

Minutes of the meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council held at Marloes Village Hall, starting at 1930 on Tuesday 15th February 2022

In attendance: Councillor Peter Smithies (Chairman), together with Cllrs. Christopher Jessop, Brian Johnson, James Kimpton, William Richard and Louise Beal.

Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk.

Community Residents – Jane & John Dixon

Apologies – County Cllr. Reg Owens

- 1) Declarations of Interest – None declared.
- 2) The minutes of the January meeting having been circulated beforehand were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Johnson.
- 3) Matters Arising

Highway Matters

Fopston Road, St. Brides, Slate Mill Issues & Surface Water Problems– Clerk read out the e-mail from the PCC Officer, Emrys Llewelyn, detailing action to be taken in the Marloes and St. Brides area. It was noted that building bags outside Gibby's, Marloes have been removed. Cllr. Smithies explained the work being undertaken at Martins Haven to improve the access to the beach area. Highway may also improve the passing places to Martins Haven. There was a possibility of slippage monies being available, and disability access to the Recreation Area from the Clock Tower pavement was nominated.

Speed Warning Sign – Claire Williams, PCC has provided data, but this will need to be interpreted to submit a report to Peninsula Papers. Cllr. Jessop will aim to do this for the April issue.

Other Matters Arising

Emergency Phones – Cllr. Beal advised that the 999 phone at the Marloes Sands Car Park has been removed. Clerk to check with the PCC officer.

Tree Planting - Sewerage Works – Cllr. Jessop and the Clerk had met the Welsh Water Operational Supervisor Neil on the 10 February 2022, and identified two areas for possible planting which would screen off the area, and over time provide a noise barrier for the nearby camping area.

Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Beacon Event. Re bugler /bosun's whistle for the beacon fire: the Clerk had spoken to Hilary Anderson, but the family may be away that weekend. Yet to contact Mike Cottam.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations– The Clerk referred to an e-mail from Gina Smithies. The Hall Committee will set up a Sub Committee to plan a street style party/celebration on Sunday 5th June in the Recreation Area. This was welcomed by members. Noted that the Hall Committee had received grant aid for a marquee to use for this and future occasions. Mark Burton had also received grant support for the purchase of two benches for the Recreation Area. It was agreed that the Council would not purchase commemorative mugs. Noted that stewards may be required for the Beacon Fire and the Sunday celebration.

Wedding Receptions – The Clerk read out an e-mail from Nathan Miles, PCC Environmental Health Officer with regard to outdoor events like wedding receptions. This can be added to the information already received from PCC and PCNP for reference as needed in the future.

Street Lights – Council advised that Mr. Philip Griffiths had reported the street light problems at Gaylane Terrace, Marloes – subsequently repaired.

4. Community Issues

COVID 19 – Wales has now moved to Level 2, and then to Level Zero with all main regulations removed by the end of March if cases continue to fall. Wearing of masks continues to be compulsory in care provision settings and in retail outlets in Wales. The local Shop/PO is now allowing three in the premises at any one time.

Hedgerow Cutting - Complaints had been made to individual Councillors and the Clerk with regard to severe cutting back of the hedge and verge on the C3102 north side from the end of the village towards Martins Haven., approximately half a mile. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk write to PCC Highways as the hedges would be in their ownership alongside the road. Cllr. Smithies advised that the hedge cutting near the

Britten Bird Hide had been undertaken in conjunction with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and is part of improvements to the SSSI, to increase visibility of the birds on Marloes Mere

Village Green, Footpath & Beach matters. Noted that all the beach lifebuoys have been checked, and replaced as necessary recently. Later in the meeting, Cllr. Jessop advised that 11 Portuguese Men of War had been found on Musselwick Beach – unusual at this time of year. Cllr. Kimpton suggested that the authorities should be advised.

Footpath, Little Haven to St. Brides – Cllr. Richards met Vicky Sewell, PCNP Ranger on site. The outcome was, that PCNP are unlikely to take any action until there is an accident.

Beacon Field – Clerk informed the meeting that she had been advised by the owner of the field that dog fouling had been a problem over the winter months. She had agreed to publicise this problem in the April issue of Peninsula Papers.

Recreation Area/Village Hall – See comment above reference disability access to the Recreation Area. The Clerk had provided both organisations with the necessary letters to support grant applications. The Village Hall has now applied for funding for a “Chat Bench” to be located outside the Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk write in support of this application.

National Trust Matters /Car Permits - Arrangements have been made for a session at Marloes Village Hall to be held on Tuesday 1st March from 3.30pm to 7pm. to register for 2022 National Trust car parking permits.

St. Brides Aid in Sickness Fund – The Clerk suggested that she continue the administration for this Fund after the 31st March, and that Cllr. Richards continue to be main contact with the PCC Officer. Updates can be given to the Community Council later in the year. The Council agreed that the Funds needs to be used within the Community, if families can be persuaded to apply under the existing criteria. It may prove necessary to discuss with PCC broadening the criteria with the Charity Commissioners to reflect present day needs.

Broadway Fibre Optic Installation – Noted that recently poles had been erected in the St. Ishmaels area without prior consultation with

landowners or the Community Council. Mrs. Evans advised that she had contacted Nicola Gandy, PCNP to establish what their views were on this matter. Noted that for many years there had been a campaign to underground cables wherever possible. The Clerk will contact Broadway to see what was planned for the Marloes & St. Brides area. See also the report under Dale Community Council in the last issue of Peninsula Papers.

5. Correspondence.

Paul Davies, MS – 2022 Advice Surgery Dates. Received.

Hywel Dda UHB - Building a Healthier Future after Covid-19: summary of Feedback. It was noted that this document does infer the proposed downgrading of the Accident & Emergency Unit at Withybush, as this service would be provided by the planned new hospital in the Narberth/St.Clears area. This would have implications for permanent residents and visitors in this area.

The following were among some of the e-mails received by the Council:

11/01/22 – PCC (Dan Shaw) – January Seminar cancelled.

11/01/22 – PCC (Jenny Capito) – Virtual Event – Democracy at Work.

12/01/22 – Hywel Dda CHC – Passed to Rosemary Royle for website.

17/01/21 – One Voice Wales - News Bulletin included reference to the Local Govt. & Elections (Wales) Act 2021; Community & Town Councils statutory guidance Gov. Wales to respond by 17/03/22; Access Meetings from multiple locations, public participation, Annual Report – to be completed as soon as possible after 31/03/22 and training plan – to be completed by 05/11/22. Circulated to all members for information.

17 & 18 /01/22 – PCC / OVW - Outdoor Connections Fund – Passed to Mark Burton re Recreation Area. Village Hall also applied – see details above.

17/01/22 – PCC (Menir Williams) – Additional Community Governor – Coastlands C. P. School. Clerk had established that Mr. Cottam was willing to continue. The meeting agreed that as the Clerk to the Council where the School is based and a Welsh speaker they supported his re-appointment.

18/01/22 – Paul Davies (Cohesion) - Bi-monthly Pride in Pembrokeshire Award - £200. (NB – This is not the local Welsh Govt. MS).

19/01/22 – James@playgroundrepairsLtd.co.uk – Passed to Mark Burton who will request quote for inspection of play area.

21/01/22 – OVW – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties – Circulated to members.

20/01/22 – OVW – Emyr Hugh - ejohn@onevoicewales.co.uk . Visit Pembrokeshire & Planed were hosting four virtual sessions on the visitor experience in communities. Clerk had suggested a questionnaire be circulated in the first instance, as each Community had different experiences.

21/01/22 - OVW – Pembs Area Committee – The Clerk provided an oral report on the Zoom meeting of the Committee held on the 31st January 2022. Presentations were made by Rachel Carter, OVW “Local Places for Nature Officer”, Lee Hind, Pembrokeshire Community Hub manager and from Emyr John recently appointed as Project Officer – Town & Community Councils. Minutes of the meeting will be sent out in due course.

28/01/22 & 10/02/22 – OVW - Rising Awareness – Promotional Videos – Reference Town & Community elections.

02/02/22 & 15/02/22 – OVW - Welsh Govt. Apprenticeship Schemes – Forwarded to Cllr. Beal to pass on to possible candidates.

02/02/22 – PCC (Sarah Hagin) –Funding for “Happy to Chat” Benches – Marloes Village Hall applying for one. Noted.

03/02/22 – OVW – Nature Forum – Topic - Tree Planting/Orchards.

7/02/22 – PCC (Kim Puhl) – Two “Teams” sessions on Community Council election procedure. Clerk will attend one session.

08/02/22 – OVW – Welsh Water’s Draft Water Resources Management Plan – passed to Cllr. Jessop.

09/02/22 – OVW – Report on Section 47 Multi Location Meetings.

10/02/22 – OVW (Rachel Carter) – Swifts – Passed to Rosemary Royle for website. Noted the Village Hall has swift boxes fitted.

11/02/22 – OVW – Nature & Us – Consultation being launched.

14/02/22 – Long Course Weekend - 2nd & 3rd July 2022 – held almost entirely in South Pembrokeshire. Road closures involved.

Other e-mails received were noted separately by the Clerk.

6. Planning

- a) NP/21/0177/FUL – 7, Green Meadow Close – Revised proposal, Site Plan & proposed side elevation drawing. Noted that the PCNP Monitoring Officer had acknowledged letter of complaint.
- b) Ty Gwyn – Notification of Appeal by the Applicant – Cllr. Jessop outlined a summary of the outcome.
- c) Joint(PCC/PCNP) SPG on the Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines – Hard copy passed to Cllr. Jessop.
- d) Planning Applications/Determinations – Clerk advised that she is checking these regularly for any that many feature in this community. Noted that two planning conditions for Musselwick Gate had been discharged.
- e) NP/21/0811/FUL – Conversion of farm outbuildings to new dwelling – Little Marloes Farm. Noted that this application, if approved will be developed instead of the one for holiday accommodation. After considering the application, Members agreed that the Clerk write as follows – to object to the establishment of a further dwelling on this site as presented in this application because
 - nothing stops it being used as holiday let or second home;
 - nothing stops it being sold off separately from the existing dwelling., and asking that a covenant is attached if consent was to be granted.
- f) Lower Ripperston Farm, St. Brides – Pre-Planning Enquiry from the agent Geraint John Planning. Clerk had queried with PCNP a reference to a Planning Number and was advised that this is a major planning

application (due to the size of the site, which is over 1 hectare and the floor area created, which is over 1000 square metres) and that it therefore requires pre-application consultation by the applicant in order for it to be a valid application. Members agreed that in the number of documents submitted it was the largest development received by this Council.

After discussion, members were agreed that they would respond to the Pre-planning enquiry as follows – to seek the retention of the existing two dwellings as this type of accommodation is needed in the area; to query the location of the farm enterprise if no longer at this location; and to request that a Traffic Impact Survey is undertaken. The agent to be told that these are not objections but points seeking clarification, and this Community Council reserves any formal response to the stage when a planning application is received from PCNP.

- g) Slate Mill Farm – New Access – The Clerk advised that an application had been received some time ago. She would provide the application number so members can check details.
- h) Shearwater – Noted that overgrowth had been cut back from Skokholm Back bank.

7. Financial Matters

- a) Audit Update – No information has been received again this month from the Wales Audit Office as to when the audit process will be completed.
- b) OVW E-Mail 02/02/22 – Audit Wales Fee Scheme 2021/22 – See levels for Limited Procedure and for Transaction Audits.
- c) Clerk's Salary 2021/22 – The payment of £850 was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton.
- d) Lloyds Bank – Treasurer's Account – Closing Balance of £4,332.56 (09/02/22).
- e) Financial Appeals – Wales Air Ambulance Charity and Paul Sartori.

8. Clock Tower – The Clerk advised that recently the Church Tower and Bell was inspected by the Diocesan Inspector and he expressed an interest in the

Clock Tower Bell. It was agreed, that subject to no objections from Mr. David Howells that this would be permitted.

Electric Invoice – Clerk advised that the Council is still only being charged for the standing Charge as the meter reading has not caught up with the estimated reading.

9. Welsh Govt. Second Homes consultation on planning legislation & policy of second homes and short term holiday lets. The Clerk advised that PCC officers had advised that the number of Chargeable Dwellings in the community area was 191, and there were 48 assessments in the Non Domestic Rating list. The council had received a copy of the PCNP response on this matter – very detailed. After discussion, it was agreed that permanent residences, holiday homes and second homes should be created as separate categories; that the default should be that any changes between categories should require planning consent, and therefore a planning authority would have to decide to grant changes under permitted development; and that the new regulations should apply also to farm building conversions. Proposed by Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Kimpton – all agreed.

10. Retirement of Clerk/Vacancy – Mrs. Evans confirmed that an advert had been placed in the February/March issue of Peninsula Papers, and had also been circulated via One Voice Wales to Town & Community Councils in Pembrokeshire.

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th March 2022 when the draft minutes of this meeting will be submitted for approval. It is likely that this meeting will be held in the Village Hall. Covid regulations in force at that time will be observed.