

PENALLY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED PENALUN

Minutes of the Remote General Meeting of the Penally Community Council held on Wednesday 10th February 2021, via Zoom at 6.00 pm.

The Penally Community Council meeting was open to members of the public

Inspector Reuben Palin from Dyfed Powys Police and Sinead Henehan attended prior to the start of the meeting to update the Council on matters appertaining to Penally Training Camp

Present: Cllrs P Bradbury, C Bradbury, J D'Arcy, M Neal, J Rilstone, J Williams-James, S Snow and O Duckett.

In attendance – Inspector Reuben Palin, Sinead Henehan and The Clerk

Sinead advised the Council that the Pembrokeshire County Council has prepared a Press Release, embargoed until 8pm as it is considered that Penally Community Council should receive the information contained within first hand. The statement states that: (The following is abstracted from the Report)

The Home Office has recently re-confirmed to the Council that they are preparing a planning application to allow the temporary use of Penally Training Camp to continue for a further 6 months (beyond 21st March 2021).

However, The Home Office have now made it clear that any planning application will not be submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council until around mid-April 2021.

The Home Office have advised that they will begin the required pre application consultation, a formal 28-day period for public consultation process, in mid-March. Following the consultation period, the responses will be collated and the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report prepared.

The Council have been in continual contact with the Home Office and their planning consultant over the last 5 months, seeking clarification around their planning intention. This recent correspondence confirms their intention to progress a planning application.

All Councillors received a copy of the full report at 8pm which was then circulated through the Penally Email circulation list.

Questions raised by Councillors included:

- Why are the Home Office having to apply for planning permission now, having already occupied the Penally Training Camp for five months? – The first six months of occupation is under emergency planning consent. For the continued use of the camp to temporary house persons, planning permission is required.
- Will Penally Community Council be consultees in the pre-application process? – As with any planning application and pre-planning application Penally Community Council will be consulted.

Sinead confirmed that Pembrokeshire County Council will be compiling a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions' for distribution, but if anyone has any questions in the meantime they should Email Penally@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Inspector Palin confirmed that –

- There are no Covid 19 cases within Penally Training Camp
- Persons are continuing to be moved from the Penally Training Camp to distribution centres within Wales but, due to Government imposed restrictions regarding travel, no new residents are being moved into Penally Training Camp

- All persons within the camp have received information, translation provided if required, regarding the current Covid 19 Government imposed restrictions and advised of the consequences if such are not adhered to.

Meeting commenced 18.47

2021/01 310 Apologies for Absence - None

2021/01 311 Chairman's Report

Councillor P Bradbury's report stated –

At the proposed Annual General Meeting of Penally Community Council to be held in May 2021 I will have been the elected Chair for 5 years.

This period has been a turbulent period for the Council and I acknowledge and am extremely grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from the Clerk and all Councillors.

However, after serious consideration, I hereby give notice that on 30th April 2021 I will retire from the Penally Community Council.

I will continue to work as usual up to that date ensuring the business of the Council continues without interruption and also give Councillors an opportunity to consider options for the AGM a few days later.

Cllr Neal advised the Chair that he would be greatly missed and acknowledged all the time and effort that Cllr P Bradbury had given to the Community Council over the past years.

2021/01 312 To disclose any personal interests in items of business listed below

None

2021/01 313 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 13th January 2021

Cllr Neal proposed that the Minutes of the meeting of Penally Community Council, as presented to the Council, held on 13th January 2021 be signed as a true record of the meeting; Cllr Rilstone seconded the proposal with all Cllrs who attended the meeting in full agreement.

2021/01 314 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only

2021 01 298 – Builders rubbish left on the Pembrokeshire County Council owned grass verge, opposite The Grange – This remains and has been added to increasing the problem. The Clerk will report this major hazard once again to the relevant authority.

2021/01 315 Consideration of Correspondence Received

- Email received from the Penally History Group, advising the Council that the Information Boards are just awaiting the final design touches and should be available for approval at the March 2021 meeting.
- Email received from Friends and Neighbours – A friendship group funded by the Welsh Government, to offer friendship to Asylum Seekers via virtual meetings. If any member of Penally Community would like to attend any of these virtual meetings they should contact the Clerk (penallycommunitycouncilclerk@gmail.com)
- Email received from Cllr C Bradbury advising the Council that she will be retiring as a Councillor as from the 30.04.2021
- Email received from the Ministry of Defence – Notice of Firing.

No firing is planned to take place for the foreseeable future, although the Range could still be used if there is an urgent operational requirement. A new firing Notice will be published prior to any firing taking place.

2021/01 316 Account(s) for Payment and Bank Reconciliation

Cllr P Bradbury proposed that the bank reconciliation be accepted as a true record of the Council's finances; Cllr Williams-James seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

Cllr Neal proposed that the invoices, as presented to the Council, be paid in full; Cllr D'Arcy seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

2021/01 317 To consider the Clerks overtime worked during January 2021

The Clerk confirmed to Council that:

- The Clerk is contracted to work 5 hours a week.
- In the Emergency Meeting held on the 24th September 2020 Councillors raised the issue of the Clerk working overtime and that the payment of such will be agreed on a monthly basis on the production of time sheets and a schedule of works carried out.
- The majority of overtime worked by the Clerk since September 2020 has been to cover matters appertaining to Penally Training Camp being used by the Home Office.

Cllr Rilstone proposed that the hours, as reported, were fair and accurate and that Penally Community Council pay the Clerk 8 hours overtime for January 2021; Cllr Snow seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

Cllr P Bradbury requested that the Clerk prepare a detailed report, of all costs incurred since September 2020 appertaining to Penally Training Camp being used by the Home Office, for possible onward submission to attempt to claim costs incurred by Penally Community Council.

2021/01 318 Planning Application(s) Received

NP/21/0014/FUL Lydstep Beach Holiday Resort, Lydstep Haven, Tenby

Installation of arrivals lodge with associated infrastructure and ancillary landscaping works.

Following consideration of all information provided by the Planning Authority – Penally Community Council do not have any objections or concerns regarding this planning application

**2021/01 319 Pre-Planning Application
Heatherton World of Activities Planning Application**

Following consideration of all information provided – Penally Community Council have no objections or concerns regarding this Pre-Planning Application.

2021/01 320 Reports from Council Representatives

County Councillor Jon Preston reported-

Covid-19 vaccination roll out

Mass vaccination centres (MVC's) have been set up to provide a safe environment with the space to maintain social distancing. This enables more people to be vaccinated as efficiently and as possible. Tenby Leisure Centre, Marsh Road, Tenby, SA70 8EJ is our local MVC which has free parking for attendees, is wheelchair accessible and has disabled toilets available. For anyone who may find it difficult to attend a vaccination appointment there is help available to support people with transport to the centre. More information can be found at <https://hduhb.nhs.wales/COVID19-Vaccination> or I can be contacted directly to help find suitable transport via the Hywel Dda support services. The Pembrokeshire community hub is also still available to offer Covid related support.

Penally camp - call for evidence

I would like to remind council that the call for evidence from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, invites anyone with knowledge and experience of the Home Office's use of hotels and barracks as contingency asylum accommodation to submit evidence. I shall be submitting evidence in my capacity as the local member and Pembrokeshire county council is collating an account of operational feedback of their experience regarding Penally camp since it was repurposed by the

Home Office last September. The call is open to anyone with relevant knowledge or experience to submit their evidence to chiefinspector@icibi.gov.uk. The call for evidence will remain open until 19 February 2021. Please find the link below:

Call for evidence: An inspection of the use of hotels and barracks as contingency asylum accommodation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Reports of 'camp closure'

Councillors may have read some reports which have suggested the 'Penally camp closure'. There remains no timetable for the return of the camp to the MoD and the process of the service users being transferred out of the camp is part of the asylum process. There are also cases of service users who have been successfully supported by legal teams and have been removed from the camp. The Home Office state that they are committed to keeping the process running as efficiently as possible, but this is very much dependent on the availability of dispersal accommodation. As many will be aware Wales provides agreed supported accommodation area's in Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Wrexham whose local authorities have been pro-active in the support of asylum seekers and the resettlement of refugees. A 2020 report from the Office of National Statistics supports this with a detailed analysis on the asylum and resettlement process in Wales and the remainder of the UK.

Recovery of expenditure

Following a question I put to the Head of Finance at PCC regarding the recovery of expenditure from the Home Office, it has been estimated that the cost of providing services to Penally camp are in the region of £55,000 per month. Despite attempts to recover these costs from the Home Office there has been little, or no progress made. I have written to Simon Hart MP to seek his support in recovering this substantial cost to the local authority. I have also raised the matter of the absence of a planning application. If no approval is granted before the 21st of March, there will exist a possibility that enforcement action may be taken by the local authority. Due to the timescales this would involve, it is my understanding that the Home Office could continue to use Penally camp for an extended period 'by default'. I have asked for assurance from our MP that the Home Office will ensure that the return of Penally camp to the MoD is managed without the need of enforcement action and avoid further distress and uncertainty to those already affected by this situation.

War memorials grant scheme

The War Memorials Trust is providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials. These grants are intended to help those who are responsible for the upkeep of war memorials. The grants support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard, and to prevent the decay of this important part of our heritage. Grants of up to between 25% and a maximum of 75% of eligible costs may be applied for. The maximum grant is capped at £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £30,000. The fund is open to anyone to apply; individuals or organisations, including councils. The closing date for applications is the 31st March 2021.

Misuse of public litter bins / Fly Tipping

There have been more incidences of public litter bins being used to discard domestic household rubbish. The most recent one being the bin at the play park off School Lane. This was reported to PCC by a local resident and the bin was emptied. However, experience tells me that if public bins are repeatedly mis-used in this way they will be removed by the council. However, where there is enough evidence to proceed with an investigation this would be the first route I would pursue with environmental services. We have had two reported cases of fly tipping in the village this month. One which is in a similar location to a previous incident and another which looks like the waste from a construction project which will require significant resources to remove. Fly tipping is an environmental crime and offenders can be prosecuted. PCC have a dedicated Fly Tipping reporting line: 01437 775253 or email fly.tipping@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

2021/01 321 Reports from Council Committees

Cllr C Bradbury – On Behalf of the Grounds Committee

- During general maintenance in the village Smart Gardens will remove all dead shrubs from the planted area at the Penally Heights entrance to the village. This will be left until a decision on replanting by Councillors takes place.
- We have been informed that there is funding to replace some of the fencing adjacent to the playing field and the children's play area.
- Fly tipping in the village has once again been reported.
- We still have had no response to our enquiries about removal of the spoil heap on the playing field.
- In March the grounds maintenance contract is to be renewed. The Clerk will ask those interested to tender for this.
- Contact has been made with Mark Smeezum who will be happy to undertake tasks around the village. Discussion has taken place about refurbishment of the village pump which has been high on the council's agenda for some time.
- If after discussion amongst councillors this is still considered to be a high priority Mr Smeezum can be given the go ahead.
- The War Memorial Grant Scheme was discussed and it was agreed that Penally War Memorial, at this point in time, is not in need of any works.

Agenda Items:

2021/01 322 To receive any updates regarding Penally Training Camp

The following concerns were raised by Councillors:

- Will the Pre-Planning application be for six months? – This is unknown at this point in time but presumed to be for six months
- If the Home Office apply for six months continuous use in April 2021 and are successful, are they then able to apply for a further six months in September 2021? - A response is awaited from the Planning Authority regarding this question.

2021/01 323 To consider the grass cutting contract

The Clerk advised the Council that further information was awaited. Once the information is received the Clerk to circulate the final draft of the contract to all Councillors for their consideration, and then if agreed the relevant advert to be placed in the Tenby Observer and all Tenders considered at the March 2021 meeting.

2021/01 324 To receive an update from Cllr Snow regarding potential projects which have been put forward by Councillors

Cllr Snow reported to the Penally Community Council that the top three choices of projects within the village for the Council to consider are:

- a) Planting at the West end entrance to Penally Village
- b) Information/notice boards at various locations within the village
- c) The purchase of a printer to be used by the community

Following discussion of the above the following points were made:

- a) Cllr C Bradbury will liaise with the handyman and arrange for planting to take place, with current Government imposed Covid 19 restrictions being adhered to.
- b) The Clerk advised the Council that consideration should be given to the possibility that planning permission may be required. Cllr Snow to make further enquiries and report back to Council at the March 2021 meeting.

- c) Questions were raised as to where the printer would be stored, how it would be accessed by the Community and who would be responsible for the replacement of inks and repairs.

The Clerk advised the Council that the Penally Community Council pay towards the hire of a printer with the costs covering the replacement inks and repairs. The cost of copies is minimal and can be used for the printing of Penally Crow News (as offered previously). Consideration to be given an application being made to the Lottery Community Fund Grants for the purchase of the Information/notice boards and a Photocopier.

Cllr C Bradbury requested confirmation that works can commence regarding the restoration of the Water Pump within the village. It was confirmed that a resolution had already been passed and works to commence as soon as possible.

2021/01 325 To consider how Penally Community Council can communicate with more residents of Penally either by Email, Social Media, Royal Mail etc – Discussed and carried forward from January 2021

No further action on this agenda heading at this point in time but Councillors agreed that it should be reconsidered regularly.

2021/01 326 To receive any responses to correspondence, sent by Penally Community Council, raising concerns that the Government Imposed Covid 19 restrictions are not being effectively enforced

All Councillors confirmed that they had received a copy of the responses received from Dyfed Powys Police and Pembrokeshire County Council.

Following discussion Councillors raised concerns regarding the number of persons visiting the area from away and also the number of persons not adhering to the Government imposed restrictions put in place to protect the community from Covid 19. It was noted that this is not just a Penally Ward issue.

It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a suitable letter raising such concerns for onward submission to relevant persons and Authorities

Date of next meeting 10.03.2021

Meeting closed 19.55