

WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date: 20th January 2021

In attendance: Mrs M Mulcahy (Clerk)

Present: Cllr B Miles (Chairman)

One member of the Public

Cllr J Foster

Cllr J Clatworthy

Apologies: None

Cllr A Picton

City Cllr R White

Cllr F Lovejoy

Cllr T Witchell

Cllr D Birch

Cllr M Birch

MINUTES OF MEETING

- 1 Meeting started at 7.20pm
- 2 No apologies received
- 3 No declarations of interest.
- 4 Previous Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 were accepted by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Foster and Seconded by Cllr White

5 Police issues

Chairman advised that a number of activities by police are ongoing in local area. Chairman is continually putting in complaints about speeding traffic. The council have been advised that there have been instances where the police could not physically attend reported incidents due to COVID and staffing issues.

Chairman advised council that recently it has been quiet in area on criminal basis. No major issues at the moment.

However, there have been major issues of tipping on private land in Peterstone which equates to 100s of thousands of pounds in unpaid tax. Jayne Bryant (MS – Welsh Parliament) has been advised and she is going to take it up with ministers as they are looking at serious values in lost revenue which no one has considered looking at previously. Chairman will keep council informed.

Members of the public have lost a bit of focus in the police monthly clinics and Councillors have been asked to remind residents of these important sessions. Chairman is going to remind as many people as possible to report traffic issues.

Cllrs Birch will contact police to make them aware of a recent incident involving a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the road and Cllr Foster will report that a driver deliberately drove at her whilst she was undertaking a litter pick a couple of weeks ago. [Action Cllrs AB, DB & JF](#)

Council discussed Cllrs ABs draft letter reminding companies in the WCC area of the speed limits. [Action CllrJF and Chairman will liaise with Cllr AB and DB to develop letter and collate a list of companies to be reminded in Peterstone. Cllrs living in St Brides will also forward a list of companies. Once collated the information will be passed to Clerk for distribution to companies.](#)

Chairman and Cllr JF will also voice their concerns to police regarding the amount of alcohol containers and small gas canisters which were picked up in a recent litter pick in Peterstone as a result of people throwing them out of their vehicles. [Action BM & JF](#)

Cllr FL advised Council that complaints have been received about farmers spraying manure across the coastal path at St Brides. Chairman and Cllrs advised that if the land in question is at the side of the path it is owned by the farmer. [Action FL to make further enquiries](#)

Speedwatch

Due to COVID guidelines and proposed lock downs, Speedwatch sessions in Peterstone and St Brides are suspended until further notice due to COVID and safety issues at present.

6 Public Participation- One member of the public present

Resident raised concerns to council about the condition of the roads in the area and the amount of traffic on the local roads as they are not designed to take the traffic they are taking. No edging to the roads and potential for domestic vehicles to also be going into reens.

Chairman on behalf of council confirmed councils position to resident and that WCC share the concerns raised. WCC have been advised recently that the replacement of the lines is on the NCC highways programme. City Cllr White advised that NCC would not do work in current weather conditions.

Chairman suggested to council that it would be beneficial to count every pothole as this proved useful previously when matter was taken up with NCC.

Councillors were advised that councillors and residents should also raise concerns about potholes and white lines in police surgery as well as reporting concerns to NCC highways. Anyone with concerns should also quote Inspector Stefan Williams from Gwent Police who has advised the WCC Chairman that the road is dangerous especially in wet weather.

Resident confirmed that they have already reported potholes but has offered to assist JC to count potholes with photographs etc., for St Brides area if this would assist matters.

Action JC to collate information for St Brides area and JF & BM to collate information for Peterstone. Information to be passed to Clerk once collated in order that all reports can be sent in at the same time. City Cllr RW will also take matter up with NCC Highways.

7 Review of actions arising from Council meetings

7.1 Chairman provided council with update on Wentlooge Farmers Solar Farm DNS hearing and further documents supplied to DNS by applicant's agents.

The hearing started today and the Inspector is receptive. WCC can take some pride in information submitted as a lot of the questions raised by the inspector are on points in the WCC submissions.

Overall having the hearing on line is not as good as sitting in a room with people. However the feedback given to the WCC Chairman after the meeting highlighted a lot of positives out of the first day.

Benefits versus impact on environmental. New Future Wales Act considers renewables and also specifically refers to Gwent Levels.

Community Fund

Council discussed the recent emails received from Savills as they are trying to get WCC to commit to community fund.

In the first instance WCC are objecting to the Solar Farm Proposal in accordance with the public consultation with the residents and have not entered into any conversations with Savills relating to the offer or negotiation of a fund.

Savills have admitted that if the Farm is built it will have multiple owners over the life of the farm. WCC has concerns if the site changes hands as an asset the owners would not take on liability as there would be no obligation to honor any funds.

Due to COVID it has been difficult for WCC to speak to the electorate properly.

Action - Council agreed that Clerk should not contact Savills during hearing period. Council will consider position after hearing and if necessary will seek legal advice after asking the company instructing Savills to put offer in writing. Proposed by City Cllr RW and seconded by TW

Chairman confirmed that the hearing is due to finish on Thursday. Action – BM and JF to put hearing points together at beginning of next week and send out to Council

7.1.1 Council discussed and agreed to reimburse Chairman the additional printing costs which are just under £55 for hearing. Action - Chairman to pass receipts to Clerk

7.2 Council discussed WCC's position on the Biomass DNS application. Hearing has been delayed until March and WCCs objection has been submitted. Chairman advised that he had looked through submissions on the Planning Inspectorates website and WCCs objection is as substantial as the rest of the objections. Majority of submissions are against the application. Chairman reiterated that he would have difficulty in attending hearing as he does not have technical expertise and has mixed views on the application.

Chairman asked again if there is a councillor who would represent WCC at hearing, due to no councillors volunteering to take matter on fully since the last meeting.

Cllr DB and AB have offered to represent WCC at the hearing. Decision also has to be made on whether a further hearing statement is required. [Action AB, DB and Chairman](#)

7.3 Council discussed online banking and agreed that a working group be set up to discuss matter in a separate meeting and recommendations to be brought back to next Council meeting. It was agreed that the group which will include BM, JF, TW, JC and clerk would have a Teams meeting on Tuesday 26.1.22 at 7.15. [Action - clerk to set up meeting and pass a copy of bank charges to group members](#)

7.4 Council briefly discussed Newport City Councils proposed solar development on land west of the River Ebbw as no planning application has been submitted and consultation has closed for preapplication submissions. Council agreed they will look at case once there is a planning application. [Action - Council to keep eye out for application](#)

8 Finance

8.1 Council received latest monthly bank statements and reconciliation.

Account	Balance as at 12.12.20
Council Current Account	6550.43
Council Saving Account	1294.99

8.2 Council noted and approved payments which had to be made prior to meeting.

Method	Payee	Description	Amount
Cheque	SLCC	Clerks Membership Renewal	£95
Cheque	Audit Wales Office	Audit of Accounts 2019/20	£268.60

8.3 Council noted the precept request form has been submitted to Newport City Council.

8.4 Council discussed and approved appointment of internal auditor for 2021/22. Proposed by JF and seconded by DB. [Action Clerk to appoint Ms Cone and also send auditors details to Council.](#)

8.5 In preparation for audit Council reviewed -

8.5.1 Financial regulations

8.5.2 Annual financial risk assessment

8.5.3 Asset register

Council agreed the procedures and policies for 2021/22 without any changes.

Proposed by JF and seconded by JC.

Chairman advised Council that in his recent law refresher course that under the new audit process a council can only be self assessed if the clerk is CiLCA qualified.

9) Planning

9.1 Council were advised that Newport Planning have not submitted any decisions or applications for the WCC area since the last council meeting

10) Environment & Matters of Interest

10.1 Chairman had advised earlier in meeting that two litter picks had taken place recently and NCC have picked up all the collected bags of litter.

Chairman has been actioning residents calls about flytipping and reporting incidents. Councillors should be conscious of flytipping and report them. Chairman is attending a meeting next week with NRW and other represented bodies to discuss flytipping on the road to nowhere.

Chairman has been approached by national media to assist in a broadcast relating to the road to nowhere and will cover a number of issues including flytipping and discarded tyres.

Chairman clarified to Council that it is a legal requirement to dispose of tyres and this would be an environmental issue rather than tax issue as unscrupulous companies charge customers for disposal under current legislation but retain monies.

NCCs proposed budget - Further concern on flytipping has been raised as the proposed budget suggests charging residents who attend the recycling centre for certain items of waste including tyres. Chairman has already responded to budget but has requested that council submit a follow up letter to NCC outlining the councils concern. Chairman read out the draft letter and council agreed content. Letter to be sent to Leader of the Council Jayne Mudd, CEO and Head of City Services. Action BM and Clerk

Flooding

Recent flooding in December at Peterstone and St Brides

Extent of flooding in local area was from Marshfield, Rumney and parts of Newport flooded which have never flooded before . Some flooding was due to the sheer body of rain. Concern has been raised that some of the flooding was as a result of poor maintenance and flytipping in reens which had been reported to NRW. Reen on main road is full of mattresses and black bags. An engineer has been out to assess reen. Questions have also been raised to whether NRW responded quick enough with the sluice gates. Chairman is taking matter up with NRW and has already written to them.

Cllr JC stated that this recent flooding shows how important it is for members of the public with local knowledge to be on drainage board for the levels. Weirs should be looked at more closely. One of the sluice housing in area had broken down which would not have helped matters. There was no reason for reen to be full as the tide was out.

Resident who was present from St Brides at the meeting advised that water flooded her garden and came up through their floor boards.

Chairman advised that any residents who were affected by flooding should contact NRW/ living levels and make them aware. Chairman has already reported concerns to NRW through ICC live. Resident was also requested to send an email to WCC regarding incident.

Cllr JC advised that residents should also be made aware that Living Levels have a scheme to clean out private ditches. [Action – Council to make further enquiries and consider putting together a flood strategy.](#)

11) Communication Communication & Matters of Interest

11.1 Chairman advised Council that he is in regular contact with Marshfield community council and will continue to share information and work together with other councils. City Cllr RW advised that many years ago the Chairman of each community council used to have a meeting every 2 – 3 months. Chairman would have no objection to this if City Cllr RW wished to arrange it. [Action RW](#)

11.2 Chairman advised that he has spoken with Openreach and they have advised they will complete their work in updating broadband for area by 27.1.21.

11.3 Council were reminded that it is their personal responsibility to make sure that declaration of interest information held by WCC is accurate and up to date.

11.4 Chairman advised that the grant awarded by National Lottery has been extended until August 2021 as proposed VE Day celebrations last year could not go ahead due to COVID.

Council discussed using money to celebrate the NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers day 5th July 2021 and this was rejected by some councillors. Chairman suggested that village halls put forward their theme for recording.

11.5 Due to time constraints council to discuss consultations on Newport Replacement Local Development Plan at next meeting.

11.6 Due to time constraints council to discuss consultations on Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan at next meeting.

11.7 Council agree that items should be placed in Marshfield Mail to highlight/raise awareness of issues but full information should be provided on community Council website. Information relating to recent flooding, as well as notice to inform residents of WCC precept for 2021/22 to be collated. [Action Chairman and clerk](#)

12) Training/conferences

Training/conferences and meetings

12.1 Council discussed their training needs. [Action TW,AP, JC,FL, AB & DB to provide clerk with details of courses and available dates.](#)

Council advised that clerk has applied for CiLCA bursary in order to do qualification on a voluntary basis without WCC funding.

12.2 Council were advised that Chairman attended the online OVW Understanding the Law training on 12.1.21

12.3 Council were advised that Chairman is attending GAVO AGM on 3.2.2021.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 21:50pm with the date of the next meeting being confirmed as Tuesday 16th February 2021.

Chairman's signature..... Date

