

Nelson Community Council

Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd February 2024 beginning at 7:00 pm at Nelson Institute

Present:

Cllr R. Powell
Cllr G Davies
Cllr A Gray
Cllr L Dufty
Mr L John (Clerk)
Cllr S Morgan (arrived 8:15pm)
Cllr B Miles (arrived 8:20pm)
Cllr E ap Llwyd Dafydd (Chair)
J Price, Police
S Coomer, Police

No declarations of interest were received.

1 To Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A John. It was noted that Cllr Miles and Cllr Morgan would both be arriving late.

2 To Receive a Report from the Community Police Representative

Members noted receipt of the report. The following was also noted:

- The police are working with ongoing thefts from the garage
- Vehicle thefts were noted
- Investigation is ongoing into a drug seizure in the local area (not Nelson)

Members asked about the possession of a weapon at Maes-y-dderwen. It was noted that it was a knife and that was the only crime that had been reported this year. There have been reports of missing people. The residents can be vulnerable and

Members referred to a recent report about weapon possession and usage and asked how many were related to local wards. It was noted that there were not a significant amount in the local wards.

Members asked how the problem of dog littering and new laws relating to certain dog breeds would be monitored. The new regulations were referred to and include dogs being out of control which promotes the use of warnings and education.

Members asked about the responsibility for damage caused by dogs that are not under the responsibility of the owner. The police agreed to confirm and provide feedback.

Residents asked about an incident at Senghenydd common involving council workers who were supported by police. It was suggested that the incident would be managed by Caerphilly south and the police present did not have any information related to it.

3 To consider questions from members of the public

- Residents referred to a letter from CCBC that had been uncovered related to the current wind turbine

Residents asked if there would be compensation for local residents.
Residents referred to correspondence with National Grid who confirmed their obligation to connect to new connections.

Advice received suggested that planning permission would be needed for structural changes. Residents referred to significant rate of cancer in local residents which may be as a result of overhead cables.

Residents suggested there was some concern about the level of noise that could be emitted from the synchronous condenser.

Residents raised concerns that the hearings announced by PEDW would all be heard virtually. Members agreed that the hearings are open to the public but only online. Residents claimed that the local library cannot provide the facilities. Residents have contacted PEDW to complain and referred to similar processes in neighbouring areas that have appeared more accommodating. Members commented that a request had been made to resist investing the Council's pension sum in related wind turbine technology.

Members agreed to request a location from AL McCoohey, the PEDW inspector for participants and residents to access the meeting. It is causing considerable anxiety given the short timeframe involved. It was agreed to also inform local Members of the Senedd and the relevant minister, Julie James.

Members referred to contact relating to a blocked access point on the common which had confirmation that Welsh Government would need to support.

Residents raised concerns that the timing of different processes and the changing of company ownership suggests impropriety.

It was noted that residents have made complaints to the public ombudsman.

Members agreed to seek advice about other residents' correspondence from local ward members.

4 To Receive an update on agreed actions

An update was received in relation the actions as per actions sheet. See Appendix A. The following was also noted:

5 To Receive and approve minutes:

a. Ordinary meeting on 18th January 2024

The minutes of the meeting were approved as an accurate record subject to a rewording of the sentence:

- Agreed to agenda an item to consider the use of Nelson Library for Council meetings.

The clerk agreed to ensure *matters arising* were included on the agenda

Matters arising:

Planning Committee processes

Members commented on the need to confirm ward members' reasons for not speaking at a recent planning meetings. Members agreed that they had not requested for him to speak on the Council's behalf.

The clerk agreed to seek guidance on the use of members' names on Minutes.

6 To receive a report from the Chair

There was nothing to consider.

7 To receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk provided a verbal report. The following was noted: -

a. Details of correspondence available online [here](#)

Members noted that Cllr Morgan is the Chair of the Gwent Public Services Board. Members were asked to request an agenda item so that questions of it could be considered.

b. Finance available [here](#). Members resolved for the payments to be made in the period.

- Members agreed the proposed budget for 2024-25

- Members resolved to maintain the band b equivalent at £18.24 in relation to the precept for 2024-25.

c. Members noted planning applications submitted during the period.

8 Welsh Language Scheme

Members agreed to defer the item to next meeting. Members agreed to raise the item at the next Joint Liaison Committee meeting.

9 Village Improvement projects

- Consider sports pitch

Cllr R Powell declared an interest.

It was noted that discussions had taken place about the possibility of an artificial sports pitch and asked for the council to consider support for it at Nelson RFC. Members discussed the use of the facility and how much groups outside of the rugby club would have use of it. It was confirmed that there is an agreement in principle for majority use by Nelson RFC because they have more teams. It was confirmed that there is some security already at the site. There is an extended period for use with an artificial pitch. It could also be rented to other organisations as a way for generating income to pay ongoing costs for the facility.

It was confirmed that Nelson RFC lease the land from CCBC. Members discussed the size of the pitch and confirmed that multi-sports could be accommodated. It is thought that there are around 15 in the Council with many at school sites (Caerphilly Leisure manage many of the sites outside of school hours). Members discussed the priority of groups to use the facility.

Members agreed to support the project.

10 To consider holding Council meetings in the library

A proposal was outlined which include the following:

- The library has disabled access toilets and the Institute is not disabled-friendly
- The library would be warmer throughout the year.
- There would be a cost which would be balanced against the cost of maintaining Nelson Institute
- There is also an internet connection which would support access to meetings

Members discussed the motion. The following was discussed:

- The use of the Chamber
- The availability of the library and other facilities
- Another meeting to develop a plan for the building prior to a vote

Members reminded each other of the need to respect the code of conduct.

Cllr R Powell left the meeting.

Cllr L Dufty left the meeting.

Cllr S Morgan left the meeting.

11 To receive an update on Toilets facility and consider contribution to support

This was not considered.

12 To consider feedback from Defibrillator awareness training and next actions

This was not considered.

13 To consider a Press and Media policy

This was not considered.

14 To receive update in relation to hire of Nelson Institute

This had been considered earlier in the meeting.

15 To consider request for support to re-floor 35 Commercial St

This was not considered.

16 To consider actions in relation to recruitment of a new clerk/RFO

This was not considered.

Appendix A

Meeting	Category	Action	Resp.	Status	Note
11-May-23		Seek further information about newly acquired defibrillators and ask about potential for access to more	RP	Ongoing	9/11 RP confirmed that they were all in working condition. The football club has 1 at the moment. RP to enquire of how many he has access to.

12-Oct-23		Review terms & conditions relating to Nelson Institute and agenda a relevant item at the next meeting	LJ	Ongoing	Terms & Conditions were provided. 9/11 Application for use by craft group to be shared. 15/11 Informed by craft group that main keyholder is changing. 2/12 Informed by craft group that the intention is to stop using the room. More info to be provided. 18/1 Group to be invited to apply to use room on Saturdays. 22/2 Clerk to pursue the application before a new event is held and request access to the cupboard.
9-Nov-23		Check how old notice board could be removed.	GD	Ongoing	GD to ask Co-op. 18/1 GD confirmed that it can be removed and the Coop manager offered to remove it. Members agreed to proceed. 22/2 Coop have agreed to remove but this has not been done. The clerk agreed to engage a handyman to undertake the work.
18-Jan-24		National Grid correspondence	LJ	Complete	Clerk to contact National Grid to ask for clarification of development- email sent- awaiting response. 22/2 Response received by National Grid and shared.
18-Jan-24		Improvement projects	Members	Ongoing	Members agreed to contribute ideas
18-Jan-24		Cenotaph improvement	LJ	Complete	Write to CCBC to ask for improvements following further from resident. 30/1 SM asked Parks officers to attend site to inspect. Members nited that work had been undertaken.
22-Feb-24		Write to PEDW inspector	LJ	New	Write to PEDW inspector to ask for access to a physical location to support residents at hearings.

Signed.....
CHAIRMAN

Appendix A