Uzmaston Boulston and Slebech Community Council

Thursday 18th February 2021

**Attendance**

D Campbell, H Thomas, S Evans, S Green, M Howe, L Screen, B Thomas, and M Williams. Also in attendance was County Councillor D Clements and the Clerk.

1. **Chairs Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all, especially Mike as this was his first meeting.

1. **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

B Thomas declared an interest in the Man in the Woods agenda item, and S Evans in the planning application for The Welsh Owl Garden and Zoo.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes from the last two meetings were read and agreed.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Coopting** – M Howe was formally adopted to UBSCC until the next election.

**Village Green** – The Clerk had spoken to Eaton-Evans and Morris Solicitors about the progress on adopting the Village Green. UBSCC need to propose two signatories and provide authority for them to sign on behalf of the Community Council. The solicitors suggested the Chair and Vice Chair. Uzmaston Boulston and Slebech Community Council agreed and gave full authority for D Campbell and H Thomas to act as signatories.

**Creamston Road Incident** – The Councillors have been made aware of an incident between residents. Pembrokeshire County Council and the Police are involved, and there is no action required by UBSCC.

**SSSI** – H Thomas explained an issue located in an adjacent community council area where agricultural work has taken place on SSSI land. The council discussed the issues occurring from heavy rainfall with an increased footfall, often leading to walkers to avoid muddy sections of fields and paths.

**PAYE** – The Clerk confirmed PAYE was set up and the first pay slip had been issued.

**Christmas Grants** – The Chair thanked the Clerk and her children for the work on this project. Fifty gifts and cards were delivered across the Community Council area, and feedback was incredibly positive. Residents were delighted to be thought of, and The Council had received lots of thank you cards and notes.

**Vaccines** –B Thomas raised an issue over how vaccines had been allotted to PCC staff. It was felt that this had been addressed, and the vaccine roll out was running smoothly. UBSCC asked Cllr D Clements to ask PCC when they intend to vaccinate educational staff, as it felt strongly this group was at risk.

**Pavements and footpaths** – D Campbell reported the footpaths between New Road and Dunsany Park are covered in moss, and as a result people have been walking on the roads. Cllr Clements agreed to take photos and follow up with PCC. In addition she also agreed to report an issue on The Frolic footpath, where metal supports are protruding where wooden steps have rotted away. As this is now hidden by the mud this could be very dangerous. Finally L Screen reported that there is lots of litter on the side of the A40. Cllr Clements will follow up with the relevant authority.

**Broadband** – The broadband project is going ahead with Broadway chosen as the provider. Residents are still eligible to express an interest, and the councillors asked the Clerk to advertise this. The Councillors suggested the Village Halls should sign up to future proof themselves, again the Clerk was asked to raise this.

**Man in Woods** – Residents and councillors have become increasingly concerned for the welfare and health of the man in the woods. An all agencies referral has been submitted by the Police, and H Thomas visited his camp with a PCSO. The man states he is happy where he is, is getting food and does not require support. S Green explained how a resident has been targeted, and had reported the issue to the Police. The Councillors remain concerned over his behaviour, especially to certain residents, and for his welfare. Any incidents need to be reported to the Police.

1. **Planning**

NP/201/0042/FUL and **20/0976/DC** were both discussed and supported.

1. **Reports for Decisions**

None received.

1. **Reports to Note**

Circulated via email.

1. **Accounts**

The Clerk confirmed the precept request for £3500 had been returned and acknowledged by PCC.

The Clerk also explained the change to the audit process, and confirmed UBSCC would receive a transactional audit in year 2 of the cycle (2022).

The Clerk also confirmed that the precept payment of £1333 had been received in December 2020.

1. **Payments**

The members agreed to issues cheques for the Clerks salary (Oct, Nov and Dec) for £466.50, now through the PAYE system, a refund for the Christmas gifts to the Clerk for £500, a refund for a monthly Zoom upgrade to the Clerk for £14.39 and payment to Wales Audit Office for £419.25.

The councillors asked the Clerk to write to the Welsh Government to alert them to how high the cost of the audit has become as a percentage of precept.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

To be discussed via email dependent on COVID restrictions.

Finished at 8.45pm.