

SAUNDERSFOOT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Methodist Church, Saundersfoot on the 4th September 2014

Chairman Morris welcomed the public to the meeting and advised them that they could listen to the debates taking place and would be given a chance to speak at the end of the meeting.

1) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a) Monday 18th August he attended a meeting with the Council's Solicitors, Price & Kelway. They asked of them what our position would be in the case of a Compulsory Purchase of the Sensory Gardens, on which we currently have a 99 year lease. Their reply will either come up under 'Correspondence', or may be dealt with in the second item on the main agenda.
- b) Tuesday 26th August he attended an extra meeting of the Saundersfoot Community Council. He introduced our guest Mr Michael Davies – Chief Executive Office, Saundersfoot Harbour Commission. He handed over the main part of the meeting to Councillor Bill Cleevely.
- c) Wednesday 27th August he attended the presentation of the Saundersfoot in Bloom Awards. The event was well attended on an evening when the atmosphere was quite jovial. Amongst the notable winners were John Archer, Eira Hammond, Dianne Jones, Ann Lewis and Brian Deeley.
- d) Tuesday 2nd September he met with Charles Hopkinson at the Tennis Courts in the village, to assess the value of the land (3 tennis courts) that would mark our potential financial contribution towards the MUGA and Skateboard Park Project. The value comes to £106,000, based on a unit value of £50 per square meter. He has also asked Mr Heath Coombe if he can clarify for us if there is legislation to suggest that the area to be enclosed by new fencing would require two gates, not one. He awaits his reply.

2) DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Chairman Morris and Councillor McDermott declared a personal interest in the debate to take place on the Regeneration of the Harbour Area and Councillor Baker declared a prejudicial interest in the same debate and said that he would leave the room when this debate commenced.

Councillor John said that he was a member of the Harbour Advisory Committee and did not have to declare an interest.

3) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Allsop and seconded by Councillor Brabon that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2014 be approved and signed.

4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minutes of the 3rd July 2014

a) Minute 10(h) Fallen Tree, Westfield Road, Saundersfoot

The Clerk read out a letter from Pembrokeshire County Council stating that the fallen tree had been removed and all fly tipping had been cleared.

Minutes of the 7th August 2014

b) Minute 4(i) TIC, Saundersfoot

Councillor John informed members that a new sign had been erected above the door

into the Regency Hall. Councillor Baker said that he would update members further in his report.

c) Minute 4(k) Emergency Meeting

Councillor Baker informed members that a meeting of the above Committee would be convened in early October.

d) Minute 5(a) Meeting, Cemetery 12th August 2014

- **Gates at Entrance to old Cemetery**

Members decided that they needed a coat of paint as they were covered in algae. The Clerk to contact Peter Thomas to arrange for them to be painted and would submit a quote for the work.

- **Stream**

Members expressed their concern at the condition of the stream which was covered with weeds and small trees. The Clerk advised that the contract states that the stream should be trimmed regularly. The Clerk to contact Rhys Thomas on the matter and was told that he would remove the trees and weeds at the end of his contract.

- **Saplings on Graves**

Members again were surprised at the size of the saplings growing from many of the graves in the old cemetery and the Clerk was told by Rhys Thomas that they would be cleared at the end of his contract.

- **Large Laurel Tree**

Members decided that the large laurel growth be cut back completely, back to the wall. This would **not** be part of Smart Garden's contract. The Clerk to ask Rhys Thomas for estimate.

- **Ivy on Walls**

Again, members expressed their concern at the amount of ivy on the perimeter walls. The Clerk to obtain information from Rhys Thomas on the matter, possibly cut and poison.

- **Designated area by seats for shrub plantings**

Members decided to create an area between the two seats, remove turf and culture soil ready for planting, also edge area with curb stones.

e) Minutes 5(b) Sensory Gardens, Saundersfoot

Councillor Hayes informed members that the Wales in Bloom results would be published on 18th September 2014.

The Clerk informed members that three applications had been received for a maintenance man in the Sensory Gardens. Members decided that Chairman Morris, Councillors Pearson, Brabon and the Clerk carry out interviews on the 9th September 2014 at 10.00am in the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot.

f) Minute 8(b) Accident in Tunnel

Councillor Baker informed members that he had passed the complaint to Pembrokeshire County Council and Mr Brooks was informed that Pembrokeshire County Council was unable to offer any compensation for damage to his watch.

g) Minute 9(b) Closure of Police Station, Saundersfoot

The Clerk said that he had received an email from Christopher Salmon, Police Commissioner, stating that he seeks to improve policing for Saundersfoot and reassured members that the Police Station would only be vacated once an alternative arrangement is in place and has been publicised. The email goes on to

say that Mr Salmon is free to visit Saundersfoot on Thursday 2nd October 2014 between 1-2 pm and asked if members would like to meet him. Members agreed to meet Mr Salmon in the Regency Hall at 1.00pm and ask for updates on the CCTV camera and broadband speeds in Saundersfoot.

h) Minute 9(c) Rubbish, Rear of Ticket Office

Councillor Baker informed members that Pembrokeshire County Council would remove the rubbish, which had collected at the rear of the ticket office, in stages.

i) Minute 9(e) Skateboard Park, Saundersfoot

Chairman Morris updated members regarding the above and said that a quote to erect fencing around the total area would be £13,436.36 and to provide a single gate would be £432.00 making a total of approximately £14,000 installed.

Chairman Morris said that he was in process of obtaining two more quotes. He went on to say that now the valuation of the area concerned is known we can now apply for grant funding for the project.

Councillor Brabon said that there should be a time limit on the project, and Councillor Baker asked that the quotes given should stand for 90 days. He added that he would obtain the names of companies used by Pembrokeshire Community Council for similar projects.

j) Minute 10(d) Play Area, Saundersfoot

Councillor Baker informed members that Pembrokeshire County Council was not aware of any faults with the equipment at New Hedges and they had visited Saundersfoot play area and they would contact Councillor Baker if there were any problem's found with this equipment.

5)

AGENDA

a)

Christmas Lights

Councillor McDermott said that he had spoken to Mr Nigel Ayers who had agreed to install the lights again this year. He went on to say that the Council needs to purchase some heavy duty brackets and to replace a waterproof switch socket near the slipway. Also extra sockets need to be installed near the Arcade. The Harbour would place two lights, one by the ice cream parlour and one by the slipway. Councillor McDermott said that the Council would now have 17 lamp posts with 12 new fittings, so we need to purchase 5 (ex display) lights.

Councillor McDermott then asked what the Council should do with the 13 old frames in the ticket office with about 8 working. He went on to say that Mr Andrew Evans, Chamber for Tourism had asked for a meeting to discuss working together as we did last year. The Christmas tree lights would be tested as soon as possible.

Councillor Cavell said that the Community Council was fortunate to have the services of Councillor McDermott for carrying out this work.

Councillor Poole suggested that if the old lights were not needed by anyone by the end of October we would dispose of them. All members agreed.

Councillor Baker said that he would contact Mr David Lewis, Hean Castle, to request a larger tree this year.

b)

Matters relating to the meeting on the

26th August 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Cavell and seconded by Councillor Hayes that Councillor Cleevely takes over the chair for this debate. All members agreed. Councillor Baker left the meeting.

The Clerk updated members of the meeting Chairman Morris and himself had with Mr Harvey Thomas, Price & Kelway.

He said that when they met on the 18th August 2014, it was thought that the proposals put forward were to demolish the Coal Office, the picnic area and that Saundersfoot Community Council would lose the Sensory Gardens, but following the presentation given by Mr Michael Davies, CEO, Harbour Commission this was not now the case and the Sensory Gardens would remain. With regard to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Mr Thomas advised that, so far as the Harbour Commissioners scheme is concerned, under the Harbour Empowerment Order 2011, the Commissioners have compulsory acquisition powers, but they are limited to the area they could acquire, and this does not include the Coal Office or picnic park, much less the Sensory Gardens, and there is nothing to prevent Pembrokeshire County Council from disposing of the Coal Office and picnic park to the Harbour Commissioners to realise their scheme.

Councillor Boughton Thomas suggested writing to Mr Martin White, Pembrokeshire County Council requesting sight of the second option put forward by Powell Dobson Urbanists.

Councillor Hayes said that it was imperative that Martin White, Pembrokeshire County Council, and the Urbanists attend a public meeting if one is arranged.

Councillor McDermott said that no questions can be answered until the Coal Office is put on the market by Pembrokeshire County Council, and there is a cabinet meeting next week, so perhaps we will have further information then.

Councillor Cavell asked could the Freedom of Information Act supply the Council with the plans proposed by Pembrokeshire County Council.

Councillor Cleevely said that once the Coal Office goes on the market, the Harbour Commissioners would put a bid in to purchase it. Councillor McDermott said that he was in favour of keeping the Coal Office, but nothing could be done until it goes on the market.

Councillor Pearson said that the Harbour Commission have said that they would put a bid in for the Coal Office and they had the money available to purchase it.

Councillor Boughton Thomas said that all organisation should work together as our aim is to do the best for Saundersfoot.

Councillor Pearson informed those present of a Saundersfoot Forum meeting to be held on 23rd September 2014 at 7.00pm when Mr Chris Tomos will be in attendance to talk about Community Finance Schemes and share options and how this has worked in Hermon & Glogue. Councillor Pearson stressed that this meeting is open to the public and various organisations in the village will be giving presentations.

Councillor Cleevely did say that he had the feeling that we are not being told the whole truth, and there is something suspicious going on.

Maryellen Doyle, a retired lawyer, said she had suspicions that Pembrokeshire County Council did not actually own the Coal Office and this avenue should be explored.

Councillor Hayes replied and said that she had, in her possession, conveyances proving that the building had been passed onto Narberth RDC and subsequently Pembrokeshire County Council following reorganisation.

Mrs Doyle said that there could be legal argument that Pembrokeshire County Council do not own the building and she would be happy to research the matter.

Councillor Cleevely suggested that Mrs Doyle and Councillor Hayes get together to investigate the matter.

Mrs Joan Allen suggested contacting Mr David Lewis for information and Councillor John said that he had spoken to Mr David Lewis and no documentation could be found.

Mrs Gillian Collins said that, possibly, the National Trust would be interested in taking the building on and Councillor Pearson informed those present that the Historical Society had tried to get the building listed without success.

Mrs Lilian Long said that the proposal by the Harbour Commission to replace the Coal Office with an 'iconic' building just would not fit in, but was pleased that all organisations concerned were prepared to work together for the benefit of the community.

Chairman Morris said that if we sit back it could be too late to fight a CPO.

Councillor McDermott proposed not to hold a public meeting at present, but wait until further information is obtained and this was seconded by Councillor Boughton Thomas. A second proposal was made by Councillor Hayes to hold a public meeting after the 23rd September 2014 with Martin White, Pembrokeshire County Council, Urbanists, National Parks and Harbour Commission in attendance and this was seconded by Councillor John. Six members voted for the second proposal and three for the first, so the second proposal was carried by three votes.

c) Cllr Baker re-joined the meeting

d) **Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner 14th**

December 2014

Councillor Boughton Thomas informed members that the event this year is limited to 100 people and wanted to clarify the criteria of exactly who should attend.

The Clerk informed members that he had contacted the Elections Office for an up to date electoral register for the ward of Saundersfoot and suggested only names on this list should attend.

Members decided to place notices in the Post Office and the Doctor's Surgery and all those attending should register their names in the Regency Hall.

The Clerk informed members that Tenby & District Lions Club would again fund the event 50/50 with the Community Council.

All members declared an interest except Councillors John, Baker and Allsop.

6) PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- NP/14/0449 - Extension, Ridgeway Farm, Saundersfoot
NP/14/0426 - Openreach Cabinet, 7 The Whitlow, Saundersfoot

Members raised no objections to the above applications.

7) CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) An email was received from Pembrokeshire County Council with reference to the budgets for 2014/15 and 2015/16. It states that savings of £400,000 have been made by two weekly collections for black bags, £250,000 care now being provided privately for Sunnybank Residential Home, £300,000 for new contracts for school transport, £60,000 for new contract for telephony. Increase income amounts to £150,000 for increased car parking charges and £250,000 for leisure services.

The email goes on to state that further savings have to be made in 2015/16 amounting to 1.5% - 4.5%.

Pembrokeshire County Council will be running two identical sessions for representatives of Town & Community Councils on 14th October and 23rd October 2014 at 7.00pm in County Hall, Haverfordwest.

Councillor Baker and McDermott agreed to attend the session on 14th October 2014.

- b) A notification of Tree Works to be carried out at 15 Ragged Staff, Saundersfoot was received from National Parks.
- c) A letter was received from Gillian Collins, expressing her concern at the current location of the TIC in Saundersfoot for the following reasons:-
- New location not adequately advertised.
 - Leaflets available greatly reduced.
 - TIC not available between 1pm and 2pm.

The letter asks if Saundersfoot Community Council could make representation for the TIC to be relocated back to the Coal Office.

The letter concludes by stating the Pembrokeshire County Council should realise that the Coal Office is not a building surplus to their requirement, but is needed to provide a important facility in the village.

Members said that many of the concerns highlighted in the letter should be addressed when Mr Mike Cavanagh, from Pembrokeshire County Council attends the October meeting of the Council.

8) REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES INCLUDING THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

- a) Councillor Baker reported to members as follows:-
- County Council matters**
- Cllr Baker reported that Mr Bryn Parry-Jones was now taking extended leave of absence. Cllr Baker confirmed that he was one of the signatories to a Notice of

Motion of No confidence in the chief Executive Officer and the Council leader. The Extraordinary meeting is scheduled for 12th September.

- At a recent Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting Cllr Baker had requested an update relating to the revised waste collection regime. The Head of Service and Director reported that the fortnightly collection has led to 937 tonnes of waste had been moved from black bags to orange bags in the last year. In addition 936 tonnes had also moved from black bags to food bins. Thus saving over 1800 tonnes of material being sent to landfill. Cllr Baker reconfirmed that holiday lets are commercial properties and as such should not be using the domestic black bag service.
- Cllr Baker had been asked to investigate the Section 106 agreements for Saundersfoot and explain where the monies had been spent. He was able to confirm that the £100,000 linked to the Rhodewood development had been used to purchase an affordable home for a housing provider at Vineyard Vale in 2009. The £10,000 linked to the Tesco development was earmarked for highway improvements and has not yet been spent. The Cambrian development was providing affordable housing on site with 4 properties for a housing provider and two for sale.
- Following recent discussions with PCC Cllr Baker confirmed that the day to day maintenance for all County Council toilets has been outsourced to a private company called Danfos. The company carries out similar duties for other local authorities.

b) Councillor John reported to members as follows:-

Regency Hall Committee Meeting 3rd September 2014

- This was the first meeting in two months and the previous minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed.
Matters Arising
- The two internal noticeboards had been put up and the external one would be in place shortly.
The Chairman's Report
- Started by offering the committee's condolences to Mrs Vee Smith over the loss of her husband Harry after more than 50 year marriage. He then went on to thank the volunteers from both the committee and the public who had helped over the summer events. Although the uptake was not good as we would have hoped, it was our first year and we needed to try to see what would work and what would not.
- Pembrokeshire County Council has confirmed that there will be none of their classes in the hall this year, due to their cut backs and so the staff have been searching for new classes to be run; so far we have already found a bread making class, a Salsa class and a Psychic Art class.
- There have been discussions with Pembrokeshire County Council over the external Library door and a quote is being sought to reverse the opening to make it more welcoming.
Treasurers Report
- The income is holding just below the £4,000 a month mark, which is what we need to aim for, but August was better and added to the funds. We have ongoing discussions with Pembrokeshire County Council over the rent paid for the Library as the original terms did not include the TIC and its extended opening hours.
Correspondence
- A thank you letter had been received from the Saundersfoot & District Historical Society for the use of the hall for their World War I exhibition which was a great success.
- British Gas have now paid our first instalment of the Feed-in-Tariff for the solar panels, due to being not registered at the start, it only covers March to August.

Any Other Business

- The present lighting options in the main hall need tweaking for better variety.
- Ongoing confusion with kitchen users as to what goes into recycling and does not.
- A successful series of markets over the summer has raised enough cash to fund some extra tables for the hall. The Tuesday Indoor Market now has some new stalls, namely a lady selling fresh vegetables and eggs and someone selling imported wooden items.
- There was concern over the Saundersfoot Community Council cupboard window, needs a new display to hide the boxes.
- The committee agreed to make a donation to the Stroke Association in lieu of flowers for Mr Harry Smith.
- Date of next meeting 8th October 2014.

Police Forum Meeting 1st September 2014

- Present PCSO Jim Moffat and PCSO Rachel Adams, along with 18 members of the public.

Matters arising from last meeting

- Cocklers – no progress but there is a fisheries consultation under way and they will report in due course.
- Parking on the zigzags – this is still a problem and despite repeated requests to the traffic section there has been no reports of offenders being caught.
- The destruction of Margaret's plant pot has been solved, and it has been replaced.

Crime figures for Saundersfoot

- Assaults; 5 reported, all solved, shoplifting; 4 reported and solved, criminal damage; 6 cases and all were caught and there was 1 drugs possession.

Last month's priorities

- New Hedges Village Hall - several patrols have seen nothing but there have been no further problems reported.
- Saundersfoot Anti-Social Behaviour – with the crime figures so low for August there cannot be any significant problems.

Other items

- Problems with the Cambrian development workers driving a forklift truck down Milford Terrace the wrong way, and the fencing on the footpath is damaged and sticking out into the road.
- Hate Crimes – anyone overhearing comments of wanting to report hate crimes should call 0845 612 1900.
- The Youth Club are holding teas and coffees in the Regency Hall on Saturday mornings, the first one raised £50, and they will be offering a car wash for £3 in the Regency Car Park on 21st and on the Harbour Car Park on the 28th September.
- There was a disturbance in the village over the weekend and a youth was badly beaten up by two local youths, both are in custody.

Any other business

- It was reported that there is a fraudulent scam going around whereby a “foreign sounding” person telephones an accommodation provider asking for a booking and then offers to overpay the charges so long as the excess is transferred to another account to cover other expenses. A few days later the original transfer is reversed and fraudster walks off with the “excess” that was transferred out.

- Date of next meeting 6th October 2014.

c) Councillor Brabon reported to members as follows:-

Sensory Gardens

- Councillor Brabon thanked all those who had worked in the Sensory Gardens which looked much better.
- Councillor Brabon asked how much longer Mr Alwyn Lewis should water the tubs etc in the village. Councillor Hayes said that most of the flowers in the tubs were now dying back and no further watering was required, but the watering of the hanging baskets outside the Regency Hall should continue.
- Councillor Brabon informed members that the gate into the Sensory Gardens on Cambrian Terrace needs attention as the bolts there at the moment, are not working very well. Councillor Poole informed Councillor Brabon that he had arranged a meeting with Pembrokeshire Engineering to discuss the problem.
- Members decided that Mr Alwyn Lewis goes ahead with the painting of the fencing and wall in the Sensory Gardens by the double benches.

- d) Councillor Hayes reported to members that she had received an email from Councillor Caroline Thomas from SEPCHN stating that all those involved in the judicial review should obtain data from the GP's, Red Cross, RNLI and chemists as to how the system in place for the summer has worked, honest opinion and members treated, plus any evidence of the system not working satisfactorily.

9) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Chairman Morris requested that the Harbour Commissioners send him a copy of this August minutes, which he did not attend. Councillor McDermott said as Chairman Morris was appealing against his disqualification and no minutes would be sent out.
- b) Councillor Brabon expressed his concern at the dreadful state of the area outside the Bethany Flats in Saundersfoot and asked if a letter be sent to Pembrokeshire County Council enclosing photographs which he had taken of the area concerned. Councillor Baker said that the Community Council should be a little more sensitive as it may be that some responsibility for clearing up this area could be with the tenants.
- c) Councillor John asked if extra bins could be located in the Regency Car Park? Councillor Baker informed Councillor John that three extra bins had been ordered by Mr Alan Hare, National Parks and they would be delivered very soon. Also, the Clerk was instructed to purchase six new cones to place outside the 'no parking' area outside the Regency Hall.
- d) Councillor McDermott suggested that a statement be placed in the Tenby Observer as follows:-
"Saundersfoot Community Council is very proud to represent the people of Saundersfoot as we have for many years. We are equally very proud of being held in a position of total trust in the Community. We will always give our wholehearted support to Pembrokeshire County Council, PCNPA, Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners, Saundersfoot Bay & Heritage Trust, Saundersfoot Forum Saundersfoot Chamber for Tourism and Saundersfoot Historical Society and any other responsible organisation whose aim is the future enhancement of Saundersfoot."

All members were in agreement to place this statement in the press.

At this point Councillor Baker left the meeting.

- e) Councillor Cleevely asked Chairman Morris, if the appeal goes ahead, what would be the financial implications.

Chairman Morris replied, as far as he knows, there would be no financial costs.

Councillor Boughton Thomas then stated to members that she would like to withdraw her agreement to an appeal taking place, which she voted for in the meeting on the 26th August, 2014. She went on to say that whatever the reasons for Chairman Morris's disqualification, the two Community Councillors felt it necessary to vote with the other Commissioners.

Councillor Poole added that they are both honourable men and there could be other reasons which we do not know about why Chairman Morris was disqualified.

Councillor McDermott said that it was a confidential matter and he and Councillor Baker did not take the decision lightly.

Councillor Poole then requested that a meeting takes place between the Harbour Commissioners and a sub/committee of Saundersfoot Community Council to establish the exact reasons why Chairman Morris was disqualified as we have a right to know these reasons, and at this meeting an independent person would be in attendance.

At this point Chairman Morris asked the public in attendance if they had any comments to make.

Maryellen Doyle said that there seems to be a complete split within members of the Council and was surprised that certain members showed lack of support for the Chairman. She went on to say that you are elected to represent the community and reasons should be given to the Council for Chairman Morris's disqualification and he is entitled to appeal against this decision.

Councillor McDermott said that, due to confidentiality, he could not divulge what went on at that meeting, but it was a very difficult decision to make, and that decision was not taken lightly.

A member of the public requested that if a meeting takes place between the Commissioners and the Saundersfoot Community Council, an independent observer attends and not someone connected to the harbour.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot on Thursday the 2nd October 2014.