

Minutes of the meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council held at Marloes Village Hall, starting at 1930 on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

In attendance: Councillor Peter Smithies (Chairman), together with Cllrs. Christopher Jessop, Brian Johnson, Louise Beal, James Kimpton and William Richards

Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk.

Community Resident - Mr. Robin Black & Mr. Nick Skudder. Ms. Gill Phillips for part of the meeting.

Apologies – County Cllr Reg Owens

- 1) Declarations of Interest –Cllr. Beal declared an interest in NP/21/0731/FUL as an immediate neighbour.
- 2) The minutes of the November meeting having been circulated beforehand were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Johnson.
- 3) Matters Arising

Highway Matters

Fopston Road, St. Brides & Slate Mill Issues – Clerk has sent details to PCC Officer, Emrys Llewellyn.

Cllr. Richards reported that there are two places in St. Brides where collapsed drains are causing surface water problems. One area is close to the Scouts entrance, and the other is on the Dale side of Orlandon.

Speed Warning Sign – Westcotec turned the sign round on 29/11/21 and Claire Williams, PCC will provide Cllr. Jessop with a report. The Clerk suggested it would be useful to have a report in the February/March issue of Peninsula Papers.

Tavernputt Junction - Noted the sign and post have been re-erected.

Hedge – Recreation Area. Work to be carried out in the New Year.

## Other Matters Arising

Emergency Phones – Clerk has been advised by Myrddin Dennis( PCC ) that BT have repaired the Marloes Sands phone. Clerk and/or Cllr. Jessop to check this is the case.

Bus Timetables – Reply from Owen Roberts advised he will explore the possibilities of a QR code being placed in the bus shelter.

Platinum Jubilee 2022 – Further updates received. Communities are asked to consider planting 7 trees to mark the occasion. The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Sewerage Section of Welsh Water, and has since passed on suggestions of the type of trees that could be planted. Response awaited.

Wedding Receptions – See item below.

Skomer MCZ – The Clerk and Cllr. Jessop attended the Special Meeting on 09/11/2021 – which marked the retirement of Mr. Phil Newman. On behalf of the Community Council, Cllr. Jessop gave him a picture of the area he had painted. Ms. Kate Lock has taken over his role.

### 4. Community Issues

COVID 19 – The meeting noted that the Wales Regulations remain at Level Zero, but there is a further review on Friday 17th December as the number of omicron cases in Wales has increased. Pembrokeshire Delta cases are still high, and the situation is still of concern. Wearing of masks continues to be compulsory in retail outlets in Wales, and also now elsewhere in the UK.

Mrs. Smithies had agreed that the availability of the Volunteer Group would remain on standby during the winter months, and contact details are in the December/January Peninsula Papers. In January, the Village Shop and Post Office will be closed to allow Mr. & Mrs. Lucas to take a break at a quieter time of the year. It is intended to hold a Coffee Morning weekly in Marloes Hall in January so that there will be an opportunity for local residents to meet others safely, and any problems can be identified. Milk deliveries will continue, and contact details for Mr. Absalom will be provided, so that extra milk can be ordered if necessary. St. Brides Castle can assist with the supply of newspapers on most days,

but they will have to be ordered. Bread will not be delivered, so people will need to make their own arrangements. Unfortunately, the Post Office Van that visits St. Ishmaels and Dale has no spare capacity to visit Marloes. Details will be put on the Hall Notice Board of the times the Van is in Dale.

Solar Pavilion Grant Project – Cllr. Jessop advised that he will be pursuing the design possibilities for the Solar Pavilion in the New Year. Firms have been very busy providing outdoor shelters for schools and businesses; also Cllr. Smithies should be able to assist with the work. The County Council have made a commitment that the funds are safeguarded for two years. However, because of the Local Elections in May 2022, the Grant Committee will not meet until July.

Village Green/Parking issues - No problems identified this month.

Footpath & Beach matters - Noted that the bike had been retrieved a few days after the last meeting. Cllr. Jessop confirmed that it was intended to have a Beach Clean on Marloes Sands on the 31<sup>st</sup> December – see Peninsula Papers.

National Trust Matters /Car Parks– Noted that the sign at the church junction had been partially covered over. Clerk to check with Cllr. Owens what is happening about a new sign. Noted that some wind damage had occurred to the roof of the Car Park hut at Martins Haven.

Cllr. Smithies advised that the National Trust will be undertaking work near the Britten Bird Hide. A bank will be removed to aid bird watching. At a later date work will be undertaken on footpaths. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be undertaken – to be monitored by NRW. It is intended that a hard surfaced path will be provided which will accommodate disability access.

Outdoor/Cliff Top Weddings – The Clerk had circulated a paper detailing the information received from National Park with regard to planning, and also from PCC licensing. No response had been received from PCC Environmental Health. Mr. Skudder advised that wedding receptions were a spin off from letting the cottages at Musselwick Farm. He had sought advice prior to the event last year, and will obtain a Temporary Events Notice as required. Reference was made to the noise from such an

event. The Clerk was aware of one household who had been kept awake until after 2pm. It was suggested that immediate neighbours could receive advance notice. Three wedding receptions have been booked to date for 2022. Noted that under the normal 28 day planning rule, that four may be the maximum that could take place in a year. Cllr. Smithies thought that bad weather may be the deciding factor as to whether such events continued.

Cllr. Jessop expressed concern about the holding of such events on the cliff top which were not to some local residents approval. However, fellow councillors reminded the meeting that other weddings had taken place in marquees across the Community area, although most of these were not commercial, but family weddings. Noted that music travelled a long way depending on the wind direction. Mr. Skudder commented that it is easier to control the noise level of amplified music compared to having a live band providing the music. He said that he had consulted PCC Environmental Health over the event, but could not recall the officer's name.

Mr. Skudder expressed a comment that Cllr. Jessop seemed to have conducted a vendetta with regard to various activities at Musselwick. Cllr. Jessop took exception to that remark as being an inappropriate comment.

Cllr. Beal commented that if all the regulations were adhered to, then she accepted Mr. Skudder's assurances that he would be running the events with a minimum impact on the community. It had been noted earlier, that additional guests were accommodated elsewhere in the local area, and other businesses also benefited.

Agreed that the Clerk contact Cllr. Owens to ask for a named contact in PCC Environmental Health to establish what guidance they may have on outdoor wedding receptions. Mr. skudder was asked to assist the Clerk by forwarding his e-mail correspondence with PCC Environmental Health.

## 5. Correspondence.

Glasdon Street Furniture – Booklet received.

Carucymru – Dog Fouling campaign posters received and passed to Cllrs Jessop and Beal to decide where it will be best to display these locally.

Hywel Dda UHB – Children's Health Care – Information passed to Cllr. Beal to circulate via Coastlands School.

The following were among some of the e-mails received by the Council:-

12/11/21 – PCC – Notice of an on-line Seminar on 22/11/21

12/11/21 – OVW – Draft Corporate Joint Committee (General)(Wales) Reg. 2022.

17/11/21 – PCC – Emergency Road Closure opposite the Church Green to allow Welsh Water to dig a trench. Clerk advised PCC that the Notice was received after the work had been undertaken. Caused confusion for the School bus pupils, and put a lot of pressure on the Glebe Lane. Prior consultation would have helped.

17/11/21 – OVW – Letter sent out from OVW and SLCC – “Together we can do so much”. Advocating membership of OVW, and for the Clerk to join the SLCC. Training would help Councils meet the required “Standards in Public Life”.

17/11/21 – OVW – The Elections (Principal Areas)(Wales) Rules – May Election process.

18/11/21 – Cllr. Reg Owens – Details of the Christmas Car Park arrangements.

18/11/21 – OVW – Lottery Jubilee Funding – several grant elements noted.

23/11/21 – British Gas Evolve – No longer using Evolve.

24/11/21 – OVW /Welsh Govt. Consultation on planning legislation & policy of second homes and short term holiday lets. Response by 23/0/22.

01/12/21 – PCC, Dan Shaw – Consultation on Fee Scales 22/23.

01/12/21 – PCC, S. Findlay – St. Brides Community Bathing Water Quality Project 2021. Clerk advised that the 2021 Report has been circulated to all relevant parties. Clerk to respond to Mr. Findlay welcoming the excellent results and asking if the testing will continue in 2022.

06/12/21 – PCNP PP62/12 – Advised by Vicky Sewell that no further work is planned at present.

11/12/21 – Cllr. Jessop – Special Greeting/Thank you Card – Mr. & Mrs. Royle

Members agreed that a thank you card is sent by the Clerk to Mrs. Royle for all she contributes to the production of Peninsula Paper and the Marloes Website, and also to Mr. Royle for the financial and practical support he provides to several organisations in the Community. At the clerk's suggestion, Cllr. Jessop had taken a picture of their home in early summer.

Other e-mails received were noted separately by the Clerk.

## 6. Planning

- a) NP/21/0177/FUL – 7, Green Meadow Close – Revised proposal, Site Plan & proposed side elevation drawing. A letter from Nicola Gandy( Director of Planning & Park Direction), in response to the Council's complaint was read to the meeting. Members agreed that a further letter is sent for the attention of the Monitoring Officer. Cllr. Jessop to draft a response.
- b) Ty Gwyn – Notification of Appeal by the Applicant. Notice has been received from the Inspector that all paperwork received is available to view.
- c) NP/21/0704/LBA – Martins Haven, Marloes – Listed Building Application for erection of visitor signage & NP/21/0689/ADV – Information Interpretation Panel. The Clerk advised that both applications needed to be considered because of the Listed Building status of the Deer Park Wall. The Council agreed that provided the notice was placed correctly, then no damage should result to the Wall. Clerk to respond accordingly.
- d) NP/21/0731/FUL - Elm Tree Cottage, Marloes – Improvements to dwelling house etc. The owner, at the invitation of the Chairman outlined the present problems she has with damp penetration, and a lack of facilities on the first floor. The comment by Mr. Rob Scourfield was noted, and it is the intention to protect the integrity of the old dwelling. After discussion, it was agreed that the improvements and alterations proposed will be a sympathetic modernisation to enable damp problems to be cured as well as providing necessary facilities to the building. It was also proposed, in line with previous similar applications, that if practical, the

applicant should fit south facing slope of the pitched roof with a solar PV array.

- e) Planning Applications/Determinations – Clerk advised that she is checking these regularly for any that many feature in this community.

## 7. Financial Matters

- a) Audit Update – At present, no information has been received from the Wales Audit Office as to when the audit process will be completed.
- b) Lloyds Bank – Treasurer’s Account – Closing Balance of £4,511.96 noted.
- c) Smiths of Derby – On the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Johnson the meeting approved the payment of £392.40p – includes VAT of £65.40 which will be reclaimed. The service cost £262 plus VAT and £65 plus VAT for the repair. Cllr. Smithies commented that the Council may have to request annual services in spite of the cost to avoid breakdowns of the mechanism. The Night Silencing Equipment is not causing breakdowns. Referred to the “actuating arm” causing problems. The clock is well over a 100 years old. Cllr Jessop suggested that the night silencing mechanism should be switched on and off regularly all year: this might avoid future breakdowns caused by infrequent use.
- d) Welsh Govt. - 24/11/21 – Appropriate sum under Section 137(4)9a) has increased from £8.41 to 38.82 per elector. Noted.
- e) PCC – 06/12/21 – Council Tax Base 2022/2023 – Notified that the tax base for the area as being a band “D” equivalent of 214.64. Precept for the next year to be set at the January Meeting. Clerk to prepare the necessary briefing papers.

## 8. Clock Tower

Maintenance/Repair - See item above.

Electric Bill – British Gas Evolve – Yet to receive an Invoice which will only show a charge for the Standing Order.

- 9. Welsh Govt. Second Homes consultation. Cllr. Jessop had circulated a relevant part of the document. Agreed, after discussion that Council members go through the paperwork to agree a response at the January



meeting. Clerk advised that she had requested figures of holiday homes and properties registered as businesses from PCC Finance (Nick Johns).

10. Meeting Agenda Matters – At the last meeting, Members had received a copy of the e-mail from Sue Davies – Clerk to St. Dogmaels, and who also mentors new Clerks for the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). Ms Davies had agreed with Cllr. Richards comment about emergency matters. Clerk now advised that she had circulated the e-mail response from Mr. Alun Harries, Mid & West Wales Development Officer of One Voice Wales. Also circulated were the Model Standing Orders produced by NALC for reference. He had confirmed most of the comments made by Ms. Davies.

Cllr. Smithies asked if anyone had heard if the County Council were involved in proposals to group small Community Council in the future. Clerk to check with Cllr. Owens.

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 when the draft minutes of this meeting will be submitted for approval. It is likely that this meeting will be held in the Village Hall. Covid regulations in force at that time will be observed. Cllr. Beal gave her advance apologies for that meeting.