

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2024 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, Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council and Luke Hayter - Amenities Parish Warden and three members of the public.

076/24A Apologies: All councillors were present.

077/24A 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 and Cllr Kirby declared an interest as he is Chair of the WACA board of Trustees.

078/24A Previous Minutes and matters arising: The minutes from the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14th December 2023 were received. **A typo error was pointed out, upon this correction, it was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

079/24A Public Session: Members of the public were present. They did not speak during the public session.

080/24A Correspondence: No items of correspondence relating to this committee.

081/24A Warden's Report: The Warden gave a verbal report. He has recently met with WCC at Newlands Walk. Goddards have been contracted by WCC to carry out snagging works. So far work was progressing well in the area. All green sleeves on the trees have been removed, where possible, there are 1000's of them and some are not accessible. A new picnic area near the play park will be created. The plan is to get the site to a high quality standard ready for the Parish Council to take over and to adhere to the standard of maintenance. Cllr Crichton mentioned that the public footpath is in the wrong place and requires a diversion onto the greenway, this was raised with a representative at WCC. Hampshire County Council will have to make the required correction, prior to takeover. The Warden mentioned that any councillor is welcome anytime to go over and view the work being carried out. **NOTED.** It was also suggested that council keep an eye on the work and provide regular updates.

The compound units have now been delivered and are connected to electricity and water. A plumber is required to connect the lavatories. A concern has arisen regarding public access. Grainger are keen for members of the public to be kept away from the site. Members of the public wishing to visit the council offices should be seen at the community hall office. **NOTED.** Grainger had informed the Warden that they plan to hold surgeries for residents on a regular basis. It was suggested that members of the council may also like to join these meetings. **NOTED.** The appropriate level of insurance over needs to be in place now these units are in situ – clerk to check this.

The Warden has the process of gaining 3 quotes for the fencing to the play-area in Newlands Walk in hand. He is due to meet a contractor on site for a quote. The fencing

may be erected in the hopes that it will keep dogs out of the area. Cllr Kirby suggested that having some seating inside the play area may also be an idea. **NOTED.**

082/24A Adoption of Open Space: The Chairman gave a verbal report. Unfortunately, things were no further forward regarding the adoption on the open space in Wellington Park. The appointment of a new monitoring officer has somewhat delayed the process yet again. The Chairman hopes to be able to report progress at the next meeting. Cllr Crichton updated the committee to say that there was a set-back regarding the community facility. The NHS had not been granted funding for the plans as they currently stand for the Health Centre. The plans will be going back and re-designing a smaller facility. Cllr Anne Briggs at HBC is looking into this and urging the project to go ahead as the need for this is great. It was suggested that the council speak to Grainger regarding this information as this may also mean a set-back for the new community centre which will include the Parish Offices. **NOTED.**

083/24A Community Hall items: It had been suggested that the council purchase a PA system for the hall. Cllr Kirby had provided a quote for a suitable model, (previously circulated). The price of which was around £920.00. The funds for this will come from the community hall account. It was queried whether at present the PA system is required? It was thought not so the matter has been deferred until November. A hearing loop had also been suggested, this ensures that all members of the public wishing to visit the council for meetings are able to attend should they wish to do so. The baby changing unit and the bin which had been requested by the council are in hand with Grainger. **NOTED.** Grainger had been in contact with the clerk, reported that a group hirer was causing excessive noise. This made it difficult for them to work. They had asked the council to check who the group was and when they were in attendance. Cllr Kirby will check on the group when they are next in the hall and also ask WACA to speak with them, reminding them that they share the hall with a working office.

084/24A Events: Cllr Bennett had circulated event ideas to all councillors and asked for input. It had been agreed that the Parish Council will work with the community group for council event. It was suggested that the websites relating to the development have a space for event details. Dates of when the council will fly the Union Flag. It was also reiterated that Parish council events should cover the whole of the MDA. Events and flag-flying dates should be added to the agenda for the next meeting. **NOTED.**

085/24A PA System: This item had been covered.

086/24A Fencing around play park in the Newlands Walk Play Area: This item had been covered.

087/24A Amenities Storage/Office Facility: This item had been covered.

088/24A Van Breakdown Cover: The van had recently suffered a flat battery. A mechanic was called out to attend to the problem. It was suggested that the council consider having breakdown cover for the vehicle. Cllr Kirby that at the present time, the need for this is unnecessary. This would be a future consideration. It was suggested that the council find out what Denmead parish council have in place. Breakdown cover may also be included in the lease of the van. The clerk will check. **NOTED.**

089/24A Update on any outstanding issues: No issues to report.

090/24A Other Reports: Cllr Bennett mentioned that the public consultation has begun regarding the Public Arts project. A small postcard with more details was circulated. The Public Arts group plan to hold more interactive events and they will be on-site regularly. The clerk was asked to ensure all councillors were aware of the consultation. NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8:34pm.

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee is scheduled for Thursday 14 March 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

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