**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council on Thursday 2nd July 2015**

**Present**: Councillors Phil Baker; Sue Boughton- Thomas; Mandy Allsop; Tessa Pearson;

Mary Cavell; Rosemary Hayes MBE; Donny Poole; David McDermott, Steve John; Anthony Mattick; Bill Cleevly;Ronnie Brabon

**In attendance**: Virginia Taber - Clerk

**51. Chairman’s Report**

On 23rd June Cllr Baker attended the official opening of the new chiropractor clinic.  On 24th Cllr Baker attended the PC/Urbanists and Harbour presentation at St Brides Spa Hotel where the Saundersfoot Regeneration proposals were shared with Stakeholder groups in advance of the Public consultation. Cllr Baker was pleased that the PCC Deputy Leader Cllr Keith Lewis was able to attend. Cllr Baker has invited the Chairman of PCC to visit the Harbour Festival on Sunday 5th July.

**52. Minutes of the Meeting on 4th June**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record

**53. Matters arising from the minutes**

1. **Big Blue Project**

Further to the presentation at the June meeting given by PCCSO Moffatt the clerk had received costing from PCSO Rachel for the project. A wide ranging discussion took place about how best to support this project in its aims and it was resolved to donate £1500 towards equipment subject to successful completion of stage one of the project.

1. **Laurel Tree in Cemetery**

Remedial work to the tree stump still outstanding

**Clerk to contact Rhys Thomas of Smart Gardens**

1. **Licensing**

Cllr John was concerned that the Data Protection Act did not apply to licensing application in the way in which Pembrokeshire Council Licensing Dept. had described in their recent letter to councils. In fact Planning applications had much more detailed personal information and there did not appear to be any problem relating to those applications.

**Resolved** -The Clerk to write to licensing department to raise these concerns.

1. **Brown Signs**

Cllr Baker undertook to speak to Ben Blake of Pembrokeshire County council about the provision of brown signs to Stepaside Heritage site from Wisemans Bridge.

1. **Police Forum**

Councillor Brabon was pleased to hear that extra officers were to be drafted into the area for the summer months. However Cllr John said that it had been reported that they would be drafted to the “area” which did not actual specify where they would be .Cllr Mattick was able to shed some light on the matter by indicating he was aware that at least one officer was definitely coming into the Saundersfoot/ Tenby area.

1. **Heavy Good Vehicles**

Councillor John told the meeting that he had done some research into this topic and disagreed with the assertion that vehicles had to be taken to a weigh bridge before a prosecution could be considered. It was resolved to raise this matter again at the forth coming Police Form Meeting on Monday 6th July 2015 when there would be an update from the police about the situation with HGV’s in the village.

1. **Bat Survey**

Councillor Baker reported that Mel Stevens had been taking advice about where the lights in the Long Tunnel could be situated. Natural Resources Wales expert will decide where the lights are to be affixed and that the lights will be red. The lights in the tunnel were reported to be working much better now that they were on mains electricity.

1. **Stop Sign at Fan Road**

Councillor Baker will take this matter forward.

**54. Financial Review and Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk presented a review of the accounts

Balance b/f 20445 .03

Receipts 55925.16

Payments 52858.84

Balance 18 511 .95

Uncashed cheques 1626.14

**20135.51**

Wages 1372.17

HMRC MAY 287.66

Donation Sardis Gardens 200.00 Donation

Carers Assoc 200.00 Donation

Regency Hall fees 32.50

Vintage MC 100.00 Donation

**Approved**

**55. Planning applications**

**NP 15 0295 FUL Lost Horizon St Brides Lane SAUNDERSFOOT -**Extension to dwelling to provide dining room, utility room ,WC and reconstruction and alteration to balcony.

It was **resolved** to hold a site visit.

**NP 15 0303 FUL Abingdon House Frances Lane Saundersfoot –** Proposed kitchen extension ,new conservatory roof and Balcony.

It was **resolved** to hold a site visit**.**

**NP 15 0345 OUT Mountain Ash Cottage SANDY HILL Saundersfoot –** Demolish the existing cottage and construction of two separate dwellings within the existing plot boundaries with separate access on to Sandy Hill Road.

It was **resolved** to support the application

**NP 15 0346 FUL The Captains Table Saundersfoot -** smokers shelter to replace

existing structure.

It was agreed that the new design was in keeping with the Captains Table and **resolved** to support the application

**56. Correspondence Received**

**Saundersfoot Sports and Social Club**

A letter had been received requesting access to the sports field in July and August for Boots sales to be held on the field. It was agreed that permission would be granted in the usual way however Cllr John raised the point why they sort permission for the Boot Sales and not other usage such as the over spill car park. A discussion then took place about this and it was agreed that the reason that permission was sort was to ensure that the boot sale was a genuine “boot-sale” and that items sold did not affect businesses in the village. However it as requested that the Sports and Social club were contacted to provide a list of events that they were proposing to hold on the sports field.

**Resolved** – Clerk to write to the Sports and Social Club.

**Saundersfoot Bay Heritage Regeneration Society.**

Cllr Rosemary Hayes MBE, Mary Cavell, Tessa Pearson Sue Boughton Thomas and Phil Baker declared an interest in this item ,as members of the society and took no part in the decision.

Council had previously received a request from Neil Sefton, Chairmen of Saundersfoot Bay Heritage Society for financial assistance in the production of a new leaflet for the Heritage Walk

**Resolved** to donate £200.00 towards the production costs.

Saundersfoot Forum

Council received a letter from Neil Sefton Chairman of the Forum in which he expressed his concern that he had been misquoted in Council minutes.

Council noted his concern

**57. Agenda Items**

**58. MUGA update – Cllr Mcdermott**

Further to my report on 4th June. The sub-committee met and submit the following report.

**SURFACE of COURT** After speaking to the technical dept. of Thompsons we decided not to proceed with treating the surface with DRIVE SEAL because although it would improve the appearance it would seal the surface and the White lining etc. would not adhere to it.

**MATERIAL COSTS** There would be no increase in the cost of materials.

PCSO Jim Moffat has kindly agreed to assist with labour

Saundersfoot sports and social club have kindly agreed to allow us to take an electrical supply from their changing rooms. Cllr Poole is hoping to arrange help with the trench in which to lay cables and install lampposts

**59. Freehold of the Sensory Garden – Cllr Brabon**

Cllr Brabon asked Council to consider the purchasing the Freehold of the Sensory Garden for the community. At this time the Garden is leased to Saundersfoot Community Council.

Resolved the clerk to write to Mr Barry Cooke, Head of Property Pembrokeshire County Council requesting a valuation of the Sensory Garden with a view to purchase.

Cllr Baker abstained.

**59. Sensory Garden – Cllr Pearson**

Cllr Pearson expressed her concern about the state of the sensory garden and that it was in need of some attention. She proposed a collective clear up on Saturday 11th July 2015 at 10am.She also requested that slate be purchased to place around the fountain. It was agreed that a plaque be installed to reflect that fact that Saundersfoot Community School Children had been involved in planting flowers in the garden.

It was **resolved** to purchase more slate for the sensory garden. Cllr Baker undertook to speak to Glenville Codd of PCC about the plaque.

**60. Emergency Planning – Cllr John**

Cllr John told the meeting that he was concerned that Pembrokeshire County Council had not followed through on the promises, following an emergency planning event in the village, to provide resources and a plan as agreed.

He considered that Saundersfoot did need an emergency plan and that it was now incumbent on Saundersfoot Community Council to organise themselves along with other community groups.

The meeting agreed that Saundersfoot did need an emergency plan and that it would revisit the work that had been done previously with a view to developing it further. The same bodies that had been invited previously would be included along with the Harbour Commission.

It should be a whole community response.

It was **resolved** to contact Claire George at Pembrokeshire County Council to progress this aim.

**61. Commemoration Event – Cllr Baker**

Councillor Baker informed the meeting that the event proposed would now take place on Sunday 23rd August in the afternoon and would be organised by Saundersfoot Community Council. The event had been simplified and would be a dignified and respectful event – consisting of a march and an ecumenical service in the Old Coal House Garden with the lighting of the beacon.

**62. Old Coal Office and Garden**

Saundersfoot Community Council has previously received two letters from Mrs Lang and SAVE Saundersfoot Old Coal House and adjoining Garden requesting that consideration be given to purchasing The Old Coal House and Garden and or having a fall-back position if the present plans of the Harbour Commissioner did not come to fruition.

The Chairman, Councillor Baker and Cllr McDermott left the Chamber at this point. The Chairman asked that the Clerk reminded Councillor about pre-disposition and predetermination and the clerk read from guidance to the meeting. Councillor Boughton-Thomas opened the discussion. The Consultation was well-attended and it is hope that this will have answered a lot of the questions asked in the village about the development, along with putting to bed some of the Chinese whispers and rumours which have been around. We have received two letters Lilian Lang and SAVE , which have specifically asked the Community Council to look into the possibility of raising funds to purchase the Coal Office and Barbecue Lawn, and as they purport to represent like-minded residents, it is only fair that this option be looked into by the Council. Cllr Boughton Thomas went on to say that she had done some research, and that she had a fair knowledge of raising funds for capital projects (Regency Hall) and that she was an accountant by profession. The possible funding stream mentioned in both letters is via the Public Works Loan Board. (A copy of the guidance from the PWLB had been provided to each councillor in advance of the meeting) Cllr Boughton Thomas made the following observations

1 Before you can approach the PWLB, the Community Council must have the approval of Welsh Ministers to apply, and must initially prove to them that they have the support of **all** the residents and taxpayers after having held village consultations and open meetings.

2 The Welsh Ministers need sight a of a long-term sustainable Business Plan for the project, full details of how the Council intends to repay the debt, and the Council need to prove that the project will benefit the whole community

3 The Business Plan must prove that the project satisfies Welsh Govt Criteria in lots of areas, especially in the creation of new jobs for the area etc., and planning permission **must** already be in place by PCNPA and written agreements for the sale of the property to the Community Council by PCC

4 At this point I should point out that the Harbour Commissioners already satisfy most of this criteria and have the backing of Edwina Hart and the Welsh Govt, so if their project does not go ahead, why should the Welsh Govt accept a potentially inferior proposal from the Community Council.

5 Finances - to buy the Coal Office and Garden a starting fund of well over £1million would be required, which would only cover purchase costs and basic refurbishment costs. This would result in every resident rates payer in the village having their annual Saundersfoot Community Council precept contribution trebled. It would also involve committing the residents of Saundersfoot to a probable 25 year loan which future generations would inherit. SCC have no excess funds and keep a tight rein on their budget so there is no match-funding in place which all funders require, so it would mean excessive amounts of ratepayers money being spent on costs in the initial stages, with no guarantees of a successful outcome.

Councillor Brabon clarified that if SCC were going to try and obtain a Public Works Loan all planning permissions would have to be obtained in advance and the cost of that would be unknown and money would have to be spent without the guarantee that a loan would be obtained. It was agreed that this was in fact the case.

Cllr Mattick said that if a back-up plan were to be considered that SCC would be going into Competition with the Harbour Commission in a hope that any plan that SCC had would be better than that of SHC. The Council could end up spending a fortune on a proposal that could fail.

It was noted that the results of the recent consultation about phase 2 and 3 of the Harbour Commissions plans were not yet known. It was agreed that it was difficult to discuss and form any sort of proposal without knowing the outcome of the consultation.

Cllr Allsop said there had been a lot of objections to the proposals before they were known and that now they were out in the open people may have changed their minds and council should hold fire on making any decisions at this stage.

Cllr John said that realistically Saundersfoot Community Council did not have the funding to launch a bid - however if the Commissioners withdrew for any reason then SCC should reconsider their position.

Cllr Poole reminded council that this had been considered before and was unworkable and that any attempt to progress this proposal would mean doubling the precept just to stand still. He agreed that Council should wait and see what happens.

It was agreed that as soon as the results of the Consultation were known that SCC should be among the first to know about them.

Cllr Cleevly said in his opinion the truth about this proposal was that Saundersfoot Community Council could not afford to buy the Coal House and Garden. Historically an attempt to do so had failed and that was when the shops were available to generate income - that was no longer the situation. £9000 would have to be spent on interest per ½

Year alone which would have to come from the residents of the village through the precept. He observed the Pembrokeshire County Council can’t afford to keep it how could Saundersfoot Community Council with fewer resources expect realistically to do so.

Cllr Allsop said that the majority of residents would not want their council tax to be increased by that much.

Without the result of the consultation Saundersfoot Community Council could not properly consult about the proposal. Could not come to any decision before the Council was aware of what the majority of the village thought about the proposal.

**Resolved** to write to PCC and request the result of the Consultation as soon as it is known.

The matter was one which needed to be discussed and thanks were given to the two parties who had raised the issue but until there was a clear picture of what the residents thought as a result of the consultation this matter could not be processed any further.

**64. SLCC membership – Clerk**

Clerk requested that the subscription fees for Society Local Council Clerk be paid by Saundersfoot Community Council

**Resolved** SLCC subscription to be paid by SCC

**65. Private and Confidential item – Clerk**

**66. Reports**

1. **County Council Report – Councillor Baker**

**County matters**

1. The reorganisation of 6th forms in the North of the County continues to be the main cause of concern, with the matter due to be debated at the next Full Council meeting on 16th July

2. The final stage of interviews for the new Chief Executive will take place at an Extra-ordinary meeting of Council on 17th July

**Ward matters**

1. PCC in liaison with Dyfed Powys Police are investigating road traffic accidents on Devonshire Drive since the opening of the Civic Amenity site, currently two have been identified with one after the centre had closed

2. Saundersfoot is looking forward to welcoming two events over 4th and 5th July with the Long Course cycling and The Harbour Festival expecting to welcome residents and visitors to enjoy.

3. All maintenance issues raised at the June meeting have been forwarded to PCC Area Maintenance.

4.  White lining - three recent visits by the team have seen the yellow markings, some white lining and slow road markings refreshed, a further meeting with officers to review the remaining work will take place during week commencing 6.7.15

5. The cleaning of the addits on the Coast path was reported but as of 27th June had not been completed and was reported again on 29th June.

6. The VE/VJ Day commemoration event was now to take place on 23rd August, Cllr Baker wished to note the hard work of the subcommittee in pulling together the simple but fitting plans.

1. **Saundersfoot School – Councillor Cavell**

Councillor Cavell said that she would present an “end of term report “at the next meeting. However she wished to highlight two special events – a World War II tea party where jam sandwiches and spam sandwiches had bee served and there was an exhibition of the children’s wonderful models relating to their World War II topic – including a tank and aeroplane, Anderson shelters and helmets.

The second event was the athletic championships and that Saundersfoot CP were Pembrokeshire athletics champions.

Congratulations to all who took part in both events to make them a big success.

**67. Any other business**

Cllr Brabon wanted to express thanks to Pembrokeshire County Council for the triple tower of flowers IN THE old Coal Office garden.

Cllr Poole suggested that a letter to Mrs Deakin on the occasion of David Deakin being made an MBE in the Queens Birthday Honours list.

Cllr John observed that the Sign at Moreton Lane was still in the incorrect place causing confusion.

Cllr John suggested that the sign outside the police station indicating parking in Coppett Hall could be refurbished to assist with parking congesting if visitors made aware of additional spaces in CP.

Cllr Poole was anxious to know when the container would arrive and Cllr Baker said he would attend to it.

Cllr Hayes raised the issue of SCC parking spaces outside Regency Hall and complaint she had received regarding a person parking there all day. There was a general discussion had regarding the policing of the area and how to resolve this on-going problem. It was agreed to put this in the agenda for the next meeting to discuss away forward.

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*Private and Confidential item on the agenda*

**Present**: Councillors Phil Baker; Sue Boughton- Thomas; Mandy Allsop; Tessa Pearson;

Mary Cavell; Rosemary Hayes MBE; Donny Poole; David McDermott, Steve John; Anthony Mattick; Bill Cleevly;Ronnie Brabon

**In attendance**: Virginia Taber - Clerk

**65. Schedule of work for Groundsman -** The Clerk

The Clerk explained that together with Cllr Mattick they had toured the grounds and devised a schedule of works for the groundsman and that this would be given to Mr Lewis with a deadline for completion.

It was agreed that this work was pressing and that the groundsman needed to be carefully and closely monitored and work had slipped and that the Council grounds reflected that by being in a pretty poor state.

This would include close monitoring and an appraisal of work. It was agreed that this was a necessary and timely intervention and that something needed to be done to improve productivity from Mr Lewis.

The Schedule was **agreed** by Council