



Minutes of Angle Community Council Meeting Weds 4th November 2020

Meeting held online via Zoom @18.30

Present: Cllr S Williams (chair), Cllr E Howells, Cllr E Parker, Cllr K Watkins and Mrs A Randall (clerk), County Cllr S Alderman (PCC), Mr Tony Ward and member of the public, Mrs Jo-Anne Lewis.

Apologies: Cllr D Richards

Declarations of interest: None declared.

Part 1 –Update from Tom Brinicombe, Planning Manager for Greenlink about the Interconnector project.

Cllr Williams started by welcoming everyone to the meeting and handed ‘the floor’ over to Tom, who gave an update on the progress of this project. Brief summary below.

- The project gained planning approval for the convertor station from PCNPA in July 2020.
- Most of the licences required to progress have been obtained but there are a couple outstanding, including a marine licence from Natural Resources Wales and a Port of Milford Haven Works Licence. These should be in place by the end of the year and Tom doesn't foresee any problems in obtaining them.
- Some ground investigation work is still outstanding. Although progress is being made, they had hoped to undertake this in September but restrictions have slowed this process down slightly.
- Greenlink need to ensure the project doesn't impact on any other utilities in the area eg Welsh Water, Western Power, National Grid, oil pipes etc – they have agreed for Valero to have an engineer on-site during the digging to ensure the pipelines at Wallaston Cross are not compromised.
- Environmental impact work is due to start in February/March 2021 when they will be reviewing previous information obtained regarding the location of wildlife habitats (ie badger setts, bats, dormice).
- The final design of convertor station and landscaping has yet to be decided and has gone out to tender. However, Tom assured ACC that the resulting building would be smaller than that approved in the planning application. The winning design would be available for local communities to view prior to any building work starting.
- Precommencement planning is now taking place – Greenlink have decided to use the port at Pembroke Dock to move large loads rather than move them through the Pembroke streets to minimise disruption.
- Greenlink are very aware of the historical interest in the area such as the site at Devil's Quoit. There will be an archaeologist on site at all times during the construction phase to ensure anything of archaeological interest is identified and dealt with appropriately. If anything of significance is found Greenlink will relocate their cable around it.
- Construction has been delayed due to Covid-19 but current plans are to start this in July 2021 at the earliest. Start date will depend on regulatory processes and the Covid-19 situation.
- Tom is aware of other surveys currently taking place in the area and appreciates it is sometimes difficult for the public to identify who's who. There is good sharing of information between all the organisations involved and all have access to each other's' plans and surveys. Information is also shared with Crown Estates and all projects know their boundaries.
- Tom will keep us informed of developments and offered to attend any future meetings. He is happy to answer questions from anyone who would like to get in touch. (Contact ACC clerk for details).

Cllr Williams thanked Tom for his time and input and this part of the meeting finished at 18.50.

Part 2 – ACC monthly meeting

Mrs Lewis was asked to 'sit out' the first part of the meeting whilst ACC discussed Tony Ward's application to become a community councillor. Mr Ward had submitted a written application setting out his reasons for wanting to join ACC and gave a short verbal presentation to the team about what he could contribute to the role. After a brief discussion, Cllr Williams proposed that he be offered the role and this was seconded by Cllr Howells. Community Councillors were in unanimous agreement and welcomed Tony to the team.

Action Point – Mrs Randall will take forward the appropriate action required to enable Mr Ward to join the Community Council.

Mrs Lewis was then admitted back into the meeting, which continued in line with the agenda.

1. Approval of minutes from meeting held 7th October 2020 – ACC approved the minutes (which Cllr Williams will physically sign at a later date)

2. Matters arising and updates:

1. Action points from last meeting – Completed – with further updates below
2. West Angle Bay car park – ACC had raised their concerns with PCNPA that the plans approved for the location of the ticket machines and hedging would cause an obstruction for large vehicles using the road to turn. In subsequent communications PCNPA has offered a meeting in the New Year to discuss this issue and gain local input (this will probably be held online).

Action Point – Cllr Williams and County Councillor Alderman will pursue setting up a meeting about this issue with Tegryn Jones.

3. Playground renovation – Cllrs Williams, Howells and Watkins took part in an online meeting with PCC on 3rd Nov to discuss taking on the playground area and reported the discussion to the rest of ACC.

PCC are keen that the Angle community can benefit in some way and advised that taking the land on by means of a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) would be the best route. Without this the land could be disposed of, either by selling it or locking it up with no access. However, there are a number of issues which need to be agreed before ACC are happy to agree to this, which they discussed.

With regard to maintaining the stream, which will need to be dredged/cleared out every 4 years, PCC clarified that the community would be responsible for the 'middle' part of it, with the new owner of the school site responsible for the sections either side. PCC proposed a fee to maintain this on behalf of the community, but this adds to the costs already identified to inspect and maintain the land and equipment.

PCC originally offered to provide all the inspections required to meet the Health and Safety obligations required by law for £613 pa. However, at the meeting they offered to upskill at least 4 local volunteers to enable them to undertake the informal checks on the equipment every 2 weeks. Should the community take this on this should reduce these costs by around £200 pa. Formal quarterly and annual checks will still need to be conducted by a fully trained inspector (a 3-year qualification) at a cost of £250 a year. By law, the annual inspection will need to be conducted by an 'external' inspector, which PCC will have to pay for and pass the costs on.

There are still outstanding issues, such as whether the sinkhole is likely to open up again and the boundaries need to be made good before ACC will agree to sign the lease, but those attending found the meeting very useful and much progress was made in moving forward.

Cllr Howells reported that they had been successful in securing 2 grants to add to the playpark funds, which now stood at around £16,000. The last application for funding through the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant had fallen short due to insufficient match funding but these recent grants had boosted the funds sufficiently for her to re-submit for 8th December. Cllr Howells is optimistic that this will be successful and that they will have enough funds to start Phase 1 of the project.

Cllr Williams reported that she had spoken to a solicitor to get an indication of the costs involved in the legal work required to represent ACC in the setup/handover process and had been advised that this is likely to be in the region of £2,000, including at least 3 hours input from a solicitor, searches and land survey charges. These costs will need to be paid from the playpark funds in addition to any equipment.

Advice from current insurance providers indicates that insurance costs will rise significantly (by over £600 pa) should they take on the playground. Overall this, along with any maintenance costs, will mean the costs of keeping the playground going into the future could be up to £1,200 a year.

Cllr Howells is keen to return to fundraising locally and asked ACC to think of any ideas to do this virtually. It is clear from the above information that there will be significant ongoing costs to maintaining the playground, which the community will need to be happy to take on into the future.

Action Point - Cllr Howells will approach Valero to ask whether they would be willing to take on the formal inspections required as a contribution to the local community as they have engineers on site.

4. Pontoon – Nothing to report this month but this item will be kept on the agenda.
5. Remembrance Day services and purchase of poppy wreaths – It does not appear that a formal service will be taking place this year so the poppy wreath purchased will be laid separately.
6. Playlist for life – Cllr Williams has obtained a number of booklets, which she will hand over to anyone interested. She encouraged councillors to view the short films online.
7. Defibrillator update – Both defibrillators in the village have been registered online on ‘The Circuit’. Reminder to check that pads are in date as part of the checking process.
8. Digital inclusion – PCC are keen for people to have digital skills and encouraging people to communicate on-line via their own tablets and computers.
9. Starleaf video conferencing offer – ACC agreed to test this platform out free of charge for their next meeting to decide whether to take this forward into the new year. If the cost reverts to £10 a month this could be offset against the current £6 per meeting currently being paid to the village hall which ACC has not used for several months.

Action point – Mrs Randall will register ACC’s interest with Starleaf video conferencing

10. Newsletter – Cllr Williams has drafted ACC’s contribution for the village newsletter to the other community councillors for approval and requested they send any comments to her by 7th Nov.
11. TfI/Broadband in the area – ACC received notification that TfI Broadband will shortly stop operating their satellite service in the village. This will affect a handful of residents, but they have already found alternative providers. (Village Hall weren’t aware so will now take this forward).
12. Volunteer reward survey – Issued to ACC to complete individually on Survey Monkey. Cllr Parker advised that in her experience volunteers do not wish to be rewarded.

13. Rural facilities in the area – ACC has been asked to confirm the information recorded for Rhoscrowther and discussed the amenities on offer.

Action Point – Mrs Randall will update the data on the spreadsheet and return it to PCC

14. Village Hall Committee members – Cllr Howells has been approached and has agreed to be a member of the village hall committee in her capacity as lead for the playpark group.
15. Update from County Councillor – Cllr Alderman reported that Hundleton residents had raised concerns about drivers speeding through the village, not stopping at red lights and using Guilderoy Road to bypass them. Speeding vehicles and poor driving practices are also frightening horses at Penny Bridge Farm and Orierton.

It has been agreed that the speed limit at the new Valero junction will be set at 40mph, with numerous traffic calming measures installed, but will be 50mph along the rest of the road. Cllr Alderman is pushing for monitoring of traffic at shift changes to catch those driving over the limit. PCC is monitoring traffic in the area. Valero have agreed to pay for the installation of dashcams on the school bus as concerns have been raised over the safety of the children travelling on.

Cllr Alderman also reported that although PCC have yet to be allocated their budget for 2021-2022, Council tax looks set to increase by 5%, with the increase on 2nd homes to rise from 50% to 75%.

Recycling containers on Commons Road, Pembroke are being abused so PCC have decided to remove them.

16. PCNPA Local Development Plan 2 – Adoption Notice – The plan was adopted on 30th September and Cllr Williams has a printed copy to view. Any challenges to the plan must be made by 11th Nov.

3. Treasurers Report

1. Bank balances and transactions - As of 31st October 2020 the Current account balance is £2,988.13 Sun Edison account balance is £8,987.41, Reserve account is £4,010.66 and the Playground account is £11,453.13. Total held in bank accounts is £27,439.33.
2. Payments to be made - ACC approved payment of Clerk's salary of £261.00, and expenses of £3.49.
3. Half yearly budget report and setting precept for 2021 -2022 – Spending and forecast budget for 2020-2021 is on track and the current forecast predicts the end of year balance will be around £400 higher than at the start of the year. Although some costs are expected to rise in 2021-2022, eg clerk's salary, subscriptions, insurance, ACC agreed to keep the precept to the current level of £5,400 per annum and this is likely to be the amount requested when the paperwork needs to be submitted to PCC.
4. External audit update – Awaiting report from the external auditors.

4. Sun Edison community fund – No new applications made.

5. **Planning issues** – 20/0531/PA –The planning application to build a cattle underpass at Wallaston Farm has been approved.
6. **Highway Matters** – Roadworks at the Valero junction are ongoing but drivers following others through red lights are causing a few hold-ups to drivers leaving Angle. This has been raised with Mr Bengier at PCC, along with an update on changes to passing places and rules for cyclists.

7. Training – ‘

- ‘What you need to know before signing a lease’ – Tuesday 10th November – Cllrs Williams and Howells have sign up to participate.

- Participatory Budgeting webinar – Cllr Williams participated and gave feedback to ACC on how useful this might be to encourage residents to become more involved in decisions for the benefit of the community. Notes from the webinar are attached as an annex to these minutes.
- Audit Zoom meeting Tuesday 17th November – Cllr Williams has signed up to participate.

8. Meetings attended by Cllrs and Forthcoming meetings – Feedback from Zoom meeting with PCC re playpark 3rd November.

9. Communication received

- IRP Draft Annual Report – Forwarded to ACC for comment by 23rd November 2020
- Airfield plaque – Sunderland Heritage Trust are looking for ways to replace this and have received quotes for £269 and £369. They may look to the community for a contribution so watch this space.
- ACC continues to receive a significant amount of official information and guidance in light of the current and changing restrictions in response to the COVID situation.

The meeting finished at 20.30.

Next Scheduled Meeting – Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 18.30 (via Zoom or Starleaf conferencing)

Signed:

Date:

Minutes can be made available in Welsh on request

Summary of Participatory Budgeting Webinar 2nd November 2020

1. Introduction – Chair of One Voice Wales- Mike Cuddy – Setting the scene on local democratic accountability and vision for T&CC.

Independent Review Panel on Town and Community Councils (IRP)

- Town and Community Councils (TCC) should play an active role in engaging and consulting their communities.
- IRP-finding in 2017, Elections 64% of seats were uncontested, only 2 Counties had more than 50% contested seats
- Too many Co-options undermine the democratic mandate.

Provisions in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

TCC provisions for higher standards of governance, financial management, professional capability, greater democratic accountability to become an **Eligible Council**.

Eligible Council = two thirds elected, qualified clerk, unqualified accounts. Underpinned by funded training provision.

This enables Councils to:

- “act in their communities’ best interests” without the need to identify specific powers.
- “do something unless there is a statutory restriction preventing it”.
- Principal Councils: to “act in innovative ways, i.e. to do things that are unlike anything they, or any other public body, have done before”.

IRP - currently Community and Town Councils have no duties in relation to engaging or involving their communities.

The Bill

- Provides an annual report setting out their progress to date and priorities for the forthcoming year.
- No prescription about how involving is done but the Bill provides a basis for suitably equipped Councils, which will strengthen local democracy, transparency and accountability.
- The Welsh Government hope this will have the potential to encourage more people to “become involved in determining the priorities for their local area”.
- *TCC expected to use more technology, have a planning cycle- involving first.*
- Also allows principal councils to establish an electronic petitions scheme abolishing community polls.

Local ownership implies engaging from beginning to end: initiation, investment evaluation, and implementation.

- The legislative framework is being built.

- There are tools and frameworks available to enable innovation, communication and real involvement.
- And if the pitfalls-digital and otherwise, can be avoided.
- Is there the will?

2. Y Lab and Participatory Budgeting - Emyr Williams - Overview of participatory budgeting and Y Lab work.

- A process where Citizens design, deliberate, vote for and implement and monitor projects.
- Recognises people have expertise through their local knowledge and life experiences.
- Can be delivered virtually so a great way to maintain engagement and participation with citizens during COVID-19.
- Academic studies provide evidence that, when practiced effectively PB can:
 - Empower communities.
 - Build trust between citizen and decision makers.
 - Increase the transparency of decision making.
 - Prioritise projects that matter to local people.
 - Increase participation and civic engagement beyond the PB process.
 - Clear population / geography for PB to work with
 - Excellent way to improve continual engagement and participation, particularly during Covid.
 - PB can have wider impacts than just implementing projects.
 - Potential for wider partnership working with other organisations.
 - Ensures you are implementing community priorities.
 - Continual pot of funds that isn't reliant on external bodies.

3. Pennard TCC Participatory Budget and the Vocaleyes platform– Susan Rodaway

Overview on how this process is working in one Community Council, which has resulted in multiple applications to fill Community Council Vacancies.