

NOLTON AND ROCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED NOLTON A'R GARN

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at Victoria Hall Roch on 7 OCTOBER 2024

Members Present: M. Harries, M. Canton, A. Jones, J. Gale, J. Hancock and A. Peach.
Clerk: N. Neumann

1. Apologies

R. Thomson and M. Hammond.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by M. Canton, seconded by A. Jones and agreed by all that M. Harries be elected Chairman for 2024/25.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by M. Harries, seconded by M. Canton and agreed by all that R. Thomson be elected to continue as Vice Chairman for 2024/25. R. Thomson consented to remain as Vice Chairman.

4. Signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Conduct

All Councillors present signed the declaration of acceptance of office including agreement to the code of conduct. All declarations of office were signed and returned by the remaining Councillors at a later date.

5. Community councillor remuneration entitlement for 2024/25 financial year

Individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community or town council are entitled to receive payments as set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. **All eight councillors notified the Clerk and declined any such remuneration payments for the 2024/25 financial year. Councillors not present at the AGM, later signed and returned declarations to the Clerk.**

6. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the AGM held on 2 October 2023 having been circulated to Councillors be confirmed and signed. Proposed M. Canton, seconded M. Harries.

7. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

8. Appointment of Committees, Representatives, Officers etc

a) Planning Committee

It was resolved that the following serve on this Committee:

Chairman, Vice Chairman, M. Canton and M. Hammond. With membership to rotate round to other Councillors at the next AGM or earlier if deemed appropriate.

b) Victoria Hall Committee

It was resolved that M. Harries continue as representative on the Victoria Hall Committee.

c) Roch School

It was resolved that J. Gale continue as community school governor at Roch School.

d) Press Officer

It was resolved that the Clerk be appointed Press Officer.

- e) **Signatories on Council cheques**
It was resolved that the Clerk plus any two of the following sign community council cheques:
J. Hancock, R. Thomson and A. Peach.
- f) **Proper Officer**
It was resolved that the Clerk be designated Proper Officer of the council.
- g) **Financial Officer**
It was resolved that the Clerk be designated as the Responsible Financial Officer.
- h) **Internal Auditor**
It was resolved that Bevan Buckland LLP be appointed Internal Auditor.
- I) **Clerk's Salary**
It was resolved that the Clerk's salary be paid according to the Local Government National Joint Council recommendations (SCP Pay Scale Point 21).

9. Future Council Meetings – date; venue; time

Date: that wherever possible, council meetings to be held on the first Monday of each month (August and January excepted)

Venue: Meetings to alternate, wherever possible, between the Nolton Reading Room and Victoria Hall, Roch.

Time: council meetings to commence at 7.30pm unless an alternative time to be approved at the previous full council meeting.

10. To adopt Standing Order No 1

Voting procedures at Council meetings

“Voting at council meetings shall be by a show of hands by Councillors may by resolution adopt such other method of voting as they consider expedient on any particular matter.”

It was resolved that Standing Order No 1 be adopted.

11. To adopt Standing Order No 2

Procedures for examining Planning Applications

“If any member of this Council's Planning Committee, or any other Councillor, raised an objection or shows concern regarding a planning application, the Council must be convened to examine that application.”

It was resolved that Standing Order No 2 be adopted.

12. To adopt Standing Order No 3

“Any purchase of goods or execution of work authorised by this Council in excess of £700 will be by tender of at least two sealed quotes. To be opened in the presence of at least two persons and a full record of the contents of the tenders should be signed by all those present at the opening.”

It was resolved that Standing Order No 3 be amended and adopted as follows:

“Any purchase of goods or execution of work authorised by this Council in excess of **£1,500** will be by tender of at least two sealed quotes. To be opened in the presence of at least two persons and a full record of the contents of the tenders should be signed by all those present at the opening.”

13. To adopt Standing Order No 4

“Members of the public can approach the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting being allowed three minutes to address any issue on the agenda. The number of speakers and time allowed to be at the discretion of the Chairman to allow efficient transaction of the business in hand.

Members of the public to notify the Clerk of their wish to speak and the subject being raised at least 4 days prior to the meeting.”

It was resolved that Standing Order No 4 be adopted.

14. **Chairman's report**

As below.

15. **Any other business**

None.

Chairman

Date:

Chairman's report

Before I undertake a summary of the year, I would like to thank all Councillors and our Clerk Nick for all your hard work and support over the year.

Having read back over the minutes for the past 12 months, it's been a busy year with important decisions made that will have an impact now and the future for the parish.

Planning is always a topic on the agenda and this year has been a mainstay of it, with the approval for 52 new homes being built in Roch. Whilst it created lots of debate with Cllrs and residents, following discussions with the lead developer it was agreed by the majority of Cllrs it would benefit the community, particularly the school, however continued surveillance would be required with the pumping station in Newgale with concerns with the sewerage system.

On the subject of planning, the CLT continue to make great strides with the long-term aim of bringing further affordable housing to the village. I would like to reiterate their recent message and encourage those who are keen to live in one of these properties to add their names to the housing list asap.

As I reported last year we unfortunately still have not found a resolution with the Knotweed in Nolton or progress with signage on the Welsh Road. Sadly little headway has been made with the amendments to the new footpath in Roch or with the speed controls on the main road. Although we have seen a successful application for Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant to cover the majority of the costs for the speed control. It is with great sadness, that Cllr Peter Morgan lost his battle with Cancer this year and again we send our condolences to his family, also to those other families who have lost members of their family who lived or had connections to our communities.

N&RCC have continued to financially support a range of community groups within the village and continue to work in partnership with the school on projects focusing this year on dog fouling.

Toilets have seemingly been the main topic of conversation, with the closure of Newgale South and Nolton toilets last Autumn. Thankfully after a tremendous amount of dialogue with PCC and PCNP, we have been able to re-open Nolton toilets, although funded by our budget and therefore residents. A big thank you to all those personnel, Cllrs and members of public who have supported this project, whether it be repairs or donations, it shows the importance it is within the community.

In terms of looking to future, it is important that we continue to protect the assets we have in the community, whether it be toilets, village halls, pubs and particularly the school. With exciting new developments on the horizon, I'm sure it will lead to a positive year ahead.

Thank you.