

## **Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council**

### **Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Present: Cllr Keith Thomas (Chairman); Cllr Wynn Griffiths; Cllr Tudor Eynon; Cllr Deryck Prosser; Cllr Meurig James. Richard Brown of PCC and a member of the public were also present.

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman and all those present welcomed, including Richard Brown, Head of Waste in PCC, who was there to speak about the recently introduced recycling scheme. The Chairman invited Richard Brown to speak.

Richard Brown first gave the background to the new recycling system, stating that research had begun three years ago to find one that would enable PCC to meet their statutory requirements as laid down by the Welsh Government. If targets were not met, councils were fined. The analysis of potential systems had been done by an independent body, and they had determined that this was the only system that would enable PCC to meet the targets. It was not customer focussed, he admitted, because they had to encourage/compel people to recycle correctly. This was the system currently used by 13 other counties in Wales, ranging from Newport to Powys. More items were recyclable, such as tetrapaks, yoghurt pots and margarine tubs. However black plastic food trays were not which was something picked up in questioning because some residents had been told by staff that they were, and they were taken. Richard Brown stated that this was a training issue – although staff prior to roll out had been fully trained, subsequent staff might not have been trained fully.

Concerns were raised about the storage space required, indoors for the items; about them getting dirty outside waiting for emptying and before collection by residents; multiple journeys required to put out and collect; weight of various containers; manoeuvring them up and down steps. On these Richard Brown stated that PCC could not provide a bespoke system for each resident, and that it was the responsibility of residents to manage the containers, putting them out and getting them back themselves. There were containers available that were weighted with 0.5kg weights rather than the 1kg ones otherwise used available that were smaller and combined recycling sections which for instance elderly residents living alone could request.

In response to a query on alternative recycling options, he stated that disabled individuals who had no-one else who could help could request an assisted collection at their property, but this was an exception, not a standard offering.

Complaints about items not being taken, mess being left, or similar issues could be addressed on an individual basis by reporting them to PCC – all vehicles had 360 degree vision cameras, and tracker devices and so specific crews could be identified for issues and incidents would be investigated and dealt with.

Specific concerns were raised about damp cardboard not being collected – Richard Brown stated that damp cardboard would be, sodden could not be taken. He also advised that the handles could be positioned inside bags to keep them clean and dry.

Regarding mixed material items such as a cocoa tin, he said they should be put in the waste bin unless the various elements could be separated. People should consider the methods used to recycle a material, so contaminated paper or card (pizza box, waxed paper) should go in the

waste section, whereas contaminated glass, metal and plastic could be recycled because sufficient heat is used in the recycling process.

Concerns were raised about lack of responsiveness from PCC staff to queries and complaints. He stated that staff were working flat out to answer these, but were inundated. Replacements for damaged/lost containers were available in Bloomfield in Narberth, and he would confirm this with the Clerk. Extra bags and containers were available free of charge, and the expected average lifespan of them was three years.

Regarding waste put out on the wrong day, he stated that PCC were moving to reduce central collection points to identify those responsible more easily, and actions would be taken for persistent offences. This applied more to housing estates – not to those living along a lane where the collection point for logistical reasons perhaps was one end at the roadside.

Asked about flytipping he stated that it had increased, but not as much as expected.

Asked about shared recycling centres he stated that these were not feasible, although a Cllr stated that Crymych would take non-Pembrokeshire generated items. On Whitland site, he stated that PCC were not prepared to not only pay for PCC waste to be placed there but also partially pay for the running of the site. He did think that PCC residents could use Whitland if they paid – when informed otherwise, he said he would contact his CCC counterpart.

He stated that food waste recycling by PCC is actually more environmentally friendly because it is transported to Bridgend and processed in an anaerobic plant, with the methane retained for power generation. Waste that is to be burned goes to Cardiff where the heat is re-used in the process, and the resultant ash used for concrete.

Richard Brown and the member of the public then left the meeting.

### **1 – Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jamie Lewis and County Cllr David Simpson – these and the reasons for absence were accepted by the Council.

### **2 – Declarations of interest.**

No interests were declared.

### **3 – Minutes of previous meeting.**

They were accepted as a true record and agreed – proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Prosser, agreed by all present. They were duly signed.

### **4 – Matters arising from previous meeting.**

**A40 update.** The pre-enquiry meeting was to be held in the Village Hall the following week, over the two days of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January. The March enquiry was also to be held in the Village Hall.

**Defibrillator.** Training would be done when the Hall work had finished – work was currently delayed due to the weather and extra issues with the ceiling/roof. Prices for signs would be provided as soon as possible.

**Recycling issues.** This had been discussed at the start of the evening.

## **5 – New business.**

**Budget and precept for 2020-21.** The Clerk had previously circulated a spreadsheet giving the current state of the finances, predicted spend and income by the end of March 2020, and some options for the budget and precept. After discussion it was agreed to go for the same budget and precept as last year. The Clerk would report this to PCC.

**Community works grant.** Information on this had been previously circulated to all. After discussion it was agreed to put in a bid for funding for the area around the pump. The Clerk would do this.

## **6 – County Councillor’s report.**

In his absence the Clerk reported the information that had been recently provided by email from the County Councillor of actions he was undertaking such as resident reported issues on road drainage issues, potholes and planning;

## **7 – Correspondence received.**

- Welsh Govt consultation ‘A more equal Wales – commencing socio-economic duty. Consultation ends 17-1-2020.
- Proposed changes to planning fees – Welsh Govt consultation.

## **8 – Planning.**

None had been received by the date of meeting to be considered.

## **9 – Finance.**

The Clerk circulated information on the current state of the Council’s finances. The latest bank statements were also made available. This was reviewed and discussed, and agreed as accurate.

Bank balance main account £3125.60 as at 27-12-19. After below cheques (not insurance) deducted - £2891.11

Third and final instalment of precept received 27-12-19

Invoices to pay:

- Clerk’s salary for December and January - minus tax - £162.70
- Clerk’s expenses December and January - £31.09
- Clerk’s tax December and January - £40.80
- Hall insurance - £492.47.

Second (spare) account balance £19.00 as at 27-12-19

Interest account balance £4,102.23 as at 27-12-19

It was agreed that the above financial information was accurate and that the payments should be made - proposed by Cllr Eynon, seconded by Cllr Prosser, and agreed unanimously.

## **10 – Councillors’ reports for action at next meeting.**

Cllr Thomas reported that the Hall work was delayed by approximately three weeks due to the weather. He also stated that the eldest resident of the village had died since the last meeting.

**11 – Next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meetings should be on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in the Hall, starting at 8.00pm.

There being no other business to consider, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.