

Minutes of the Meeting of Marloes & St. Brides Community Council held on
Monday 11th August 2014 at Moriah Chapel, Marloes

Present:- Cllr. L. Beal (Chairman), together with Cllrs. C. Jessop, S. Burnett, and P. Smithies

- Mrs. Y. C. Evans - Clerk to the Council
- Mr J. Walmsley, Mrs. C. Walmsley and Mrs. L. Tusa - Community Residents
- County Cllr. R. Owens

Apologies were received from Cllrs. W. Richards & S. Twidale

The Chairman, Cllr. Louise Beal welcomed Sash Tusa(Trustee, Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales), and Sarah Kessell – Chief Executive of Wildlife Trust to the meeting.

Mr. Tusa expressed the thanks of the Wildlife Trust for the support offered by members of the local Community towards the work of the Trust. Help is provided when the Staff are going on and coming off the Islands, and in recent years there has been a lot of help for the restoration project on Skokholm. The Community Council thanked the Trust, in conjunction with Dale Sailing Company for the donation of 40 tickets for community residents to land on Skomer this year. It was hoped this offer would be made on regular basis, to maintain local contact with the Island.

Ms. Kessell highlighted the importance of Skomer and Skokholm both nationally and internationally, in particular for the number of shearwaters which come to the Islands to breed. The Puffin has the highest profile, but the seal population is also important. The Chief Executive also explained that since Natural Resources Wales had absorbed the Countryside Council, grant support had been withdrawn and the Trust now has to bear all costs. Visitor numbers to Skomer are between 12-15,000 each year with the maximum daily landings of 250 – up to 300 on 6 occasions only. The Trust is aiming to extend the visitor season by putting on more events from August onwards to increase visits. She acknowledged the point by Cllr. Jessop that this would increase the number of vehicles travelling through the village. Speeding has been a long standing issue. Noted that this year the County Council undertook a traffic survey over the May Bank holiday period. The results may prove useful for the Community to press for a reduced speed limit, and for the Trust to analyse patterns of arrival times.

Discussion then focused on the impact the Trust is seen to be having on the local area by their retail policy, in particular the part played by Lockley

Lodge. Questions were raised and answered about the profits made and the rates paid by by the Trust at the Lodge, its new role in managing and selling tickets for Skomer; the increasing sale of food and confectionery items. It was suggested by the Council that Lodge profits had been made at the expense of the local shop.

The Trust officers explained that the Lodge was part of DWT Enterprises, the trading arm of the Trust, while the Island is run as a charity with charitable objectives. The Trusts main income is from membership, legacies, and donations. The reserves operate at a loss, so profits are moved across to support their charitable work. The Council suggested that using the Lodge to sell Skomer tickets blurs this division, and perhaps income from the ticket sales should be used to offset Lodge operating costs. Ms Kessell advised that their auditor is satisfied with the current arrangements.

Cllr. Smithies suggested the community may have to consider establishing a community shop, if the current shop (which is for sale) ceased trading. It was hoped that the Trust would support such a venture. Cllr. Owens explained the new set up in Herbrandston where the shop and Post Office are now operating in the Taberna Inn premises. This had taken over a year to achieve. There was then a general discussion about the seasonal nature of Lockley Lodge and the difficulties of traffic travelling to and from Martins Haven. Sash Tusa advised there is no intention to increase the size of the Lodge. Ms Kessell advised that there is only a small retail element undertaken on Skomer Island. Ms. Kessell outlined some of the activities undertaken on Skomer this summer – this included story telling using books written by a local author – Lucy Griffiths. They do use Tesco's for the main deliveries to the Islands, but could consider purchasing some staple items locally. It is intended to maintain ticket sales at Martins Haven on a “first come, first served” basis as internet problems and the weather affect any other arrangements. It was agreed that the local community gain the most benefit if people going to Skomer are staying locally. Park and ride is not an option as there is no parking available in the village.

Sash Tusa outlined two requirements highlighted by visitors. The first being an outlet to provide outdoor gear and clothing for visiting the Island and general walking/trekking in Pembrokeshire. The other need was a local facility to look after dogs for visitors to Skomer. Mrs. Evans advised this had been provided one summer some years ago, and there was someone locally who did dog sit while people were on holiday, otherwise it would be a boarding kennel. Cllr. Smithies asked if the Buyer's Day at Lockley Lodge could be advertised in Peninsula Papers, and the Island publicity to do more to advertise local facilities. The meeting was advised that the Trust now have a Marketing Officer. There is a limit to how many tickets are sold on the day to an individual person to avoid “ticket touts. There is no intention to do any remote ticketing.

Cllr. Burnett advised that it was intended to have a Community meeting to discuss possible developments if the local shop closed. The Trust officers agreed to send a representative to this meeting, if sufficient notice was given. The Chairman thanked Mr. Tusa, and Ms. Kessell for attending, and for having a frank discussion on the factors affecting the relationship of the Trust with the Community. The meeting resumed at 8.50pm with the main agenda.

- 1) Minutes - The Clerk apologised that the July minutes were not available, as she had not been able to access her laptop since last Wednesday. Noted.

- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) Police Matters – Several incidents reported via 101 involving youngsters in and around the Recreation Area. PCSO Leanne Nicholls visited the village, and called on some families concerned. No further incidents to date. The Clerk reminded members to report any suspicious activity in the weeks leading up to the Bank Holiday weekend.
 - b) County Council – Highways.

Clock Tower Footpath – Clerk had asked Mr. Codd by e-mail which contractor they would use for the tree work.

Public Convenience Sign requested – Clerk yet to ask Ben Blake (PCC).

Speed Survey- Further graph received and circulated to members. Clerk had asked Cllr. Owens if the County Council had a specific policy on the provision of 20mph restrictions in communities. She had visited a village on the Gower that had a 20mph limit, without speed bumps. Cllr. Owens reported that he had requested this limit for Marloes village. Glebe Lane closure today and tomorrow. Agreed that the lay by in the Glebe Lane needed to be beyond the bollards on the side opposite Green Meadow Close.

Hedge Trimming – noted that the road to Marloes had been trimmed by mid-July. Some roads outside our area, yet to be cut.

Parking on Tower View pavement – Agreed that the County Council vehicle regularly parking on the highway opposite Mourne House continues to cause concern. There is usually room to park within the Close. Cllr. Owens agreed to pursue this matter.
 - c) Recreation Area – Large gate is now secure. The Recreation Area has been well used recently.
 - d) Clock Tower Donations Box - Cllr. Smithies apologised that pressure of work meant he had not pursued this matter as yet.
 - e) Skomer – See above. Ms. Kessell has been verbally thanked for the Trust providing tickets. Letters of thanks to be sent to all parties involved.
 - f) Worthybush Hospital Services – Letter received. Cllr Beal and the Clerk reported on the meeting they attended on the 21st July. They also referred to literature about the changes to services received by the Council, and delivered

to all households. Clerk to include this matter in the Council report in Peninsula Papers.

- g) Church Matters – Noted that the Interregnum (no minister in post), officially started on the 1st August. The Archdeacon, a former vicar of this area had promised to press for a new appointment as soon as practical.
- h) White Marker stones – to be painted this month.
- i) Bus Services – Clerk had contacted Mr. Owens who had advised that no complaints had been received about the delay of the Milford bus leaving the village. Mrs. Champley had identified one instance. Clerk will put this item in the local newsletter to see if there were further complaints. The driver does not record when the bus leaves Marloes.
- j) BOAT sign – Marloes Car Park – Highways to be contacted.

3. Community Issues

a) Branch Temporary Closure – Marloes Post Office.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Non Williams who had confirmed that when the consultation process started for a van, then no permanent PO could be considered. Cllr. Smithies argued strongly that the Council needed to do whatever it could to re-establish a permanent service in the community, and to secure the best option for the way forward. After discussion, it was agreed a van is not requested at present, and no decision is made until after the proposed Community meeting, and that the Clerk explain this in the Council report for September. Further information from the National Park on the retail status of Lockley Lodge again does not give a specific date for A1 status – it seems to have gradually evolved. Clerk to also ask if there is a permit for retail for the National Trust car park huts. The National Trust are seeking an informal meeting with the Council on various matters – no decision on this at present. Noted that other areas have discussed the Council Tax rating of holiday homes, and there have been mixed feelings on the benefits or otherwise of raising the levy.

Cllr. Burnett gave details of further information from the Plunkett Foundation, and also her discussions with Planed. The latter are prepared to chair a meeting. On the 8th September Planed are hosting a meeting on Localism in Saundersfoot, and Cllr. Burnett is planning to attend. Agreed that at the next meeting the Council will arrange a Community meeting later in the month, and specific business interests, and other organisations be invited to attend.

b) Rubbish Collection – No particular problems identified.

c) Village Action Plan – Village Hall. Noted that scaffolding is in place and the roof exposed internally. Clerk had been shown names the builder had found of local residents who had installed the false ceiling some years ago –

Edwin Warlow, Robert Morgan and Stan Truelove.

4) Correspondence

- a) E-Mail Letters– No e-mails available this month.
- b) Natural Resources Wales – Noted that this organisation has now moved to Hawthorn Rise, Haverfordwest.
- c) Glasdon Advert – Street Furniture. Noted.

5) Planning Matters

- a) NP/05/062 – Land by Anchor Cottage – outstanding planning condition for passing bays. See comment under Highways.
- b) NP/14/0296 – Kittiwake Cottage, Marloes – Change of use of land from A3 & C1 to C3. Form D Consent issued.
- c) PCNPA – 01/08/14 – Consultation Draft National Park Management Plan 2015 – 19, also associated impact assessments. No hard copy offered – available on-line or at various public buildings. Closing date for comments – 31st October 2014.
- d) NP/14/0358 – Philbeach Farm – Enlargement of existing lower reservoir to increase capacity from 6900 to 12000 cubic metres. Cllr. P. Smithies declared an interest in this application as the landowner. The Clerk advised that as this was dealt with as a General Development Order the response time for comments was shorter. The details had been circulated, and the Chairman had e-mailed a response last Friday. The reservoir is not readily visible from the highway, or a footpath. It was considered that the corridor for wildlife would be improved once the vegetation had grown back.
- e) Cllr. Smithies referred to the press articles on a possible reorganisation of the three National Parks in Wales. No information has been received by this Council to date.

6) Financial Matters

- a) Audit 2013/14 – The Auditors had telephoned to advise that the Internal Auditor had not completed a “Not Applicable” box on her page. Ms. Fussell had sent an e-mail as requested confirming what she meant to say. She has now completed the page, and initialled the box to confirm her recent action. They had written on the 5th August to advise that that it was their intention to issue “an unqualified certificate and report

and that there are no other matters which we wish to draw to the attention of the Council.” The Council noted that no issues apart from the one above had been raised, and they authorised the Chairman to Certify Section 3, as they unanimously approved the Annual Return. Clerk to return the paperwork by the 18th August.

- b) Change of Signatories – Noted that Cllr. Burnett had returned all papers to Lloyds Bank, and the Clerk can now pay the outstanding cheques signed by Cllrs. Beal and Burnett.
- c) Lloyds Bank Statement No. 33 received.
- d) Clock Tower – Agreed that the Clerk ask Mr. David Howells if he would be willing to quote for painting the four louvres and the two window frames. Cllr. Smithies will obtain the correct colour paint for the work.

7) Urgent Matters/Any other Business

- a) Frankies Lane – National Park has been asked if this Lane can be trimmed out shortly. Noted that the vehicle parked towards the Clock Tower end of the Lane does reduce the Lane width.
- b) Footpath to West Dale – Noted that a pedestrian gate had been locked recently. Cllr. Jessop to check with landowner.
- c) LNG Incident in USA – Cllr. Owens thanked Cllr. Jessop for alerting him to this incident, as he had been able to raise the issue at a recent liaison meeting at South Hook LNG. They advised that a formal report was due out, and they would then consider if action needed to be taken.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 8th September 2014, at Moriah Chapel.