

## THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm.

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

Also present, C/Cllr P. Stallard and D/Cllr's Paula Langford-Smith and Chris Chamberlain and Gordon Tate – Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr Brook arrived later due to a previous engagement.

**064/24C Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Carden & Cllr Price.

**065/24C Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the Community Group.

**066/24C Minutes:**

The minutes from the previous Full Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had previously been circulated. Cllr Bennett pointed out that as she was not present she could not have declared an interest. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that they were a true and accurate record of business that was transacted and were duly signed with one amendment.**

**067/24C Matters arising and outstanding matters from Previous Minutes:** Any matters arising will be dealt with throughout the meeting.

**068/24C Public Participation:** No members of the public were present.

**069/24C Outstanding Matters and Matters Arising:** Cllr Bennett asked about the provision of Wi-Fi for the centre, the Chairman answered that this is something that we need to look into, but this has to go to the finance and personnel committee because if we are going to do that then we have to instal our own Wi-Fi service because at the moment at the moment we are using the service provided by Grainger and that is only available to us and not as a public service. If we want to do that, we will have to have a new line put in and we will probably need to instal two routers. We would probably need to have one for the public and a private router for our use. So, yes, this can be looked at, but it will probably have to be considered as part of our budgeting for next year.

Cllr Bennett then asked about the circulation of the Warden's job description, the Chairman answered that he was under the impression that the job description had been circulated, and instructed the RFO to ask the Clerk to circulate the Warden's job description again to all members.

The Chairman then stated that it may be worth actually reviewing the Warden's job description because, we probably would have done this already if we had had the land transferred to us by now.

The Warden's Job Description was considered to see whether it could be amended but Cllr Kirby stated that if we are going to do that, we would need to seek HR guidance.

**070/24C County and District Councillor Reports:** We have had a report from C/Cllr P. Stallard that has been circulated. There does not appear to be anything specific on there, other than the fact that in the first paragraph she highlights quite correctly the funding shortfall at County and if anybody is not aware, County have given a public warning to the Government that they are faced with the possibility of having to declare a 114 in about 15 months' time, at the end of the next financial year if they cannot make good the shortfall. That is a council declaring

Bankruptcy. A number of major councils have had to declare bankruptcy in the last few years. Hampshire has at least two year's reserves plus some other options, however, if things do not improve, Hampshire will only be able to supply the statutory requirements.

The Chairman informed the group that we have had a statement of community involvement that should have been circulated to all members as there is an online consultation taking place. Cllr Stallard also mentioned the recycling survey which closes on the 26<sup>th</sup>. November, the question of waste disposal and recycling is up in the air at the moment.

D/Cllr Langford-Smith had provided a written report, previously circulated.

D/Cllr Chamberlain informed the group that there was a £200,000 funding proposal for Waterloo Leisure Centre.

#### **071/24C Parish Matters:**

Developments and Adoptions: The Chairman gave an update.

- (a) There has been a report from Clive Woodrow and Taylor Wimpey that the work has been completed on Sickie Way, however, Taylor Wimpey is still waiting for the 104 agreement from Southern Water. When the 104 has been agreed, then it will be at least a year to 18 months before the roads can be adopted. We are moving slowly towards adoption, but it is still a long way off.

The Chairman has raised the matter of the number of road lights that are out of action. Apparently, some of this appears to have been caused by a faulty cable. Taylor Wimpey are trying to sort it out. The Chairman also pointed out that there has been an overflow from a sewer, however, Taylor Wimpey are also trying to sort this problem out as well. The Chairman also mentioned that we have raised the matter of the open space with Grainger, but first the Town Park has to be sorted. This will be discussed at the forum to decide who will handle this. The Chairman also informed the group that the new temporary depot work is well under way, and we hope to have it in use by the end of the year. Cllr Berry informed the group that there is a gas main running directly underneath the cemetery. This makes it questionable as to whether it can continue to be used as a cemetery, and if not, then perhaps it should be left to be wilded.

- (b) HBC Land. Havant have no risk obligations on the land in Wellington Park. Cllr Bennett stated that there have been some responses to the questionnaires ref the road conditions on the Wellington Park Estate. The responses have been broken down by post code. Cllr Berry reported that this also applies to the block paving.
- (c) The Clerk to agree a schedule of meetings with Grainger ref the open spaces.

#### **072/24C Communications:**

Website: The Chairman stated that there are no communications and nothing to report at this time on the website.

Correspondence: There has been a complaint about loud, unsociable noises on the estate.

Cllr Bennett reported that there are a group of "Boy Racers" using the roads around the industrial area as a racetrack and performing very loud, noisy maneuvers. This has been reported to the police.

Also, there are people using drones on the estate and making a lot of noise and causing disturbances.

The Chairman stated that we have received a complaint against Trinity about the levels of noise in their area. He stated that all we can do is pass this complaint onto Trinity as it is their responsibility. All we can do is write to Trinity and ask them to deal with the resident on this complaint.

Cllr Bennett informed the group that there is a consultation taking place with regards to the Arts budget. The Chairman informed the group that currently, this is being funded by Winchester.

**073/24C Outside Bodies:** The joint planning committee will be raised as an issue at the West of Waterlooville Forum. There was nothing from WACA.

**074/24C Finance: Orders for Payment.** Payments detailed on the orders for payment list 09 were received. It was confirmed that the payment to Millgrove Construction was for an electrical junction box. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the orders for payment.**

- (a) **Budget for 2023/24** Ref the budget for next year, we need input from the two committees to make any decisions for next year. The Chairman confirmed to the group that we have not yet received the funds from Winchester, so we will have to plan accordingly and ask the committees for their input. We do not, at this time, have any idea as to when Winchester will approve the precept.
- (b) **Accounting Software Purchase.** The Chairman discussed the quotes that we have received Ref the new accounting software from Scribe and Rialtas Software providers. The RFO and the Clerk have both recommended the Scribe software package. **The Chairman proposed that we accept the quote from Scribe Software and Cllr Berry seconded it. The motions was passed unanimously.**
- (c) **Higher Interest-Bearing Bank Account:** It was proposed by the Chairman that the RFO opens a higher interest-bearing deposit /savings bank account for funds, in our reserves, that are surplus to, short to medium term spending requirements. **This was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed.**

We have had a request from the Clerk to the Council for a new more up to date laptop as her current laptop is nearing the end of its useful life. It was decided that this request should go into next year's budget.

**075/24C Amenities and Storage Facility.** The Chairman recorded his thanks to the Warden for the work he has put into organising the new amenities/storage facility on the site.

**076/24C Update on Outstanding Issues:** There were no outstanding issues.

**077/24C Christmas Event:** Cllr Bennett mentioned the switching on ceremony for the Christmas lights. She reported that we are now at the budgeting stage, we have the facilities to run this and Grainger have offered no objection at this time. This is to be confirmed.

A celebrity to switch on the Christmas Lights. Four options have been given to the Clerk for confirmation as to a celebrity to switch on our Christmas Lights. It was also suggested that we can hire a choir for the occasion at a cost of £75.00. The event is due to take place on the first of December, therefore, we need to get this arranged prior to this date.

Cllr Kirby suggested that the Parish fund the additional lighting required and also the choir. Cllr Bennet was asked to produce a budget. **Cllr Kirby suggested a limit of £500. After due discussion, this limit was increased to £1,000 in total for this event. Cllr Kirby proposed the motion and Cllr Berry seconded it.**

The Chairman asked Cllr Bennett to circulate her list via the clerk.

Cllr Berry proposed that the list goes to the Highways and General Purposes Committee. Seconded by Cllr Barneveld.

Cllr Berry pointed out to the group that next year is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D. Day landings. Cllr Brook is to present Parish Wreath at the memorial in Denmead.

Clerk to contact the Clerk at Southwick to ensure that we do not clash and run the same event at the same time in two adjoining wards.

**078/24C Media and Communications Committee:**

The Chairman told the committee that he is not sure that we are ready to set this up yet. Cllr Kirby suggested that in his opinion it would be best to consider appointing a media & communications consultant either from within our own ranks, or go outside of Newlands and look for a new, unconnected person for the

job, rather than setting up another committee. Cllr Bennett suggested we can also use this person to produce a regular news letter for the estate. This could be an electronic news letter rather than in paper format.

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The meeting closed at 22.10

The next meeting of Full Council will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 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.