

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2023 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

Members: Cllr M Read (Chairman) (P) Cllr A Kirby (P)
Cllr L Price (P) Cllr P Bennett (P)

Also present, Cllr D Crichton - Chairman of the council, Cllr A Berry, Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council and Luke Hayter - Amenities Parish Warden and three members of the public.

064/24A Apologies: All councillors were present. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He went on to report news that the Monitoring Officer at WCC had tendered her resignation, this may have implications for the council in that the on-going adoption process is held up further. **NOTED.**

065/24A Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest as he is a Ward member for Winchester City Council, Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the Community Group.

066/24A Previous Minutes and matters arising: The minutes from the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2023 were received. **It was RESOLVED by a majority that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

067/24A Public Session: Three members of the public were present. A record of the discussion is appended to these minutes.

068/24A Correspondence: The clerk reported that a parent support advisor had been in touch regarding an application for a grant towards helping towards the cost of sessions she may run at the community hall. The clerk will send the applicant a form and the matter will be discussed by the Finance and Personnel committee. **NOTED.**

069/24A a) Warden's Report: The Warden gave a verbal report. He updated councillors on the work to the compound. The compound will now be shared with Nurture who are the maintenance contractors that Grainger use. There are issues surrounding whether the public will be able to access the area. The current surfacing of the area requires work and will need to be made good before the units in place. Grainger will pay for this work. The delivery of the containers will be put back whilst this work is carried out. All electric works and water supply works are in hand. The council continues to work with Eric Jackson for the electrical work. EON will supply the council's electricity. Cllr Bennett commented to say that the public can safely access the small office in the community hall, should they wish to do so. It may be an idea to publish times in which the public can visit. Currently the council can be contacted via email or telephone during office hours. It was suggested these details be sorted out once the containers are in-situ. **NOTED.**

b) Grainger Report: A bi-monthly meeting had recently taken place. Cllr Crichton gave a verbal report. Grainger had discussed a schedule for adoption with the council. They had also spoken about the allotments which it is hoped will be handed over to the council during 2024. A deed of variation with the planning

department is awaiting approval, this will ensure that the parish council will have ownership. Updates will be passed on as and when they are received. **NOTED.**

070/24A Adoption of Open Space: The Chairman gave a verbal report. The issues with the section 104 agreement are still on-going. Communications with Grainger have indicated a need for a discussion in exempt business regarding 106 monies. **NOTED.** The Chairman continues to chase for answers from the monitoring officer, but as she has now resigned answers will now take longer to be received.

071/24A Newlands Walk play park and fencing: Cllr Price had previously raised concerns at the Full Council regarding not having a fence around the play area in Newlands Walk. He is concerned that dogs can leave excrement where children play, which could mean that children become ill. WCC as standard do not install fencing. HBC are using fencing. Once the council have ownership of the area, fencing options could be implemented. In the meantime, the Warden was asked to explore fencing options, costings etc. and bring back to the committee. The budget for the funds also requires determination, originally the play park was paid for from the Arts Fund. It was thought that the fencing in the Town Park is a good example of fencing and to find out supply details etc. Dogs on leads signs are not being obeyed by residents, despite signage being in place. Some new signage is due to be placed in more visible areas. **NOTED.**
It was then queried when the dog agility area may become available? The Chairman believes that two areas may be available in the development. The original site may have moved. Updates will be reported once more information gained.

072/24A Community Hall: Cllr Kirby had requested that several items relating to the community hall be discussed by committee. Firstly, the equipment in the shared facility, it was suggested that the council purchase their own equipment for this purpose and hopefully Grainger can accommodate this somewhere in the communal kitchen. This will need approval with Grainger. A budget and list of items will need consideration as well as various other aspects such as breakages etc.

Cllr Kirby thought that the hall could also use a PA system as this will be useful for events etc. He will come back to the committee with costings. **NOTED.**

The hall fire alarm still requires having a procedure in place for management. CIA who installed the alarm did not show up to meeting they were supposed to attend. A system is required regarding procedures to follow. This will require determination with Grainger. Cllr Crichton will pursue this matter with Grainger and report back through the clerk. It was noted that the council expect contractors to turn up to meetings if they'd been arranged. **NOTED.**

Cllr Crichton gave an update on the lease for the community building, he had circulated the latest agreement and were waiting on solicitors. The council utility costs payments are still to be agreed.

Cllr Berry reminded Cllr Kirby that COSHH signs are required for the cleaning cupboard in the communal area. Cllr Kirby has the matter in hand. **NOTED.**

Cllr Price thought that it may be an idea to provide hall users with an instruction manual for the air-conditioning. Cllr Bennett thought that she may be able to assist with this. **NOTED.**

073/24A Events: Events were also discussed at the Full Council meeting. Cllr Bennett had emailed the council with the offer of help from the community group in organizing and running council events in return for the free use of the community hall. A bigger grant to cover the hall hire costs may be required, this matter is to be considered by the Finance and Personnel committee. A shortlist of events to be considered by the council is required. An agenda item will be added to the next Full council agenda so that all members can

offer their suggestions. Regular events could cover Easter, Summer, Halloween and Christmas. A calendar of repeatable events could be organized. **NOTED.** It is essential to include of the development in the events. A level area within Town Park had been requested by Cllr Bennett and Grainger are happy to sort this. One resident had asked that the council hold events which celebrate the diversity of the area. Cllr Bennett stated that the development is made up of many cultures, ages etc. and council events should cater to all. Cllr Kirby mentioned that the council's event has mostly surrounded around Christmas and it will be easier to incorporate diversity around events other than Christmas. Cllr Bennett welcomes ideas/suggestions from all councillors and council employees. The matter will be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

074/24A Amenities storage facility: This item had already been covered.

075/24A Other Reports: Cllr Bennett mentioned that there had recently been a residents meeting with Barratts over the long outstanding work to the areas they have responsibility for within the development. The meeting had been well attended and Barratt's have set a deadline for completion of all works as September 2024. This matter is a Full council issue but noted by the Amenities committee. **NOTED.**

It was moved that the meeting went into closed session at 8:30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee is scheduled for Thursday 1 February 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

Public Participation 14th December 2023:

A member of the public wished to speak about 3 letters of grave concern which he had copied the council into and stated had not received a response. Some of the information he could not disclose at the meeting. Cllr Lewes Price has a vast knowledge of the legal system and has offered his assistance. The member of the public also spoke about concerns over drainage plans and water testing etc. Both the Chairman and Cllr Price will speak with him regarding his concerns. He wished to chase the Chairman of the council for a response to his previously sent emails.

The public session concluded after 15 minutes, the other members of public in attendance did not have a chance to speak but it is hoped they will contact the council or attend another council meeting.