

**MINUTES UZMASTON, BOULSTON AND SLEBECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL held
in Uzmaston Hall**

On Thursday 8th Dec, 2016

Present:

Councillors Mr J Percy, Mrs S Green, Miss B Thomas, Mr Hywel Thomas, Mrs Campbell, Mr R Hancock, Cllr Lewis

Also in attendance: Clerk,

1. Chairperson's Opening Remarks: The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

2) Apologies for Absence: Mrs S Evans, Mrs M Williams

3) Declarations of Members Interests - none

4) The Minutes of the meeting of 10th Dec 2016 were checked for accuracy and were agreed.

5) Matters Arising

Highways, Ditches and Roads

Cllr Lewis has been in touch with the area officer Mr Mathias about road problems and hoped to arrange dates prior to Christmas to observe problems on site.

Planning Enforcement

The Clerk had written to PCNPA on 10th November then telephoned on two occasions about lack of information and enforcement at the shed at Picton House. The officers got back in touch on 8th December with the landscape plan and propose that the painting will now be undertaken in the New Year due to delays caused by poor weather. Members felt that weather conditions had actually been very mild and were disappointed that progress had been so tardy.

Broadband

After writing to Paul Davies on the outstanding issues Mr Thomas subsequently wrote to Julie James (Minister for Skills and Science). She responded with a standard letter which Mr Thomas responded to again reminding Ms James that his letter was representative of the Community Council not just himself as an individual. Emma Harries responded from Superfast Cymru Welsh Government apologising for the poor and worsening service and identifying that final decisions were forthcoming and based on value for money as well as looking at which properties can access the broadband and mapping where new broadband is most needed. Ms Harries then provided information on the partial funding schemes. Members felt that this was basically a brush-off and not recognising the previous commitment to superfast broadband that had been made. Mr Thomas then wrote to Ofcom providing copy of the email exchange. They have responded noting the problem and recommending contacting Ofcom in Wales. Mr Percy has also written and received no responses in relation to the 10+ residences at Slebech on top of the 38 residences already identified in the Uzmaston area. Mr Thomas will be writing to Ofcom in Wales as the next step.

Noticeboard

This item is on the agenda

Parking on Pavements at Addison Rd

Letters had been delivered to residents in the area

Poor state of pavement in New Road

This was noted for inclusion in the day with Mr Mathias.

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Date:

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6) Planning

Members noted the following planning applications Received 6th December 2016 >
NP/16/0630/LBA Picton Castle Walled Garden
NP/16/0629/FUL Picton Castle Walled Garden

Members support the application and asked the clerk to feed back to the PCNPA.

7) Reports & Items for Decision or Comment

701 Consultations & Notices currently open - noted

702 Clerks vacancy - members noted that applications would be considered in January

703 Internal Auditor vacancy - members noted that this had been advertised but no expressions of interest had been received as yet

704 New noticeboard quotes & repair. The Clerk had received a price of £250 from a local joiner which is the cheapest quote found to date. Members suggested that Norman Industries via PCC provide a price so they could also provide the required supervisor on site to oversee the works. A street license would also be required costing £125 plus the installation cost.

8) Other Reports & Correspondence to Note

Bank Statement £5940 - noted

Landfill Disposals Tax (Wales) Bill - noted

Council Tax Base letter from PCC - noted

Pensions Legislation seminar - noted

Report of the Future Generations Commissioner - noted

Defibrillators - Members noted that the telephone box at The Rhos is already owned by the Community Association. Cllr Lewis introduced his experience of installing defibrillators within phone boxes and has Awards for All grant to be installed into heated cabinets within phone boxes in his ward. Community Association might apply Jeremy Percy will take forward with the Community Association.

9) Accounts & Audit

901 Budget Monitoring, Budget Setting and Precept Report- to review the budget and agree precept requirements for 2017/18

The Clerk outlined the budget and expenditure to date during 2016/17.

Members noted that the expenditure agreed by the council to date was £1989.76 and that new expenditure of £1250 was projected for the last quarter which would (if forthcoming as projected) result in total expenditure of £3239.76 against the budget of £3650.

Members considered the potential variables against budget as set out by the report and noted that whilst an increase in internal audit fees might be expected and should be included in the 2017/18 risk register, the projected variables for 2017/18 were unlikely to be more than £200 or so. There were no financial risks identified by the auditors that are not already being addressed by existing measures.

Members recalled the previous year's donation and noted that the Skatepark grant was very well received and used and that this had been enabled through project funding awarded to Uzmaston Community Council prior to the merger of councils and held in reserves.

The Council resolved that the annual budget be set at £3650 for 2017/18

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Date:

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The Council resolved that a precept of £3650 be requested from Pembrokeshire County Council
The Council agreed the revised risk register
The Council agreed to continue monthly monitoring of expenditure against budget (revenue spending against precept) and any requirements for contingency spending drawing upon the Reserves.

10) Accounts for payment Oct 2016

Clerk's salary	£450	- approved
Code of Conduct advertisement	£30	- approved

11) Any other business

Mrs Green attended The Way Forward meeting and fed back to PCC that areas for improvement were communications but also education being a priority. Cllrs noted that poor schools are now the barrier to inward migration of professionals and the best qualified staff from other areas. Cllr Lewis reported that the County Council are recommending the merger of the 2 senior schools in Haverfordwest subject to consultation with this proceeding on two sites in the short term with a view to building a new school in future. Funding for new single school build would be required.

Mrs Green noted that Community Councils were also being asked to consider support for the new cinema (with potential that financial contributions/fundraising might also be sought). The riverside shopping area and cinema planning application submitted.

Members noted that the Lay-by on the A40 adjacent the Golf Course was frequently full of parked cars.

Members noted that there is a lack of equity in the Town Bus service which goes to Crow Hill every half hour whilst there is no service to the Uzmaston and New Road areas.

It was reported that the Grit boxes on Addison Rd are solid & only half full.

Cllr Lewis agreed to take matters back to PCC where applicable.

Village Green changes - Cllr Lewis reminded members that a new member of staff was due to begin work with the council and this would assist with the Village Green land transfer arrangements.

Meeting Closed at 9.14 pm

Date of Next Meeting - 12th Jan @ The Rhos Hall