) Cllr Kirby suggested joining the allotment society. As he was absent from the meeting it was decided to wait for him to report this at the next meeting of Full Council. **NOTED.**

100/23C Bye-laws: The clerk had previously asked the Vice-Chair Cllr Carden about bye-laws and had circulated his email. He stated that Parish Council cannot enforce dog control orders on land they do not own. Cllr Price queried whether any existing bye-laws which were in force before the council was created would automatically be transferred to the parish council? It was considered a fair point to raise and the matter would need to be checked. Cllr Berry wondered if the environmental health act 2005 may cover the issues? He will check legal guidance. Cllr Read suggested contacting the head of legal services at WCC for further information. Cllr Price was asked to pass on any relevant information to the clerk and report back to the next meeting. **NOTED.**

101/23C Other reports: It was noted that the community hall is in need of decorating due to scuffs on walls etc. and some of the blinds require repair. The Chairman queried who would be responsible for repairs? It was thought that Grainger could be asked about the matter. **NOTED.**

The meeting closed at 8:34pm

The next meeting of Full Council will be held on 30th March 2023.

Please note minutes of meetings are published as soon as possible on the website to help residents. However, they do not become the formal record of the meeting until agreed or otherwise at the next meeting. Therefore, you should always check to see whether any amendments have been made.

102/23C Exempt Business:

The communication and grant request from the community group was discussed. It is felt that the organization has become more a resident's association. The Chairman suggested that the outstanding invoices for the group become dis-regarded. Future bookings be dealt with in the normal way. In order to award any grant monies various documents have been requested.

The grant application should be dealt with due diligence and follow the same procedures as for any other organization. Cllr Berry thought that a copy of their public liability insurance be requested.

As they are a development wide organization, the council cannot partake in activities. However, the community group could support any parish council activity. **NOTED.** The council is happy to support events within the parish. In order to be considered, timescales of events need to be considered. It was felt that the timescale for the coronation event the group are planning was insufficient. The Chairman had drafted a response to the communication Paulette Bennett had sent. An amendment was suggested that Cllr's Brook and Kirby should be primary contacts for event related queries. **NOTED.**

If the community group object to the terms laid out in the letter, the outstanding invoices still stand. **NOTED.**

It was agreed that the email in response to Paulette be sent. The grant request will then be considered upon production of the documents the Parish council require. **NOTED.**