



CYNGOR CYMUNED MARLOES & ST BRIDES MARLOES & ST BRIDES COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MINUTES of Meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Monday 10th July 2023

Marloes Village Hall, 7.30pm

Clerk and Finance Officer

In attendance: Christopher Jessop (CJ), Peter Smithies (PS), Maren Hamre (MH) and Clerk; Bradley Challinor (BC)

By formal invitation: N/A

1. Apologies: Louise Beal (LB), Camille Titley (CT), Steve Powell (SP) and Cllr Reg Owens (RO)

2. Declaration of Interest: Cllr PS - NP/22/0314/FUL: Philbeach Farm planning.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held at 19:30 on 10th July 2023 in Marloes Village Hall proposed and approved by Marloes and St Brides Community Council vice chair (CJ) and seconded by Cllr PS.

Minutes to be scanned and electronically archived by clerk (BC). Action points from the 10th July 2023 meeting discussed and completed.

Agenda point 6 planning matters moved to the beginning of the meeting to support a member of the public viewpoints.

NP/23/0395/FUL: Winterton, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Farm diversification to convert redundant store shed to ancillary storage/plant.

Our Community Council considered this application at our meeting on Sept 4th 2023.

We support the application: there is a definite demand for more modest accommodation in our area, and re-development of existing agricultural buildings is a good way of providing it.

Regarding vehicle access, we ask that a condition of granting permission should be a stipulation that in perpetuity all traffic associated with this development must gain access via Winterton Farm.

Regarding safety, we suggest a re-design of the apron inside the western entrance so that a gate separates farm vehicle traffic from the shepherd hut parking plot. This should keep children clear of tractors etc.

As with every development we consider, we ask that the central store & facility building is fitted with solar PV modules. Furthermore if this development is to be operated off grid, which would be a huge sustainability plus, we would have no objection to micro wind turbines being added to improve the provision of clean power in the shoulder seasons.

We understand that if the development is to be off-grid, it would not be possible to provide electric vehicle charge points on site; in that case we would encourage the provision of at least one bespoke charge point at Winterton Farm.

Re landscaping, we propose that native hedging is planted inside the stock fencing which will separate the plot from the fields. This would soften the setting, it would create a wildlife refuge while delivering some carbon sequestration, and would give some shelter from northerly winds in this very open setting.

NP/23/0397/LBA: Winterton Farm, North Lane, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Dismantle & remove two modern farm buildings & grain silo, convert stone workshop.

Our Community Council considered this application at our meeting on Sept 4th 2023.

We support the application.

- 1. It is far better for surplus agricultural buildings to be carefully dismantled so their components can be re-used, rather than leave them unmaintained to deteriorate, becoming eyesores and possible hazards. Also, removing the buildings and silo as proposed will help visually separate the listed farmhouse from the modern farming complex.*
- 2. We appreciate that the annex is too closely connected to the farmhouse to be a possible separate dwelling.*
- 3. In line with our general support of renewable energy we are very much in favour of the building-mounted PV, and hope that the applicant will be able to increase clean energy production once they have a higher capacity grid connection.*

4. Community Issues

4.1. Broadway Fibre Broadband

Complaint email sent from Marloes and St Brides Community Council to Stephen Crabb, Paul Davies and Pembrokeshire County Council.

Please see email complaint below:

Subject: Broadway Broadband

Gentlemen

Further to discussions at our Community Council meeting on Monday, July 10th, we are writing to you to share two concerns of our community resulting from the financial problems of Broadway Broadband. We would appreciate your assistance in both applying pressure through your communication channels, so that we get some progress as soon as possible.

ROAD SAFETY

Some while ago we raised our concerns about the fact that Broadway Broadband were putting up new poles and overhead fibre cable runs beside and across Pembrokeshire roads, without any notices informing the general public who should be contacted, and how, in the event of for example a road accident damaging a pole or bringing it down, or poles or overhead gear coming down in extreme weather. As far as we can see, nothing has been done; the

season of grain and bale bulk haulage has begun, and we know from past experience that this is when there is much more chance of damage to streetlamps, road signs, and BT Open Reach infrastructure. As soon as possible, someone needs to force whoever is running Broadway to put notices on all their roadside equipment clearly showing the pole, etc., number and giving 24-hour helpline phone numbers which will connect people to a live operator, not an answering service.

CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

1. Numerous community residents who have signed up with Broadway and have had their equipment installed are complaining of unacceptably low system performance; they report that they get no response to their complaints, whichever way they try to submit them.
2. Other residents complain that they are in limbo, Broadway installation still being promised but nothing happening, and therefore problems deciding what to do about existing phone and broadband contracts.
3. We as a Community Council have always had great difficulty contacting Broadway about them making serious installation errors:
 - not checking on land ownership before proceeding with pole erection or mole ploughing;
 - not checking beforehand for existing underground services and therefore damaging them;
 - putting up poles when they should be observing landscape value as per National Park protocols and running cables underground;
 - putting up unnecessary extra poles because the local gangs refuse to put fibre cables onto existing National Grid low-voltage poles although the procedure was agreed long before any work started in Pembrokeshire.

We look forward to hearing from you about these pressing issues.

Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Responses received:

Good morning,

Thank you for your e-mail where I was concerned to read of the issues the Community Council has raised regarding Broadway Broadband. I understand that whilst Broadway Broadband has recently gone into administration, senior staff are still employed prior to the sale of the business. I will forward the Community Council's comments to Broadway Broadband, and once I receive a response I will contact you again.

I presume you have also contacted the Broadband Team at Pembrokeshire County Council who I understand are regularly meeting senior staff at Broadway Broadband.

Should I be of any further assistance in the meantime then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Paul Davies

Good evening,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Broadway Broadband. I can certainly appreciate the concerns of the Community Council since the announcement that Broadway was entering into administration. I am further concerned at the lack of information that has been made available since the communication from Pembrokeshire County Council.

Paul Davies has advised that he has taken the lead in contacting Broadway, and it would be right to allow him to complete his enquiries. I also join Paul in encouraging you to contact the Digital Pembrokeshire team at Pembrokeshire County Council in ensuring that you are provided with updates as they occur.

Kind regards,

Stephen Crabb

Dear Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Cllr Reg Owens has been in contact with us regarding your email to Stephen Crabb MP & Paul Davies MS, Cllr Owens has asked that I contact you.

This is a courtesy email to let you know that as a council we are fully committed to Gigabit-capable broadband throughout the county.

As you know Broadway Partners went into administration. We understand that, under the guidance of Teneo Financial Advisory, this process is working to a conclusion.

We understand there will be an announcement within 3-weeks which will outline the way ahead.

Apologies that there is not more to say at this stage, please rest assured that you will be notified as soon as announcements are made.

Regards,

*Patrick Hannon
Broadband Delivery Programme Manager
Pembrokeshire County Council*

AP Clerk to follow up Broadband fibre issue with PCC (following last correspondence).

4.2. Footpaths and Beach

Cllr CJ pointed out the issues with dog mess on the Musslewick path. Action Point ongoing with bog rubbish bin due to POC Vicky Swell being on maternity leave. Action point ongoing.

4.3. Recreation Area / Playing Fields / Village Hall

Cllr CJ confirmed the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant was under review by PCC. Once the review was complete and grant request forms were available Community Council would work with the Playing Field committee to support the park gate renovation.

Cllr MH to speak with playing field committee to organise a QR code to support fundraising for the park.

4.4. Clock Tower

The clerk and RFO now has access to British Gas accounts for the clock tower electricity account. Cllr happy for surplus to be refunded and DD adjusted to £5.00 per month.

4.5. Highways

No updates

4.6. National Trust

The damaged Car Park hut has been removed and a replacement shed from the National Trust has been installed.

4.7. Treatment Plant

Foxdale Guesthouse and Campsite have emailed Welsh Water. Council are in support and Clerk has emailed Welsh Water to express their support of the email sent.

No further updates – agenda point removed.

4.8. Rubbish Bin (used for household waste)

No further updates – agenda point removed.

4.9. Toilets

Clerk has replied to PCC recommending the National Park take responsibility at St Brides. The Community Council Cllrs will not be taking financial responsibility for the potential closure of the toilets.

No further updates from PCC, National Parks / Trust and Welsh Government on the toilet closure.

PCC made residents aware they will re-visiting toilet closures and funding following the local community dislike to the closure proposals.

Dale Community Council will be using the Car Park income to fund their toilet closures (agreed by PCC). Is this something Marloes and St Brides Community Council could adopt (Cllrs to look into the possibility of charging for their car parks).

4.10. St Brides Walled Garden

No updates – action points ongoing

Cllrs not happy with the responses / lack of action from PCNPA. **AP** Cllr CJ to email Yvonne to discuss a joint approach with the Church committee to approaching PCNPA regarding the St Brides Walled Garden. **Ongoing**

Cllr SP to take photos of lack of up keep to buildings to support Cllrs CJ action above. **Ongoing**

4.11. Village Benches

Cllr CJ confirmed the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant was under review by PCC. Once the review was complete and grant request forms were available Community Council would work with the Welcome Club to support the village bench proposal.

4.12. Hedge Cutting

No further updates – agenda point removed.

4.13. Pembrokeshire County Council 2nd / Empty Homes Consultation

No further updates – agenda point removed.

4.14. Trig Point Beacon

No further updates – agenda point removed.

4.15. Hywel Dda Consultation

No further updates – agenda point removed.

5. Correspondence and Councillors Updates / Clerks Report

Community Council boundaries were discussed as part of the Clerks report / recent correspondence from Cllr Reg Owens.

Marloes and St Brides would not be open to an amalgamation. Cllrs agreed the large amount of work already discussed / actioned in current Community Council meetings.

Cllrs would be happy to hold a meeting with local community councils Tish and Dale to discuss the potential new community council boundaries item.

AP Cllr LB to invite Tish and Dale to a meeting Dale to discuss the potential new community council boundaries item.

6. Planning matters

PCNPA Development Control updates:

NP/22/0314/FUL: Philbeach Farm, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3QU. Conversion of redundant RAF wireless building which has been used for agricultural storage but is now in a bad state of repair into holiday let use. **Declined**

AP Clerk to email PCNPA for decision in writing.

NP/23/0233/FUL: Marloes Mere, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3BH. Removal of southern reservoir bunds, relocation of Public Right of Way, implementation of new southern boundary hedgerow & new causeway path at Britton Hide with new tractor gate. **Comments added in previous meeting**

NP/23/0300/FUL: Harveys Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AZ. Flat roof rear extension to existing dwelling plus alterations to the existing internal layout. **Comments added to PCNPA website. Cllrs happy with planning, but would recommend solar panels.**

NP/23/0329/FUL: North Haven Wardens House, Skomer Island, Nr Martins Haven, Marloes, Haverfordwest, SA62 3BJ. Small extension to the exterior of the existing building to house a composting toilet. **Comments added to PCNPA. Cllrs in full support.**

NP/23/0380/FUL: Anchor Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AZ. Proposed alterations, extension & cladding and retrospective permission for removal of chimney. **Comments added**

Our Community Council considered this application at our meeting on Sept 4th 2023.

We object to this application: the application of dark synthetic cladding which will not weather would give the building a permanently unsympathetic gloomy and artificial appearance. The original render finish should be retained, lightly coloured: conforming with the local vernacular practice, and minimising the visual weight in this prominent village setting.

We also note as follows:

- 1. As with every appropriate application we consider, we ask that as part of the re-development package the house roof should be fitted with solar PV modules: a remodelling of the sort under way here is the perfect opportunity to improve the property's sustainability and greatly reduce its carbon footprint. By using PV trays, the visual impact is minimised and the quantity of slates/tiles required is greatly reduced – greener and cheaper.*
- 2. Further to sustainability, we are highly disappointed that the applicant no longer intends to install a heat pump. A heat pump would have greatly reduced the house's carbon emissions – especially so, in combination with solar PV.*

NP/23/0395/FUL: Winterton, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Farm diversification to convert redundant store shed to ancillary storage/plant. **Comments added**

NP/23/0397/LBA: Winterton Farm, North Lane, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Dismantle & remove two modern farm buildings & grain silo, convert stone workshop. **Comments added**

7. Financial matters

- 1. Financial year 2021/22 Audit:** Submitted to Audit Wales (documents finalised).
- 2. Financial year 2022/23 Audit:** Internal Audit pending. Documents to be submitted to Audit Wales following internal audit process.
- 3. Financial year 2023/24 budget set:** approved and will budget review in November Community Council Meeting.
- 4. Banking updates:** Signatures and correspondence address updated with Lloyds TSB. Cheques signed and sent for BHIB Insurance and Web Hosting (PP).
- 5. British Gas:** **AP** Clerk to contact British Gas to collect refund on clock tower surplus.

8. AOB and Next Marloes & St Brides Community Council meeting date.

Cllr CJ to write to respond to Flexi Bus email and propose a Community Council meeting with Dale and Tish to discuss issues further.

Next meeting: Monday 13th November 2023. Marloes Village Hall 19.30



Clerk