

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6th JUNE 2024 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

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

Also present, Cllr D Crichton - Chairman of the council, Cllr Berry and Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council.

120/24A Apologies: All councillors were present.

121/24A Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest as he is Chair of the WACA board of Trustees and Cllr Bennett declared an interest as the Chair of Newlands community group. Cllr Bennett queried whether Cllr Price should be in attendance due. The Chair asked the clerk if she had received any guidance from the monitoring officer at Winchester City Council. The clerk stated she had not. **NOTED.**

122/24A Public Participation: Two members of the public, were present. The first resident wished to congratulate Cllr Kirby on becoming Chair. He went on to mention several issues of concern. There were many areas where the grass needed cutting. He reported damaged fencing in Grainger Street, stating that Grainger had been notified. He reported the height of the hedges in Wellington Park were restricting safe visibility. This had also been reported to the appropriate authority, to which the resident had received a reply. A resident in the Havant borough council owned area had made a complaint to customer services at HBC. The resident was informed that HBC will work only to the original landscaping plan, and won't tackle anything outside of it. It was reported that many branches still over-hang areas in Wellington Park, residents are keen to carry out remedial work to rectify this. It is thought that some of the land is currently in-accessible, and some of this land is part of the land that has been due to be adopted by HBC for a considerable amount of time. The Chair suggested chasing this again, with Taylor Wimpey. The hedges that are reducing visibility are quite a cause for concern as there are concerns for pedestrians not being able to see or be seen.

Reports were also received about the current state of the youth shelter at Town Park. There was a lot of broken glass around the area, and residents were concerned about walking dogs in the area. Cllr Berry had photographed many of the areas with overgrown grass. He had passed these on to the clerk, who has passed them on to WCC for action. It was reported that some of the play equipment still requires repairs. The clerk will chase this matter too. **NOTED.** Cllr Read had raised concerns with WCC regarding the height of the grass, in some areas it is waist high. This area is due for adoption by the Parish Council and work continues to have the area ready, currently it is still WCC's responsibility. It was also mentioned that the grass had not been touched where there are benches. Cllr Price stated he seen the contractors work on the hedges in the area. The Chairman thought that the length of time between grass cuts is a cause for concern. Would the program/schedule of maintenance be available to the council? The resident also wished to report damage to curbs in Grainger Street/Bazeley Road. This will be raised at highways and general Purposes. Cllr Berry stated it is thought that Grainger are aware of this, and will wait until all major roadworks are complete before replacing them. **NOTED.**

123/24A Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising: Minutes from the previous meeting on 18th and 25th April 2024 were previously circulated. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that these were a true record of the business that transacted. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.**

124/24A Appointment of a Deputy for the Amenities Committee: Cllr Read agreed to be the Deputy for the committee. **NOTED.**

125/24A Wardens Report: The Warden had submitted a written report to all members of the committee. He had mentioned that noticeboards require replacing. It was suggested that a noticeboard in HBC owned land be moved on to open space within the Newlands boundary. Could HBC be asked if this was possible? **NOTED.** This matter will be passed on to the Highways and General Purposes committee. The Warden also reported pieces of metal sticking out from areas at the skate park which pose a safety risk. This had been passed on to Grainger for actioning.

It was at this point the query was raised regarding the district centre. D/Cllr Cutler had mentioned that they are looking for a consultation period for public views. This matter needs to be raised with both WCC and Grainger. Grainger are way behind with their 106 obligations. **NOTED.** The matter was due to have been discussed at the West of Waterlooville Forum meeting, but unfortunately this has been put on hold until October, meaning further delays. **NOTED.** It is queried what the commercial element of the district centre will be and whether this is still going ahead. This will be discussed with Grainger at the next joint meeting. **It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to ask the clerk to contact WCC explaining the urgency for a WOW forum meeting before October in the hopes it could be bought forward.**

126/24A Correspondence: Correspondence had been received regarding defibrillator match funding grants. This has previously been discussed, as the council could install a further device. The school currently has a defibrillator, but it is not always accessible. The Warden was asked to identify any areas where it would be possible to install a defibrillator. The Town Park was suggested. In time a defibrillator could be installed at the Pavilion once it has been built. **NOTED.**

127/24A Adoption of Open Space: The partial adoption of open space land and the play park in Newlands Walk. There was no update possible on the current situation. This is due to the purdah pre-election period. **NOTED.**

128/24A Grainger Meeting: A meeting is due on June 11th 2024. The clerk has asked for items that should be raised. It was thought that the PQQ questionnaire should be discussed. Outstanding deeds of variations. A discussion regarding Town Park management. An idea of current timescales for when different parcels of land may be handed over.

116/24A Community Hall:

Matters relating to the community hall: The clerk mentioned that Grainger's community development officer had passed on details regarding potential outreach work. Ichen college are looking to provide training for residents to improve employability, gain qualifications and they'd like to hire the community hall for this. Cllr Bennett queried whether the hall would be available for the type of session timings required. Grainger currently hire the hall free of charge and the query was whether the council would allow this for the education sessions? More details are required and the matter will be discussed further at a later date. **NOTED.**

The clerk had received an email from Grainger representatives regarding the level of noise that was heard from the hall during a child's party. The noise was unacceptable for the team working in the office next door. They had asked if bookings for children's parties could be made around their working hours. The clerk was asked to circulate the current hall hire terms, suggesting amends in readiness to discuss at the next Amenities meeting. Cllr Read asked if Grainger could confirm their working hours in writing. **NOTED.**

Paper on accessibility of hall: Cllr Carden and Cllr Bennett had produced a paper on the accessibility of the hall, previously circulated. Cllr Bennett ran through some of the items, such as door use, signage etc. The building is a temporary building, it is questioned as to how much work should be done to it. Currently there are no signs guiding users to the toilets, this could be marked on the door. Another suggestion was to have a sign regarding Parish Office opening times to make the public aware. Cllr Price stated there is no requirement for this as the clerk can be contacted on the virtual landline during office hours and via email. Staff work from home for the majority of the time. Cllr Bennett felt that having set hours available should members of the public wish to visit in person. A hearing loop had been suggested previously. Cllr Bennett had been looking into these. Cllr Price stated it is a legal requirement to have this available. The hearing loop would be portable and the cost is around £140. This item will need to go to the Finance and personnel committee for approval.

It was noted that after speaking with Grainger, it is not going to be possible to install a baby-changing unit in the disabled toilets. Due to space constraints. It was suggested that this be stated in the hall hire terms and conditions. **NOTED.** Cllr Read pointed out that many hearing aids are now A.I based and the hearing loop may become old technology in the future. **NOTED.**

A cost of £310 for all the necessary signage, changes etc. was suggested. **NOTED.**

Cllr Price stated that broadband installation will be on the 20th June 2024. Internet will be free of use for hall users. **NOTED.**

117/24A Events and Newsletters: Grainger are producing a newsletter to be sent to all Berewood residents. The council will have a page within the newsletter. A decision needs to be made regarding how to ensure all Parish residents receive the newsletter. The council currently has a budget for spend on this. It was asked if Grainger could provide costs per print? An electronic copy will also be available. A community group currently distribute newsletters, it was asked whether the Berewood newsletter could be included with this? What content should be included? Suggestions included, development updates from Taylor Wimpey, for Wellington Park, contact details, planning application updates, including information on how to log on to the WCC planning portal. The clerk was asked to liaise with Grainger so as to determine what is most appropriate. It was noted that an update is required regarding the Bargate Homes application.

118/24A Amenities Storage/Office Facility: No further updates.

119/24A Other Reports: Cllr Price mentioned that there will be 3 internet connections available at the hall, including one for free public use. It needs to be determined which plug sockets are most suitable, and to have protection from tampering.

Cllr Bennett mentioned that there will be works to the car park for maintenance work to be carried out by Grainger's contractors. The hall will also be used as a polling station on Thursday 4th July.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee will be held on 18th July 2024.

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.

It was RESOLVED that in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussions regarding personnel matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.