

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2021 FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Cllr S Hancock (Mayor)
Cllr Ms Jo Bevan
Cllr S Churchill
Cllr P Hay
Cllr A Lye
Cllr G Lawlor
Cllr M Howells
Cllr W McGarvie
Cllr P Wonnacott

APOLOGIES: Cllr V Edwards
Cllr J Sutton

The Town Clerk was in attendance (Mrs J Clark)

2786 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

2787 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2021 were proposed and seconded. They were agreed as a true record.

2788 MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were raised:

- a) Minute 2758 f) It was suggested that a meeting with the Police be held in July regarding the provision of cctv in the town centre and the increase in unruly behaviour and parking of vehicles on grass verges. It was also suggested that a member of staff from the County Council's Housing Department be invited to attend and that the meeting be open to the public. The Police to be asked if the police liaison meetings be re-starting, possibly in the new library.
- b) Minute 2758 g) The Walk Neyland leaflet has been very well received and councillors may have supplies to distribute.
- c) Minute 2763 The parts for the play area had been received but had not been fitted.
- d) Minute 2765: That a request be made to PCC to conduct a parking review of the whole town with the local PCSO involved.
- e) Minute 2772 c) The response from Dominoes had been received and circulated but the speed of drivers was still causing a problem.
- f) Minute 2772 b) Due to health reasons the Town Clerk was not able to assist the Burial Board temporarily as Clerk, so the vacancy has been advertised.

2789 **UPDATE ON ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MAY 2021**

The following financial documents had previously been circulated:

- a) Bank Account Reconciliations Summary showing a balance of £66,675.51 in the Current Acct, £8,681.13 in the Saver Acct, £0.00 in the Mayor's account and £0.00 in the Twinning Acct.
- b) The Financial Statement – Cashbook showing income of £33,450.36 (gross) and expenditure of £14,802.69 (gross).
- c) The Financial Budget Comparison showing the Budget set, the actual income and expenditure figures and the balance remaining under each heading.

The following points were raised:

- a) That the new earmarked reserves be transferred to the Saver Acct.
- b) That the Mayor and the Town Clerk meet at Barclays Haverfordwest branch to discuss the missing funds from the Twinning Acct. (£1,262.10)
- c) Cllr Churchill requested that a list of transactions under the Computer Software budget be circulated.

*There was a comfort break for 5 minutes and Cllr J Bevan left the meeting for a short time.

2790 **REPORT OF TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

The following report was submitted:

REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021 AT 6.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllr M Harry (Chair)
 Cllr P Hay
 Cllr J Sutton

APOLOGIES: Cllr S Hancock
 Cllr S Churchill
 Cllr J Bevan
 Cllr P Wonnacott

The Town Clerk was in attendance (Mrs J Clark)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

APPLICATION FROM VC GALLERY

An application had been received from the above organisation towards the holding of a post-Covid Neyland Heritage Day later this month, which will

create a socially engaging history of Neyland day that will aim at lowering anxiety for the community after a difficult time for everyone.

There will be a trained Counsellor on hand for anyone needing support and will act as a support mechanism for people worried about social exclusion. All areas of Covid awareness will be in place.

The VC Gallery had managed to secure £1,000 in funding and were requesting £1,520 from this Council to meet their target of £2,870. However, after some discussion, it was agreed that the sum of £600.00 be awarded to this project.

RECOMMENDED: That the sum of £600 be donated to the VC Gallery for their Neyland Heritage Day.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

END OF REPORT

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted.

*Cllr J Bevan returned to the meeting at 8.15pm.

2791

NOTICE OF MOTION BY CLLR A LYE

Cllr A Lye put forward the following motion:

This Council notes that under cover of the Covid 19 pandemic, the UK Government has introduced the 296-page Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Whilst the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, announced her Bill would see sexual offenders face longer sentences and create new crimes, she overlooked the fact that the police would be given powers to tackle non-violent protests that have a “significant disruptive effect on the public or on access to Parliament”.

We have reasons to worry that our democracy is being undermined, even by the Home Secretary who described the Black Lives Matters protests as “dreadful”. A systematic reduction in civil liberties is a very dangerous thing for a democracy.

Kill the Bill protests have been held across the UK, including one in Haverfordwest on Saturday 17th April.

RESOLVED: This Council resolves that it is greatly concerned at the Bill, especially proposals to grant the police further powers to curtail the right to protest. The right to peacefully assemble and protest are a fundamental part of any democracy, along with the right of people to have their voices heard.

As the Bill is likely to be reintroduce to Parliament after the Queen’s Speech, with the Commons

Committee Stage expected to be completed by 24th June, this Council expresses its serious concern at the contentious provisions in the Bill. This Council asks that it either be withdrawn or severely amended. No Bill should be introduced that curtails our democratic rights to protest peacefully.

That Stephen Crabb MP be informed of this Council's disquiet with the Bill.

2792

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY GARDENS

Cllr G Lawlor gave an update and displayed a photograph of the play area and Belle Vue field after the removal of the hedge. He advised that this had not been a traditional Pembrokeshire hedge but was mostly made up of soil with a few stones. The area where the hedge was located had been seeded with grass seed and would be fenced off for approximately four weeks so that the seeds could germinate. Cllr Lawlor added that he had a meeting with Helen McCleod-Baikie from PCC Property section, and she will ensure the land transfer takes place as soon as possible and that Fields in Trust transfer the covenant from the play area to the Belle Vue field. This means that work can now commence on the community gardens, and we claim the grant once work is completed.

It was proposed that a Community Gardens committee be formed to include: Cllrs G Lawlor, J Sutton and M Harry plus 3 members of allotments holders group. Thanks were offered to Cllr G Lawlor, Cllr J Sutton and the Town Clerk for their work on this project.

RESOLVED: That once the land transfer has taken place and the Covenant on the playing field has been transferred to the Belle Vue field, work on the Community Gardens can start.

2793

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN TO INCLUDE SOLVA CARE

It was suggested that the Strategic Plan be reviewed on say, two headlines ie CCTV for the town and forming a better relationship with the Police plus Access, with the Elm Grove path on top of the list of actions, and Health issues (Primary Care) to formulate the future of healthcare in Neyland.

It was also suggested that the Police Commissioner be invited to attend a special meeting of council with Darren Thomas and the new Chief Executive of PCC. Cllr S Churchill suggested that the Hub could be used to PACT meetings and that these be reintroduced.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Plan moves forward with a plan for CCTV for the town centre in Neyland, with a better relationship with the Police, plus better Access into

and around the town and a Health plan for future healthcare in Neyland.

That a special meeting be arranged with the Police Commissioner plus Darren Thomas and the new Chief Executive of PCC.

That the police PACT meetings be reintroduced and to be held at the Hub.

*Cllrs G Lawlor and Jo Bevan declared an interest in this item as their children attend the Youth Club.

2794

TO DISCUSS FUTURE YOUTH SERVICES IN NEYLAND

Cllr S Hancock raised this issue and reminded members that council had trialled a funding package for the Youth Club in 2019 for them to open during the summer holidays, which had been very successful and well received. He added that he has been approached by the Youth Leader now that the Club is opening following Covid and they are looking to carry out various activities, including the purchase of a cooker for members to learn to cook, the holding of summer sessions, the creation of a well-being room and taking members on a free trip during the holidays. The total cost for this would be £2,750.00. It was agreed after a short debate that this sum be donated from the Contingencies budget and that a new budget heading for 'Youth Services' be included for the next budget meeting.

RESOLVED: The sum of £2,750.00 be donated to Neyland Youth Club to carry out the above activities and to purchase a cooker for the new 'Wellbeing Room'.

2795

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts totalling £9,091.23 (gross) were approved for payment, however the following point were raised:

- a) Members asked why the Burial Board were now requesting a Precept after not doing so for two years and asked the clerk to contact OVW to ask what the position is with regard councils contributing to Burial Boards. It was agreed that the £5,000 requested by the Burial Board not be paid and councils' representatives will pass this information on the Burial Board Clerk.

2796

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The following matters were raised:

- a) That Paul Miller be asked about signage for the Hub and the Town Council. The clerk asked if she could obtain quotes for an external notice board for the Hub and this was agreed.

- b) Cllr S Churchill asked if there could be a new budget for the 'Dissemination of Information' set up in the next budget as well as 'Youth Services and Education'.

*Cllr J Bevan left the meeting at 9.37pm.

- c) Cllr Churchill asked if Council could use Microsoft Teams for its remote meetings rather than Jit-si and the clerk agreed to look into this. It was suggested also that advice be obtained from OVW regarding meeting in person in July and that Paul Miller be asked about the use of the video-conferencing equipment at the Hub so that hybrid meetings could be held.
- d) Members were reminded about completing the form for the Members' Allowance and returning to the Town Clerk as information on payments made to Members had to be included on our website.

2797

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.46pm.

Signed.....Mayor.....Date

Signed.....Town Clerk