

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council
starting at 1930 on Monday April 12th 2021.

In attendance: Councillor Peter Smithies (Chairman), together with Councillors Brian Johnson, Christopher Jessop, William Richards, and Louise Beal (arrived at 7.55pm).

Apologies – Cllr. James Kimpton

Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk

County Cllr. Reg Owens

Visitors – Mr. Jeremy Arden & Ms. Rosalind Scott.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Arden and Ms. Scott to the meeting and advised them that Agenda Item 5 would be taken at the start of the meeting. He also advised how the Zoom meeting would be conducted.

1. The minutes of the March 2021 meeting having been circulated beforehand were approved by the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, and seconded by Cllr. Johnson.
2. Matters Arising

Marloes Sands car park – The Clerk read out an e-mail received from Kate Mellor, National Trust proposing a change to the procedure for the car park permits. A £15 fee was proposed to be paid via the telephone, valid from 1/03/21 to 31/10/21. A further e-mail dated 12th May had been received after Mrs. Evans had advised that holiday homes/lets do not qualify. The Trust offered to host an event in the Village Hall to undertake the registration process. Members were agreed that a £15 payment should be challenged. All vehicles to both car parks pass through the community, and the permit has been by way of a reward, and not all residents use the permit regularly. This Council had supported the recent grant application, and worked with Trust officers to achieve a satisfactory design on the new car park hut. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk set up a Zoom meeting with Ms. Mellor as soon as possible – proposed by Cllr. Smithies, seconded by Cllr. Johnson. It was noted that the car parks would not be fully manned, but staff would work between both sites.

Cllr. Beal drew attention to a problem identified by a friend who was visually impaired that she found the NT toilets difficult to use.

Highway Matters – Clerk to remind Robert Evans, PCC that his fellow officer is to meet Cllr. Richards to look at the Fopston road problem. Cllr. Richards drew Cllr. Owen's attention to a drain problem on the left hand side near Bushford Hill. This is in The Havens County Council area.

Speed Warning Sign – No indication as yet as to when this may be installed.

PCC Seminars – Cllr. Smithies was not able to attend, so could not pursue the question on business signs.

Signage - General discussion about signage needed at Martins Haven and St. Brides to deter long stay/overnight parking, and to avoid blocking access for emergency vehicles. Cllr. Owens will request appropriate signage.

Marloes Website/Facebook/Blogs – No information available.

Skomer Island visits – Advice on Instagram that the Island will open on the 27th April.

Marloes Shop/PO – No information received on the sale of the business.

PCC – Chief Executive – Advised by Cllr. Owens that Mr. William Bramble has been appointed – formerly Lt. Major. He intends to gradually visit each County Council area in Pembrokeshire.

War Memorial – St. Peter's Churchyard – Clerk will be following this up with the Church Council shortly.

3. Community Issues

COVID 19 – Noted that Tier 4 restrictions are gradually being relaxed with some being brought forward by one week. Visitors using self contained premises and caravans /campers are now permitted. From the 26th April outside catering is permitted, only take-away service until then. Further relaxation in May, and village halls can then re-open. Social distancing, and use of masks inside premises to continue. Number of new infections and admittance to hospitals falling, and number of 1st and now 2nd vaccines administered increasing steadily.

Runwayskiln Marquee – E-mail from Claire Pepperell received advising that in 2020 a marquee was used at the Cafe to enable social distancing to be maintained as the cafe interior is too small. They are asking for this as a

temporary arrangement this year to start in August for 28 days. It is hoped the Welsh Government will extend this period to 56 days as has been done in England. After discussion, it was agreed that this request was part of the Covid business recovery process, and the Council would support this use. The Clerk to clarify whether, when in-door catering was allowed would both areas be used.

Sewage Problem – Glebe Lane, Marloes. An e-mail dated 19th March from Sewerage Services was read to the meeting, and has been copied to Foxdale Guest House. Noted that annual cleaning will be undertaken each winter. There are numerous sections where surface water is entering the network, and they have advised for further investment will be needed to combat this problem. They request that new incidents are reported promptly. Agreed, that the Clerk write back pressing for further investment to reduce future incidents.

Litter/Dog Fouling/Countryside Code – Noted that Runwayskiln Cafe did have problems the first weekend of the Take-Away Service. The County Council assisted with an extra litter bin in the Car Park and the business itself also took action. The Clerk and Cllr. Smithies also identified problems elsewhere alongside community roads. Cllrs. Smithies and Jessop had proposed to the local businesses that car numbers be recorded on take away packaging but they felt that data protection regulations would not allow this idea.

Noted that a new version of The Countryside Code has been published recently. There is a short summarised version available.

4. Correspondence

Clerks & Council Direct - March 21 – Issue 134 received.

The following e-mails were received by the Council:-

18/03/21 – OVW – Joint OVW and SLCC event on the 13th May. Noted.

22/03/21 – PCC, Hugh Jones – Confirmation received that the 6th form provision at Milford Haven School will end shortly. Students will be eligible to go to Pembrokeshire College in Haverfordwest. Noted with regret.

22/03/21 & 05/04/21 – Contact from Jack Riley – new reporter for the Western Telegraph who will be covering this area.

23/03/21 – OVW - Digital Connectivity Survey by the WI (Women's Institute).

25/03/21 & 06/04/21 – OVW - Welsh Govt. Elections Newsletters.

26/03/21 – OVW – Climate Change Newsletter.

26/03/21 – NRW – 3 new appointments – circulated to Councillors.

05/04/21 – Cllrs. Beal & Johnson – Broken hinge on men's toilet door reported, and repair arranged by Danfo.

06/04/21 – OVW – Welsh Govt. Community Asset transfer.

07/04/21 – Dyfed Powys – PCSO 8139 Leanne Nicholls - Anti-social Behaviour

08/04/21 – Rosemary Royle – Peninsula Papers to resume publication in June as access to the printer in Marloes Village Hall will be permitted later in May.

08/04/21 – Village Hall Committee will allow bookings to resume from the 17th May, with restrictions as before. Election voting permissible on Thursday 6th May.

08/04/21 – OVW – Community Energy State of Sector Survey – passed to Cllr. Jessop.

10/04/21 – PCC (Dan Shaw) – Rail Services Consultation – comments by the 6th June. Cllr. Jessop suggested that Mr. Simon Woods may like to respond as a regular train user.

Other e-mails received were noted separately – no action required.

5. Planning

- a) New gateway, C3102 Martins Haven Road – Musselwick Farm.
Retrospective plans yet to be received.
- b) NP/21/0149/FUL – Speedlands Farm, Dale - Change of use to create seasonal camping facility (6 no. tents & siting of welfare facility). Noted that this site is immediately adjacent to the Community boundary and there are properties close by in this Community. After discussion it was agreed to write as follows:-

that it will be a seasonal site, and that campers will be using tents provided by the applicants; the site is on a bus route which in normal times provide visitors with both service buses and Puffin Shuttle transport. The site is very close to

the Pembrokeshire Coastal path which is part of the all Wales Path, and this would enable campers to undertake walks in either direction without making use of motor vehicles – one of the primary aims of the National Park. The adjacent Gann estuary will also provide opportunities for bird watching, as well as quiet enjoyment of the natural environment - much needed in these stressful times.

Noted that there is insufficient smaller discrete seasonal sites available for camping, and also for those visiting in camper vans. This has become more evident during the Covid emergency when visitors are looking for “staycation” sites. It is the feeling of our Council that the current policy on camping sites is out of date. This proposal by the applicants will provide an opportunity for farm diversification to help sustain the family enterprise, while providing a service that visitors are looking for in Pembrokeshire.

The Council supports the application, and would recommend approval of this seasonal facility.

- c) NP/21/0177/FUL - 7, Green Meadow Close – Addition of a single storey side extension over existing driveway. Cllr. Richards declared an interest in this application, and did not take part in the discussion/outcome.

Council members had been circulated with relevant correspondence from National Park and from near neighbours to the proposed development.

Cllr. Owens advised he had visited the site with another County Councillor so they would be familiar with this proposal. The Chairman permitted both Ms. Scott and Mr. Arden to contribute to the discussion on this application. After discussion, it was agreed that the following be included in the letter to National Park:-

that the Council objects to this application, and would recommend that the application is refused. The applicant is proposing to build an extension over a dedicated parking area – one of two spaces on the property. The need for dedicated parking alongside the property was included in the planning conditions on the original application, and also included as one of the covenants on the site by the developer. Clerk to refer to the density on site, and the parking arrangements. To suggest an officer visits the site to see the parking arrangements.

The Clerk to draw attention to a loss of amenity, the need to avoid overspill parking in the Glebe Lane, and to preserve the aesthetics of the current design, and to avoid setting a precedent. To also draw attention to the withholding of Permitted Development Rights on the site. Particular mention to be made with

regard to access to the oil tank, and the need for no neighbour to be adversely affected.

- d) Permitted Development Rights – Cllr. Jessop has e-mailed the Clerk with a link to these regulations so that an item can be placed in Peninsula Papers to inform residents.

6. Financial Matters

- a) One Voice Wales – Payment of the membership fee of £66 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Smithies.
- b) Lloyds Bank – Balance on 23/04/21 was £3887.96p. Noted.

7. Clock Tower

British Gas Electric Supply – Clerk had spoken to a staff member, and had agreed that from April the Council will pay £20 a month to help cover the arrears, and allow for a standing charge to be paid as well as usage. It was agreed that the Council needed to pursue a cheaper rate if possible, and to seek an alternative solar supply if practical.

Night Silencing Request - An e-mail dated 17th March 2021 had been received from The Clock House Team requesting silencing from the 1st April to the 31st October 2021. Covid regulations allow them to offer self-contained service. The Chairman, Cllr. Smithies had agreed to the start date being the 1st April, as Easter was early this year. The Clock House was advised that the end date would be discussed by the Council this evening. The Council had also received e-mails from Mr. Malcolm Cullen objecting to the proposed extension, and advising that many in the Community did not accept that night silencing should be adopted. Cllr. Smithies reminded the Council of the history that led up to the first decision to use the facility. The County Council had advised the Community Council that they were in breach of the law in allowing a noise nuisance to continue, and would face legal action and fines if this continued. The Community Council over the years had sought to balance the needs of a local business against the long standing feelings of local residents. After discussion, it was agreed that again this year the end date would be the 30th September, as the main visitor season was largely over by this date.

2021 Clock Tower Daily Opening - After discussion, it was agreed that this decision be delayed until the Covid regulations are clearer on social distancing. Noted that Mr. Dave Hill had kindly offered to undertake the opening/closing when required.

8. Urgent Matters

- a) Bus Services/Bus Shelter – Cllr. Johnson confirmed that no service buses will operate for the time being. The Council was happy that the Help yourself Book/Games boxes remain in the shelter for the time being. Mrs. Jackie Wetton to be thanked for providing and overseeing this service during the lockdown.
- b) Emergency Phones – Cllr. Jessop will clear the grass in front of the one at the Marloes Sands car park. The boxes need to be checked regularly to ensure they are working – and to be reported as out of order as necessary.
- c) Beach Cleaning – Cllr. Jessop advised that Mr. Pomfret has the County Council contract for Marloes Sands again this year, and that he is investigating a possible beach clean by Surfers Against Sewage.
- d) Field Crop plastic – Various members referred to a recent problem of plastic blowing over the roads and hedges from potatoes crops. It was questioned if it is the landowner who is responsible for cleaning this up?
- e) Winterton Farm – Noted that Theatre Wales had undertaken a filming exercise in conjunction with the Ford family linked to the Sea Empress.

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10th May 2021, when the draft minutes of this meeting will be submitted for approval. It is possible that this will need to be a Zoom meeting again.