



NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF NEWPORT & CARISBROOKE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021 ON ZOOM DIGITAL
CONFERENCING COMMENCED AT 6.45 PM.

Councillors Present: Cllrs Julie Jones-Evans (Chair), Joanne Ballington, Geoff Brodie, Mary Craven, Andrew Garratt, Steve Hastings, Richard Hollis, Joe Lever, Terry Martin, Matthew Price and Shirley Smart.

Public: 0
Clerk: Joshua Tombleson
Other: 1

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

2772.	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies were received for Cllr Coburn.</p>
2773.	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST</u></p> <p>Cllrs. Brodie, Garratt, Hastings, Hollis, Jones-Evans, Price and Smart declared non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) as they are Isle of Wight councillors.</p> <p>Cllr. Brodie declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Pan Together as trustees of the charity.</p> <p>Cllr. Hastings declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Shopmobility as a trustee of Shopmobility.</p> <p>Cllr. Hastings declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Carisbrooke Castle as a trustee of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum.</p> <p>Cllrs. Jones-Evans and Price declared pecuniary interests in matters relating to the St. Georges Way Roadworks due to owning businesses near the works being carried out on routes which could be affected by the proposed diversions.</p>
2774.	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021 were presented to members.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021 be agreed and</p>

signed as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

2737. Free Parking Campaign- Cllr Brodie informed members that to date he has not yet received a response from IWC or the relevant cabinet member regarding parking equity for Newport Town Centre. It has not been included in the IWC 2021/2022 budget and Cllr Brodie feels that IWC have not responded appropriately.

2761. Financial Matters- At the last meeting, Cllr Brodie made reference to members that Community and Parish councils would be losing all Council Tax Support Grants in the new financial year. He has since attempted to reverse this decision at the IWC budget meeting, though sadly his proposal did not receive enough votes and was therefore unsuccessful.

2762. Highstreet Heritage Action Zone- The Chair requested that the Clerk circulate the latest report for members information.

2763. Laptops for School Children- Cllr Jones Evans updated members on the progress of the scheme. To date 30 laptops had been received, of which 16 have been distributed.

2766. Shaping Newport- Cllr Jones-Evans made members aware that the Shaping Newport forum is due to take place on Tuesday 9th March for all those wishing to attend. Cllr Jones-Evans and Cllr Brodie will be attending meetings regarding alternative uses of the IW Council owned car parks located in Scarrots Lane and to discuss the Newport Post Office situation. There had recently been a discussion at the Shaping Newport steering group for alternative uses for the top floor of the multi storey car park. Cllr Brodie made members aware that there is now a new website for the Newport High Street Heritage Action Zone.

2775. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members were presented with payments made during February for approval.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the accounts paid in February 2021 be approved.

Members received the income & expenditure report to 28th February 2021.

Cllr Brodie summarised the report for members, and as part of this he highlighted that with one or two exceptions each line is currently either on track or will be an underspend by the end of the financial year. The intention is for money to be carried forward for projects which have not yet been delivered, where agreed in the budget. Cllr Brodie proposed that the report be noted by members.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the income and expenditure report to 28th February 2021 be noted.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM NEWPORT IW YOUTH FC



	<p>Members had before them a grant application from Newport IW Youth FC, asking for a donation to be made to support their ongoing running costs, as due to the pandemic they have not been able to receive the same income as in a standard season, however the annual outgoings still must be met. Members were keen to support the application, however no amount had been specified. Cllr Brodie proposed that a donation be made by NCCC of £500.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, a donation of £500 be made to Newport IW Youth FC.</p>
2776.	<p><u>BIOSPHERE PROJECT</u></p> <p>Members were joined by Ian Boyd, of ARC Consulting, who is supporting the Biosphere Project within Newport. Ian provided members with a background of the Biosphere and the how large of an achievement this accolade is, before providing a brief presentation on how the project within Newport is progressing as well potential ideas for the future.</p> <p>Members were very engaged with this presentation and supportive of its progress and future potential.</p> <p>Cllr Hastings likes that existing infrastructure is being incorporated into the project and supports the relationships which the project is trying to build with Island Roads.</p> <p>Members thanked Ian for his enthusiasm and insight into the project.</p> <p>Cllr Garratt said that he is looking forward to how communities can embed the project themselves. He stated that there is potential for the prison estate to be worked on through the Biosphere project and is interested to see how NCCC can develop its role to engage with the community.</p> <p>Cllr Jones-Evans pointed out that Newport is the only place on the Island that is engaging with the Biosphere currently. She agreed with the comments made by Cllr Hastings and Cllr Garratt around using the existing infrastructure and how it is important to link them together as a platform to keep pushing forward a little bit at a time.</p> <p>Cllr Price recognised the section of Hunnyhill which has been integrated into the project and what wildlife can now be found there. He was pleased to see how these areas can now serve the community better and that people can now enjoy these places.</p>
2777.	<p><u>IWC RESIDENT PARKING SCHEME OFFICER</u></p> <p>Cllr Brodie reminded members that NCCC are coming to the end of the second-year funding for IWC to offer residents the opportunity to look at resident parking zones. The opportunities started within Newport central but over time has expanded to wards across Newport.</p> <p>Work has been completed by the resident Parking Scheme officer to carry out surveys of the streets requested to identify if they meet the IWC criteria to be eligible for a scheme. However, after eligibility has been confirmed, some streets within Newport East cannot progress to ballot until a scheme is designed by</p>



Island Roads, as some of these streets do not have sufficient room to offer a traditional scheme. Due to Island Roads having not yet designed schemes for the effected streets, the RPZ officer employed by IWC and funded by NCCC is therefore unable to carry out his work and progress the work for these areas.

Cllr Brodie requested that NCCC write a letter to IWC, expressing our concern that NCCC has spent good money on this but have not yet been able to offer the schemes to residents due to Island Roads not coming up with the associated plans required to offer the schemes. Cllr Brodie reminded members that this is about public money being spent on something that residents would like the opportunity to vote on but being unable to because of Island Roads.

The chair clarified to members that NCCC are paying £25,000 per year to IWC to fund 80% of the post, and as Island Roads are preventing the RPZ officer fulfilling his duties the expenditure is not currently effective.

RESOLVED:

THAT, NCCC write to IWC requesting they address the hold up in scheme design being caused by Island Roads.

2778. POST OFFICE LANE TOILETS

Members had before them a post project evaluation paper which had been produced by the clerk.

Cllr Brodie summarised the final project expenditure for members and highlighted the key learns which had been included by the clerk, which would be taken forward for future projects.

Cllr Jones-Evans agreed with these learns and feels these will stand the council in a better position for future projects. The

2779. PROPERTY PURCHASE

The clerk provided an update for members on the purchase of a property on Newport High Street. The surveyor has now been instructed and the clerk will update members accordingly once the final report has been received.

Cllr Brodie, as finance lead, clarified what the proposed public works loan would include. The funds would need to cover the purchase, associated purchase fees, surveyors' fees, project management and works required to make the building fit for use.


Cllr Price stated that this purchase shows that NCCC want to contribute to the future of the High Street.

Cllr Jones-Evans mentioned that if anyone had any ideas, they wished to put forward for the future use of the property then this can be discussed at a different time as Full Council is probably not the right forum for discussing the raw ideas.

A vote was taken on setting up a working party specifically to deal with this project, however the membership of this can be reviewed after the elections.



	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, a working party be set up to oversee the property purchase and works through to completion.</p>
<p>2780.</p>	<p><u>ST. GEORGES WAY ROAD WIDENING WORKS</u></p> <p>A meeting had occurred prior to the full council meeting, between several members of NCCC, the clerk, IWC and Island Roads to discuss alterations to the diversion plans during the duration of the works, which had been made since NCCC had been briefed previously. Cllr Brodie summarised the contents of this meeting and where disagreements had occurred, and although it was disappointing that no consultation for the local ward members had been offered prior to these changes, they now at least understand why these have happened. However, he highlighted to members that since the meeting, an email had been received confirming that members wish for the taxi rank being placed into South Street Car Park had been confirmed. Members were very pleased with this outcome as the proposed relocation unsatisfactory and did not adequately accommodate for taxi drivers providing sufficient access to disabled users.</p> <p>Cllr Jones-Evans thanked members for working together to achieve this outcome. Cllr Price agreed and felt that the meeting went well and that members views were listened to.</p>
<p>2781.</p>	<p><u>REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p>Cllr Jones-Evans thanked Cllr Smart for circulating the latest IWALC report.</p> <p>Cllr Brodie did not attend the Newport Rivers meeting as it is mainly focused on streams that are not within his ward. Cllr Martin mentioned he was also unable to attend. Cllr Hollis was in attendance and made members aware that Lukely Brook now has Brown Trout within it. He mentioned that they also discussed Gunville stream and that the IWC planning department need to take these reports into account with their planning considerations. Cllr Hastings agreed, but felt that when they talk to Southern Water, they are simply told there is no issue, but to recontact them if one occurs. He is unsure as to how IWC could get round this within their planning department.</p> <p>Cllr Martin wished to make members aware that the emergency sewage pumping station is inadequate and required a generator during the recent power cut.</p> <p>Cllr Jones-Evans asked Cllr Hastings when Shop Mobility will be opening. Cllr Hasting said that there will be a meeting scheduled shortly to make this decision.</p>
<p>2782.</p>	<p><u>MEMBERS QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>During the February full council, Cllr Brodie requested that NCCC write to the cabinet office, requesting level playing field for all councillors during the upcoming election campaign. Although there will still be restrictions in place, he is pleased to see that an element of traditional campaigning will now be able to take place, including door to door leaflet drops.</p>



Cllr Brodie asked the clerk why Assets & Facilities and Planning committee minutes had not been included on the agenda. The clerk confirmed this was an error on his behalf. Cllr Brodie asked if these could be included on the April agenda so that meeting minutes could be noted to conclude the councils term.

As chair of the Assets & Facilities committee, Cllr Hastings thanked members for their participation and involvement during his term as chair.

Cllr Martin asked what was happening regarding the Christmas lights in Carisbrooke. The clerk confirmed that the deputy clerk would contact him to follow up on this item.

Cllr Brodie made members aware that at the latest Assets and Facilities committee meeting, it was agreed that the Christmas lights tender would go to the April Full Council for a decision to be made on which contractor would be awarded the contract. As such, there would be no pressing need for a meeting of the Assets & Facilities committee during March and April.

Cllr Craven asked if NCCC would like to take a position regarding the IW Festival being scheduled to go ahead during September. Cllr Price said that Cllr Brodie and himself had received a briefing on it, and there is still much to be approved before IW Council will be happy for it to go ahead. He stated that he had become much more comfortable over recent years about how the IW Council prepares for the IW Festival.

Cllr Brodie said he had been invited to the briefing by Cllr Price as an adjacent ward member, and that as it currently stands, if asked he would vote against the IW Festival taking place in September, as it would be better and safer to hold the festival next year as the risk from the pandemic would be too high and it would cause considerable damage to Seaclose park during that time of year.

The clerk reminded members that no decisions could be made during members questions, although if they did wish to discuss the IW Festival more comprehensively then it could be included as an agenda item for a future meeting of full council.

2783. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk informed members of a local disability forum which had taken place. The deputy clerk will attend these meetings and will report back accordingly. The purpose of these meetings is for members of the public to voice any concerns they may have over access issues in and around the town. Cllr Brodie said this would be good to receive this information each month.

The clerk suggested that for future meetings, a list of issues raised by the environment officers be sent out to members for their information and included under this agenda item for discussion. Members agreed with this.

2784. NEXT AGENDA

IW Festival

Christmas Lights

To be sent to the Clerk.



2785.	<p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting shall be held on Monday 12th April 2021 on Zoom Digital Conferencing.</p>
2786	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the requirements of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) and Standing Order 63.</p>
2787	<p><u>RFO ROLE</u></p> <p>On 9th March 2020, it was agreed by members to appoint Vikki Wright as RFO on a 12-month secondment, with this being reviewed in March 2021.</p> <p>From members discussion it was evident that they considered this to have been a very successful appointment, with members sharing a lot of praise for Vikki, the work she has done and the way that she has grown into the role.</p> <p>With the secondment coming to an end, the clerk advertised the role to all staff, asking that if interested in the role, they make the clerk aware. Vikki Wright was the sole expression of interest received. In preparation for the meeting, Cllr Brodie and the clerk carried out an interview with Vikki to reflect on the previous year and also confirm her suitability and understanding of the role.</p> <p>Members had before them a recommendation which had been put forward by Cllr Brodie, Cllr Jones-Evans, and the clerk, for consideration.</p> <p>Members considered the recommendation, which was to appoint Vikki as RFO on a permanent basis from Tuesday 9th March. Although the role would have grade parameters of SCP 17-20, it was recommended that she start the role at grade 18 due to her year already served in post.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> THAT, the role of RFO be made permanent on full time hours and appoint Vikki Wright to the position. The role will be graded SCP 17-20, with Vikki starting at grade 18. The appointment will be effective from Tuesday 9th March 2021.</p>

Contact: Joshua Tombleson – 01983 559119 or clerk@newportwight.org.uk

CHAIR

