

SAUNDERSFOOT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of the General Meeting of The Saundersfoot Council. This was a remote meeting held via the medium of Zoom on Thursday 2nd July 2020 at 6pm.

Present - Cllrs N Sefton (Chair), S Boughton Thomas (Vice Chair), P Baker (County Councillor), B Clevely, A Upham, M Wainwright, T Pearson, D Ludlow, M Saunders, P Beedles and M Williams BEM

Also present – One member of the public and The Clerk

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Saundersfoot Community Council was addressed by a member of the public present raising concerns appertaining to agenda item 2020/07 281 (1)

One member of the public left the meeting

2020/07 272 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Hayes MBE

2020/07 273 Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report

Obviously, there has been no formal, or official duties for the Chair of Council to perform. However, I have been busy with various activities, many of them related to the council.

I have been trying to stay as up-to-date as is possible with changes to lockdown rules and regulations; which has proved very difficult, due to a combination of misinformation and misinterpretation, both nationally and locally, and sometimes due to my not being kept in the loop, so to speak. PCC have been excellent at providing updates and press releases on their website and they now have many COVID related documents, signs, posters etc for download. I have found, however, that on a couple of occasions, details of changes seem to have been circulated ahead of any official notification from PCC.

I know the great majority of people have been observing lockdown regulations, but of course, the longer the restrictions have been in place, more people are flouting the rules when they see fit. Examples include the increasing use of the tunnels, which to my knowledge, are still not officially open; gatherings of seemingly more than two households; not following social-distancing rules; more use of cars for non-essential purposes and also people driving significantly more than 5 miles.

As lockdown has been relaxed, Saundersfoot has again led the way in South Pembrokeshire. There was the example on 22nd June when many of the non-essential retail outlets opened. It was a nice, warm day and Gareth Davies appeared, unexpectedly, in the village because nothing was happening in Tenby! The hand sanitisers were beginning to appear and great PR was circulated on Facebook and in the press. We owe a lot to Cllr Baker for his initial proposal and the energy and foresight to get them out asap. Thank you, Phil. Thanks, also to the Clerk for arranging the design and ordering of the units.

I have been keeping the Council Facebook page updated with relevant information: Saundersfoot Connect has been very good with regards to both information and frivolity, much needed in these tedious times; although I sometimes find it difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff, possibly because I seldom look at it more than once each day! I sometimes only find relevant posts because other people share them with me, on my personal Facebook page.

I too have shared some posts, including: from PCC and from Tenby Observer (via CFT Facebook); I have posted reminders about dogs and the closure of the tunnels, after checking with and following advice from Cllr Baker, PCC Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Licensing and Major Events.

Signed: _____

I have followed up the excellent news story about the hand sanitisers, by visiting the village centre with three of the councillors, with a follow up post and photograph on Facebook; (I didn't mention that this was on a gloomy Monday morning, the village was very quiet and, for obvious reasons, several of the shops were not open).

I have thanked the RNLi Lifeguards, both personally and on Facebook, and requesting that dog-owners show respect for the Lifeguards if they are advised that the dog ban is now operational. I know the Chamber for Tourism were meeting this Monday together with other business owners to discuss and make plans for how the village can prepare for the influx of visitors expected after the next phase of relaxation of lockdown. I ask Cllr Baker if he will make a short report on the decisions taken when he speaks later, so that the Community Council can play its part in preparations.

Finally, and I am sure Cllr Baker will include this in his report later, it has been announced that Saundersfoot has won the bid to host the 2022 World Rowing Championships. That is great news. Thank you to every member of this council, I know we are all doing our bit to maintain and celebrate Saundersfoot's beauty, benefits and popularity, even during lockdown.

2020/07 274 Declaration of Interests

Cllr M Williams BEM declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 2020/07 281 (1) and took no part in this item

Cllr T Pearson declared a personal interest in agenda item 2020/07 281 (1)

Cllr M Saunders declared a person interest in agenda item 2020/07 281 (2)

Cllr P Baker declared a person interest in in agenda item 2020/07 281 (1e to his role on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority Committee

2020/07 275 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 8th June 2020

Cllr Boughton Thomas proposed these Minutes be a true and accurate record of the meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council held on 8th June 2020; Cllr Baker seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 276 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only

2020/06 276 Pedestrianisation in Cambrian Terrace and The Strand – Cllr Baker advised the Council that he will provide an update to this agenda item in his report

2020/07 277 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 23rd June 2020

Cllr Upham proposed these Minutes be a true and accurate record of the meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council held on 23rd June 2020; Cllr Cleevely seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 278 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only

None

2020/07 279 Account(s) for Payment and Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Cleevely proposed that the bank and cashbook reconciliation be a true and accurate record of the Council's accounts, Cllr Wainwright seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

Cllr Sefton proposed that the Accounts, as presented to the Council, be paid in full; Cllr Williams BEM seconded the proposal with all Council in full agreement.

The Clerk advised the Council that donation requests had been received from:

1. A member of the public for partial reimbursement towards flowering plants purchased and placed in planters around the village belonging to Saundersfoot in bloom (£200)

And

Signed: _____

2. Saundersfoot in Bloom requesting a donation towards the purchase of flowering plants to be planted around the village.

Cllr D Ludlow declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this agenda item and took no part in this item.

Following consideration of the two above requests Cllr Sefton proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council make a donation of £200 to the member of the public along with a letter of thanks, Mr A Lewis to continue to water all the Saundersfoot in Bloom owned pots of flowering plants and, on this occasion, not to make a donation to Saundersfoot in Bloom as the plants this year, were purchased by others; Cllr Williams BEM seconded the proposal with all Councillors eligible to vote in full agreement.

The Clerk further advised the Council that a cheque in the sum of £85 had been received from Wales in Bloom refunding their 2020 entry fee.

2020/07 280 To consider the Internal Auditors Report

Following consideration of such Cllr Sefton proposed that the report, as received and presented, be accepted by the Council and forwarded to Grant Thornton to enable the Audit Process to continue; Cllr Boughton Thomas seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 281 Planning Application(s) Received

1 NP/20/0279/FUL Apple Tree Gallery, The Ridgeway, Saundersfoot

Development of Apple Tree Gallery and Penydre/Apple Tree Gallery parking bay, New doorway. Additional windows/roof lights. Partial change of use to residential.

The Clerk advised the Council that three letters raising concerns had been received by the Council and distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Following consideration of the plans and accompanying documentation from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority Cllr Sefton proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council request that Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority consider refusing this planning application as the Saundersfoot Community council do not consider that the requirements of the Spatial Strategy and the Conservation Area principles for Saundersfoot are being applied in this instance; Cllr Upham seconded the proposal with all Councillors eligible to vote in full agreement.

The Clerk to write an appropriate letter to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority advising of the Council's concerns and objection to this planning application as discussed by Councillors.

2 NP/20/0298/FUL Green Pastures, Stammers Lane, Rushy Lake, Saundersfoot

New front porch, rear two storey extension & loft conversion and addition of dormer windows and rooflight

Following consideration of the plans and accompanying documentation from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority Cllr Boughton Thomas proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council support this planning application with the consideration that the plans submitted are an attractive alteration; Cllr Ludlow seconded the proposal with all Councillors eligible to vote in full agreement.

2020/07 282 Licensing Application(s) Received

Kook-a-ba, Saundersfoot – No objections or consideration raised regarding this application.

Cllr Baker advised the Council that further businesses may very well be applying for alterations to their current Licences to comply with the current Covid 19 imposed restriction by the Welsh Government

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2020/07 283 Consideration of Correspondence Received

- The Clerk advised the Council that a letter was received from the Ombudsman for Wales in April 2020 (circulated to all Councillors prior to this meeting) but due to the Government imposed restrictions regarding the holding of meetings and the time involved in ensuring that the Council was fully compliant while holding remote meetings there had been a delay in presenting such to the Council.

The Ombudsman for Wales had received a complaint regarding the way in which the Saundersfoot Community Council had administered, discussed and commented upon a certain planning application. Their response states that the Ombudsman for Wales have carefully considered the information provided to them and having done so the complaint is not one which the Ombudsman for Wales should investigate and therefore the complaint is not upheld.

- Letter received from Saundersfoot Bowling Club requesting the Saundersfoot Community Council consider forgoing their rent due to the current Covid 19 restrictions imposed

Following consideration of such request Cllr Baker proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council award the Bowling Club a rent holiday for 2020/2021; Cllr Upham seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

- Letter received from Michael Davies - Chief Executive Officer, Saundersfoot Harbour advising the Council of the draft 2020 Harbour Revision Order (HRO) to Welsh Government and that the 42-day consultation period will end on the 30th July 2020.

Cllr P Baker declared a personal and prejudicial interest therefor taking no part in this discussion.

It was agreed that a remote meeting will be held with harbour representatives to answer any questions raised by Councillors before a resolution is reached by the Saundersfoot Community Council regarding their response to such. The Clerk to make the appropriate arrangements.

- Request received regarding the use of the Saundersfoot Community Council Logo on 'No Dogs Allowed' flags on Saundersfoot Beach.

The Clerk advised the Council that Saundersfoot Community Council have no jurisdiction over the allowing/banning of dogs on the beaches. The Byelaws made by Pembrokeshire County Council under Sections 82 and 83 Of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 and Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972 with respect to the seashore and the promenades sets out the restrictions and the delegated powers to enforce such.

Following discussion Cllr Wainwright proposed that, using private funding, Saundersfoot Community Council approve the use of their logo on two new flags to be placed on the beach, advising visitors to the beach of the seasonal ban of dogs on parts of Saundersfoot beaches, the signs to be bilingual; Cllr Upham seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 284 To receive County Councillor's Report

County Hall

Gold Command still in place as the County moves from dealing with the pandemic to the recovery phase.

Recovery cells have been established bringing together Cabinet Members and Officers

Response continues to the changing requirements of unlocking, 6th July the 5-mile restriction is removed and 13th July self-contained holiday accommodation can be opened.

Café Culture is being promoted by Welsh Government for outside dining.

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Cllr Baker Cabinet role sees him sitting on the Communication and Infrastructure recovery cell enabling the opening of a wide range of services including the public realm, thus building on his plans for Saundersfoot along Cambrian Terrace and part of The Strand.

Ward

It was fantastic that this week saw the announcement from Switzerland that Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, Wales had been awarded the World Coastal Rowing Championships in 2022.

Saundersfoot Chamber for Tourism hosted a Zoom business forum on Monday evening open to all local businesses (members or not). The aim was to provide the most up-to-date information as possible. This being gathered from the Visitor Economy Sector and County Hall, the main themes being Saundersfoot is Covid Aware and Good to Go. The Good to Go campaign is recognised across the UK and allows businesses to undertake an online assessment of their arrangements and if successful allows them to display a Good to Go sign – this went live yesterday. It was good for businesses to understand that they are not alone and next week's meeting will include a PCC Food Standards Officer to advise on catering requirements during the phased opening of catering establishments.

The Volunteer group work has now dramatically reduced, but may still be called on following the opening up of travel and accommodation. Over 400 calls were received and approaching 300 medication deliveries.

Western Power – The Strand, a replacement of the low voltage cable had been possible due to the new substation on the harbour. The cable will replace the 60-year-old cable which is subject to fail a few times annually. Currently the project is likely to take four weeks and will provide security of supply to businesses and residents alike (including the cable that runs up the cliff to feed the police station and school)

Post meeting note – Following a number of concerns Cllr Baker agreed with Streetcare and Western Power that this work is postponed to September / October.

2020/07 285 To Receive Any Reports from Committees/Sub-Committees

Saundersfoot Library

Cllr Baker advised the Council that Certain information had been received from Pembrokeshire County Council, via Email, minutes before the meeting and requested the Clerk to forward such to all Councillors.

The consideration of the continued funding, from the precept, of the Library from April 2021 to be explored by a working party. This heading has been diarised for September 2020

Sensory Garden Sub Committee

Cllr Williams BEM advised the Council that:-

- Mr Chris Viggars had spent a second day in the Garden carrying out certain weeding works.
- Mr C Williams BEM had spent several days within the garden cutting back and reshaping the low-lying hedges.

It was agreed that these works had made a major change to the Sensory Garden which is now looking at its best.

Children's Play Park

The Clerk advised the Council that a meeting has been arranged with a representative from Wicksteeds Playgrounds (Thursday 23rd July 2020 1pm) to discuss possible lay outs of the playground, taking into account ideas from local school children. Cllr Sefton proposed that a Sub Committee be formed to carry this project forward; Cllr Baker seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

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Cllrs wishing to be part of the Sub-committee include Cllrs Beedles – Proposed Chair, Ludlow, Baker and Sefton. (If any other Councillors wish to be a part of this sub-committee please let the Clerk know)

2020/07 286 To Receive Reports from Council Representatives

Cllr Cleevely advised the Council that, due to the current meeting restrictions imposed by the Government, neither One Voice Wales or PACT have been able to hold meetings.

Agenda Items

2020/07 287 Committees/Subcommittees Membership and Terms of Reference

Cllrs to advise of any considerations or proposed amendments appertaining to the structure, meeting requirements and Terms of Reference for Committees and Subcommittee

Cllr Sefton proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council accept and adopt the amended Terms of Reference for the Grounds Committee, Sensory Gardens Sub-Committee, Planning Committee, Projects Committee, Projects Sub-Committee, General Purposes Committee, Festivities Sub-Committee, Policies Sub-Committee, Asset & Risk Sub-Committee and Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee; Cllr Baker seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 288 The Saundersfoot Bowling Club

Request from the Bowling Club for the use of parking spaces to enable contractors' easy access to the Bowling Green

Following receipt of a letter from the Saundersfoot Bowling Club requesting that the contractors, who will be replacing the perimeter fence to the Bowling Green, be granted permission by the Saundersfoot Community Council to use the two parking spaces either side of the side gateway, Cllr Sefton proposed that the above request be approved; Cllr Upham seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

2020/07 289 Mr A Lewis Work Schedule

Cllr Sefton proposed that this agenda item, due to the personal nature of items to be discussed and as defined in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, be considered under Private and Confidential meeting conditions; Cllr Baker seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

It was agreed that Cllrs Williams BEM, Wainwright and Cleevely along with the Clerk will continue to monitor Mr A Lewis' work schedule.

2020/07 290 Consideration of the timing of the Annual Meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council

also the consideration of nomination/s for the position of Chair and Vice Chair to Saundersfoot Community Council

Councillors considered the Council purchasing an annual subscription to ZOOM at a cost of £143.88, it was considered that this purchase was not necessary at this point in time but should the situation change the purchase will be reconsidered.

Following discussion regarding how the recent remote meetings of Saundersfoot Community Council, held via the medium of ZOOM, have been executed, Cllr Boughton Thomas proposed that Saundersfoot Community Council consider the Annual Meeting be held once face to face meetings recommence or reconsider the timing of such at the September 2020 General meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council, if the Government imposed restrictions are still in place; Cllr Ludlow seconded the proposal with all Councillors in full agreement.

Date of next General Meeting of Saundersfoot Community Council Wednesday 5th August 2020 – It is noted that the meeting will be held on Wednesday to accommodate Councillors with amended working patterns due to Covid 19 - Meeting closed at 20.10

Signed: _____