

St Mary Out Liberty Community Council

Minutes

Minutes of the General Meeting of the St Mary's Out Liberty Community Council held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at New Hedges Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs D Brace (Chairman), H Rawson Humphries (Vice Chair), J Preston, D Nash, and D Mitchell

In attendance: Melanie Priestley - Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence - D O'Hanlon

2. Chairman's Report

Cllr Brace reported that the drain at St Anne's Church is still not working correctly with rain and surface water from the road flooding the area around the Church. Cllr Preston will once again contact Pembrokeshire County Council and request their advice and assistance with this issue.

3. To Minute any interests declared

None

4. To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 8th January 2019

Minute 2 of the January Minutes – St Marys Church to be replaced with St Anne's Church.

It was proposed by Cllr Nash that these Minutes be a true and accurate record of the meeting of St Mary Out Liberty Community Council held upon the 8th January 2019; Cllr Mitchell seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only

None

6. Account(s) for Payment and consideration of the bank reconciliation

M Priestley £153.13

Cllr Brace proposed that the above account be paid in full; Cllr Rawson Humphries seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

Cllr Nash proposed that the balance sheet was a true representation of the Council's accounts and precept spending; Cllr Preston seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

7. Planning Application(s) Received

A	18/1073/PA	Knightson Lodge, New Hedges	Erection of two dwellings.
B	18/1065/PA	Keepers Nook, New Hedges	Proposed conversion of existing garage to artist studio for private use, first floor extension and garage to rear

C	NP/18/0707/S73	Taylor's Park, New Hedges	Variation of Condition 2 of NP/18/0388/FUL to re-site house
D	NP19/0054/FUL	Clover Cottage New Hedges	Single Storey front and two story rear extension

Discussions took place regarding the above planning applications. Council's considerations are such:-

18/1073/PA - Knightston Lodge - Following a vote the majority of Council object to this application. The concerns raised regarding this application are:-

- Increase of traffic entering and egressing a narrow, busy village road adjacent to an existing traffic calming system.
- Overdevelopment of an already crowded plot. With neighbouring properties being over looked and over shadowed by the proposed new dwellings.

The Clerk to seek clarity that the boundary of the plot, as shown on the site plan, does not encroach onto St Mary Out Liberty property.

18/1065/PA - Keepers Nook - The Council have no concerns or objections regarding this application. The Council believe that great detail has been afforded to the design.

NP/18/0707/S73 - Taylor's Park - The Council have no objections or concerns regarding this application.

NP/19/0054/FUL - Clover Cottage - The Council have no concerns or objections regarding this application. The Council consider the design to be in keeping with the surrounding buildings and that the applicant has made good use of their plot.

It was agreed that planning applications over twelve months old, and that the Council have not objected or raised concerns about, could be destroyed in the appropriate manner.

8. Licensing Application(s) Received

None

9. Consideration of Correspondence Received

- Acknowledgment received from Pembrokeshire County Council of the application of a £5,600 precept made by St Mary Out Liberty Community Council.
- Various planning consent notices from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority.

10. Cllr Jonathan Preston - County Councillor's Report

Housing Development

A meeting was held on Friday 25th January at the Millay site development with members of the PCNPA, Hale Construction, Millay Homes, Myself and three invited village residents. Additional members of the public also attended which made for some difficulties in accommodating the meeting, however it went ahead as planned. I was asked by the Chairman to give an overview of the situation as I understood it. Primarily there is a major concern regarding the work being carried out near to the boundary with Hunters Park and other nearby properties. The earth mounds that have built up close properties in Hunters

Park, the development of the 'self-maintaining' boundary wall, surface water management and the ongoing management and maintenance of the site after the completion of the development are amongst other matters that have caused concern. The members of the public were able to put questions to the representatives of Millbay Homes, Hale Construction and PCNPA.

Issues have been raised regarding the development prior to, and since its approval. Planning Officers, Committee Members, Representatives of Millbay Homes, Welsh Assembly members, the Cabinet Member for Planning and myself have been actively engaged with this development from its on-set and have met with residents, developers and planning officers to seek to address matters as they arise. Planning can be complex and emotive and for elected members it can prove to be frustrating when many hours of studying planning documentation and legislation do not uncover a planning material consideration that has been overlooked and can be challenged when an unpopular development is proposed. There are times when we can make a successful objection as with the proposed civic amenities site at Brooklands some years ago. Members of the public may look to their elected members to instigate proceedings to halt a controversial development, however planning legislation is made by Welsh Government and an elected members position on Pembrokeshire County Council is to ensure that planning policy is adhered to. With the advice of the personnel mentioned earlier and with the input of an independent planning consultant all indications are that planning obligations are being observed in this case. The site manager has agreed to keep nearby residents informed of any foreseen disturbance beforehand when possible. The earth bund overlooking properties at Hunters Park will also be reduced and managed more closely.

Budget Considerations

At a recent budget seminar councilors were asked to consider maintaining the current arrangement for supporting the Pembrokeshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Members were asked to consider using the second homes council tax to meet this cost. Whilst I understand the need to continue to support of the CAB I did raise the point that the second homes council tax was intended to offset the effects of second home ownership in the county and that those who pay the premium in general wish to see it spent on improving facilities where their second homes are i.e. Playparks and upkeep of communal areas.

It is also worth noting that whilst PCC plans to close Tenby Tourist Information Centre next year due to it costing £45,000 per annum, investment in other areas to promote tourism is to continue. The Long Course and Ironman events in the county continue to be supported by PCC. There is no doubt that these events are of great benefit to the local economy and are key dates in our events calendar.

For Ironman the agreement for the 2017 - 2021 made by Cabinet was for the sum of £50,000 by PCC. A further £5000 to be agreed annually is to be paid by Tenby Town Council with all PCC services to be provided on the day 'in kind'.

For the Long Course weekend, the sum of £20,000 was agreed by cabinet for the 2019 event. Again, all PCC services during that weekend will be provided 'in kind'. This is on the understanding that Activity Wales will review opportunities to promote Pembrokeshire as a tourism destination. Looking at promoting tourism overall, I think there is little doubt that these events are a worthwhile investment but may have an adverse financial impact on other tourist services, namely the Tenby Tourist Information Centre.

Drainage on the by-Pass

The drain at St. Anne's Church has now been scheduled for work to expand the entry point. The Contractor has been on site to carry out work to cut out the road surface alongside the gully which will restore the size of the opening. It appears that prior to surfacing the kerbline on this section was not particularly high and I am told that it is unlikely that the re-surfacing work has altered the situation. PCC are not aware of any surface water problems previously but will monitor the site during wet weather to see if an additional standard road gully is needed.

Loose Paving Stone

A loose paving stone at Lake Drive was reported last week and was repaired within 7 days.

11. Reports from Committee Representatives

Cllr H Rawson Humphries – PACT Meeting Report

Political Representation - The meeting was attended by Dyfed Powys Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llewelyn. He gave a lengthy speech about his achievements to date; Saundersfoot & Tenby are included in his new CCTV surveillance program. Pembrokeshire County Council are no longer involved in the scheme, saving the council £60,000. He highlighted the need for crime data recording to improve, with only 88% of reports from the public resulting in a crime being recorded. He also reported that the recent Peel Inspections have resulted in an improvement to 'Good' status across the force area. He warned that Council Tax is going to rise again. Commissioner Llewelyn was careful to explain that this is directly due to central government promising to allocate an additional £850 million spending to policing in England & Wales. He explained that commissioners are obliged to raise their precepts as part of this increase.

A review of Neighbourhood Policing is currently underway in Dyfed Powys. Major changes are anticipated which will directly affect our community. Analysis of the local crime plan has revealed that a tipping point has been reached in the Tenby area, at the limit of what can be achieved with current resources. However, Commissioner Llewelyn took pains to emphasise Dyfed Powys' status as the lowest crime rate area in England & Wales.

Youth Club - A new youth club serving the surrounding area (including New Hedges) will be opening on 3rd April at the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot. The service will operate every Tuesday for six months, to then be reviewed. Funding is at a premium, with financial assistance being actively sought locally.

Local residents are warned to be vigilant following the theft of heating oil in the area. The theft of gates has also become prevalent. The latest telephone, postal and email scams were discussed. PCSO Moffatt was saddened to report that a local resident was recently conned out of £15,000.

Compassionate Communities. A representative of 'Nos Da' (No One Should Die Alone) gave a short presentation about their new voluntary service provided in the local area. Working in partnership with the Paul Sartori Foundation, volunteers act as companions to people receiving end of life care who have no friends or family. The service is provided to patients at South Pembrokeshire Hospital and local care homes. Referrals are made by doctors and district nurses.

12. Agenda Items

a) Financial Regulations – To be discussed and proposed for adoption

Council considered the Financial Regulations, as distributed at the January meeting. (Reference 2019/01/07 -V01)

Cllr Rawson Humphries proposed that St Mary Out Liberty adopt the Financial Regulations FR 2019 V1); Cllr Nash seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

b) Review of Clerks Contract – To be discussed and proposed for signing

The draft Model Contract was discussed and the Clerk's rate of pay calculated, as per the NALC. (Pay spine 26 restructured to 19 in April 2019). The Clerk signed the new Contract.

c) The reporting of the Minutes

It was decided that the Minutes are to be agreed via Email to ensure that they are reported in the Tenby Observer within two weeks of the meeting.

d) Consideration of the draft Asset Register

The draft Asset Register was discussed by Council. Following the addition of two benches Cllr Rawson Humphries proposed that the Asset Register (reference AR 2019 V1) be adopted; Cllr Brace seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

e) Letter of engagement – Internal Auditor

The Clerk read out a draft letter of engagement to the Council which requested Mr Scourfield to address issues raised in the 2017/18 external audit.

Cllr Rawson Humphries proposed the letter of engagement be forwarded onto Mr Scourfield; Cllr Mitchell seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

f) Consideration of the estimates received – Repair of two benches at the 'bottom' of the village

The Clerk advised the Council that the estimates received were from persons not VAT registered and that if the Council purchase the materials direct from the supplier, they can quite properly claim the VAT back. Council agreed to this.

The Clerk presented the estimates received to the Council.

Cllr Preston proposed that the Council use the contractor with the lowest price; Cllr Brace seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

The cost of the repair to two benches = £170. Work to take place Monday 18th February 2019

13. Date for Next Meeting – 12.03.19

Meeting closed 20.40