

Minutes of the meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council held at Marloes Village Hall, starting at 1930 on Monday 14th March 2022

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

Mrs. Yvonne Evans – Council Clerk.

Community Residents – Mr. K. Krelle, Mr. J. Walmsley, Mrs. C. Walmsley, and Mr. N. Skudder.

County Councillor Cllr. Reg Owens

Apologies – Cllr. J. Kimpton – Family Bereavement.

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

Hedgerow Cutting, Martins Haven Road - Clerk advised that despite reminders, that no response had been received from either PCC or PCNP officers. Mr. Skudder asked to address the meeting, and was invited to speak by the Chairman. Mr. Skudder advised that he had been visited by officers of both authorities, and after visiting the site he had been informed that he had not been in breach of any hedgerow regulations. He referred to the cutting back of Blackthorn creep. He also referred to minimising litter issues. He was advised by the Chairman and others, that the severe cutting back of the hedge and adjoining verge had attracted a lot of criticism and that the use by wildlife will be affected for many years. Later in the meeting, Mr. Walmsley who had been allowed to speak, suggested that advice he had received from a noted Pembrokeshire farmer was that each year you trim only one third of your hedgerows, leaving two thirds – a practice advocated by LEAF. (Linking Environment and Farming) Mrs. Evans to circulate responses from PCC/PCNP in due course.

Broadway – Fibre-Optic Cabling. Mrs. Evans advised that she was waiting for a response from PCNP following a meeting held on the 24th February. Cllr. Owens

advised that he had attended that meeting. Broadway Officers had advised that all posts in the St. Ishmaels area had been placed on Council verge. He was advised that almost all poles had been placed in the hedges on the Council side. They had not informed PCNP, but had been working with the consent of the County Council. Noted that traffic control had been used sparingly, so drivers were held up for long periods. Discussions were ongoing.

Cllr. Owens was asked to provide the Clerk with contact e-mails for both Patrick Hannon, PCC and the relevant Broadway officer, to request that no poles were erected in the Marloes & St. Brides area without first being considered by PCNP who require a formal notice, and also the Community Council, and relevant landowners. It was noted that over the last thirty years, Western Power had worked with landowners and the Councils to underground as much as possible to protect the special landscape of the area. It was preferable that Openreach ducting was used as much as possible, and the firm could use a mole plough to bury cables if on private land. Wayleaves may need to be arranged in some instances.

Cllr. Richards advised that work in St. Brides so far had been undertaken using existing ducting. Mr. Krelle, who was allowed to speak, asked about the height of the poles, as this seemed to vary. Cllr. Smithies had been advised that they were likely to experience ducting problems along the Marloes Sands road. Cllr. Jessop asked if wireless connections to individual “problem” properties could not be pursued rather than more poles. After discussion, members agreed that Cllr. Owens arrange for Mr. Hannon, PCC to attend a future meeting. Clerk to circulate responses when received from PCNP. It was noted that Broadway had recently written to households about the development of the fibre broadband network in this area.

Western Power – The meeting agreed with a proposal of Cllr. Richards that a letter is sent to Western Power thanking them for maintaining supply to this area during Storms Eunice and Franklin (18-20th February), with only short breaks in supply compared to nearby areas. The maintenance and monitoring work in recent years has been successful compared to the situation many years ago. Cllr. Richards to draft a letter to be sent on behalf of the Community.

Digital Switch – The Clerk drew attention to problems experienced in some areas in England when the electric supply was lost, that a follow on failure of the

mobile phones service meant that people were unable to call for assistance as the Digital Switch meant they no longer had a landline. (All areas of the UK to be switched by 2025).

Mr. & Mrs. Walmsley withdrew at 20.05pm.

Highway Matters

Fopston Road, St. Brides – Drainage problems still to be sorted.

Slate Mill Issues & Surface Water Problems - Extensive work had been carried out recently with a large pipe installed under the road. However, both Mr. Krelle and Cllr. Beal advised that further flooding had occurred since. Clerk asked if a photograph can be taken if this re-occurs.

Martins Haven - Work continues to improve the access to the beach area for visitors to Skomer.

Speed Warning Sign – Cllr. Jessop will prepare a report on the data to Peninsula Papers, for the April issue.

Clock Tower Lane – Cllr. Devonald had advised the Clerk about flooding on the Glebe Lane side of the footpath. An e-mail had been sent to Mr. Llewelyn, PCC about this, and about the post that had collapsed on the other end of the path. All year round access is needed for all users.

Other Matters Arising

Emergency Phones – Mr. Dennis, PCC had advised the Clerk on the 17th February, that BT had informed him that “there is a shortage of weatherproof phones”. No information since.

Tree Planting - Sewerage Works – Cllr. Jessop advised that is intended to have hedging plants from the Woodland Trust for the Sewerage site in the Autumn. It is planned that the 70 Jubilee trees from National Park will be allocated to the Beacon Field, Recreation Area and one other site. Noted.

Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Beacon Event. Clerk has spoken to Mr Mike Cottam. He will ask his fellow orchestra members, and one more local person about having a suitable player for this event. Clerk had sent him the relevant e-mail, and he will also see if he could put together a tape of music suitable for the occasion.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations– see item below.

Wedding Receptions – Noted that the Clerk has combined the information received from PCNP Planning, and PCC Licensing and Environmental Health which can be used for reference by Community Council members. A copy was given to Mr. Skudder who is planning to host a reception on his land later this year.

Street Lights – Light near Shamrolee, Marloes to be reported as out of order.

4. Community Issues

COVID 19 – It is intended that all regulations will be lifted by the end of the month. However, there has been an increase in cases across the UK in recent weeks. Each organisation is following the guidance provided, e.g. Village Hall by PAVS and individual churches by the Church in Wales. Masks still to be worn in the Village Shop/PO – three persons only.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – The Clerk advised the Village Hall has set up a special Sub-Committee for the Jubilee Celebrations, with others invited to join the Committee including herself, and one meeting has taken place. The Committee is planning a Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June, with informal Games/Sports following on in the Recreation Area. The Clerk suggested to the Council that they could consider making a small contribution to the expenses. Members agreed to consider a request from the Committee. Information will be circulated via Peninsula Papers and a flyer insert.

Village Green, Footpath & Beach matters. Cllr. Jessop advised that a sand bar has formed in recent years off Marloes Sands which is causing “rips” which can make bathing dangerous to those unfamiliar to the conditions. It was agreed, that he contact Mr. Dennis, PCC to request a sign similar to the one at West Dale is erected at Mill Bay where most people access the beach.

The recent storms have left a lot of litter on the beach. National Trust to be advised to see if they could organise a Beach clean before Easter. Cllr. Owens will mention this to South Hook LNG who have staff who undertake similar Beach Cleans from time to time.

Recreation Area/Village Hall – No matters to discuss this month.

National Trust Matters /Car Permits - A session was held at Marloes Village Hall on Tuesday 1st March (3.30pm to 7pm) for households to register for 2022 National Trust car parking permits. Ms Kate Mellor, National Trust undertook the registration. The Clerk, Mrs. Gina Smithies and Cllr. Smithies monitored the process for the Community Council. 43 households registered on the day and the Clerk has processed four applications since.

5. Correspondence.

Clerk's & Council Direct – March 2022, Issue 140 received.

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

16/02/22 – Boundary Comm. For Wales – Public Hearings.

17/02/22 – OVW – NRW – Nature & Us – National Conversation.

18/02/22 – Endurance Life -Support – Event on 30/04/22. E-mail response to be sent asking for details of times and routes.

23/02/22 – OVW – Older Peoples Commissioner – Bulletin Newsletter – forwarded to Rosemary Royle for Website & Newsletter.

21/02/22 – Cllr. W. Richards – Notice Board, St. Brides. Advised by M. Dennis, PCC that the Community Council “Can use it as we wish”, as they no longer have a use for it. Repaired by Cllr. Richards and replaced.

24/02/22 – OVW/IRPW – IRP Annual Report and Covering Letter forwarded to all members. Section 13 refers to Community Councils.

02/03/22 – Paul Davies, MS – Updates/Newsletter.

02/03/22 – PCC - Seminar postponed.

02/03/22 & 11/03/22 – Paul Davies (Cohesion) – Third Sector Health & Well-being & News from PAVS.

02/03/22 – Planed (Rachel Whitfield) – CBWR – Youth Project.

03/03/22 – OVW Welsh Govt. – Climate Emergency – Passed to Cllr. Jessop.

04/03/22 – OVW (Dyfed-Powys) – Bank Phishing Scam –Passed to R. Royle for Website and Newsletter.

- 04/03/22 – OVW – Pembs. Area Committee to meet remotely on the 11th April.
- 04/03/22 – OVW – National Salary Award for Clerks 2021/22 – Circulated to Council members.
- 08/03/22 – Welsh Govt./Woodland Trust – Passed to Cllr. Jessop.
- 09/03/22 – OVW - “Welcome to your vote” Campaign.
- 09/03/22 – OVW – Auditor General Work Programme 22/23 onwards – Comments invited.
- 10/03/22 – National Forest Programme – Passed to Cllr. Jessop.
- 11/03/22 – Skomer MCZ – Advisory meeting on 05/04/22. 2pm start.
- 14/03/22 – PCC – Elections Event (On-Line) – 18/03/22.
- 14/03/22 – OVW – Local Elections (Miscellaneous & Consequential Amendments)(Wales) Regulations 2022. Clerk will check this e-mail and forward any relevant information.
- 14/03/22 – BBC Radio Opportunity – 16/17years old. One English, & one Welsh Speaker – Radio Wales re Voting & the Elections.

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. No reply as yet from the PCNP. Monitoring Officer. Cllr. Owens to make enquiries.
- b) Joint(PCC/PCNP) SPG on the Cumulative Impact of Wind Turbines - Cllr. Jessop advised that in light of the sharp rise in energy prices, and the knock-on impact of the Russian attack on Ukraine he understood a revised national energy policy will be launched shortly.
- c) Planning Applications/Determinations – Clerk advised that the most recent Determination list included reference to the consent issued for NP/21/0633/FUL – The Green, Marloes – Reconstruction of outhouse etc.

- d) NP/21/0811/FUL – Conversion of farm outbuildings to new dwelling – Little Marloes Farm. A response had been received from the Case Officer, Robert James who advised that the new property will be subject to a Unilateral Undertaking payment. However, in light of this, a covenant cannot be enforced, and the application is for full residential use. It was agreed to make no further comment.
- e) Lower Ripperston Farm, St. Brides – A reply dated 02/02/22 had been received from the Agent, Geraint John, which members considered did not answer the points raised. The Council will reserve making any further comments until they receive the formal planning application. Noted that the capacity of the proposed wind turbine is 5Kw.
- f) Slate Mill Farm – New Access – Clerk had advised that the reference number is NP/20/0123/PNF.
- g) Dale Airfield, Lawrence Landfill – Lorry Movements. The Clerk advised that a local resident had asked if the owners of this site had changed their operational use to that of a Transfer Station as there had been a considerable increase in lorry movements to and from the site over recent months. He had asked what was the terms of their licence, and if a planning application would be required if use had changed over time. It was noted that the site was kept clean and tidy, and the drivers travelled to and from the site with consideration for other road users, and did not damage the hedges and verges unlike some contractors.

Cllr. Owens offered to discuss the points raised with officers of the National Park and he would report back to the Council. His offer was accepted.

7. Financial Matters

- a) Audit Update – No information has been received again this month. Mrs. Evans had contacted the Wales Audit Officer that she had given information to in September 2021 to try and find out when the Audit would be completed.
- b) Lloyds Bank Statement – due tomorrow.

- c) One Voice Wales – 2022/23 Membership etc. - to be submitted to the April meeting. Noted the fee was £69 based on 193 chargeable dwellings – based on the Valuation List not the Electoral Register.
- d) Council Insurance – The meeting agreed that the Clerk request BHIB to submit their Insurance Invoice due for renewal on the 1st June in time for approval at the April meeting prior to the election in May, as new signatories will need to be arranged for the Bank Account.

8. Clock Tower.

Electric Invoice – An estimated invoice had been received before a meter reading could be submitted, so the new balance is now £100.24. The Clerk will use the Chat Service to request a revised statement as very little electric is used at present.

Night Silencing - A request has been received from Mr. & Mrs. K. Trimby to have the night silencing facility in operation again this year - “just go with the same dates as the previous year”. The Clerk reminded the meeting what had been agreed last year. After discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Smithies, that subject to the Bed and Breakfast being operational at the Guest House, that the night silencing facility would operate from Friday 8th April to the 30th September from 12 midnight to 5pm inclusive. The Council will reserve the right to cancel the operation of this facility, if no Bed and Breakfast is undertaken, or if the premises close for any reason.

9. Clerk’s Vacancy – Temporary Arrangements from 01/04/2022.

The Council noted that to date, no application had been received for the vacancy. Agreed that the advert in the April issue of Peninsula Papers should be revised to stress that this role is an opportunity to contribute to community life, as well as being a paid employment. It was agreed that all members make an effort to identify possible candidates and encourage them to apply for the position.

One Voice Wales had sent out a questionnaire on Clerks’ vacancies in Pembrokeshire on 28/02/22 – Clerk had responded.

Cllr. Jessop indicated that he was prepared to act as Temporary Clerk for two months, but would not undertake the responsibility of being the Financial Officer. He was thanked for his offer. The Clerk will work with Cllr. Jessop and the Chairman, to put the necessary arrangements in place for the 1st April – to include a new e-mail address.

10. Community Council Elections - 5th May 2022 – 6 councillors required. It was noted that some of the present Councillors will be standing down at this election. Cllr Jessop pointed out that this fact plus the retirement of the Community Council's highly experienced Clerk without a new Clerk so far recruited raised questions about the future operation of the Community Council. There will need to be at least three Councillors in place, to then be able to advertise for people to be co-opted. The County Council have a role to play if less than three councillors are in place. The Clerk advised, that unlike in previous elections it will not be known beforehand how many applications have been made, and the date and time for withdrawals is the same as the closing date for applications.

The Clerk had been asked to contact One Voice Wales to see if there is a procedure for a Community Council to be dissolved if no candidates stand. Cllr. Owens advised that he believed that after this election there would be a move by the County Council to amalgamate Community Councils as had happened in previous years. He advised against being too pessimistic at this stage. The Chairman urged Council members to canvass younger members of the Community to consider standing at the election. Election packs were given out to members to pass on if not needed themselves. Formal notices will be displayed shortly. The warning was shared that the deadline for standing as a councillor is April 5th, i.e. before the next Community Council meeting.

County Council Election – one Councillor – revised boundary.

Re-Charging for Elections – A letter dated 11th March 2022 has been received that advised that in the event of a contested election of the Community Council with no County Council election, then the estimated cost would be £2,687.35 which can be repayable over five years. If there was also a County Council election then the cost would be reduced by a minimum of £300-500. An estimate of an uncontested Community Council election costs would be £225.

Pre-election Protocol for Employees and Elected Members – Clerk has circulated an 8 page document reminding existing Councillors and staff that certain actions were prohibited once an election was declared – 18/03/2022. The new Council commences on the 9th May.

Following the completion of the Council business, the Chairman, Cllr. Peter Smithies thanked the Clerk for her years of service to the Community Council and the Community as this was her last meeting. He presented Mrs. Evans with a gift and card from the Councillors. It was planned to hold a more public thank you later in the year.

The Chairman closed the meeting, advising that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th April 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. Any Covid regulations in force at that time will be observed.