

PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2024 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

Members: Cllr A Berry (Chairman) (P) Cllr O Barneveld (P)
Cllr A Kirby (P) Cllr L Price (P)
Cllr P Bennett (P)

Also, present Cllr David Crichton – Chairman of the Parish Council, Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council and members of the public.

099/24H Apologies: All councillors were present.
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

100/24H Declarations of Interest: Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the community group. **NOTED.**

101/24H Previous Minutes: The minutes from the Highways and General Purposes meeting held 4th January 2024 were received. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED by the councillors who were present at the previous meeting that the minutes of the Council meeting be accepted as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chairman.**

102/24H Public Session: Members of the public were in attendance. A transcript of the business which transpired is appended to these minutes.

103/24H Outstanding Matters and Matters Arising: The Chairman had given the clerk an action log sheet. She will use this to record actions and keep a record of matters reported. **NOTED. It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to accept the recommendation made by the Chairman of the Committee.** Cllr Bennett suggested this may be of use to the other committees. **NOTED.**

104/24H Adoption Update:

a) Wellington Park: Cllr Crichton gave a verbal update. He spoke regarding the proposed TRO's (Traffic Regulation Orders) for Darnel Road. A 4-hour time limit on parking spaces. Clarification is required over if the TRO applies to the visitor parking spaces, if so, the council feels this is unacceptable. The Chairman requested that the clerk write to the Highways Authority for clarification. If the time limit applies to these spaces, the council will raise an objection. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to raise an objection, to gain clarification on the parking spaces and clarification on traffic movement.**

In Newlands Walk, clearance and maintenance work had begun. Cllr Price stated that the contractor, Goddards are not shutting the gate. Any issues will be passed onto the open space officer in WCC.

b) Berewood: The community group had been monitoring traffic during school drop off and pick up times. This was proving to have a positive effect on the traffic movements during these times. Contractors within the development are aware of the need to be mindful during these times. The remedial work to the roads on the Barratt's part of the development continues, slowly but surely, weather has been an issue. A problem had been hi-lighted, that of how will resident effected by the work with EV cars charge their vehicles? It was requested that Barratt's look into this. A temporary car park could be supplied. There may be up to 60 cars to relocate during these works. The contractors,

Blanchard Wells have been brilliant. It is hoped that they will make the deadline of finishing by September 2024. Communication with Barratt's could do with improvement. **NOTED.**

The Pizza van which had set up on a regular basis to trade in the development was not a registered company. They were asked to leave the area and have ceased trading. Pure Food have now also left the development. **NOTED.** The Chairman went on to mention that a pond had been unearthed in an overgrown area within the development. There are plans to work with the community group to carry out work to make it a pleasant, useable space. **NOTED.**

c) Grainger Bi-monthly meeting: The next meeting is arranged for April. A report will be given after this meeting.

105/24H Correspondence: Correspondence had been received from a resident in Wellington Park who has concerns regarding damage to grass verges and flooding. Taylor Wimpey and WCC will be contacted. **NOTED.**

Correspondence had been received from a resident who had become concerned about the increase in the rat population. The clerk had contacted Grainger about the issue, they have the matter in hand. **NOTED. There were concerns raised about if pesticides were to be used would this then affect other wildlife in the area?** The clerk was asked to discuss with Grainger.

106/24H Street Names for phase 11: The email sent by the GIS department in WCC had been circulated. There was confusion over where the street names they had given had arisen from. It also needs clarification over which phase they are referring to. The Redrow or Bargate development. The Clerk is to go back and ask WCC about the origin of the names. **NOTED.**

107/24H Depot/Compound: The containers are now in place within the compound. A designated pathway is required, as well as an internet service. Cllr Price, is working with BT to see what services they can provide. The service will also tie-in with offering public internet access for hall users. **NOTED.** The office is around 20ft in size, a fire escape needs determining and clarification over whether there are smoke detectors, fire extinguishers. The Chairman offered to look at the area, he suggested having a key box installed for the keys to gain access to the compound. A set of keys will be kept within the small office in the hall. **NOTED.** Cllr Bennett queried whether the small office would be available for storage for community hall use. Cllr Crichton stated no this would not be an option, the Chairman agreed that on health and safety grounds this is not currently possible. The community hall is a temporary facility and there are insurance, public liability and fire regulation implications. Cllr Price also stated that groups only hire for a short period so keeping items longer term would not be favourable. It was mentioned that other community groups offer storage to users. This is something for consideration for the new district centre and sports pavilion. **NOTED.**

108/24H Allotments: The Chairman suggested that the list of interested plot holders be revisited. He also asked for an idea of anyone on the list that may be disabled. This is to ensure that they have access to a raised allotment plot. It was queried how plot holders should prove their disability? Proof will be required. The clerk was asked to contact Grainger for an expected completion date. There are concerns that if the council starts to ask questions regarding plot-holders that this may lead to expectation, the council at present still cannot be sure when the allotments will be ready. The Chairman stated that a process should be put in place now so as to ensure the council is ready to manage the allotments. A selection process is required. This matter will be covered in exempt business at a future meeting.

NOTED. The Chairman also suggested that the position of Horticulturist be advertised as soon as possible and to let Full Council know that the position should be advertised. **NOTED.** Cllr Price queried what will happen with the money received from the allotments. It had previously been determined that a separate bank account will be opened for this money. **NOTED.**

108/24H Speed monitors and speeding issues: The community group have been monitoring traffic in the development. 29 various traffic offences have occurred. Grainger are happy with the work which the group are carrying out. It had previously been agreed that the council will purchase a second speed monitor. It was suggested that this be situated in the Wellington Park side of the MDA. Taylor Wimpey will need to be informed and check that they agree to this. **NOTED.** **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the clerk should write to Taylor Wimpey to ask for permission for the speed monitor.** Grainger have previously offered their assistance for installation. Once agreed the clerk is to let the Warden know when to expect the monitor. Grainger have also agreed that to installing a post for a speed monitor should it be required. It was suggested that this item be publicized on social media. **NOTED.** Cllr Crichton suggested that the information regarding traffic road orders be circulated to residents, suggesting this information could be circulated via the community group and the parish council's website. **NOTED.** Cllr Bennett stated that she is happy to promote any council information on behalf of the council via the community group.

109/24H Parking in the development: A verbal update was given. Grainger will be removing a lot of signs regarding parking in the development, in readiness for highway adoption. The yellow lines will remain in situ. The small car park by the school is due to be removed. This is likely to cause more of an issue with parking surrounding the school. It was queried whether the Headteacher is aware of this and whether she has looked in school crossing patrol, pelican crossing etc. Pelican crossing is likely to be very expensive. Hampshire county Council as standard practice, do not provide parking with schools. Berewood primary school is an academy school and it was queried what funding may be available. Additional parking/traffic problems are expected once the second primary school is built. **NOTED.** Have Park and Stride options been looked at? It was suggested that the parish council contact Hampshire County Council about this. **NOTED.** The Chairman of the committee will arrange to meet with the Headteacher of Berewood to discuss. **NOTED.**

110/24H Media and communications committee: Cllr Bennett had circulated a document regarding suggestions for the committee to all councillors. She encouraged any feedback regarding these suggestions. She also encouraged all councillors to ensure they have specific council.gov.uk email addresses for council business. **NOTED.** She continues to look into alternative website providers. The current website could use improvement. Many websites have more options than the one currently used. It was suggested that the council consider changing provider upon website renewal time. Cllr Bennett will circulate suggestions to all councillors. **NOTED.**

The membership of the committee was spoken about. Currently all members of the H and GP committee are members. It was suggested non-councillor members could be allowed to join? Cllr Bennett was asked to draw up a paper with all recommendations. There are queries around who will maintain the website, will it be in house or outsourced etc. The matter will be discussed again at the next Highways and General purposes Committee and then passed on to Full Council for approval. **NOTED.**

Cllr Bennett mentioned that currently the Wellington Park Facebook page states that the page was set up by the council. She feels that this ought to be changed to reflect that the council serves the whole of the MDA. This could either be removed or the admin passed on to private ownership. The matter requires approval at Full council. She also suggested

extending the parish councils presence onto other social media platforms. Next Door may be particularly useful. **NOTED.**

Some of the councils' policies require updated and or looking into to ensure that all that are required have been put into place. **It was RESOLVED by a majority to ask Cllr Carden to look into this matter.**

It was suggested that the council work with the new Grainger community officer with regards to newsletters, communication etc.

111/24H Other Reports: Some good points were raised at the recent community group meeting. Meeting s will take place eery 2 months, it is great to see good a community developing with a good flow of communication.

The meeting closed 9:34pm

The next meeting of the Highways and General-purpose Committee is scheduled for Thursday 28st March 2024 starting at 7.30pm.

Public Participation:

A member of the public wished to raise some concerns that had been made at the last community group meeting regarding some footpaths in the development. There was an area where the top dressing of the footpath had worn away, this requires re-dressing.

He also reported a lack of seating along the walkways in the development. This is something the council are aware of and will be placing more seating upon land adoption. **NOTED.**

He also stated that extra bins are required and many of the existing bins require emptying. The council are aware of these problems too.

These reports will be passed on to Grainger and the resident is also encouraged to report issues via berewood@graingerplc.co.uk

Another member of the public wished to raise an issue regarding streetlights. He felt that currently the street lights are too bright. He asked whether the lights will eventually be placed on a timer. Council informed the resident that a metal shade could be placed on the lamp head of the street light which will deflect the light away from the resident's property if requested. The MOP was asked to send the details of the lamp to the clerk, it will have a number. The clerk will then pass this on to the appropriate party to get this resolved. **NOTED.**

Another member of the public asked regarding allotments. He had not received an acknowledgement regarding his query. The clerk answered stating that she keeps all queries on file and will find said query.

It was suggested that there be clearer direction signs for the site traffic. Some HGV's and site traffic are using roads that they should not. Council reported to say that Grainger are aware of the issue and are considering installing ANPR cameras and issuing fines to traffic not following their designated routes. Each developer on site should have a travel plan.

He went on to query whether lorry drivers are allowed to use lay-bys in the MDA for sleeping over night? The Chairman stated that this is allowed.

The last point that the MOP wished to raise was regarding commercial dog walkers using the development. Their vehicles were damaging the grass verges. Cllr Crichton reported similar occurrences in the Wellington Park side. Once these open space areas are adopted the council can install no-parking signs. **NOTED.**

Another resident asked if there was any update regarding the flooding at the Asda roundabout? The chairman of the committee reported to say that there had not been any update received from Hampshire Highways and they still refuse to do anything about the traffic issue, this has been raised with them a number of times. They refuse to install traffic lights, even part-time ones. It was reported that Hargreave, owners of the Wellington retail park will be looking into the issues surrounding traffic there. **NOTED.**