

WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date: 17th November 2020

Venue: The meeting was held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Present Cllr B Miles (Chairman)

Cllr J Foster

Cllr A Picton

Cllr F Lovejoy

Cllr A Birch

City Cllr R White

Cllr T Witchell

Cllr D Birch

Apologies: Cllr J Clatworthy

In attendance: Mrs M Mulcahy (Clerk)

MINUTES OF MEETING

- 1) Chairman's statement
- 2) No apologies received
- 3) No declarations of interest received

Members of council were reminded that declarations of interest forms have to be kept up to date and on the Councils records.

- 4) The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 20th October 2020 were accepted by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman subject to the amendment that Cllr Lovejoy is also a Trustee of St Brides Charity under point 6.3.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting on the 20th October and the extra ordinary meeting on the 9th November were accepted by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr Foster and seconded by City Cllr White.

- 5) **Police Issues - Please note Marshfield Ward Police surgeries are held every 1st Sunday of the month.**

5.1 Chairman reminded Council that the next police surgery is due to take place on 6th December 2020. Councillors were asked to remind residents to take part in the surgeries. The police have advised the Chairman that a lot of work is taking place in the area at present and they are aware of a number of issues which have happened over the last couple of weeks.

- Police were unable to attend the bon fire mass gathering as there were not enough police available.
- Police will be working in collaboration with NRW regarding the large scale fly tipping between now and Christmas.
- Police are aware of the two cases of arson.
- The speed of vehicles in the area has also been raised with police.

Speedwatch

The Council have been advised that a complaint has been sent to Go Safe (Police speedwatch section) on behalf of the local speedwatch groups. The controlling officer in the police has advised that they have had staffing issues and that is why some letters to offenders have not been sent out. They also site COVID as a reason for not getting things done.

WCC Chairman advised that he is aware of the concerns from Speedwatch volunteers but as the Council has no control over Speedwatch the Speedwatch group should hold their own meetings and provide feedback to the Council.

The Chairman has offered on a voluntary basis to act as a central point to establish who still wishes to volunteer from Peterstone and St Brides for the group and their commitment if the Speedwatch coordinators check with the police. [Action WCC Chairman and Speedwatch coordinators](#)

Concern was raised by Councillors that the police are not responding to correspondence. Recently, no response had been received after reporting dangerous driving. Chairman advised that he is due to meet with Superintendent shortly and will raise this issue again. [Action Chairman](#)

- 6) **Public Participation (15 minutes)** – To receive any questions, comments or queries from members of the public present at the meeting. **In accordance with standing orders a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The Chairman of the meeting may direct that an oral or written response be given.**

No members of the public present

- 7) **Review of actions arising from Council meetings**

7.1 Chairman updated the Council on Wentlooge Farmers Solar Farm DNS application. A response is currently being collated by council in response to the additional information that has been supplied by Savills and Newport City Council. Chairman has asked again if a member of the council will present it to the Welsh Office after it is compiled.

WCC are currently arranging a survey to engage with residents on the community benefit package which has been offered by Savills. The survey is currently on the WCC website, to be published in the Marshfield Mail November edition and the Chairman is arranging a leaflet drop to residents. [Action Chairman and Councillors](#)

7.2 Chairman confirmed that the councils objection to the Mor Hafren Bio Plant DNS application has been submitted. Council are surprised at the few objections that are currently on the Planning Inspectors portal.

7.3 Chairman and vice chair have not had chance to take photos of white lines missing from B4239. Chairman has requested councillors take photographs if in the area and report matter on the NCC App. [Action Councillors](#)

In the interim City Cllr has requested Clerk send letter to Head of City Services asking why the lines have been allowed to deteriorate as he has reported matter for the last two years. Recently there have been incidents of vans going into the reën where lines are missing. Also in dark nights it is difficult to see the edge and middle of the road.

Chairman also requested that letter should be copied to the police.

Action City Cllr White to provide through email for letter and then the Clerk will action.

7.4 Councillors have not submitted any information of overgrowth and hedges. Chairman has reminded Councillors that when they experience problems such as this they should identify location and report it to NCC especially in emergencies.

7.5 Council discussed speeding and dangerous driving on B4239 during police issues.

7.6 City Cllr White had passed information to Cllr Foster since last meeting which has been passed to the local resident who is coordinating the position with the St Peters Crescent sewerage scheme.

7.7 Council had already discussed the tipping and burning of waste in Peterstone on bon fire night during police issues. Chairman has already spoken to NRW about matter and is now escalating this incident and other flytipping matters up to higher levels in NRW and to Welsh Government.

7.8 Council discussed St Brides Hall Charity at the end of the meeting

8) Finance

8.1 Council received Octobers monthly bank statements and reconciliation as November bank statements had not been received.

Account	Balance as at 12.10.20
Council Current Account	7571.99
Council Saving Account	1294.96

8.2 Council to note and approve payments:

Method	Payee	Description	Amount
Cheque	Planning Aid Wales	Planning Consultation Training*	30

*Council noted that the Chairman initially was due to undertake Planning Enforcement training but due to an urgent engagement Planning Aid Wales has agreed to transfer his training to Planning Consultation which will take place in December.

8.3 Council reviewed current banking arrangements and agreed to enquiries being made into online banking with their current bank and also Unitary Trust which a lot of councils use as the bank specializes in Council banking. [Action - Chairman to speak to current bank about online banking as he is a signatory on the account. Chairman will speak to OVW and also with Cllr Foster make enquiries into Unitary and will provide feedback to council at next meeting.](#)

8.4 Chairman advised Council that he had attended an on line webinar with Cllr Foster this afternoon on the Future Audit Arrangements for Community and Town Councils in Wales. The audit process is due to change next year and will be going back to the Welsh Audit Office. The basic overview is that there will be 2 levels of audit on a 3 year cycle, One year Welsh Audit will do a detailed audit and the other two years an interim audit. [Action Clerk to provide council with more detail once further information is released.](#)

9) Planning

9.1 Council noted the Planning Applications which had been dealt with by the Clerk and Chairman since the last Council meeting

Newport Planning Reference	Site	Proposal
20/0950	Blue House Farm, St Peters Crescent, Peterstone	Partial discharge of condition 02 (Ecological mitigation and enhancement) of planning permission 19/1302 for the retention of stables and hardstanding Objection letter sent stating that conditions should remain

9.2 Council discussed the planning application for partial discharge of conditions on Gwent Levels

Newport Planning Reference	Site	Proposal
20/0970 Llanwern Ward Expiry – 9.12.2020	Land at Caldicot levels to the south of Whitson Electricity Substation Broad Street Common	Partial discharge of conditions 06(Written scheme of archaeological mitigation) of planning permission 18/1201 for erection of a solar energy hub generating 49.9mw net installed generating capacity, comprising ground mounted solar panels, battery storage container units (200 units) underground cabling, grid connecting hub, associated infrastructure, landscaping and environmental enhancements, for a temporary period of 30 years.

Chairman to review matter as City Cllr White advised Council that Newport officers have already done their report. [Action by Chairman and Clerk.](#)

10) Environment & Matters of Interest

10.1 Council were updated on the latest position with equipment purchased by Living Levels on behalf of St Brides hall at the end of the meeting.

10.2 Council agreed the 2020/21 WCC annual biodiversity report. Proposed by Cllr Witchell and seconded by City Cllr White.

10.3 & 10.4 Council discussed the Newport Flood Response Management Plan and National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales.

Council agreed that the website and maps are awful. [Action – Cllr Foster to send a complaint to NRW.](#)

10.5 WCC have requested to be a consultee on the Newports Local Development Plan review. This will allow WCC to share information for people to read and respond.

10.6 It has been noted that in the NCC publication Newport Matters that the Living Levels proposed visitor gateway hub is to be on land next to the Lighthouse Inn.

10.7 WCC had received notes of thanks in respect of the litter pick undertaken by Cllr Foster and her son. Chairman also wished to personally thank them for the litter picking. Cllr Foster advised that unfortunately additional bags of rubbish have also been dumped on top of the bags that they had collected and further litter has been dropped. Initially Cllr

Foster had been advised that NCC would not collect the bags during lockdown. City Cllr White advised that NCC collectors will only pick up extra bags on a Saturday. Chairman advised that the Marshfield Magpies who undertake litter picks had also been unable to get NCC to collect bags. [Action - Chairman to contact NCC and request that they collect the bags of rubbish.](#)

Cllr Foster also reported that she had reported to NRW that additional waste has been dumped in reën but has not been cleared. [Action – Cllr Foster to send a further complaint to NRW advising that the waste is blocking reën.](#)

11) Correspondence & Matters of Interest

11.1 Council considered using Starleaf video conferencing which had been recommended by OVW. Chairman advised that on the last two meetings that he has had with OVW on Starleaf there has been problems. Council agrees with chairman that WCC stay with Teams as the councils preferred medium.

11.2 Council discussed thinking about WCC objectives for at least the next 12 months as they do not have to be financial objectives. One of the objectives could be on how WCC can improve community engagement. Chairman has suggested that each councilor thinks of an objective and submit it to clerk for discussion at next meeting.

11.3 Chairman advised council that he does not think that planning applications are not going to stop and the importance of Community Engagement. Due to Covid it is not possible to have a public meeting due to restrictions and this has highlighted the need for alternative engagement. Presently, WCC are only able to distribute information through Marshfield Mail, leaflet drops and placing information on website and noticeboards. Some larger councils use social media ie face book but Council are aware that problems can be encountered by using such a platform. [Action - Councillors asked to think of ideas and how to implement them](#)

11.4 Chairman advised Council that Clerk has worked additional time on the recent DNS planning application and other matters, researching through documents, arranging meetings etc.,. Chairman is aware that other Community Councils in the area agree Clerks overtime in meetings and also that other WCC clerks have claimed for overtime due to additional work. Cllr Foster pointed out that in the earlier Audit webinar one of the areas that audit will be looking at is Payroll and overtime so an overtime policy should be in place. Council agreed to the clerks overtimepolicy. Proposed by Cllr Foster and seconded by Cllr Witchell.

12) Communication

12.1 Council were advised that the Solar Farm survey has been submitted for publication in this months, Marshfield Mail and has been posted to the Community Council website. Council agreed that a Speedwatch article should be put together by Speedwatch group for January. [Action - Chairman and Speedwatch group.](#)

13) Training/conferences

13.1 Chairman advised council that training will be put on hold until the New Year. Councillors have been asked to consider training courses and advise Clerk which courses they wish to attend. Once information is received a training calendar will be put together. [Action - Councillors and clerk.](#)

13.2 Council were advised that Cllr Miles will be attending the Planning consultation training in December.

14) No items were provided for inclusion in next agenda.

Points 7.8 and 10.1

St Brides Charity and business carried out by Trustees

Councillors confirmed that photographs requested by RSPB for the grant items supplied to the village halls have been sent. Details of invoices available have been sent to the clerk for records to be kept. Final details of the items such as the History board for Peterstone and the erection of the fence at St Brides are now being dealt directly between RSPB and the suppliers/ contractor so no documents available to record. Installation of the Board and benches at Peterstone will take place in the new year by volunteers of the Village Hall. The fence at St Brides Hall will be installed spring next year and date to be confirmed.

The Governance document for St Brides Charity was sent to OVW for guidance as St Brides Council does not exist anymore.

St Brides Trustees would have to formally agree that they wish WCC to become their custodian trustee and write to WCC requesting permission. As all Councillors from St Brides are Trustees of St Brides Charity they have to be excluded from discussion in council meetings relating to St Brides hall or charity.

Deputy chief at OVW has advised that the hall committee should be the Trustees for the Charity as a council would only look after the deeds for the hall and the land and have no influence on the hall. Everything would be dealt with by the hall committee.

A council is deemed to have a longevity than a committee and can hold the deeds on their asset register at no cost. Council email addresses should also not be used for St Brides Charity business.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 21.35 with the next meeting being agreed and confirmed as Tuesday 15th December 2020.

Chairman's signature..... Date

