

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council
starting at 1930 on Monday March 15th 2021.

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

Apologies – Cllr. James Kimpton

Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk

County Cllr. Reg Owens

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

Marloes Sands car park – Noted that the Car Park hut had arrived on site on the 16th February, and the work is now almost complete. No work undertaken on the track to Runwayskiln as yet.

Street Light – Light opposite Mourne House repaired on the 16/02/21.

Dog Fouling – No action taken as yet on an extra bin.

Highway Matters –

Gaylane Terrace – Repair undertaken to a clay pipe, and then a French drain constructed to run the water into the nearby field. The work team then moved to the Little Marloes road prior to the road being re-surfaced – the only one to be undertaken in this Community area. Cllr. Owens was advised that this road has very little public traffic, and the Council would have nominated many other road works that required doing far more urgently. Mrs. Evans had contacted Robert Evans, PCC to see if two small jobs nearby at Stembridge and Winterton could have been done while the Team and equipment was in the area. This proved not possible, but may be done at a later date.

Fopston Road – Mr. Evans, PCC had advised on the 3rd March that he was asking Gavin Pritchard to contact Cllr. Richards – no contact as yet. Cllr. Richards advised that a blocked culvert in the St. Brides area had been cleared quickly.

Black & white marker posts had been replaced alongside the stream on the road from the Mullock Bridge junction to Winterton junction.

Speed Warning Sign – The Clerk had met Mr. Phil Leggett, PCC on site on the 23rd February to confirm the main details. Subsequently, she had been asked to contact the owners of the Lobster Pot and Beacon House to ask if they had any objection to the sign – both had confirmed by email that they supported the provision of the sign. Mr. Leggett has subsequently been advised that the specification on sign size had been changed last July 2020 to 300 not 450mm – information copied to PCC at the time. The Council were sorry to learn from Mr. Leggett, that Mr. Ben Blake who had dealt with the Council previously had died of cancer before Christmas.

Business Signs – The Clerk advised that Mr. Slater of the Lobster Pot had asked about a business sign. Last year, the owner of The Clock House had posed a similar question. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Smithies raise the issue of future business support to help recover from the pandemic.

PCC Seminars – Cllr. Smithies is planning to attend the next on-line meeting on 25/03/21 – to discuss a “Citizen-led recovery”.

Marloes Website/Facebook/Blogs - Work is ongoing, and it was agreed that Rosemary Royle and Simon Wood will concentrate on the website. A PCC officer had contacted the Council to offer assistance, following on from the previous Seminar– Mr. Antony Topaizo. Cllr. Smithies to contact him.

Renewable Energy consultation - Draft letter circulated and then submitted.

3. Community Issues

COVID 19 – Noted that Tier 4 restrictions continue with small changes recently, with more planned over the coming weeks. Vaccines are now on offer to the over 60's and for those with underlying health conditions. Second vaccines for the top tiers will follow mainly in April. Phased return to schools continue. The Clerk advised that misuse of the holiday homes/lets will be harder to control as regulations across Wales and England proceed at different stages.

Sewage Problem – Glebe Lane, Marloes. A further problem was reported by Mr. & Mrs. Watts, Foxdale on the 4th March. Clerk wrote to Customer Services asking for further information on the proposed testing, the operation of the treatment

works, and noise issues. Response due within 10 days, and also a report by the 8th April on their investigations.

War Memorial – St. Peter’s Churchyard. On the website the memorial is described as in “good condition”. Cllr. Jessop has provided the Clerk with photographs. Mrs. Evans advised that she will now advise the Church Council that work is required to refurbish/clean the Memorial and to stabilise the lettering. Noted.

4. Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2021, Issue 134 received.

Solva Care Toolkit- Copy of the document received. Clerk will share the document with the Welcome Club to see if any of the ideas could be followed up in this Community area.

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

Omitted last month-

05.02.21 – OVW – Draft Guidance on Code of Conduct – responses by 28/02/21.

15/02/21 – OVW/IRPW – Letter inviting Councils to get involved in the Review – changes to take place after the 2022 election.

16/02/21 – Welsh Govt. – Keep Wales Safe campaign – Posters available.

16/02/21 – BHIB – Council Insurance – Self Service Portal being offered. Noted.

16/02/21 – Cllr. R. Owens – 16/17 year old voting. Cllr. Beal advised that the Secondary Schools are publicising this change for the May elections.

17/02/21 – 17/02/21 – CHC, Hywel Dda – Views on the Pandemic had been invited, and leaflets on their role.

20/02/21 – PCSO Leanne Nicholls – Dog Theft warning and posters. Clerk will check with National Trust if posters can be displayed in the two car parks.

23/02/21 – Dan Shaw, PCC – Volunteering opportunities.

23/02/21 – OVW, Pembs Area Committee – 02/03/21 – The meeting was on-line.

24/02/21 – British Gas – Various e-mails received with regard to the electric supply to the Clock Tower. Meter reading has been forwarded. Clerk has

written to the company explaining what the building entails, and giving an explanation of the energy consumption during the year. Agreed, that now the Council is also being billed for a standing charge that it may be the right time to explore the possibilities of a solar powered system – possibly housed in the recreation area if permissible. Grants may be available towards an installation.

25/02/21 – IRPW – Annual Report 2021, Section 13 covers Town & Community Councils. Circulated to all members.

03/03/21 – National Census – 21/03/21. Carried out every 10 years. It is intended that this will be done on-line by the majority of households. However, hard copies can be obtained as necessary.

4/03/21 - OVW – Summary of Key Provisions – Local Govt. & Elections(Wales)Act 2021 – Circulated to Members. Also 10/03/21 – Commencement, Implementation and Guidance. A few clauses cover Community Councils – e.g. there will be a requirement to publish an Annual report on the preceding year.

05/03/21 – PCC – Licensing. Consultation up to 31/03/21 on how the Act has operated over the last five years. Noted.

11/03/21 – OVW – Cyber Security Guide (68 pages) – to be circulated.

14/03/21 – Pembs Triathlon – Dave Astins – Regulations permitting, it is planned to hold the Broad Haven event on the 10th July 2021, and the Dale Half Marathon on Sunday 26th September 2021.

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

5. Planning

- a) New gateway, C3102 Martins Haven Road – Musselwick Farm. Clerk has been advised by Mr. Griffiths, PCNP that a retrospective planning application will be received by National Park shortly.
- b) NP/21/0097/FUL - Lower Hoaten Farmhouse, St. Brides. Construction of a single storey extension to side & rear, plus new porch. The Council noted that this property is self contained with the farm buildings surrounding the dwelling, and there are no near neighbours. Passing traffic is minimal

at this location, and mostly farm related. Members agree that the demolition of the old garage will enhance the appearance of the property. They also noted that there will be solar gain with the glass being utilised in one wall, and the roof of the new conservatory. The Council have no objections to the application.

- c) NP/21/0123/FUL – Seascape, Marloes. The Council noted that the applicant has consulted near neighbours. It was noted also that the design integrates maximum insulation, and solar gain. The development of living space over the existing garage is to be used as ancillary to the main dwelling. In previous applications of a similar nature, the Community Council has asked if that is written into the planning consent as a condition. The Council have no objections to the application.
- d) 7, Green Meadow Close – Clarification had been sought from PCNP as to whether an extension to this dwelling, as advised to neighbours could be undertaken under Permitted Development Rights. The Council has been advised that the owner will now be submitting a planning application.
- e) Permitted Development Rights – It was noted that this was the fourth successive occasion that the use, or potential use of these rights had caused upset in the community, and to near neighbours who were unaware of the actions being undertaken. It was suggested to Cllr. Owens that this be raised with PCNP, and a system devised to avoid such problems. It would be helpful if neighbours had to be notified in advance, and a notice had to be displayed, indicating under which “Right” a development was being undertaken. In a small community, neighbour disputes undermine community cohesion particularly when some are permanent residents and others not. Cllr. Owens was advised that PCNP are not undertaking any advice surgeries at present.
- f) Dev Plans/Planed – E-mail dated 8th March received regarding an event on the 24th March with regard to the Sustainable Stitch in Time Project – Catchment approach to non-native invasive species.

6. Financial Matters

- a) Clerk's Salary 2020/2021 – On the proposal of cllr. Smithies, seconded by Cllr. Johnson the payment of £750 was approved by the meeting. Cllr. Beal declared an interest and abstained from voting as a relative of the Clerk.
- b) Lloyds Bank – Balance on 05/03/21 was £5,014.01 Noted.

7. Clock Tower

See item on electricity supply above.

8. Urgent Matters

- a) Skomer Island – The Clerk read out an e-mail from Lisa Morgan, Head of Islands and Marine, Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. The Trust has decided that when visits to the Island can be resumed, that tickets will have to be booked on-line this year to avoid a crowd of people at Lockley Lodge. Numbers will be limited, and tickets will not be transferable, or allowed for resale. Further details in due course. Cllr. Smithies advised that Dale Sailing will be operating two boats this Season. Clerk to pass details to local businesses who may already be taking bookings from visitors planning to go to Skomer. Island cruises may be affected.
- b) Marloes Village Stores/Post Office – Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Stef Lucas have advised they will be retiring later this year, and the business will be put up for sale. There was unanimous agreement that under their management the shop had been well stocked and run, the Cafe added with indoor and outdoor seating, and the Post Office closed by the previous occupant had been re-opened and available whenever the Shop was open. They have played a key role in village events, always very supportive. They and their family have experienced a particularly difficult time over the last twelve months, and have worked hard to keep the business open, and support people shielding with home deliveries. No one would question their wish to retire, but they will be greatly missed, and it was hoped they would stay in the local area.

It was hoped that the business would attract a buyer who would welcome living and working in a small community.

- c) HMRC Scam – Cllr. Richards reported a Royal Mail scam is circulating at present.
- d) Speeding Traffic – Cllr. Johnson identified one delivery driver in particular who appears to be exceeding the 20mph. Agreed that he be asked to observe the speed limits.
- e) Parcel Deliveries – Noted that some parcels are being mis-directed by delivery firms.
- f) Coastguard Incidents – Cllr. Smithies advised that the Coastguard are being called out more than usual at present. Vehicles are being left causing concern that the occupants are in distress. Noted there was an incident in Dale earlier today.
- g) PCC Chief Executive – Cllr. Owens advised that an appointment will be confirmed on the 31st March. The person concerned has served as a Major General in the British Army..

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th April, 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.