BRAWDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brawdy Community Council held remotely on Wednesday 29/11/23.

2023/34.

1. Present. Cllr J Tierney, Cllr Mrs A Loch, Cllr M Carter, Cllr D E Jones, Cllr W Lawrence, Sean O'Connor Clerk, and Guest, Mr. Julian Harries representing Trefgarn Owen Chapel.

2. Apologies. None.

3. The clerk confirmed that the minutes of the October 2023 meeting had been properly proposed and seconded, and added to the BCC website.

4. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Carter declared a personal interest in items 5f and 14 on the agenda, as a neighbouring landowner. No further declarations were received.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the calendar year, and as Mr Harries was present, he  decided to deal with the items (5f & 14) that were relating to Trefgarn Owen Chapel first.

5f.) Mr Harries confirmed that he had visited the schoolroom, and advised that in his opinion, its' condition was unchanged since the last election. He was challenged by councillors on this, and was asked about the safety for future elections, bearing in mind the condition of the flooring, the kitchen and bathroom facilities,and also the current state of the electricals. Also any future use for community council meetings would require  reliable WiFi, if it were to be used as a community facility. As the hall is not getting used, the condition is getting worse, and there was a serious concern raised regarding it's safety to hold an election, should one get called. Mr Harries advised that the Fire and Electricity regulations are all up to date, but agreed that the condition was deteriorating. He agreed to call a meeting of the chapel trustees, and members, to discuss all of  these issues, and also revisit the possibilities of obtaining grants. He promised to report back to the community council before our scheduled meeting at the end of January 2024.

14. Over the last few weeks evidence of damage to the roof of Trefgarn Owen chapel had been noticed and advised to Mr Harries by community councillors. Incidents including loose roof slates, and falling debris, had been highlighted, which was a serious safety concern for neighbours. Mr Harries advised that he was aware of the situation, and had contacted a local builder, but was disappointed to advise, that the issue had not yet been attended to. Cllr Carter expressed concern regarding safety,  as a neighbour, local land owner and community and county councillor, as the situation was now becoming  dangerous. Mr Harries agreed that the matter was now serious, and would chase the builder to attend urgently. He also agreed to discuss the matter with the chapel trustees and members, to consider their options. He advised that it is an old roof, of approximately 100 years old, and the cost of replacement would be astronomical. He  has looked into the possibility of short and long term grant aid, and also confirmed that there is public liability insurance in place, but is unsure as to who would be liable, if an incident occurred. Everyone agreed that this matter was very serious, and Mr Harries agreed to report back to us once the builder had completed his inspection.

The clerk was instructed to send a copy of the minutes to Mr Harries to present to the trustees and members.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harries for his attendance, and Mr Harries left the meeting.

5a. Cllr Carter advised that the case of the blocked pipe between Llochmeyler and Trenichol bridge had been reported to County Hall, but this was on a long list of outstanding jobs. Cllr Jones had not yet spoken to Gavin Pritchard regarding the drainage problem at Castell Cwcw, he will chase this matter up over the next few days. Cllr Carter also advised of damage to the sign and plant box at Trefgarn Owen, the cause of which was unknown. He offered to chase this up with County Hall also.

5b. Cllr Jones agreed to chase up the outstanding matter of  the signage for large vehicles on the B4330.

5c. Cllr Tierney had purchased wood and materials to repair the seating at the bus shelter at Trefgarn Owen . It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Loch that he be reimbursed the sum of £42.57. The clerk would attend to this.

5d. Cllr Loch advised that a survey team from PCC was in the process of surveying the paths and bridleways,in our area. Once that is complete, the signage would commence. She advised that a legal enforcement officer was in place to ensure that all the tracks are opened and labelled. Cllr Tierney confirmed that the funding for this exercise was coming from the Welsh Govt and not PCC. She asked councillors to inform other landowners that this process was taking place. She also confirmed that an area of the  path that crossed the river Solva and the Roman Road were part of the survey. She will keep in close contact with Sean Tilling from PCC, and report back to councillors. She also advised that there was a detailed map available, which she would forward on to other councillors. The Chairman thanked Cllr Loch for her efforts with this matter.

5e. Cllr Tierney advised that he had spoken to Megan Pratt at PCNP, who had proved very helpful. He confirmed that free trees were available to residents, and also 25 trees to each farm. He will send a list of the available species, and also include the offer on our community information page. He was happy to report some interest already from local residents, and he will collate the information and report back to PCNP. He will also provide an update in our January meeting.

5f. As above.

5g. Cllr Loch advised that she had attended the online planning training session from PCNP, and advised that it was a good session and well worth attending. She was due to receive notes of the meeting, from PCNP, and she would forward a copy on to other councillors, once received.

5h. Cllr Carter advised the HRA were going to arrange to tarmac the area of land cleared in Bryn Golau Trefgarn Owen. He agreed to monitor the situation, and report any progress.

Correspondence.

Pembs County Council.

6.PCC  Review of community arrangements for Pembs.

A copy of this document had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Carter advised that it did not affect us at present.

7. Boundary amendment proposal from Solva CC. A copy of this proposal had been sent to councillors prior to the meeting. It concerned a small area of farmland on the edge of the boundary. The exact location was shown on the shared screen, and it was agreed that the change made sense to include all of the farmland in the same area. It was unanimously agreed that the clerk reply to Solva CC confirming our support, but stressing that we are happy to support provided that there are no  cost implications to Brawdy CC .

8. County councillors monthly update.

Cllr Carter advised that a review was ongoing regarding council tax payments for second homes and long term empty properties. The details were shown on the shared screen, including the figures. He agreed to send a copy of the proposals to councillors to view. He also advised that there is likely to be a large shortfall in the sum received from the Welsh Office for the council tax premium, with a possibility, of up to a 15% increase. This will be decided by the cabinet and full council at PCC in December, once the  figure from The Welsh Govt is finalised.

Cllr Jones asked, as to who had decided which roads in Pembs had been subject to the 20 mph restriction. Cllr Carter advised that the local areas affected would have been approached prior to implementation. Our area was not greatly

affected, as only one area in Solva was included. He also advised that other areas in the county were raising concerns, including Johnston, which may have to be reconsidered.

Pembs Coast National Park.

9. Planning Application.Ref No. 23/0584/FUL. Proposed extension, external upgrades and internal alterations at The Glen Newgale Haverfordwest. The proposals, maps and drawings were viewed on the shared screen. The application was discussed by councillors, and it was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Lawrence that we support this case. This was agreed by Cllr Loch and Cllr Tierney, with Cllr Jones registering an abstention. The clerk would reply  to PCNP in support.

Other Correspondence.

10. During November the clerk had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Mrs A Morgan due to ill health. A copy had been forwarded to councillors. A discussion took place as to how we should mark her enforced retirement. It was agreed that Cllr Carter approach Cllr Morgan's daughter and agree on  a suitable retirement gift to mark her 50 plus years service. The clerk had acknowledged the letter, but it was also agreed that a suitable letter be sent , when the choice of  gift had been decided. Cllr Carter and Cllr Tierney would look in to the matter of a BCC letter head, and report back to the council. The clerk would contact the election office at PCC, to advise of the resignation, and put in place the notice of vacancy procedure. Councillors were also asked to consider a suitable replacement should the co-option procedure apply.

11. Training dates from OVW  for December had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

12. A copy of the annual review from the IRPW, including the annual allowances for community councillors had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

13. Annual Donations.

The clerk provided a list of the annual donations from 2022/23. This amounted to £800.The beneficiaries were: Wales Air Ambulance £200, Solva surgery £100, Shalom £100 , Paul Sartori £100 , and £75  each to the churches and chapels at Trefgarn Owen, Brawdy, Treffynnon and Llandeloy. The matter was discussed by councillors and it was proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch, and unanimously agreed that we repeat last year's figures. The clerk would attend to this in January 24.

14. As above.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

15. The clerk reported up to date bank account balances as at 29/11/23 as: Current Account £ 27.28, Deposit Account £ 2427.52, Election Account £ 4083.52. This was confirmed on the shared screen.

16. The monthly bank statement was viewed on the shared screen, and confirmed the above balances.

17. The clerks' salary and income tax payments for November was for the standard 16 hours.

18. The clerk advised that following the annual report from the IRPW, the clerks' salary increase had been agreed at 3.88%. wef 1/4/23. It was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch, that this be applied. The clerk would contact our accountants and arrange for the  back dated increase be applied, and included in the December salary. A new contract of employment would be prepared and presented to the January meeting for approval.

19. The clerk had forwarded a financial projection for the remainder of the  financial year, to compare our position to last year. This was viewed on the shared screen and discussed, prior to the submission of our  annual precept request. It was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr M Carter that we apply  for a 3% increase, and apply for a sum of £ 5922. This was unanimously agreed. The clerk would attend to this, once the request form is received from PCC.

20. It was proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch that we transfer the sum of £860 to cover payments agreed at this meeting.

21. The date, time and venue for the next meeting was provisionally set for Monday January 29 th 2024 remotely at 7.30 pm.

At the discretion of the Chairman.

Cllr Carter advised that he had attended the Police and Crime commissioners meeting in Carmarthen in November. He advised that it was  a very worthwhile meeting that was scheduled for 5 to 8pm, but went on until after 10 pm . It included a visit to the control room to view the CCTV footage for Pembs, and also the section that dealt with the 999 and 101 calls. He recommended that other councillors should attend, if the opportunity arises in the future.

Before closing the meeting at 10.05 pm, the Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New year.