Brawdy Community Council

## Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brawdy Community Council held remotely on Thursday 24th March 2022.

2022/27.

1. Present. Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Tierney, Cllr Mrs A Loch Cllr D E Jones and Sean O’Connor (Clerk).

2. Apologies. Cllr Mrs A Morgan and Cllr Mrs G Lawrence.

3. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The clerk confirmed that the minutes of the February 2022 meeting had been properly proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. This was ratified at the meeting, and the clerk confirmed that the minutes had been added to the BCC website.

4. The Chairman asked each councillor in turn, and there were no declarations of interest declared for any item on the agenda.

5. Matters arising from the February 2022 meeting.

5a. The clerk confirmed that the official signed confirmation had been received from PCC regarding the Enhancing Pembs Grant Scheme for our defibrillator and book swap kiosk project at Trefgarn Owen. The total was for £2131, of which we were receiving £1704 (80%). It was agreed that the first step was to obtain an Mpan number from SSE for the electricity supply, and the Chairman offered to attend to this. It was also agreed not to commence the payment for any item until the new financial year commenced. The next steps could be discussed at the April meeting.

5b. The clerk reported slow progress regarding the defibrillator project at Penycwm. Welsh Hearts Charity had been very slow regarding providing information on a solar cabinet, and whether it was possible to provide solar heating for a standalone site outdoors. A quote was received for an enclosed solar cabinet, but this was much more expensive than the ordinary standard cabinet. Details of a website supplier had also been received, and the clerk would forward these to councillors. It was unanimously agreed that the solar issue was the most important issue, and once the details had been viewed and considered, this matter could be finalised at the next meeting.

5c. The clerk confirmed that he had finally received confirmation from Welsh Hearts that the replacement defibrillator pads for Newgale had been sent. The Chairman would check, and let the clerk know if they are not received.

5d. Our donation to Llanreithan churchyard had still not been settled, as there was no bank account in that name, and could not be allocated through Brawdy Church. Cllr Loch agreed to contact the vicar again and seek the best course of action.

5e. It was confirmed that the new bus stop project at Penycwm had been completed, and all councillors that had visited the site, agreed that a very good job had been done.

5f. The clerk confirmed that the letter prepared by Cllr Loch regarding the nature tracks and footpaths had been forwarded to Sean Tilling at PCC as agreed at the February meeting.

5g. The clerk confirmed that the the details of the countryside code for landowners and managers had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

5h. The Chairman advised that nothing further had been done regarding the damaged concrete posts at Bryn Golau Trefgarn Owen. We are still awaiting a response from PCC. It was also advised that the suggestion of a barbed wire fence had been put to the landowner.

Election May 22.

6a. Nomination Forms. The Chairman advised that he had taken some of the nomination forms in to County Hall for checking. Some were accepted, but there were still some outstanding, and he agreed to attend to these. He also offered assistance in the completion of the forms to any councillor, that needed help. The clerk confirmed the last date for acceptance was April 4th.

6b. The clerk advised that the election office had advised that a notice of election must be displayed in a prominent place in the community. As we had 5 notice boards in different village locations, this was raised with County Hall. They agreed that as long as one notice was placed in prominent area, and also featured on our community information board, this was sufficient. The clerk would forward the notices to Cllr Carter, who agreed to attend to this.

6c. Details of the cost of the election was discussed. If there was a contested election the cost to us would amount to £4165. If it was combined with a county council election, it would be £300 to £500 less. If there was an uncontested election the fee was £225.

At present all six existing community councillors were prepared to stand again

 for re-election.

Pembs County Council.

7. Advice had been given by the clerk prior to the meeting of a temporary road closure at Treffynnon (C3113) on 21/3 to remove a blockage. Received and filed.

8. Notice of a 3-day road closure at Llandeloy for essential telephone cabling work. (24/3 to 26/3). had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting. Received and filed.

9. County councillor’s monthly update.

Cllr Carter advised of impending changes in the planning department in Haverfordwest, and the possibility of a new Eco-Park in Thornton Milford Haven. He also advised that there was not as much interest being shown by community councillors and county councillors in the impending elections, and advised that there was likely to be some uncontested seats. He also confirmed that PCC had set a 5% increase in the council tax payments for the new financial year. He advised that the second home premium of 100% would start from April 2022, in Pembrokeshire, but details of an increase to up to 300%, set by the Welsh Government were unconfirmed as yet.

Other Correspondence.

10. Training dates and courses for March and April had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting.

11. Details of a change of date for the quarterly regional OVW had been advised, with the new date set at 11/4/22. Agenda would follow shortly.

12. Details of the “Trees for all” project had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

Pembs Coast National Park.

13.Planning application Ref No. NP/22/0126/FUL. Demolition of single storey kitchen/bathroom and chimney, and erection of new single storey kitchen/bathroom and extension and installation of 2 roof lights at Three Houses Roch Haverfordwest.

The Chairman showed the drawings and plans on the shared screen, which were discussed and considered by our community councillors. Essentially it was a ground floor extension at the rear of the property. It was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr J Tierney and unanimously agreed that we reply in support of this application.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

14.The Clerk advised of bank account balances as at 24/3/22 as: Current Account £123.67, Deposit Account £2690.24, and Election Deposit Account £4275.42. These figures had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting and were confirmed on the shared screen.

15. The monthly bank statement was shown on the shared screen, which confirmed the above balances.

16. The clerk’s salary and income tax payments for March were not included, as it was too early in the month. The clerk confirmed that it was for the standard 16 hours only, but would also include the back pay agreed at the last meeting and confirmed by our accountants.

17. The clerks revised contract of employment was confirmed including the new hourly pay rate of £11.67. This was signed by the Chairman and clerk and unanimously agreed. The clerk was also asked to check the current mileage allowance rate, for travel on council business, as the contract showed 40p per mile.

18. The clerk submitted a claim for reimbursement of expenses for the period 1/1/22 to 31/3/22, amounting to £79.99. This was shown on the shared screen, and supported by receipts. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr J Tierney that this be paid.

19. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr D E Jones that we transfer £80 to cover payments agreed at this meeting.

20.The date and time for the next meeting was set for Monday 25th April remotely at 7.30pm. It was generally agreed that the format of Zoom meetings was working very well, and the question raised whether there was a need to return to meetings at the schoolroom in Trefgarn Owen at this time. The clerk advised that we legally have to meet at least once a year to agree and accept the annual audit. It was agreed that a suitable date and venue be discussed for this, to also include the AGM, at our April meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

On the day following the meeting an invoice was received by the clerk, from the Wales Audit Office for the 2020/21 audit. This amounted to £200, which was £81 less than last year. To ensure its inclusion in this year’s figures it was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr M Carter that it be paid. The clerk would attend to this, and include it on the agenda for the next meeting for full ratification.