

MINUTES OF NOLTON AND ROCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT VICTORIA HALL, ROCH

1 April 2019

Members Present

D. Smith (Chair), R. Thomson (Vice-chair), J. Gale, J. Hancock, A. Peach and Cllr. J. Adams
Clerk - A. Jones

Visitors - Paul Davies, AM and D. Weale elected as member of NRCC during the meeting

GUEST SPEAKER

Paul Davies, AM

A number of issues were raised by the Councillors and addressed in turn by P. Davies, notably:

Withybush hospital

There was a general discussion and concern amongst Councillors as to the future of Withybush. P. Davies reassured all that he believes access to A&E services in Pembrokeshire are crucial and he will continue to campaign for that.

Newgale road

With regards to funding, the Councillors asked P. Davies to ask Welsh Government for clarity as to whether any funding is likely to be made available for a new road and the timescale involved. P. Davies confirmed that he would write to Ken Skates, Minister for Economy and Transport, and report back.

Broadband

P. Davies expressed his frustration with the quality of and access to broadband in many parts of Pembrokeshire. He argued that the government should prioritise rural areas to make sure all have access to a basic minimum before then looking at access to e.g. 5G. P. Davies agreed that the working group responsible should also be looking at satellite options, not just hard wire.

Phone signal

D. Smith asked P. Davies to ask Welsh Government if there are any plans to have free mobile roaming here in the UK, e.g. so EE can share a Vodafone mast for instance.

Laybys

J. Hancock raised his concerns over the increasing number of laybys being closed which is awful news for agricultural vehicles; tractors and farm vehicles are unable to pull over often causing other drivers to become abusive and / or dangerously overtake. He asked that when building new roads for laybys to be considered an essential part. P. Davies agreed that this is something which needs to be considered.

Housing

There is a need for more housing, particularly affordable housing, however the problem of often trying to find a balance between a community's housing needs and planning criteria / objections was discussed. D. Smith also raised the complication of having a dual planning authority here, with the National Park Authority often having

such wide guidelines that there is no consistency. All agreed that the community often feel that they are not listened to by the planning authorities, particularly the National Park. P. Davies discussed the need for a more flexible planning policy.

The Councillors thanked P. Davies for his time and look forward to receiving his feedback from Welsh Government in regards to a number of the issues discussed.

1489 Apologies

M. Canton and M. Harries

1490 Declaration of interest

J. Gale declared an interest with respect to the Newgale road.

1491 Minutes of the previous meeting 4 March 2019

Approved; proposed R. Thomson, seconded J. Hancock.

1492 Clerk's report on matters arising

- **David Weale, new councillor - acceptance of office** - D. Weale signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was formally thanked and welcomed onto the Council by D. Smith and all present.
- **Welcome signs improvements and traffic calming** - D. Smith is still waiting for the relevant PCC officers to fix a suitable date to visit the sites in question.
 - Action: D. Smith to arrange for himself, M, Canton, A. Peach and R. Thomson to meet with the rep(s) from PCC to discuss the most appropriate placements for the welcome planters and sign enhancements.
- **Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant** - A. Peach confirmed that the new quotes have been received and he will be completing the application for the trim trail at the school over the next couple of weeks. He will send the application to both the Clerk and Chair for comment before submission.
- **Newgale road developments** - J. Gale reported that further trenches and boreholes have been dug in the valley as part of the wildlife and geological survey. Unfortunately the works were carried out when the ground was extremely wet, this meant that contractors could not access the correct areas to get the right boreholes in or the right meters. The contractors also managed to crush a concrete drain and crack a main water pipe but failed to inform J. Gale, simply covering back over with turf. The farmers in the valley are frustrated as to why these works needed to be carried out in March when the ground was so wet causing a tremendous amount of mess in the fields and during lambing / calving time. Cllr. J. Adams assured J. Gale and the Council that all concerns and details have been passed on to D. Thomas, Highways at PCC.

The sound survey implications were also discussed. As the sound level is currently so low in the valley any noise from a road must not exceed 5 decibels. All agreed it would surely be hard to keep any road sound at an acceptable level with the current valley route.
- **Nolton Haven bin** - all agreed that a decision would be formally voted on at the next meeting after having had sight of the budget bearing in mind donations and welcome sign improvements.
 - Action: Clerk to circulate budget to all Councillors.
- **Drain at entrance to Wood Village** - Clerk confirmed that no update from Highways had been received but that the tarmac lip should be addressed when the team get round to checking the drain as they work through their maintenance list.
- **Nolton drains** - no update, as above, waiting for the team to get through the backlog of drains on their maintenance list.

- **Nolton car park** - G. Meopham emailed the Clerk on 21 March 2019 stating that NRCC's interest in assuming management responsibility for Nolton Haven car park supported by an 'honesty box' donations based model was presented to the National Park Authority at their meeting on 20 March 2019. Following a discussion they declined to progress NRCC's interest and have instead resolved to continue managing the car park in the Authority's capacity as owner operators. The National Park also declined the similar offers made by community councils in respect of Amroth and Angle car parks. At their forthcoming meeting in May, the National Park will be considering an update report on the ongoing process to vary the pre-existing Car Park Order in readiness for the start of the 2020 car park charging season which includes Nolton Haven. The 2020 charging season will commence on the 15th March 2020.
 - Action: Clerk to keep in touch with both Angle and Amroth clerks and discuss the next steps available.

1493 Planning

- None

1494 Finance

- Victoria Hall meeting payments - £50 paid online
- Membership fee to OVW - £163 paid online
- Donation amounts for 18/19 financial year - as M. Canton was absent all agreed to postpone a decision re donation amounts to the next meeting.

1495 Correspondence

- **Local walking group updates for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park's Walking Directory** - none currently known; Councillors to let Clerk know if they hear of any.
- **The Great British Spring Clean** - Clerk read out an email re a nationwide community spring clean effort over the coming weeks.
 - Action: Clerk to email both M. Harries and A. Peach to try and organise a date.
- **Public Notice - temporary closure of Nolton Haven to Nolton road** - from its junction with the access to the property known as The Burgage, east to its junction with access to the property known as Rising Sun Cottage. Tuesday 9 April 2019 for 2 days (new water connection works).

1496 Meetings attended by Councillors / forthcoming meetings

- None

1497 Other items

- **Councillor remuneration opt-out letters for 2019/2020 financial year** - individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community or town council are entitled to receive payments as set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (currently £150 per elected member plus additional amounts for the chair). All Councillors present were given a letter to sign if they wished to opt out of receiving such payments and were asked to return their letters to the Clerk or notify her of their wish to receive payments at the next meeting. Any payments received are to be published by the Clerk before the end of September of each year.

1498 PCC report

Cllr. J. Adams asked for NRCC's view concerning the current litter enforcement operation in the county. Most councillors agreed that it was a good way to try and control a problem at no cost to the County Council, though they had not had any direct experience of the service itself.

1499 AOB
None.

1500 Items for the next agenda

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Next meeting and AGM: 6 May 2019 7pm Nolton Reading Room, Nolton

Signed

Chairman