The monthly Ordinary Meeting of Martletwy Community Council was held on Monday 15 May 2023 at Lawrenny Village Hall.

The following were in attendance:

Cllr Victoria Evans (Chair); Cllr Liz Williams (Vice Chair); Cllr David Cole, Cllr Jason Crowther, Cllr Phil Davies, Cllr Phil Eynon: Cty Cllr Di Clements; Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk)

Apologies received: None

Declarations of interest received: None

**Decisions made (by Agenda reference):**

**5. Planning:**

**5.c. Bluestone Woodland Consultation:** The matter was discussed. Comments were:

1. It was strongly recommended not to plant Willow. It is a vigorous grower, often to the point of invasion, and self seeds easily. It would most likely appear in a woodland creation without any assistance.

2. The council would like to see larger trees with a greater longevity in the woodland. Suggestions were species such as Beech, London Plain, Sweet Chestnut etc. These grow bigger, live longer and offer greater biodiversity.

These comments were emailed to the consultant as required.

**6. Finance:**

**6.a. Warm Spaces Grant.** Cllr Williams and the Clerk reported on the Warm Spaces events. There were seven events in total, comprising three coffee mornings at Wild Lakes and four lunches, two at both Snooty Fox and Lawrenny Arms. A total of £1079.60 was spent using the grant. The balance of £275.40 will be returned as required. Cllr Williams confirmed she had enquired as to whether the monies could be used for other projects, but PCC had stated this was not possible.

a) Wild Lakes. No. 76385283. Total: £130.90. Funds taken from Warm Spaces Grant

b) Snooty Fox. No.42. Total £231.0. Funds taken from Warm Spaces Grant

**6.c. Zurich Insurance Annual Renewal:** Councillors voted unanimously to renew the annual premium with Zurich at a cost of £257.60

**8. Audit:** Clerk reported Full Audit of the Annual Return for 2021/2022 was concluded as stated by Auditor. Clerk has not heard from Audit office regarding the other Annual Returns. Clerk awaits further correspondence.

**9. Community Council Policy:**

**9.b** Cllr Evans proposed foregoing a meeting in August. This proposal is supported by Martletwy Community Council’s Standing Orders, (Standing Orders, p8. Ordinary Council Meetings, para.d)

Council voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**12. Correspondence Received:**

**12.a Welsh Gov Written Statement: Democratic Health of Community & Town Councils**

Following the Clerk’s reporting of this statement a discussion followed. Cllr Evans proposed a community outreach programme, holding Ordinary meetings at other venues around the wards, at least once a quarter. The Council were unanimously in favour of this proposal. Following a suggestion from Cllr Eynon it was agreed council should also consider changing the day of the week for these meeting, as it may be more enabling for some, and could encourage more public attendance. It was agreed to commence the outreach programme from September 2023. Clerk to enquire with venues.

**12.b. One Voice Wales – Motions for 2023 Annual General Meeting.**

Following Clerk’s report on this matter it was agreed a motion should be submitted as follows:

“*Martletwy Community Council move that the Welsh Government, and other governance bodies including the Welsh Audit Office, should ensure legislation with regards to all community council responsibilities, should be in consideration of the size of the community council, and the value of its precept, specifically where the precept is equal to or less than £10,000. And where necessary introduce revised policies for these micro entities, to ensure all legislation is a better fit for these councils*.”

**14. Date of next Meeting**: Monday 5th June. Venue to be confirmed.

The rest of the meeting comprised of matters arising and usual community council business