

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm.

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

Also present, D/Cllr's Neil Cutler and Chris Chamberlain and Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council.

- 049/24C Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Bennett, Barneveld, District Cllrs Clear and Langford-Smith and C/Cllr Stallard.
- 050/24C Declarations of Interest:** Cllr M Read and Cllr C Brook declared an interests as they are Ward Councillor for Winchester City Council. Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the Community Group.
- 051/24C Minutes:**
The minutes from the previous Full Council meeting held on 10th August 2023 had previously been circulated. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that they were a true and accurate record of business that was transacted and were duly signed.**
- 052/24C Matters arising and outstanding matters from Previous Minutes:** Any matters arising will be dealt with throughout the meeting.
- 053/24C Public Participation:** No members of the public were present. Cllr Price wished to speak as a member of the public. He stated that he'd sent correspondence to D/Cllr Brook and not yet received a reply. Cllr Brook stated that she'd lost of lot of emails, due to a glitch with the WCC system. Cllr Brook went on to give clarification that Cllr Price can use a bike on Newlands Walk. **NOTED.**
- 054/24C County and District Councillors Reports:**
- D/Cllr Chamberlain spoke regarding an enforcement case that he'd agreed to look into following the previous meeting. The Chairman was also able to update and give clarification regarding the case which involved removal of some trees. It had been agreed that the trees will be replaced, Cllr Chamberlain will inform the relevant bodies.
 - D/Cllr Cutler spoke about recent talks regarding toilets in the district. A usage survey had been carried out. Certain WCs are not being used and many are being consistently used. The biggest problem surrounding toilets is anti-social behaviour. Which is costly to put right. Problems with the toilets in the WCC district are 6/7 times the average. He went on to speak about the carbon action plan. A detailed look at how to de-carbonize the district is planned as well as how to de-carbonize the council offices themselves. There are many plans, but how to action these requires some consideration. He had looked at the city council's financial papers so as to ascertain their position financially. He was pleased to report a surplus of funds. The budget should be broadly balanced, which is reassuring as this means the council is in a more stable position. Questions were welcomed. Cllr Brook mentioned that there are plans to charge 50p for everyone using the toilets. Cllr Cutler stated that this is the best way to discourage anti-social behaviour. The cabinet however are not in favour of this and thought has to be

given to disabled users. If a charge is implemented then payment could be made using credit cards.

The Chairman mentioned that eco-toilets will be available for allotment users, consideration has to be given to the management of these. Will the future district centre also have toilets available? Consideration must now also be given towards providing sanitary bins in male toilets, as not having this option has been known to cause blocked toilets. Cllr Berry felt that disabled toilets may also need an upgrade. There may also be a requirement for public toilets within the MDA. The council are concentrating on getting toilets in the district up to standard and then consideration will be given to charging etc.

Cllr Cutler re-iterated some of comments regarding the carbon-neutrality program. He felt that there had been some good suggestions regarding actions, and the situation may become worse before it gets better. He felt that the Government's current proposals are causing a lot of confusion, and people and money are invested in various programs. He spoke about the credits program, whereby developers etc. earn credits for work towards being carbon neutral. The Government are to add this to the levelling-up bill, but there is still an element of confusion regarding planning policy, this doesn't currently affect Newlands parish council. It was questioned whether the site behind the school, due to be developed had to consider nitrate mitigation?

Cllr Kirby queried waste collections. He asked if any further consideration had been given. Cllr Cutler stated that current plans have been delayed, it's a frustration process with a lot of negotiation going on, currently certain aspects of the plan are on hold.

Cllr Read had submitted a written report. Detailed here, "It has so far been a quiet year as far as meetings are concerned, there has been NO full council meeting to date. All of the decisions have been made by eight people (the cabinet) leaving the remaining 37 members outside the loop. It appears that more and more decisions are being determined by the senior officers of the council.

Local Plan - Denmead as you are aware are once again formulating the parishes proposals in line with the city council overall plan, however this has now been delayed by some 14 months which I believe could in turn put the whole of the current local plan in danger of a challenge.

Housing numbers – In conjunction with the Parish Council we have drawn attention to the way in which the current allocation of housing requirements have been calculated in the light of the correspondence received in the past from WCC Strategic Planning Team, all three ward members had asked for a meeting with the respective parties in WCC to try and work out the best way forward for the Parish. Our next meeting is due shortly.

Housing Sheltered – I have approached WCC Housing Dept with regards to a defibrillator for White Wings sheltered housing unit in Ashling Park Rd. With the high concentration of elderly residents and has a residential care staff member on duty 24hrs per day, it is the best place to house one. A further 250 houses are being considered for the Newlands area on top of and allocation for Denmead.

Enforcement – There is a major concern with regards to Enforcement issues across the district but there is great concern in Worlds End area of the parish. I intend to raise it at the Informal Planning meeting next week. The Informal meeting is reviewing the areas of planning concern across the district. Denmead has one of the highest numbers of live cases within the district.

Certificate of Lawful Use – this is where an applicant seeks a Lawful use of the land having used it for over 4 yrs. without any action from the council being brought against it. In a recent case the judgement has gone against the council which in turn means that the findings may open large segments of land for further exploitation, I have a meeting with WCC Planners and the Legal department.

Fly Tipping – has increased throughout the district but is prominent in the Southern part of the district which is bounded by large urban conservations. The city council has over the past 12 months had some successful prosecutions resulting in heavy fines for the offenders."

C/Cllr Patricia Stallard had also submitted a written report. Thanks were given to her for

her report and all others.

055/24C Parish Matters:

- (a) Developments and Adoptions: The Chairman gave an update he spoke about the work to the Sickle Way entrance. The decision for its closure happened 18 years ago. The fire and rescue team had given their input to the closure, stating that there is a risk to life if the closure were to go ahead. There had been a Highways meeting which had determined that the entrance should remain open, if it can be left open. There may still be an obligation to carry out the closure, if this were to happen then the Parish council can raise a planning application to ask that it remains open. **NOTED.** It was hoped that the ambulance service would also give their opinion regarding the closure, but they have not been reachable to contact. The Chairman also continues to speak to Cllr Anne Briggs of Havant Borough council. On the Taylor Wimpey side of the development the hold-up pertaining to the legal problem continues and there is no further update. HBC are still not willing to adopt due to the problems they believe that exist regarding sewers. HBC have been given total reassurance regarding the situation, but the hold-up still continues. On the Grainger side of the development the first tranche of road adoption it is hoped will take place very shortly. It is felt however that Hampshire Highways may be unwilling to adopt the roads due to the site traffic.
- The Chairman mentioned that the appointment of a new community officer for the development will take place by the end of the year. He stated that it is essential that someone fill this position, due to the fact that the MDA has no monitoring officer. It is queried what is happening regarding parking enforcement, as council is unaware.
- Cllr Price spoke regarding the traffic and rights of way. He believes that there are breaches of the Road Traffic Act and the Police may be able to carry out enforcement.
- It was queried whether the work to the block paving in Sickle Way will be carried out. Cllr Read has been working alongside WCC representatives in relation to this matter and will circulate any updates to members as and when he has it. **NOTED.**
- (b) Community Group: Cllr Bennett, also Chair of the Community Group was not present to update members. **NOTED.**
- (c) HBC Land: This item had been covered.
- (d) Bi-monthly Grainger meetings: There hadn't been a meeting for some time now. Meetings will be arranged. **NOTED.** With regards to the hold-up to the adoption of the open space within Newlands, it is now considered that the Parish council may receive land from Grainger sooner than this area. A meeting with the Monitoring Officer from WCC will be taking place very shortly. **NOTED.**
- (e) Conversation Group meeting: Cllr Berry had met with representatives of the group. They had a walkaround of the area and had spotted several problems including fish dying due to reeds. The conservation group would like to work with the parish council in the hopes to rectify these issues and maintain areas. They would like to appoint someone from the council to attend meetings. Permission from Grainger to allow the conservation group to carry out work is required in writing. **NOTED.**
- (f) Access to Newlands Walk: It has been queried whether access to Newlands Walk can be made by mobility scooter users. It is thought that access cannot currently be gained. All gates should be designed to allow access. The problem goes back some years, there will be costs associated with putting this right. Who will pay for this? D/Cllr Cutler was asked to look into the matter further, and to ascertain whether the gates currently meet requirements. Any alterations made, will need to ensure that motorbikes cannot pass through. The clerk was asked to make contact with representatives of WCC for further clarification. Cllr Brook asked the clerk to copy in another representative into the communication. **NOTED.**

056/24C Communications:

- a) Website: The website was functioning well. Further consideration to the setting up of a media and communications committee is due to be considered.
- b) Correspondence: Correspondence had been received from HALC asking for members input into policy changes. The clerk had previously circulated this information. **NOTED.**

Correspondence regarding the lease to the hall was also covered. A fixed cost to the Parish council was suggested by a representative of Grainger for contribution to the utility costs of the shared facilities. £400 a month had been suggested. It was thought this figure was too high and the matter requires further discussion. The figure is not required to be entered into the lease. The shared area does have its own meter. It was suggested that the bills be looked at and a share of the costs be determined. The Chairman will go back to Grainger's solicitor with more information regarding the lease, as and when he has it. **NOTED.**

Cllr Kirby raised several concerns relating to the lease which also require clarification. It was suggested that the council take legal advice before signing. The chairman will continue working towards having a draft copy of the lease ready, which he'll circulate to members prior to the next Full Council meeting. The proposed changes should be agreed in exempt business. **NOTED.**

057/24C Outside Bodies:

- a) Southern Parishes: The last meeting of the Southern Parishes group took place at Newlands. It had been a useful meeting. A buses and roads representative came along to speak to the group. He spoke for around an hour and half about buses in the MDA and in Denmead. Some useful information was gathered. Cllr Berry also had clarification about some aspects of bus shelters, if advertisements are placed in them the council would have an income, which would help to offset the cost of the shelters to the council. **NOTED.** It was suggested that the council find out more from Grainger regarding bus shelters and planning obligations. It is believed that there ought to be bus shelters near the primary schools. **NOTED.**
Discussions also centered around the requirement for additional houses and the objections that many members of the Southern Parishes group have.
- b) West Waterlooville Forum/Joint Planning Committee: A meeting has been scheduled for the end of October. A short report from the council has been requested. Both the Chair and Cllr Berry will supply this. The joint planning committee is non-existent, the matter will be raised at the WOW forum. Various planning applications which should have and should be considered by this committee have been passed without consideration by the committee.
- c) WACA: There was nothing to report from WACA. Cllr Price raised the fact that guidance and information session run by the community group had been successful, a second session is due to go ahead.

058/24C Finance:

- a) Orders for Payment: Payments detailed on the orders for payment list 07 were received. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the orders for payment.**
- b) Bank Statements: The bank statements had been previously circulated. The statements were reviewed and the balances as of August 2023 were agreed. The statements were signed by the Chairman. **NOTED.**
- c) Accounts: The accounts for August 2023 had been prepared and circulated. **NOTED.**
- d) Budget 2024/25: The timescales for the budget were considered. Cllr Read has previously stated that it is very difficult to ascertain a budget for next year, due to the uncertainty surrounding receiving the open space monies, this has been delayed by two years already. Committees have been asked to produce a list of expected expenditure. The council have already leased a van in readiness for the land, employed another member of staff and are in the process of setting up a temporary compound. Assumptions may have to be made, which could mean a higher precept. **NOTED.**

- 059/24C** Amenities Storage/Office facility: The quotes which the Warden had previously gathered for the containers and facilities had been re-circulated as some members hadn't received this information. An update from the Warden will be given at the next Amenities committee. The clerk reported that things were progressing well and it is believed that the facility should be available for use by the end of the year. The Chairman wished to state that he is extremely pleased with the work that the Warden is doing towards this. **NOTED.**
- 060/24C** Parish signage: Designs had been circulated with the Newlands Parish Council logo in the top corner. Cllr Carden suggested moving the sign in Houghton Avenue back 2 metres to allow better visibility. It had been thought that a 4th sign to hold in storage, ready for when it's required should be ordered. The removal of the marketing name, Berewood from signs is being considered by Hampshire highways, or at least having the parish name stated along side this. It was thought that the signs should be publicized. The Chairman agreed to contact the Evening News. It was thought that perhaps the mayors may like to officially unveil the signs. **NOTED.**
- 061/24C** Christmas Event: This event will be held in conjunction with the community group. A date for the Christmas light switch on, had been determined. This will take place on Friday 1st December 2023. Celebrities to ask for the event were considered. The clerk was asked to make contact.
- 062/24C** Media and communications committee: Cllr Bennett had requested that the council consider setting up a media and communications committee. The clerk was asked to go back to Cllr Bennett and ask her to draw up a paper with suggestions, and to circulate this to members.
- 063/24C** Other Reports: It was queried how many residents are now living in the development, as this will help determine when another councillor can join the team. The tax base figure is also required for precept setting.

The meeting closed at 9:26pm

The next meeting of Full Council will be held on 26th October 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.