

Minutes

Meeting of Wolfscastle Community Council held at Treffgarne Village Hall on Tuesday
12th December 2023 @ 8pm

Members Present:

Cllr Gerwyn Williams (Chair), Cllr Gerald Miles, Cllr Barrie Griffiths, Cllr Brian John, Cllr Brynmor Harries, Cllr Suzanne Jenkins

In Attendance:

Apologies:

Cllr Michelle Bateman (PCC), Cllr Peter James (Vice Chair)

Call to Order:

Cllr Gerwyn Williams called the meeting to order at 8.00pm by welcoming all attendees. Cllr Suzanne Jenkins recorded the minutes. Additional welcome was made to Liam Woodford, Rural Crime Officer.

Declarations of Interest:

None

Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 were read and signed by Chair Cllr. Gerwyn Williams as a true record and seconded by Cllr. Barrie Griffiths and Cllr. Gerald Miles

Update from Liam Woodford, Rural Crime Officer

Liam provided an insight into the role of a Rural Crime Officer, outlining some of the pressures that confront the force and how these are dealt with. He also commented on the specific issues put to him regarding;

1. Damage caused to grass verges by heavy farm machinery - different groups are responsible for cleaning highways, including PCC and this should be reported to them.
2. Drivers using mobile phones - if reported it needs to be evidence based before any action can be taken.
3. Working hours - there is no limit on working hours.

Rural Crime Officers do provide both Farm and Home protection surveys. Advertising literature can be obtained from contacting them. This can help provide 'Simple Solutions to Big Problems'.

Matters Reported:

1. GW reported that new guidance had been received from One Voice Wales regarding the appropriate pay grade and number of working hours for the new Clerk post. This was agreed as Pay Grade 23 and 5 hours per week. The post is to be advertised asap.
2. Invoice has been received for the last 5 months for grass cutting. This needs to be settled as a priority. Also notified the Council of an increase in future cost. It was agreed that grass cutting would be put out to tender. GW to confirm a list of possible contractors.
3. Electrical work has been completed by Sheldon Humphreys. Invoice has been received. GM and BG to ensure payment.
4. Bill for disc cutter for associated electrical work received.
5. BG updated the committee on the Withy hedge Landfill site. Awaiting reply from Sara Edwards PCC.
6. Welfare Committee contribution agreed as £500.
7. BJ raised concerns over disability access.

Clerks Update:

None

Planning:

N/A

Finance Report:

Not available

Pembrokeshire County Council Report - MB (email)

Darren Thomas was consulted about the ongoing issues with tractors. He did not think it would be appropriate to visit one farmer, and that conversations need to come from the community itself. They have some scope around specific aspects such as mud on road or extraordinary damage to the highway, but these need to be reported as and when and there needs to be evidence. He suggested liaising with the community policing team, as we discussed as some of the issues i.e speeding or phone use are police matters. Cllr Delme Harries was also asked about a campaign involving the NFU. A meeting with him in January will provide the opportunity to discuss this further.

The PCC budget consultation is now live and contains a useful budget modelling tool which shows the scale of the financial problems, and allows one to change levels of council tax/second home

tax and see what this would mean in terms of cuts. Historically, the Community Council has not responded to consultations, but many do so it's an option, although members can respond as individuals too.

Welfare Committee Meeting

Apologies:

Geoffrey Eynon

Minutes:

1. Festive Hampers to be delivered to over 65s.
2. A potential Spring 'Get Together' was discussed.
3. Bank signatories need to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 22.15 - next meeting to take place 16th January 2024 @ 8pm in Penybont Vestry.