

FREYSTROP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th DECEMBER 2017

Present. Cllr's D. Thomas, E. Utting, D. Harries, R. John, G. Hughes.
County Councillor M. John, C. Griffith, Clerk.

Members of the public. None.

The Chairman expressed condolences to the Clerk on the death of his younger brother.

1. APOLOGIES

None Received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

None declared.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th November 2017 were passed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Utting and seconded by Cllr R. John.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Cllr Thomas had attended the One Voice Wales meeting, which had been held at St Clears, regarding the review of the Community and Town Council Sector.

A review panel had been set up by the Welsh Government. They had formulated four questions regarding the duties of lower tier councils. All information and replies generated by the questions would be collated by One Voice Wales, who would then prepare a report, which would be circulated to all community and town councils. The report from the Review Panel is expected to be passed to Welsh Government by the end of 2018

6. REPORT BY CHAIRMAN ON TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING.

Cllr Thomas had attended the above meeting which was hosted by Pembrokeshire County Council. The meeting had proved to be useful and informative. Among the items discussed were recycling and household waste collection and the various options which were being considered.

The Cabinet Minister for Finance had given a presentation on the increased taxation on second homes. The extra money collected would be split between affordable housing and community projects. It was hoped to build 18 – 20 affordable houses a year. For the community projects, councils would have to submit bids.

The proposed increase in council tax was discussed, there were two proposals, an increase of five per cent or twelve and a half percent. Pembrokeshire had the lowest council tax rate in Wales. The extra funding given by the Welsh Government could only be used for capital projects.

The Community & Town Council Charter would be presented to Cabinet in January.

7. CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Welsh Government.	Sec 137 Expenditure Limit.	Noted
2. One Voice Wales.	Newsletter.	Noted
3. Paul Davies. A.M.	Newsletter.	Noted
4. PCC.	Proposed changes to recycling and household waste collections.	Noted
5.PCC.	Consultation on Haverfordwest airfield.	Noted
6. Ambulance Union.	Request for donation.	Noted
7.PCC.	Survey re. Increase in car park charges.	Noted
8. Ombudsman for Wales.	Casebook.	Noted.
9.Hywel Dda NHS.	Location of trauma centre.	Community Council response submitted.

8. HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY.

Nothing to report.

9. PLANNING MATTERS.

The Chairman reported that Croshill Kennels had applied for removal of some of the conditions imposed by PCC. This was not a matter in which the community council were consulted.

Local Development Plan Review.

Cllr's Thomas and R. John had attended the presentation by PCC on what the review involved.. Cllr Thomas congratulated Cllr R. John on his informative contribution to the meeting, in pointing out that the present LDP did nothing to help villages, such as Freystrop. The community councils as well as individuals could propose candidate sites. Cllr Thomas had suggested to PCC that any such proposals, by individuals, should firstly come to community councils for comment. PCC would not allow that but stated that community councils would be informed of any such applications.

Comment forms would be online from 1st March 2018. The new LDP was expected to be operative from 2021.

10. VILLAGE HALL.

There were not many regular bookings at the moment, but some private parties had been booked in prior to and after Christmas.

Cllr Thomas had prepared a list of the work which needed to be carried out, and it would be put out to tender in the new year.

A meeting to discuss the future of the hall and the possibility of a new villager hall would be held on the 24th January 2018. This meeting would also be advertised in the village magazine which would be circulated shortly.

The bank balances were

General account	£1791.67
Savings account.	£1594.49.

Cllr Thomas thanked Cllr's Utting and D. Harries for their hard work in decorating the hall for Christmas and New Year parties.

11. CEMETERY.

Nothing to report

12. PLAYING FIELD.

Cllr Thomas was still waiting to hear from the agent regarding the claim against Welsh Water.

17/2017

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Bank Balance. £12403.83

Cllr Thomas gave details of a report from the Remuneration Panel for Wales which would allow councillors to claim £150 per year as expenses for carrying out their duties. The Chairman asked the councillors for their views on this. All of the councillors present were happy not to accept the offer.

Cllr Thomas mentioned next years precept and said that he and the clerk had commenced work on the precept details. He said that One Voice Wales had suggested including a training budget in the precept. This would be discussed at the January meeting.

Cllr Thomas said that the community council newsletter had been printed at a cost of £70.00.

Accounts for payment.

Printing of community council newsletter. £70.00

It was proposed by Cllr Utting and seconded by Cllr D. Harries that the account be paid.

14. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Cllr M. John said that most of the topics he was going to mention had already been discussed.

He said that the proposed council tax increase was necessary because PCC faced a shortfall of between 16-17 million pounds in the next financial year. A 5% increase would only raise an extra two million pounds, whilst the larger increase would raise six million pounds.

15. MEMBERS REQUESTS.

Cllr Hughes said that there was a street light out by his premises. Cllr Thomas said he would report it.

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th January 2018 and a representative from PAVS would attend and address the meeting on village halls.

The Chairman wished members a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year