**CAREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of arew Community Council held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7 pm in Committee Room of Carew Memorial Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr Marina Griffiths (Chair) County Councillor Vanessa Thomas

 Cllr Trevor Goodman Cllr Madeleine Bland

 Cllr Simon Hosker-Hicks

In Attendance - PCSO Emma Hayward Kate Chandler-Hall, Sports Club

Remote Attendee Cllr Sarah Benbow

Apologies Cllr Marcia Allen

Chair welcomed all to the February meeting and to Cllr Simon Hosker-Hicks to his first meeting as a Community Councillor. Cllr Hosker-Hicks signed the Acceptance of Office form and Declaration of Interests.

**Declaration of Interests** - Councillors had not identified any items that needed a Declaration of their Interest from the information already received.

**Representatives from Sports Club** - Chair welcomed Kate Chandler-Hall to the Community Council meeting. She had come along to talk through the grant application proposal for new nets at the Sports Club. Also to ask for sponsor boards to be placed along the bank by the boundary wire fence. She also asked for information regarding the lease which it is understood is held by the Community Council with Carew Castle Estates. However, clerk to investigate to ensure there is no other lease in existence. This information will be communicated when the Lease file is looked at. Councillors also agreed to write to Agents for Carew Castle Estates on the Sports Club behalf to inform them the proposed application for new nets. Chair and all present wished Kate Chandler-Hall and the Sports club well with their application and Kate Chandler-Hall left the meeting.

**Minutes of the January Meeting** - It was proposed by Cllr Benbow and seconded by County Councillor Thomas that the minutes of the January meeting were a true record and they were duly signed.

**Matters Arising** –

- Community Council Surgeries. Chair and County Councillor Thomas reported on their participation at Luncheon Club and Warm Hub providing opportunity for residents to put forward any concerns. Other organisations which may wish to participate could be Control Tower, WI and Sageston School.

Chair reiterated the importance of having public participation and evidence for such matters as play areas and following discussion Cllr Benbow agreed to look into ways in which the recent play areas information from Sageston School could be put into graph formats.

Discussion ensued on the ways forward to reach out to the 817 households in the Parish. A newsletter was suggested possibly quarterly by the Community Council. Several social media platforms/Facebook pages are already utilised to cascade information and notices.

-**Website** . Chair, Cllr Benbow and County Councillor Thomas had taken part in the “Working Better Together” webinar where City, Town and Community Council websites were discussed. PCC were advocating having all such websites under one umbrella. Councillors discussed whether to transfer to the PCC. It was resolved to keep carewparish.org until more information forthcoming and this will be at the next “Working Better Together” webinar which will be held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.30 pm.

-**Carew Public Conveniences**. Councillors discussed the recent Public Meeting where a good turn out of around 60 residents attended. It was apparent that a large block of residents were not aware of the proposed closure of the toilets after the Easter holidays in April. County Councillor gave an update on the information received from PCC officers to date.

The options are:

1. The Community Council to take over the public toilets via a Service Level Agreement and to raise the money needed for maintenance company (£10,325 under current agreement with PCC) by increasing the Precept by that amount (£10k). Under this Agreement minor improvements would be undertaken by PCC. Information from the maintenance company had been circulated to Councillors which showed the level of problems such as blocked drains, broken and faulty toilets etc.
2. A dedicated management committee be formed by members of the Parish to run the toilets and raise the money from grants or crowd funding.
3. Do nothing and allow the toilets to be closed.

The first proposal (option 1) lead to a 3:3 vote. – 3 councillors voting for and 3 abstaining.

Further discussion and debate ensued. A further proposal was made to increase the precept by £5k more rather than £10k. This would be for a 12-month period and there is a 6-month notice period required by PCC to opt out. Therefore, this is a temporary solution. The previously allocated monies for playground improvements would be scaled back.

Following a vote the count was made and the vote was unanimously in favour of this further option.

PCC to be informed of the increase in Precept from that already requested.

Residents to be informed of the decision and for members of the Parish have the option to form a committee and take over the running of the toilets.

Agenda item for March meeting.

**Grass cutting Contract** - Councillors had been sent a copy of the completed contract from All The Seasons Gardening Services and this is in order and will run from March to end of October 2024.

**Policies** - Data Retention and Storage of Documents - Councillors reviewed this new policy and it will be added to the Community Council’s portfolio.

**Planning** – Councillors discussed the following application.

New - NP/24/0028/FUL – Proposed side and rear extensions with off-road parking and ecological enhancements (partly in retrospect) – 4 Pisgah Cottages, Cresselly, Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire SA68 0TD Cllr Hosker-Hicks declared an interest and withdrew from discussion.

Following perusal of the plans and accompanying documentation there were no obvious grounds for refusal identified nor any adverse comments. Councillors recommend granting by PCNPA.

Decision - 23/0730/PA – Construction of side and rear extensions and porch to 5 Perrots Road Carew Park, Sageston - refused by PCC. Noted.

**Correspondence**

* OVW Buckingham Palace Garden Party invitation - Cllr Griffiths has completed the form to attend.
* Guide to contacting PCC -
* OVW Use of IT, websites and Social Media training -
* PCC -Police and Crime Commissioner Election 2nd May -
* Email from County Councillor Thomas on Carew River and complaints about the volume of water left in the Mill Pond during wet weather and high tides along with Site Manager’s response.
* OVW - Digital Exclusion for older people -
* OVW - National Awards Conference
* OVW - guidance on managing land for bees and pollinators
* OVW – Joint Event OVW and Planning Aid Wales on 7th March -
* email from County Councillor Thomas regarding the positioning of the 20 mph speed sign at the end of Kesteven Court.
* OVW - Vacancies Public appointments.
* Email reply from Natural Resourses Wales on the removal of the weir in Milton.
* Working Better Together online (Microsoft Teams) meetings - next one is Tues 26th March .
* Simon Hart Newsletter –.
* Town and Community Websites from PCC along with meeting notes.
* OVW email re Declaration of interest

Invoices for payment

Clerk’s Salary £222.55 paid via standing order. West Wales Systems (WiFi) 48.52 paid by direct debit.

Bank Account Balances - current account £6607.27 business account £754.67.

HMRC - £294.78

Milton Bridge Caravan Park 4 years play park rent £54 inc VAT.

It was proposed by Cllr Goodman and seconded by Cllr Bland that these two invoices be paid.

Council Laptop - Following discussion it was agreed by all present for the Clerk to pursue the purchase of a new laptop for Community Council work. The current laptop is not working.

**County Councillors Report**

County Councillor Thomas reported on the situation with regard to the Sageston roundabout and the clearing of the filter drain in that area.

Seven day Traffic survey - County Councillor had contacted a resident who reported noise from the survey cables.

County Councillor Thomas was pleased to report that the problem at Milton Bridge Caravan park entrance has been resolved with the fitting of a new non return valve and cleaning has taken place.

Nash Fingerpost - Temporary work will commence around 6th March.

County Councillor Thomas reported that the next walk through will be in Whitehill with PCSO Heyward on 27th February . Both reported that these walk-throughs are appreciated by residents who have the opportunity to discuss their issues and concerns.

County Councillor Thomas suggested the re-launch of the organised Litter Picking initiative and to this end a date of Saturday 16th March at 9 am at Carew Memorial Hall was set.

Cllr Hosker-Hicks kindly agreed to help with posters for this event.

**Items for Agenda for next meeting**

Remuneration and consumables for Community Councillors

Church in Wales Burial Fees

Litter picking – Saturday March 16th 9 am.

Community Council Surgeries and Newsletter.

**Date and time of next meeting -**  The next Community Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7 pm in the Committee Room of Carew Memorial Hall.

Chair thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED: ………………………………….

DATED: ……………………………………..

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