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MINUTES of Meeting of Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Monday 08th January 2024
Marloes Village Hall, 7.30pm

Clerk and Finance Officer

In attendance: Louise Beal (LB), Christopher Jessop (CJ), Steve Powell (SP), Peter Smithies (PS), Maren Hamre (MH) and Clerk; Bradley Challinor (BC)

By formal invitation: N/A

1. Apologies: Camille Titley (CT) and Cllr Reg Owens (RO)

2. Declaration of Interest: N/A

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held at 19:30 on 13th November 2023 in Marloes Village Hall proposed and approved by Marloes and St Brides Community Council vice chair (CJ) and seconded by Cllr PS.

Minutes to be scanned and electronically archived by clerk (BC). Action points from the 13th November 2023 meeting discussed and completed.

4. Community Issues

4.1. Broadway Fibre Broadband

No further updates.

Paul Davies and Pembrokeshire County Council latest reply regarding the acquisition of Broadway broadband by Voneus group:

Hi

We had a meeting with Voneus last week to discuss future plans in the Broadway Project Areas here in Pembrokeshire.

Following on from this, the Voneus Board were meeting to discuss the plans going forward and review all areas. This is a timely process as there are now three investors doing due diligence.

We have been advise that an formal update on the roll out plans will be in the new year.

If any plans are confirmed earlier we will let you know.

Kind regards,

Draupadi Stewart

Digital Infrastructure Support & Engagement Officer
Pembrokeshire County Council

Good morning,

Further to our e-mail correspondence in the summer, sadly other than an initial acknowledgement to my e-mail addressed to Broadway Broadband, I have received no further communication from them.

I understand that the Council Broadband Team were due to meet this week with senior staff from Voneus who have taken over Broadway. I hope that shortly clear information will be able to be relayed to the various communities in Pembrokeshire who are waiting to be connected under this scheme.

Should I be of any assistance in the future then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Paul



4.2. Footpaths and Beach

Cllr CJ confirmed beach clean was a success and the next beach clean is March 02nd for St David's beach.

Positive responses to recent beach cleaning from the local community.

Cllrs would like to make the community aware the footpaths are extremely muddy at present due to the unprecedented bad weather over the Christmas period and to take extra care on the coastal footpaths.

The Marloes Mere work complete and planting will be ongoing. Positive response to the work from the Community Council.

4.3. Recreation Area / Playing Fields / Village Hall

Cllr CJ confirmed the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant was now available. Cllr CJ and PS have met with the fencing company to gather quotes for fencing / gates project with the playing field.

Cllrs CJ to apply for new benches within same grant application to support action point 4.9 Village Benches.

4.4. Clock Tower

Cllr PS has applied for a pot of PCC funding for the broken light issue in the clock tower and Cllrs CJ and PS will organise repair.

Chair Cllr LB paid thanks to the community for supporting the Christmas lights. Cllr PS recommended adding more lights next year.

4.5. Highways

Chair Cllr LB pointed out the issues with the drains in Glebe Lane. Water has been coming through the drains. Cllrs to take photos and Clerk to report to the PCC portal.

Cllrs discussed a number of pot holes in the roads. Cllrs will email Clerk 3 word road reference for Clerk to report to the PCC portal.

Cllr CJ to write to Peninsula Papers making the community aware they can report pot holes or highway issues direct to PCC to support the works commencing and maintaining the roads (email below).

Dear Rosemary

Hopefully this will suffice...

Cheers

CJ

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Resulting from the recent weather, there has been a lot of fresh road damage; and some "old favourite" potholes and drops have got much worse! If you can get online, it is now very easy to report road problems to Pembrokeshire County Council via the link below. The best way of reporting any problem is to include some photos: especially important for an overflowing gully or standing floodwater. Ideally, take pictures from different directions so it is very easy for someone to find the exact spot; and if you can, include something or someone to convey the scale. You can either give the location using Ordnance Survey co-ordinates, or the PCC website accepts what3words (www.what3words.com). ...If you haven't heard of the latter, do look it up: a very useful system!

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/report-a-problem>

4.6. National Trust

National Trust parking permit date announced (24th February 2024 between 1pm and 4.30pm).
Cllrs LB and CJ to support (Clerk has made National Trust aware).

4.7. Toilets

PCC have confirmed the management of the St Brides toilets will continue and be the responsibility of the National Park moving forward. Excellent news for the St Brides Community following numerous attempts from the Community Council to keep the toilet blocks open for locals and tourists.

Unfortunately the Marloes village toilets are now closed.

Dear Marloes and St Brides Community Council

Following on from my letter 13/03/23 (re-attached), I wanted to update you on the funding of the toilet at Marloes Village and St Brides.

I am pleased to inform you that Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority have agreed to fund the toilets at St Brides for a period of 2 years. This was agreed at the National Park Authority meeting held on 20th September 2023. Pembrokeshire County Council will remain responsible for managing the facility, with funding provided by the National Park to cover the contract costs for cleaning and maintenance. Therefore we do not intend to close this toilet or request funding from the Community Council.

With regards to the toilet at Marloes Village. We have not identified a funding stream for this toilet going forward therefore the facility will close shortly after 5th November 2023.

Regards

Katie.

4.8. St Brides Walled Garden

No updates – action points ongoing

4.9. Village Benches

Please see action point 4.3.

4.10. **Bus Service**

Cllrs discussed the PCC bus service consultation and issues the new flexi bus service is having on the St Brides and Marloes communities and residents.

Consultation response drafted and sent to PCC and local Councillors and MPs.

To Owen Roberts Passenger Transport Co-ordinator Pembrokeshire County Council

Re: Consultation on Fflecsi bus services 2023/2024

Additional response from Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Dear Mr Roberts

This message is additional to our responding to the PCC Fflecsi bus online consultation; the feedback from our neighbouring communities would be near identical...

Marloes & St Brides residents have numerous and serious complaints about Fflecsi buses:

- crucially, the Peninsula no longer has reliable public transport.*
- such journeys as one can make are difficult for many people to book;*
- even if you are “tech savvy”, the booking process is a time-wasting guessing game. This is because if your journey request is turned down, the software does not offer you an alternative itinerary based on what trips other people have already registered for – no, you have to start again from scratch, trying a different departure time. It can thus take people up to 45 minutes to book the simplest trip! And of course all this assumes a good internet connection.*

In summer 2023 we sent PCC our Fflecsi bus concerns: you replied by email on 03.08.2023. For the benefit of some people we are CCing this message to, that email is added below after the asterisks.

At our council meeting last night (08.01.2024) we discussed your email in the light of the PCC consultation, and fresh Fflecsi bus complaints received from residents. Our points are -

- 1. You advised an increase in bus journeys since Fflecsi began; but is overall passenger mileage more or less? We think there may be many more short journeys; and, if these are within the towns, this means the Fflecsi fleet isn't available for rural use*
- 2. Is increased usage down to more leisure rides? We think yes, because people can't now trust buses for getting to work, or hospital/GP appointments, or catching trains/long distance buses & coaches. Fflecsi providing more leisure trips isn't a good outcome, when essential journeys are no longer possible*
- 3. Further to (2) – even if you book a Fflecsi to say Haverfordwest railway station and give an Arrive By time, after your booking has been confirmed the computer can then add more stops and pick-ups along the way, so you miss your train. A recent and worrying example of “journey stretch” was two Marloes children whose home run from Milford Haven took two hours: the bus went via Broad Haven and Little Haven. How can people plan anything with a service this shoddy?*
- 4. We know that Fflecsi buses are being used “frivolously” in towns: as substitutes for short taxi trips, or the school run, or even worse by children who normally walk to school. A massive*

waste of money. The Fflecsi booking system should be prioritising the provision of “rural lifeline” essential journeys.

5. As well as letting down residents, during the very important Skomer season Fflecsi is no substitute at all for the late afternoon bus which used to call at Martins Haven after the last return boat, meaning island visitors had reliable transport back to where they were staying. As proof, the number of taxis passing through Marloes must have gone up tenfold.

6. The most obvious flaw in the Fflecsi booking system is that it is First Come First Served, and will accept any request regardless – thus, by booking well in advance, one person can tie up a bus for a long haul on an obscure route, thus denying the use of that bus to the majority. And, if the bus ends up “in the middle of nowhere”, it won’t be back in useful service for a good while afterwards.

Whatever your analysis of the new scheme data, the truth is that Fflecsi does not adequately serve this and other rural communities because it wasn’t properly thought through.

Our preference would be to return to a rigidly timetabled daily bus which guarantees to deliver people into town or to the station; including a Saturday service, which is important for young people’s social lives and general wellbeing. At the very least, the Fflecsi booking method must be changed so that the majority traffic demand is satisfied in a reliable way. This must mean a core service with only limited flexibility, so a “one-off” booking as described in (6) above would not be accommodated. With limited flexibility, Peninsula residents could be confident that whilst their morning Haverfordwest or Milford Haven bus might change its itinerary somewhat from one day to the next, they could be sure of being in either town by 9 AM for work or hospital appointments or onward transport connections; and they could be confident of a return working at day’s end to get them home.

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5. Correspondence and Councillors Updates / Clerks Report

- a) 999 beach phone: The phone has been tied up and Cllr CJ has emailed Mydrinn to report / repair. Email acknowledged by Mydrinn.
- b) Donation request from Geoff Williams received. Cllrs will make personal donations and advertise request in the PP. Chair Cllr LB will reply to email.
- c) The proposed development of Solva. Community Councillors recommended village hall meeting / talk on Monday 26th February. Talk will be advertised in PP.

Public Meeting

ALL WELCOME

At the invitation of Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Justin Davis of the Câr Y Môr Community Business

will be giving a presentation to describe the organisation’s proposed new site in St Brides Bay, west of Newgale. They are hoping to develop this so that Câr Y Môr can expand its production of seaweed and shellfish, which they are already harvesting from sites in Ramsey Sound, up to a scale at which the business will become truly viable.

This presentation will be part of Câr Y Môr’s public engagement programme.

Monday 26th February 7pm

Marloes Village Hall

6. Planning matters

PCNPA Development Control updates:

NP/23/0233/FUL: Marloes Mere, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3BH. Removal of southern reservoir bunds, relocation of Public Right of Way, implementation of new southern boundary hedgerow & new causeway path at Britton Hide with new tractor gate. **Comments added**

NP/23/0300/FUL: Harveys Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AZ. Flat roof rear extension to existing dwelling plus alterations to the existing internal layout. **Comments added**

NP/23/0329/FUL: North Haven Wardens House, Skomer Island, Nr Martins Haven, Marloes, Haverfordwest, SA62 3BJ. Small extension to the exterior of the existing building to house a composting toilet. **Comments added**

NP/23/0380/FUL: Anchor Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AZ. Proposed alterations, extension & cladding and retrospective permission for removal of chimney. **Comments added**

NP/23/0395/FUL: Winterton, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Farm diversification to convert redundant store shed to ancillary storage/plant. **Comments added**

NP/23/0397/LBA: Winterton Farm, North Lane, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Dismantle & remove two modern farm buildings & grain silo, convert stone workshop. **Comments added**

NP/23/0514/FUL: Anchor Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62. Proposed rear ancillary gym/yoga studio. **Comments added**

NP/23/0538/OBS: Winterton Farm, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Reconductor existing line. **Comments added**

7. Financial matters

1. **Financial year 2021/22 Audit:** Approved by Audit Wales
2. **Financial year 2022/23 Audit:** Approved by Audit Wales
3. **Financial year 2023/24 budget set:** Period 9 budget review completed (Cllrs MH and PS)
4. **Financial year 2024/25 draft budget set:** Draft budget set and approved (Cllrs CJ and SP)
5. **2024/25 Precept:** Approved and set at £4,231.00 (Cllrs LB and CJ)

8. AOB and Next Marloes & St Brides Community Council meeting date.

Next meeting: Monday 11th March 2024. Marloes Village Hall 19.30



Clerk