



## CHEPSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of **Environment and Amenities Committee** of Chepstow Town Council held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm

### Present:

**Chair:** Cllr T Griffiths

**Councillors:** M Griffiths, J MacTaggart, N Meyrick, D Rooke, M Perkins (left 9.15 pm) J Rosser (left 9.15pm)

**Apologies:** Cllrs M Le Peltier, S Tulley-Cade

**In Attendance:** Mrs L Allen (Town Clerk)  
Miss C Baker (Community Projects Officer)

Prior to the meeting members welcomed representatives from Chepstow Racecourse to discuss collaborative working. A meeting is to be arranged for members of the Council to visit the racecourse to discuss ways of working which will be beneficial to the community.

### 1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were sought.

#### Resolved:

To elect Cllr T Griffiths as Chair and Cllr M Perkins as Vice Chair of the Environment and Amenities Committee.

### 2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.

None.

### 3. To Suspend Standing Orders

#### a) Public Open Forum (15 minutes at the discretion of the Chair)

Members received representation from Jeff Baldwin of Transition Chepstow who outlined the groups within Transition Chepstow and the e-bike project which they are having difficulty getting off the ground.

### 4. Minutes

The Minutes of Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### 5. Matters Arising

To receive the report on matters arising from the minutes, for information only and noted the following:

Signposting and connectivity across the town – report is in progress

Repair Café – will re advertise for an organiser

Noticeboard (Mount Pleasant) – will be installed now that all consents are in place.

## 6. Projects Report

Members received the update report on Environment & Amenities Projects and noted the following:

1. Place Plan and Transforming Towns
  - a. Place Plan – next meeting to be arranged.
  - b. Transforming Towns – document has been adopted by both MCC and Chepstow Town Council, meeting to be arranged to look into delivery of projects.
2. Beehives
  - a. noted that a colony of honeybees would be in place by end June.
  - b. noted that the Bumblebee Conservation Trust Bee Walk Project is now a live Citizen Science project and will be publicly accessible shortly for residents to undertake and submit their sightings.
3. Working towards net zero in Chepstow

Separate agenda item to review the working party.
4. Water refill stations
  - a. The Dell – phase 1 complete (base restored and re-orientated ready for disabled access; fountain stonework restored). Awaiting connection to Welsh Water.
  - b. The Riverbank – noted difficulties with obtaining planning consent from MCC.
5. Green Roof shelter

No update – held in storage.
6. Railway Station Accessibility

No update but noted that May 2023 was the suggested date to get back in contact for an update.
7. Wales Coastal Path / Seating
  - a. seating - chasing for a “street furniture licence” no update received to date.
  - b. boundary fencing – no update.
8. Wikipedia Page

Information gathering taking place.
9. Community Growing Space
  - a. Welsh Street raised bed – 1<sup>st</sup> Chepstow Rainbow’s continue to maintain.
  - b. Community Orchards – summer pruning training organised for volunteers.
  - c. Town Centre Planters – several community groups have agreed to take ownership including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Beavers and work will be undertaken over the summer.
  - d. Pollinator/green walls – seeking MCC advice regarding permissions.
10. Queen’s Green Canopy

No update - Still awaiting confirmation from Barratt Homes as to whether the 4 Scots Pine trees for the Queen’s Jubilee can be planted at the new housing estate.
11. Repair Café

No update but will re-advertise for an organiser through the summer.
12. Signposting

Routes currently being walked with photos and information being gathered.

**Resolved:**

That a discussion is held with MCC in regard to funding to paint the colour of the finger posts to make them stand out better.

13. E-bikes and transport

Noted the update and the need to carry out a feasibility study as to whether an e-bike or electric minibus would be used. In brief the feasibility study would ask the following questions:

What do people want? What would they use?

What are the costs? Would there be an income?

Evidence that people would like the facility.

**Resolved:**

1. To write to Transport for Wales asking for them to undertake a feasibility study of how to make public transport more accessible in Chepstow, particularly to the bus and train station, and whether this can be improved with additional bus routes. Letter to be copied to the Minister for Transport who has recently reported the desire to undertake a study of all aspects of transportation in Chepstow, stating that the Town Council want to be a part of this study. Cllr P Griffiths agreed to draft the letter.

7. **Energy working party**

Members undertook to review the terms of reference of the Energy Working Party and considered if this should be changed to a Carbon Reduction Committee in order to start investigating ways of working towards net zero carbon emissions by the year 2050.

**Resolved:**

That the request for a Carbon Reduction Committee and Terms of Reference be proposed at a future meeting of Full Council meeting.

8. **Give Dog Fouling the Red Card**

8.1 Received feedback from those councillors who attended the dog fouling action day and noted that several sites had been visited, the pooper snooper app was used to tag a number of Council owned dog bins, discussed issues with a number of dog walkers and installed a number of signs and stickers encouraging dog owners to dispose of their litter appropriately. Noted that some people are unaware that litter bins can be used for dog waste.

8.2 Members considered nomination for a representative to the Give Dog Fouling the Red Card initiative.

**Resolved:**

To defer this item to Full Council.

9. **Wassail/Mari Lywd**

Members considered whether the Council would like to research the possibility of holding a Wassail/Mari Lywd in Chepstow.

**Resolved:**

To set up a working group, consisting of Cllrs Margaret Griffiths, Paul Griffiths and Dale Rooke, to research the possibility of holding a Wassail/Mari Lywd in 2024/5. The item to be raised with Full Council for additional Working Group members and Transition Chepstow's Orchard group to be invited.

10. **Transition Chepstow**

Members considered the request from Transition Chepstow Transport Group for a nominated Councillor to be a representative to the group in order to share knowledge and develop projects

of common interest (e.g. e-bikes and walking routes for Chepstow). The group meet via Zoom, usually the first Tuesday of each month.

**Resolved:**

To defer consideration of this item to Full Council but to offer an agreement in principal that the Town Council will provide a representative.

**11. Christmas Lighting 2023**

Members considered the report detailing suggested enhancements to the Christmas Lighting.

**Resolved:**

To agree to the purchase of Star Burst 3d fixtures for Bulwark and the Town and the "Selfie Moment" bauble up to the budget available of £9,300 (*LGA 1972, s145*). Prior to the purchase of the bauble, investigate whether this can be hired to enable changing the item every year.

**12. High Street parking**

Members considered correspondence regarding the illegal parking on the High Street.

**Resolved:**

To clarify who is responsible and ask for some additional enforcement in the area.

**13. Chepstow Food and Craft Market**

Members noted that the Sunday food and craft market, operated by Greentop Events, had been reduced to the fourth Sunday in each month due to post covid issues with obtaining traders and decrease in footfall. The organisers are working hard to increase this provision and it is hoped that it will increase to twice per month as soon as practical. In addition to request the Greentop Events contact the market provision in Tintern to see if any traders from there would be interested in having a stall at Chepstow's market.

**14. Chepstow High Street**

Members considered correspondence attached regarding Chepstow High Street.

**Resolved:**

To write back asking for a specific project which the Town Council might be able to become involved in. In addition to direct them to the business support department in Monmouthshire County Council.

With the consent of the meeting the following was reported:

**Pride Month** – a resident had contacted a Councillor to ask what was being carried out over Pride month, in particular flying the flag. Members were advised that Cllr Margaret Griffiths is writing a report for Full Council at its meeting in June.

**Rubbish adjacent to Portwall** – noted the issues with litter and request for Monmouthshire County Council to consider installation of a litter bin near to the Portwall.

**15. Items for Next Meeting**

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm that the next meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Council Chamber and via Zoom online meetings.

**CLOSE: This completed the business of the meeting at 9.25pm**

Signed: .....  
CHAIR

Date.....