

Minutes of the meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council held at Marloes Village Hall, starting at 1930 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

In attendance: Councillor Peter Smithies (Chairman), together with Cllrs. Christopher Jessop, Brian Johnson, James Kimpton and William Richards  
Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk.

Apologies – Cllr. Louise Beal & County Cllr. Reg Owens

The meeting recorded their condolences to Mr. Jim Platt & Family on the recent death of his wife Kathryn.

- 1) Declarations of Interest – None declared.
- 2) The minutes of the December 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 & Surface Water Problems– Clerk has sent details of all these to PCC Officer, Emrys Llewellyn, as well as more recent issues. No response as yet. Cllr. Jessop to provide photographs. Clerk to check the position on the cracked pavement in the Glebe Lane. Noted that the firm, Andrew Gray were working on repairing road edges in the Slate Mill to Mullock area. Later in the meeting it was noted that building bags had been left on the road outside Gibby's , Marloes for many months.

Speed Warning Sign – Cllr. Jessop has asked Claire Williams, PCC to provide a report to be included in the February/March issue of Peninsula Papers.

Other Matters Arising

Emergency Phones – Clerk has been advised by Myrddin Dennis( PCC ) that BT have repaired the Marloes Sands phone. Cllr. Jessop has identified that although working, there is no audible sign that the phone is live until you press 1. He has recently checked the Martins Haven emergency phone and that is not working. Clerk has reported these problems. A new 999 sign is also needed by the Marloes Sands phone.

Platinum Jubilee 2022 – Further updates received. 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. Music is yet to be arranged for the Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June evening – Clerk to speak to Mike Cottam. Cllr. Smithies believed a group may be forming to consider other activities for the Bank Holiday weekend.

Wedding Receptions – The Clerk drew attention to the recent e-mail from Pauline Louchart, of the Covid Response Team. This information does not consider noise issues.

Skomer MCZ – E-mail from Kate Lock. Advised the next Advisory Meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Street Lights – Cllr. Richards drew attention to a problem tonight with several street lights at Gaylane Terrace, Marloes – to be reported. A further problem with one of the lights at West End, Marloes to be also reported.

#### 4. Community Issues

COVID 19 – Wales had moved to Level 4 before Christmas, as levels of the Omicron cases were high across Wales, as well as across the United Kingdom. Village Halls are again restricted in use. Wearing of masks continues to be compulsory in retail outlets in Wales. Cllr. Smithies confirmed that the proposed Coffee Mornings cannot now be held weekly in Marloes Hall in January as intended. The Clerk has displayed details of services available elsewhere while the Shop & PO are closed on the Village Hall Notice Board, and on the Village website. Formal notification of the Post Office temporary closure had been received from the Post Office National Consultation Manager.

Village Green, Footpath & Beach matters. Cllr. Jessop confirmed that the Beach Clean took place on Marloes Sands on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Over 40 bags of rubbish were collected, and brought to the Car Park. All bags were collected by the County Council, leaving 2 fire extinguishers, which are yet to be dealt with. Cllr. Jessop advised that clean rope and net can be recycled by contacting Sue Burton.

Frankies Lane, Marloes – Mr. Cullen advised that PCNP do not propose taking any further work on the Lane surface.

Footpath, Little Haven to St. Brides – Cllr. Richards advised that the section of path near St Brides Cottages is very slippery, and there is a risk of users falling onto the rocks below. Clerk to contact Vicky Sewell, PCNP Ranger and ask her to meet Cllr. Richards.

Recreation Area – Noted that apart from improvements to the hedge in places, there is also a need to clear brambles from the section of hedge alongside the pavement. The fence behind is slowly collapsing.

National Trust Matters /Car Parks– No information as yet on a new sign. Arrangements have been made for a session at Marloes Village Hall to register for new car parking permits for 2022, subject to Covid regulations in place at the time. Noted that one of the pay machines in the Marloes Sands car park often does not work because of internal condensation.

## 5. Correspondence.

Clerks & Councils Direct - Issue 139, January 2022 – Passed to Cllr. Jessop reference the article on the Climate Emergency

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

14/12/21 – OVW – Welsh Tax Acts etc. (Power to Modify) Bill.

14/12/21 – OVW – Laying of the Eligible Community Councils (Gen. Powers of Competence)(Qualif. of Clerks)(Wales) Regs. 2021 – circulated to Councillors.

15/12/21 – National Lottery Fund – Funding available.

15/12/21 Shaping Wales Future - National Stakeholders Forum.

15/12/21 – OVW – Welsh Govt. Councillors Remuneration & Citizen Engagement in Wales. - Reports.

15/12/21 – OVW – Welsh Govt. Reports from the Minister of Social Justice.

15/12/21 – PCC – UK Community Ownership Fund.

15/12/21 – PCC – Courier Fraud Awareness Flyer – Passed to Rosemary Royle to go on the website.

17/12/21 – Boundary Comm. For Wales – Representations & Future Consultations.

17/12/21 – OVW – Heritage Fund – NHMF – Covid 19 Response Fund in Wales.

17/12/21 – OVW – LG Partnerships @gov.wales – Draft Statutory Guidance re Elections.

20/12/21 -Cllr. Reg Owens – Synopsis of applications for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund.

20/12/21 – Pembs. Coastal Forum (Alex Cameron Smith) – 2 Workshops – Pembs Public Services Board – Climate Adaptation Strategy.

21/12/21 – Office of Police Crime Comm. Consultation re “Do you feel safe in your local area?”

04/01/22 – OVW – Welsh Govt. Draft Budget 22/23.

10/01/22 – PCC – 2 citizens required for the Governance & Audit Committee.

10/01/22 – PCC – Mr. Emyr John has been appointed as the Project Officer for Town & Community Councils.

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. Cllr. Smithies to review draft letter to the PCNP Monitoring officer and then advise Clerk.
- b) Ty Gwyn – Notification of Appeal by the Applicant. Cllr. Jessop understood that the Inspector is due to publish his conclusions shortly.
- c) Seasons Greeting had been received from PCNP.
- d) Consultation Documents issued reference the Joint( PCC/PCNP) SPG on the Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines; also Guidance on other PCNP policy. Hard copies can be requested.
- 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 – No information has been received again this month from the Wales Audit Office as to when the audit process will be completed.
- b) Lloyds Bank – Treasurer's Account – Closing Balance of £3,731.96 (09/12/21) noted.
- c) Budget Review 2021/22; Draft Budget 2022/23; Precept 2022/23.

The Clerk had circulated papers relating to the Review and the Draft Budget. The following points were noted in relation to the finance required for some budget headings:-

Councillors Allowance - £900 required in case of claims by individual Councillors. – 6 x £150. No claims in this financial year.

Election Expense - Up to this year the Council had been building a fund of up to £3000 for election expenses. Recently the County Council had changed policy and Councils would have up to five years to pay after an election. The Clerk had requested via Cllr. Owens, an estimate of the minimum fee a Council was likely to be charged in the event of a formal election not being necessary. To date no figure had been provided.

Clock Tower 10 Year Painting Plan – £150 pa – now in Year 3.

Clock Tower Electric Charge – At present, the Council is paying £20 per month to catch up on payment following the introduction of a standing charge when British Gas took over from Ebico. Usage has been limited so that the end of this year the Council may pay less. The fixed contract of charges will end in September 2022. It was agreed that Cllr. Jessop will review what suppliers may be available who may not levy a Standing Charge. Noted that the energy market is volatile at present with many companies having gone under.

Training Plan – This may be required for a new Clerk, and also in the Autumn the Council will need to prepare a training plan for Councillors. This can cost from £30-£50 a session.

Clerk Vacancy - Agenda Item 9 will cover the retirement of the present Clerk. The Council may have to fund training, a computer, and also pay at a nationally agreed rate – above the present payment this year of £850.

There may also need to be an allowance for a pension if requested, as the Clerk would be a registered employee of the Council.

After discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Smithies, seconded by Cllr. Richards that the Council request a precept of £3,300 for the 2022/2023 year. It was agreed, that with the change in policy on the payment of election expenses there was sufficient funds available to increase the Clerk's payment as necessary, and to allow for training costs. The Council will consider paying up to £1500 pa depending on the number of hours agreed. This would be in line with the figure paid by Councils in this area.

d) Third Precept of £1033 received in the 2021/22 year.

## 8. Clock Tower

Maintenance/Repair - No matters to raise.

9. Welsh Govt. Second Homes consultation on planning legislation & policy of second homes and short term holiday lets. No information received from PCC Finance (Nick Johns) as yet. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk ask County Cllr. Reg Owens if this matter has, or will be considered by both PCC and PCNP, and if the Community Council can receive an indication as to whether they would be removing Permitted Development Rights on second homes. A decision would need to be made at the next meeting if any response is to be sent by the deadline.

10. Retirement of Clerk/Vacancy – Members were sorry to hear from the Clerk that she has submitted a letter to the Chairman advising she will be retiring from the position of Clerk on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Mrs. Evans advised she will have completed 42 years of service by that date. Cllr. Richards stated that the Council appreciated the energy, effort, application and diligence she had applied to the role of Clerk over the years, and they are indebted to her for her dedicated service. This was seconded by all present.

A draft advert for the vacancy will be prepared by the Clerk to be approved by the Chair and Vice Chair. The advert will be put in Peninsula Papers, and also

submitted to One Voice Wales/PCC for circulation to other Clerks in the area. A closing date for application was agreed for the 25<sup>th</sup> February, with interviews to take place by mid March.

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 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.