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**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2024, 7.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB**

This meeting was recorded.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr. P Hay (Mayor)

Cllr. A Phelan (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr. E Phelan

Cllr. M Harry

Cllr. A Richards

Cllr. A Thomas

Cllr. S Campodonic

Cllr. B Rothero

Cllr. S Thomas

Cllr. D Devauden

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. S Hancock

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Darren Thomas, PCC.

Mr. Ian Hatchett, Mr. Gareth Lawlor - Members of Public

*The Clerk had sent her apologies for the meeting, so Cllr. E Phelan had agreed to take minutes. The minutes have been produced by the Clerk, utilizing the recording and Cllr. E Phelan’s minutes from the meeting.*

Meeting opened at 7.01pm

**4454 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

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| **Member:** | **Interest:** | **Agenda Item:** |
| Cllr. M Harry | Personal;  Non-paid Director of The Hub | N/A |
| Cllr. S Thomas | Personal;  Member of LCC  Husband to the Former Burial Board Clerk | N/A  N/A |

**4455 – ATTENDANCE FROM DARREN THOMAS, PCC**

The Council had invited Darren Thomas from Pembrokeshire County Council to attend the meeting to discuss a few ongoing issues the Council currently has. Ahead of the meeting, the Clerk had forwarded an email to Darrent Thomas which explained a few queries which the Council wished to present to Mr. Thomas. The first discussion was regarding the signage to the High Street carpark being updated to reflect that the recycling center is no longer there, and that the carpark now hosts EV charging points, along with a request to make the new signs narrower in order for the Council to utilise the space

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for a new Speed Sign. Mr. Thomas advised he had met with the team who handled this at PCC, who had agreed about the exit sign and that this had been ordered. Mr. Thomas also advised it may be beneficial for members of NTC to organise a site visit with the Parking Services team to ensure that the requirements are met. Mr. Thomas said he was happy to facilitate a meeting.

The second question was regarding the implementation of a speed sign at the same site as the car park entrance signs. Mr. Thomas advised that PCC would recommend carrying out a speed survey before the implementation of the speed sign to ensure it was a suitable place. He advised the timescale for this would be approx. 4-6 weeks. Cllr. D Devauden enquired as to whether the painted speed markers on the road would be an option. Mr. Thomas advised that once the speed survey had taken place, it could be open to discussion for the best option, however, PCC do not tend to implement these on a highway.

Cllr. P Hay asked Mr. Thomas of any developments on the proposed speed reduction on the A477. Mr. Thomas advised that the proposals for the Eastern (Sentry Cross) side were going ahead, but that the Western (Pembroke Dock) side was still under discussion due to the potential implications to economic regeneration. Cllr. S Thomas asked Mr. Thomas if he could advise a timescale of implementation to the Eastern side, Mr. Thomas advised he could not provide a timescale at this moment as there were further considerations to be made.

Cllr. M Harry asked Mr. Thomas if NTC should be consulting on the new consultations regarding the amendment to the blanket 20mph speed limit, or if this should be at a County Council level. Mr. Thomas advised PCC have a Dropbox where all comments or opinions could be added for consideration. He clarified that the Welsh Government were not consulting to change legislation, but to amend legislation for the Highway Authorities on how they can utilise their own autonomy.

Cllr’s Harry and A Phelan additionally mentioned the concerns over speeding cars on Kensington Road and asked about traffic calming measures, along with parking issues in Riverside Avenue. Mr. Thomas advised he would take the concerns on board and added that he was more than happy to keep in close contact with the Council with any ongoing concerns via regular correspondence.

Mr. Thomas was thanked for his attendance and discussion.

**4456 – REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC (limited to 15 minutes)**

The Mayor addressed the members of public who were in attendance and invited them to come forward to speak to Council.

A member of public queried if the live link to the meetings could be posted via the internet to enable ease of access for the public. The Mayor asked if Council were in agreement and there were no objections. It was noted that the Council would undertake a few training sessions on the live link so that issues would be minimised in future.

Mr. Ian Hatchett asked if he could speak regarding the public toilets. Ahead of the meeting, Mr. Hatchett had compiled a ‘business plan’ outlining costings of running the public toilets. He elaborated further to Council his figures, along with his views on the Council supporting the public toilets. Cllr. S Thomas queried figures, with Cllr. Hay advising that this would be a matter for discussion between Council and could be addressed during the agenda item on the public toilets.

Mr. Gareth Lawlor addressed Council and asked if there was any update regarding the ongoing issue that Council are supporting in regard to the pupil transport to HHVC School. Cllr. Hay elaborated that Council had had many discussion regarding this issue and that it was ongoing. Cllr. A Phelan advised he had taken the lead on this issue and explained what had happened so far. Cllr. Phelan advised he would be organising and attending a meeting with County Councillors to discuss this further.

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**4457 – TO CONFIRM BY RESOLUTION A DECISION ON THE PUBLIC TOILETS**

Cllr. Hay opened the discussion by advising all of the current position of the public toilets. He advised that PCC were due to close the toilets at the end of the month. He advised that the bottom line would be committing Neyland residents to an increase in their monthly Council tax in order to cover the costs of running the public toilets. The business plan which had been compiled and provided by Mr. Ian Hatchett was discussed at length between members, with points being raised about the affordability and the potential to cut costs in places.

**Proposal: To undertake the Brunel Quay public toilets via an asset transfer and for Neyland Town**

**Council to bear the cost of running the toilets.**

**Proposed: Cllr. S Thomas**

**Seconded: Cllr. D Devauden**

***A recorded vote was called for.***

**For: Cllr. S Thomas, Cllr. D Devauden, Cllr. B Rothero, Cllr. S Campodonic, Cllr. P Hay,**

**Cllr. A Thomas**

**Against: Cllr. A Richards, Cllr. M Harry, Cllr. E Phelan**

**Abstained: Cllr. A Phelan**

**RESOLVED: THAT NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL TAKE OVER THE BRUNEL QUAY PUBLIC TOILETS AS**

**AN ASSET TRANSFER AND BEAR THE FULL COSTS OF RUNNING THE TOILETS.**

**4458 – TO CONFIRM THE ACCUARCY OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 13.05.2024**

Cllr. P Hay advised that this item was on the agenda simply to request any amendment requests from Council to be forwarded to the Clerk, that this was not on the agenda for formal approval as this will not be done until the next Annual Meeting, but that as this was a year away, it would make sense to offer any amendments while it was still fresh in members’ minds.

Cllr. E Phelan advised she felt it would be more prudent for members to send any requests for amendments to the Mayor, as the Clerk was currently off on sick leave.

**4459 – TO AGREE ON PLANS FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Clerk had advised Council ahead of the meeting that she had made attempts to contact the Tenby & Saundersfoot First Responders but had not yet received a response. As Cllr. S Thomas was aware of the package provided by the Tenby and Saundersfoot First Responders, he explained to Council what they offered. This would be brough to the next meeting once costings had been established.

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**4460 – TO AGREE UPON THE CREATION OF A LINK COUNCILLOR FOR THE COMMUNITY YOUTH**

Cllr. E Phelan advised Council that the current project with CWBR Youth, which had created a position for a Link Councillor to discuss and be present with youth matters, had now come to an end. Cllr. Phelan advised that she had taken on the link Councillor role historically and felt that whilst the CWBR project had ended, NTC should still keep the position of link Councillor to the youth, as it had always proved very beneficial.

**Proposal: That NTC create a position for a Link Councillor with the youth and that Cllr. E Phelan**

**continues in this role.**

**Proposed: Cllr. M Harry**

**Seconded: Cllr. A Thomas**

**All in favour.**

**RESOLVED: CLLR. E PHELAN TO CONTINUE AS LINK COUNCILLOR TO THE YOUTH**

**4461 – FREE PINTS FOR VETERANS**

Cllr. S Thomas advised of the ‘Free Pints for Veterans’ scheme, which he had led for the previous two years. Cllr. Thomas elaborated on the scheme to Council and advised that it had always been successful. Cllr. Thomas had brough this to the agenda as he wished to make it an annual occurrence with NTC.

**Proposal: To continue with the ‘Free Pints for Veterans’ scheme on an annual basis.**

**Proposed: Cllr. S Thomas**

**Seconded: Cllr. A Phelan**

**9 in favour, 1 against.**

**RESOLVED: THAT NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT THE ‘FREE PINTS FOR VETERANS’ SCHEME**

**EACH YEAR**

**4462 – CONFIRMATION OF OVERALL COSTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2023**

Cllr. M Harry asked if all costs for Christmas are now completed. Cllr. S Thomas advised that all outgoings from the Working Group are now accounted for, however we are still awaiting a £500.00 donation, which had been secured from RWE. Cllr. Devauden advised that when the donation was pledged from RWE, they did advise it could take a few months to come to fruition. Cllr. S Thomas also advised that we were still awaiting the electricity costs for the Christmas Lights.

**4463 – OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

This item was deferred as there were no updates to report

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**4464 – PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

Members had been presented with the following update of the accounts:

Current Account: £57,743.78

Mayor’s Fund: £290.34

Earmarked Reserves: £19,000.00

General Reserves: £9,119.77

**Total in Accounts: £86,153.89**

The list of expenditure for May 2024 totaled £9,979.59 Gross, £9,960.04 Net. The list of income for May 2024 totaled £1,000.

Members had been presented with a list of payments for approval totaling £6,132.54.

Cllr. Hay advised Council that, due to an incorrect claim on the Council’s insurance for legal matters, the original cost for the insurance premium was 25% higher, but the Clerk had managed to negate this additional cost, as the claim was still under investigation.

**Proposal: To accept and confirm the list of payments for approval**

**Proposed: Cllr. A Phelan**

**Seconded: Cllr. B Rothero**

**All in favour**

**4465 – CLERK’S REPORT**

This was deferred as the Clerk had given apologies for the meeting.

Cllr. M Harry advised that he had asked the Clerk for an update on the Transfer of the North Field to the Athletic Club and that she had advised that the solicitors had been instructed to go ahead with the transfer.

**4466 – MAYOR’S REPORT**

Cllr. P Hay reported the following:

1. He had attended both the Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest Mayor Making Services.
2. He had cleaned the noticeboards at the Marina.
3. He had cleaned the graffiti from the Park.
4. He had changed the battery on the Town Clock.

**4467 – EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Cllr. Hay advised all Members that due to the resignation of the former Burial Board Clerk, the Board had asked the NTC Clerk if she would be willing to assist and take on a very basic Clerking role to help the

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Board until issues were resolved. Cllr. Hay advised that at present, the Clerk did not feel she would like to take on the role.

Cllr. Hay confirmed and reminded all Members of the upcoming D-Day service that had been planned for the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

**4468 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is set for 1st July 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.28pm