BRAWDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brawdy Community Council (November) held remotely on Monday December 5th 2022.

2022/25.

1. Present. Cllr J Tierney, Cllr Mrs A Morgan, Cllr Mrs A Loch, Cllr M Carter and Sean O'Connor Clerk.

2. Apologies. Cllr D E Jones .

3. The clerk confirmed that the minutes of the October 2022 monthly meeting had been properly proposed and seconded and had been added to the BCC website.

4. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the calendar year, and asked each councillor in turn whether they had any declarations of Interest for any item on the agenda. There were none declared.

5. Matters arising from the October 22 meeting.

5a. Defibrillator project at Trefgarn Owen. Cllr Carter advised that the project was nearly completed, with just the notice board and an additional light to be fitted this week. He shared photographs on the shared screen, and everybody agreed that it did look impressive. The details would be added to our community information page, and all book donations could be dropped off to Cllr Carter. An invoice for the work had been forwarded to the clerk for payment.

5b. Defibrillator project at Penycwm.

Cllr Carter confirmed that this project had also been completed, with photographs shared to all councillors.

All that remained was for the registration process to be completed, and a training session finalised. An invoice for the completed work had been forwarded to the clerk for payment.

 On behalf of BCC the Chairman thanked Cllr Carter for his work with both of these projects.

5c. Cllr Carter confirmed that the repair work for the village benches would be completed later this week.

5d. Unfortunately as the Chairman had been ill recently, the meeting to discuss the local footpaths and bridle paths and signage with Cllr Loch, had not taken place. They would arrange to meet in the near future.

5e. The clerk confirmed that the correct procedures had been adhered to regarding the recruitment of a new community councillor. A notice had been placed on the BCC website as well as featuring in all of our village notice boards. After the elapse of 14 working days we had been contacted by the election department at PCC, confirming that no election was required, as no notices had been received by them, and confirming that we were now able to co-opt. We had received one application  to fill the position from Mr William Lawrence. After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that we approach Mr Lawrence and offer him the position and invite him to our next meeting. Once an acceptance was received PCC would be informed accordingly, and the registration process completed.

5f. Cllr Carter advised that although the overhanging trees near  Middle -Mill were not in our area, and were the responsibility of the landowners, he had reported the case to PCC.

Correspondence.

PEMBS COUNTY COUNCIL.

6. Planning Application Consultation. Ref No. 22/0686/PA. Single storey side extension at Davidsons Llandeloy Haverfordwest.

The details of this application had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting, and the details were featured on the shared screen. The case was discussed, and it was agreed that due to its location, it was not really affecting anyone. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr Carter that we support this application. This was unanimously agreed and the clerk would reply to PCC accordingly.

7. Notification received from PCC regarding a refusal of Planning Application Ref No. 22/0476/PA. Steel framed building for storage and distribution with ancillary office in retrospect at Bail 4 Castle Villa Llandeloy Haverfordwest. Received and filed.

8. Prior to the meeting details of draft regulations to amend council tax and extend extensions to second home premiums were sent to councillors. The consultation period was to run until 22/12/22 and councillors were encouraged to participate. The Chairman would also add the link to our community information page.

8. The clerk had received an invoice from the Election Department at PCC, for the cost of the uncontested election in May 2022. The cost was £225. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that this be paid.

9. County councillors monthly update.

Cllr Carter advised of a lengthy meeting at County Hall regarding the budget for 2023/24. He informed the meeting that there is a likely shortfall of £28 million, which would equate to a 40% increase in council tax to cover the cost entirely. There is likely to be cuts in over 100 areas, but  they are hoping to avoid redundancies. Public toilets, grass cutting, and many other repairs could be cut, with possibly some disappearing altogether, and only essential areas could remain untouched. The week commencing 12 December would see the final settlement figure  from the Welsh Government released which would give PCC a clearer picture of the savings required. Cllr Carter advised he would support a 5% Council Tax increase, but warned that it is likely to be more. A budget consultation was to go live online shortly with residents asked to participate and vote online for an increase of between 3% and 15%. Once this was received the clerk would forward it to councillors, and the Chairman would add this to the BCC information page.

Other Correspondence.

10. Details of the St. Davids peninsular community home energy advice service had been issued to councillors prior to the meeting. This was received and filed with the chairman agreeing to add the details to the BCC information page.

11. Details were received from the Welsh office of the expenditure limits for 2023/24. This was set at £9.93 per elector. This would be considered during the precept request discussion.

12. Since the agreed annual pay increase for clerks' had been agreed, the annual contract of employment was now completed. This was signed by the Chairman and the clerk and unanimously agreed.

13. The clerk issued a list of our annual Donations for 2021/22. This amounted to £700, and was £75 each for the  4 local chapels and churches, and £100 each to Paul Sartori, Shalom, Solva Surgery and Wales Air Ambulance. A discussion took place for the current year, and it was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch that we increase the payment to the Wales Air Ambulance to £200, and leave all of the others unchanged. This was unanimously agreed. This would be a total of £800.The clerk would attend to this in January.

14. Prior to the meeting the clerk had prepared a financial review for the current year, comparing the figures to previous years. This had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting to consider. Bearing in mind the reduced amount required to cover the election costs, and the probable increase to council tax, the question was raised as to whether we should consider a decrease to our precept request for 2023/24. A lengthy discussion took place with the  proposed figures considered, and the current bank balances held. It was proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan, that we reduce our precept request from £6615 to £5750, which was a decrease of 13%. This was unanimously agreed, and the clerk would respond accordingly when the annual request form was received from PCC.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

15. The clerk reported bank account balances as at 5/12/22 as: Current account £50.03, Deposit account £1963.21 and Election account £4276.53. Confirmation of these was shown on the shared screen.

16. The monthly bank statement was also featured on the shared screen which confirmed the above balances and the recent transactions.

17. The clerks' salary payslip for October including the agreed back dated pay increase was featured on the shared screen. The pay for December was for the standard 16 hours, and this would be submitted to our accountant.

18. The clerk submitted a claim for reimbursement of expenses from August to November 22 , amounting to £59.63, including receipts.

It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that this be paid.

19. It was proposed that we pay the invoice for the BCC community vests amounting to £76.90, which was agreed at a previous meeting. The Chairman would feature these community  vests on our community information page, and can be used by anyone conducting community business. These were available from Cllr Carter.

20. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that we transfer the sum of £225 from our election account, and £475 from our deposit account to cover the payments agreed at this meeting, including the payments for the defibrillator projects.

21. The date for the next meeting was  provisionally set for Monday February 6th 2023 remotely at 7.30pm. If anything urgent arose the clerk would contact councillors immediately.

At the discretion of the Chairman.

Cllr Carter advised that he would forward any details of budget decisions, or any matter that affected the community.

Before closing the meeting at 8.35 pm, the Chairman wished everyone a very merry Christmas.