

# WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

In attendance: Mrs M Mulcahy (Clerk)

**Venue:** Peterstone Village Hall

**Present** Cllr B Miles (Chairman)

Cllr J Foster (Vice Chair)

Cllr T Witchell

Cllr A Picton

Cllr J Clatworthy

City Cllr R White

Cllr D Birch

Cllr A Birch

**Apologies:** Cllr F Lovejoy

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman declared meeting open at 19.20hrs.

1 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Lovejoy.

2 There were no Declarations of Interests.

3 **Chairman's Annual Report**

Good evening all and thank you for attending tonight.

The Last 17 months has been the most challenging both I and the Council have ever seen. I would like to thank all those who rallied to the situation and supported not only the council but the people in the area.

The current situation and what is to come will challenge us further as I see Fridays action of another lockdown as the start of many. This will bring further challenges to WCC and the local people of the levels.

The fight to protect this area has been relentless with not only the area being targeted by developers but also others have abused it with waste and unlawful private development.

Crime is on the increase with phone-email and doorstep scams, speeding, commercial tipping, thefts, violence intimidation, dog napping and road closures amongst many. I thank Gwent police for their work in this area as this is shown in some of the results. We need to support the police wherever we can to keep the relationship in place going forward. It saddens me to say watch out for those taking advantage of COVID.

My time as Chairman over this period although satisfying has been difficult with the pressures on WCC increasing on a weekly basis. The Council has had to deal with things within short timescales, take up volunteer work, help neighbours and deal with agencies on a daily basis.

Be aware the role of this council grows as our visibility increases due to the actions we take. We have more and more people coming to us for help and advice with all councillors needing to embrace their role and assist those who need us. It is clear that this little council of ours has a very strong reputation which is shown in the stakeholders, we deal with at a senior level. I never thought that people from larger Council areas would come to us for help and advice but they do.

I would like to thank Maria for all the hard work that she has done over this period. It has not been easy but she has kept the standards of WCC to the highest level. She has been a credit to us as I am aware that 30 plus councils in Wales of a similar size have just shut down since March stating we cannot function during COVID. She did. We have more challenges to come so I would ask everyone to play an active part in supporting the Wentlooge levels and the needs of WCC.

- 4 City Cllr White proposed that Cllr Miles be re-elected as Chairman of the Council, which was seconded by Cllr Clatworthy and all in favour. There were no other nominations. Clerk to send Acceptance of Office form to Chairman.
- 5 City Cllr White nominated Cllr Foster be re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Council, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy and all in favour. There were no other nominations

After nominations and acceptance of office Cllr Picton suggested that going forward that a representative from St Brides should be nominated as Chairman or ViceChairman due to the Council representing both villages . Council unanimously agreed that it is down to individual Councillors to be nominated as it is an open vote and votes cannot be influenced.

Council also wished it to be noted that Cllr Witchell stated that he is happy with how meetings are run at the moment and Cllr A Birch agreed that Cllr Miles and Cllr Foster work well together.

- 6 **WCC Representatives** - The Council all agreed the following representatives:
  - 6.1 One Voice Wales (OVW) - Cllr Miles and Cllr Foster. Cllr Miles is also Vice Chairman on the OVW area committee as well as being on the national committee. City Cllr White proposed that they both stay as representatives if they are happy and rest of council in favour. No other nominations.
  - 6.2 Newport City Council(NCC) quarterly Liaison meetings - Cllr Miles and Cllr Foster. Two representatives are able to attend and Council will be advised if Cllr Miles or Cllr Foster are unable to attend any of the meetings in order that another Councillor can attend.
  - 6.3 Hall committees
    - St Brides Hall – City Cllr White & Cllrs Witchell, Picton, Lovejoy and Clatworthy are all Trustees.
    - Peterstone Hall – No councillors are presently on the hall committee and Cllr Foster will make enquiries with the hall committee to see if they would consider having a member of the Council as a representative on the hall committee
- 7 The Council agreed that the cheque signatories should remain as Cllr Miles, Cllr Foster and Cllr Clatworthy. All in favour. Council agreed that enquiries should be made into online banking. It has been highlighted during lock down period the need for online banking.
- 8 The Council resolved the working group for planning issues in conjunction with the Clerk deal with urgent general planning and enforcement decisions which require attention before the next scheduled meeting. In situations where full Council need to be consulted an extra ordinary meeting would be called.

Chairman’s signature..... Date .....