**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council on Thursday 1st October 2015**

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

Mary Cavell; Rosemary Hayes MBE; David McDermott, Steve John, Anthony Mattick.

**In attendance**: Virginia Taber - Clerk

**105. Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Baker was delighted to attend the 60th anniversary vintage motorcycle rally on Saundersfoot Harbour on Saturday 19th September. 116 entries started out on the tour of the County, the oldest bike was registered as 1913.

**106. Apologies for absence**

Councillors: Baker, Poole, Cleevely Brabon

**107. Declarations of Interests**

To disclose any personal interests in items of business listed below. Members are requested to identify the nature of the interest and indicate whether it is personal or prejudicial

Cllr McDermott as a Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioner – all matters relating to the old Coal office and garden (Not Sensory Garden)

**108. To receive the Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 3rd**

**September 2015**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

**109. Matters arising from the minutes**

**a) New Trustee for the Regency Hall Board of Trustees (Min 98 pg 45)**

Cllr Boughton -Thomas advised Council that a definite decision must be made about the Council representation on the Regency Hall Board of Trustees and that it could not be filled on an ad hoc basis.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Mattick would be appointed to the post as trustee.

**b) Bollard at St Issells** -  **(Min 101 pg 45)**

Cllr Hayes informed the meeting although it appeared that the bollard at St Issells appeared to have been mend it was only a temporary fix and further work was required.

**c) Fallen Trees in Cemetery – (Min 105 pg 47)**

It was resolved to send a letter of thanks to David Lewis who had kindly arranged to have the fallen trees removed from St Issells Church yard.

**d) Pitch and Put Green - (Min 107 pg 47)**

It was agreed that investigation should be made into the viability of this land and that prior to the precept meeting a quote should be obtained for the cost of drainage to the site. It was agreed that Cllr Poole should be asked to take a lad on this project.

Cllr John had asked if the information regarding the Pitch and put green was updated so that the public was not misled that it was in use at this time.

**e) Committee Reports (Min 108 pg 47)**

The Clerk advised the meeting that Mr Parker would be able to attend the November meeting together with Mr Evans and Mr Davies – The Chairman of Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners and CEO of Saundersfoot Harbour.

The meeting was of the opinion it was unnecessary for Mr Evans and Mr Davies to attend and that only Mr Parker would be invited to deliver his report.

It was **resolved** to invite Mr Pip Parker to attend the next meeting in person to give his report to council.

**f) Storage Container**

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had ordered the container and that it would be delivered and installed on the 2nd October 2015.

**110 Accounts for Payment**

Accounts for Payment October 2015

Staff Salaries £1361.76

HMRC £208.84

Kilgetty Scouts - Donation £50.00

2ND St Issells Brownies – Donation £150.00

Sea Scouts £50.00

Regency Hall - Miss Lester’s’ Leaving Event £ 135.00

Footlights - Donation £150.00

St Johns Ambulance - Donation £100.00

RBL Poppy Appeal - £70.00

Caring Association -Donations £150.00

Balance of Current account at 30.9.2015 £5000.00

Balance of Reserves at 30.9.2015 £26,047.14

Total Funds of SCC £31,047.14

**111. Planning Applications**

None received

**112. Licencing Application**

**Declaration of Interest - Cllr Tessa Pearson**

The Hideaway Saundersfoot Harbour – application to sell alcohol on and off the premises.

After a full discussion it was resolved to object to the application on the basis of both on and off sales. That objection would be withdrawn if the sale of alcohol was restricted to on the premises with a meal.

**113. Correspondence Received**

1. Invitation from the Pembrokeshire Federation of Women’s Institutes inviting the Chairman to the Annual Council meeting at the Regency Hall on 27th November 2105.
2. Letter from the audit Office advising that the BDO will no longer undertake the external audit but that it will be Grant Thornton and that audits will take on a thematic form.

**114 Agenda Items**

**115. To Consider whether Saundersfoot Community Council should contribute towards keeping the Library open in Saundersfoot and raise the precept in order to do so (Clerk)**

The Clerk explained that she had received the following communication from Mike Cavanagh, Director of Cultural Service Pembrokeshire County Council

*I wrote to all town/community councils, which have a public library within their area, at the beginning of the year with regard to reductions in library opening hours which were due to take effect from 1st April 2015.*

*These opening hours reductions took place due to the unprecedented budget cuts that the authority is experiencing.*

*Cabinet had agreed in January that if any town/community councils wanted to avoid the library in their area reducing its opening times, they could instead make a financial contribution to the running costs in order to maintain the opening hours.*

*2 of the 12 councils decided that they wished to take this opportunity and as a result Newport and St Davids library opening hours were not reduced as planned.*

*A number of other councils considered it and decided not to make a contribution, but some did ask to be given the opportunity again for the 16/17 year as they would have the opportunity to consider changes to the precept that might finance such an investment.*

*I’m therefore writing to you now to ask if the community council would like to consider making a financial contribution to the running costs of Saundersfoot library such that it can return to the opening hours that were in operation before April 1st.*

*It is my understanding that if the council wished to raise the required sum through an increase in the local precept, the increase based on a Band D property would be £1.62.  This would take the precept from £28.36 to £29.98.*

*There is also the option, if this is considered too much for example, to make a smaller contribution to enable some of the opening hours to be returned or all the opening hours but for only part of the year.*

*£2,568.24 is the total cost of returning the opening hours to pre April 1st conditions.  This figure may vary from estimates given earlier in the year as the figure represents the actual that has been saved by reducing the opening times as opposed to the estimate at the time.*

*If the community council decide that they do not wish to take this opportunity, that’s absolutely fine and you do not need to respond.  I just wanted to ensure that all councils were given the opportunity.*

Cllr Boughton -Thomas *opened* the discuss by saying she did not recall the letter in January however it was decided at the precept meeting and ratified by Council that at that time the Community Council would not contribute. Cllr Broughton-Thomas went on to outline the net loss of opening hours and explained that it would cost the average council tax payer £1.50 to keep the library opening for longer and that she was of the opinion that he majority would want to keep it open.

Cllr Allsop asked if volunteer could be involved in keeping the library open for longer hours.

Cllr Hayes pointed out that 1/3 of the population of Saundersfoot are senior citizens who use the Library a great deal.

Cllr McDermott said that the library was a great asset to Saundersfoot both culturally and economically. Those that come into the village to go to the library also go to the shop however if the Library hours were reduced even further they may by pass Saundersfoot completely.

Cllr John added a note of caution and said he would be greatly concerned that if the Community Council started contributing to keeping the Library open then it could end up that the Community Council pays all the costs to keep it open.

It was resolved that before any decision could be reach on the proposal that clarification was obtained from Pembrokeshire County Council. In principle it was agreed that the library should be kept open but assurance was needed that this would pay for additional hours and not keeping the library open at the reduced rate,

What would be the cost to keep that library open November to March 2015/16

Absolute clarity about what hours were being paid for. Could volunteer help to reduce costs. Acknowledging that the library is very important to the economy of Saundersfoot and the Tourist information centre is important to the visitors to the village - and it is essential that they can obtain access to accurate information about the area for the longest time possible.

It was **resolved** to write to Mike Cavanagh asking for clarification about the point raised.

**116. MGA Update – Cllr McDermott**

Cllr McDermott present the revised costings to Council and explained that a new illumination design had been drafted because the previous one had left areas insufficiently illuminated and as a result this new and much improved scheme had increased costs. Cllr McDermott also clarified that the lights were independent of each other and only on set illuminated if that what was required. He reported that Hywel Rees had meet with the planning office who informed him that planning permission would be required for the 6 metre columns that are propsed.4 metre column do not require planning permission however for our purposes 4 metres is too low. Planning application fees of £95.00 have to be paid.

Cllr McDermott extended his thanks to Mr Hwyel Rees for preparing the planning application on behalf of the Community Council.

Cllr John asked if dividing the area in tow would reduce the usability. Cllr McDermott assured the meeting that the size of the MUGA the size as recommended by Sport England who are a recognised authority in this area. He went on to reiterate that the ambition for the old top court would be to build a skate park. It was agreed that this was a productive use of the land available and an asset for the youth of the community. If Council did not move forward with these projects at this time then the opportunity to develop this area would be lost. Fund had already been allocated form this year’s precept and next year to complete the project.

It was **resolved** to accept these new costing and to thank both Hwyel Rees and Cllr McDermott for the work that have done in realising this project on behalf of the Community Council.

**117. Christmas Tree and Lighting - Cllr McDermott**

Cllr McDermott informed the meeting that Nigel and David Ayers would be testing and erecting the Community Council lights this year. Lights would be erected at the end of November in con-junction with the Chamber for Tourism and it is hoped that they will jointly use the cherry picker to reduce costs and timeliness. Cllr McDermott has also arranged for the unmetered supply of electricity for the lights.

The Clerk was requested to write to Hean Castle to request a Christmas tree for the village.

It was **resolved t**hat the Clerk would contact the Chamber of Tourism and Hean Castle to make the necessary arrangement.

**118. The Addits – Cllr Hayes**

Cllr Hayes informed the meeting that the Addits are not being cleaned and that they are full of rubbish including dog “poo” bags. She had even seen the Heritage trail “Tomas” sign had been thrown in the Addit. The Addit are a heritage feature and should be kept in good order.

It was **resolved** to write to Area Maintenance Dept. of Pembrokeshire CC and ask that the Addits are regularly cleaned.

**119. The Incline – Cllr Hayes**

Cllr Hayes informed the meeting that the Incline was in a poor state with trees having been cut and left in an untidy manner and that there was evidence that a digger had been in use. The general condition of the incline needed to be improved. It is becoming harder to use and certainly difficult for parents with buggies and those with mobility issues.

Cllr Cavell said that complaints had been made previously but nothing had been done. In her opinion it was now becoming dangerous and that it was a **Safe Route to School**, but was becoming impassable and something had to be done to improve it.

It was **resolved** to write to Pembrokeshire County Council Footpath Officer and ask him to take a look at the Incline and report what improvements would be made.

**120. The First Tunnel - Cllr Hayes**

Cllr Hayes told the meeting that the floor of the tunnel was badly in need of repair as it was rutted and dangerous.

It was resolved to write to the Footpath Officer and ask that remedial work was carried out.

**121. Caring Council – Cllr McDermott**

Cllr McDermott told the meeting that in his opinion the Community council had a duty of care for the community and the members of it. He proposed that if it came to the attention of any of the Councillors that a member of the community was ill, had an accident or was in need of support that they would contact either the Chairman or the Clerk and the appropriate action would be taken i.e. a card sent or home visit by a member of the Council.

It was agreed that this was a process that the members wished to adopt and it was resolved to notify the Clerk who would then disseminate the information to Councillors who in turn would decide what the appropriate action to take was.

**122. Reports from Committees including County Councillors.**

**123. County Councillor – Cllr Baker**

**County Matters**

Councillor Baker reported the reorganisation of schools in the north of Pembrokeshire is still moving forward.  
At a recent budget seminar the 2016/17 position was discussed. The original £12million saving was an average over the 5 year period, the revised figure was £15million but two recent saving requirements of living wage and the loss of a recycling grant have moved this in the region of £18million. PCC are investigating how this can be achieved and Cllr Baker urged fellow Cllrs to attend any roadshows if possible. There is likely to be a PCC / Community and Town Council meeting to discuss how joint service delivery might be achieved.  
PCC Cabinet agreed to proceed with the sale of the Coal Office garden to SHC.  
  
**Ward matters**  
  
All items discussed in September have been forwarded to PCC officers and also discussed at a meeting in the Village the day after the SCC meeting. A number of the items raised have already been dealt with.  
Cllr Baker was delighted with the number of supporters in the Village for the Ironman event and welcomed the news that entries were now open for 2016. He wished Mr Kevin Stewart well in his new Ironman events and looked forward to working with the new Director.

**124. Saundersfoot Community Primary School -Cllr Cavell**

Cllr Clavell reported that the new Head teacher, Mr Nick Allen had settled well into this post.

Community Links

FOSS has had a successful summer raising funds at Sports Day and the Summer fete. they entered the Tenby 10 km run and they were well sponsored. School took part in the Cricket festival and a beach run organised by the Tenby Family of School. Pupils entered the poster competition advertising the flower festival.

The school has a boarder in the sensory garden which has been a blaze of colour the past months.

They will now look forward to planting the boarder ready for spring.

Once again a very busy term lies ahead for everyone.

**125. Saundersfoot in Bloom – Cllr Pearson**

Cllr Pearson requested that authority be given to purchase bushes and shrubs for autumn planting.

It was agreed that these plants should be purchased.

**126. Any other business**

Cllr Hayes drew the meetings attention to the fact that the large number of cockle pickers had returned. It had been reported to her that some of these pickers were threatening and abusive.

It was agreed that this was a concerning development and more enquiries and investigations needed to be made before the next meeting when it would be an agenda matter.

Cllr John said that he was concerned and surprised that there were no camera bikes this year for Ironman and he wanted to ask why it had not been recorded. However If it had been recorded when was it shown on television and what channel. In his view the selling point for having Ironman in Pembrokeshire was to show case the county and if that was not happening he asked , “what are we supporting it for “?

……………………………………………. Chairman