St ISHMAELS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting by “Zoom” on Mon 25th January, 2021 at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllrs. Barbara Harston, Lynda Thomas, John Everett, Kenny Hackett, Colin Jenkins

Reg Owens (County Councillor) Revd. Michael Cottam (Clerk)

APOLOGIES   
Moira Hawkins

FINANCE

The council currently holds £43K in its two accounts. The account is inflated by the nett receipts from sale of the Memorial Hall (£40,119). The final disposal of the hall capital will be after a period of consultation with the community. The clerk reminded the council that substantial amounts being held in community accounts, without proper disposal plans being in operation, were not legally permitted.

MEMORIAL HALL SALE FUNDS

It was understood by councillors that extensive discussion would be required to establish the community’s ideas, wishes and concerns about the use of funds. The need for a continuing memorial presence in some form was considered paramount. Initial questions being discussed at this early stage included the type, design, siting and likely costs of any new memorial and by what time such a project be finished. The clerk reported that C. Cllr Owens had emailed the possibility of specific funding being available. ***(Clerk)***

SANDY HAVEN SLIPWAY

This now was in very bad state due to surface water degrading the slipway because of blocked and ruinous pipes issuing onto the beach. Once again, ownership was a problem as the pipe had been built privately many years ago by the Beer family of Sandy Haven farm and ownership of the property had changed. The Highways Authority had denied any responsibility for the slipway, below the end of the tarmac portion of the approach road, though it had said that consideration would be given to its repair but with the proviso of possible funding being available in its very tight budget.

It was thought that also adjoining properties would not now be liable for repairs. Possibly, ownership was not vested in any particular party. C. Cllr Owens and the clerk agreed to discover what might be a way forward. ***(Clerk)***

AUDITOR’S REPORT for 2019 – 2020

The auditors have drawn the council’s attention concerning the legal requirement to have its own functioning website and for the necessity of using approved pro forma letters for the engagement of internal auditors. The clerk reported that the establishment of a website, exclusive to St. Ishmaels Community, is in the process of being instated. ***(Clerk)***

MONKHAVEN WALL

This was reported by the clerk considered by him to be now in a parlous and dangerous state. Attention was drawn to previous communications with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority in 2003, resulting in a contract document for the repair and improvement to the wall appearing in 2005, which, despite several discussions over the next few years, nothing had been undertaken to this date, save some emergency work undertaken by the County Council, having been sanctioned under a work experience scheme. Discussion then centred around the liability of funding the necessary repairs, as it was neither in the ownership nor care of the Community Council and that further information about its provenance, ownership and liability was necessary before any further consideration. Cllrs Jenkins and Harston expressed caution on the spending of public money on edifices that were privately owned. Cllr. Thomas pointed to the current state of the Sandy Haven lime kiln as cautionary advice concerning the poor after-care of publicly funded projects. Cllr Everett referred to the important historic individuality of the wall which should be saved from collapse.

C. Cllr Reg Owens said that limited funds were available from P.C.C. and agreed to work with the clerk to investigate further and to establish more information concerning ownership and liability. ***(Clerk)***

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Jenkins once again brought the perennial problems of standing water in Grove Road, Trewarren Road by Brookside and the top of the Monkhaven Road at its junction with Long Lane to the notice of the council. To this was added the continuous concerns of Cllr. Thomas to the similar flooding worries in Lindsway Drive. Although Welsh Water had responded reasonably quickly to the concerns of the flooding contamination of the bottom Grove Road from the overflowing sewage manhole during excessive rainfall, it had declared to C. Cllr Owens that, upon their inspection, the water issuing out was seen to clear and clean. The clerk, however, told the council and C. Cllr Owens that, despite this assertion, the latest deluging rainfall, as witnessed by him, had once more caused foul water and toilet tissue to appear on the road and spill over into the watercourse.

***(C. Cllr Owens)***

Thanks were offered to Cllr. Everett for his hosting of the Zoom meeting and councillors reminded that further meetings would be time limited to 45 minutes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**March 29th, 2021 at 2.00 p.m. by Zoom** (unless regulations had by then changed and face-to-face meetings are again permitted.)