

Minutes of the Meeting of Marloes & St. Brides Community Council held on
Monday 9th June 2014 at Moriah Chapel, Marloes

Present:- Cllr. L. Beal (Chairman), together with Cllrs. W. Richards, C. Jessop, S. Burnett, and S. Twidale & P. Smithies

- Mrs. Y. C. Evans - Clerk to the Council
- County Cllr. R. Owens
- See list below - Community Residents

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Neil Jenkins, Field Change Adviser, Post Office to the meeting. He had not been available for the meeting on the 14th May when the Clerk and some Councillors met his colleague Non Williams.

Mr. Jenkins apologised for the loss of the Post Office facility in Marloes. He then outlined the various options, and later used a video via a laptop to demonstrate the options. The first option is a Post Office Local which is run alongside another retail business as a franchise. The other option would be a postal van visiting the village. He advised that he can now confirm that this van can be introduced on a temporary basis, and that a return to a permanent Post Office can follow, providing the UK government continues the scheme and funding required. He felt a Post Office Local would be the best for the Community, and advised that there could not be a return to a Core Funding arrangement even at the same premises as previously.

The Chairman invited Mrs Janet Smith (Marloes Village Stores) to read out a statement on behalf of herself and Mr. Smith on the background to them giving up the facility. It was clarified that the Sub postmaster had given the required three months notice. Mr. Jenkins acknowledged that by the time their procedures were completed the Community Council had notice only a month before the closure on the 8th May. County Cllr. Owens related the experience at Herbrandston where the Post Office was run by himself and his wife. The move to another premises had been handled by Network Transformation, as a managed move of the business. The whole process had taken some eighteen months, and was due to complete in a few weeks. Mr. Jenkins outlined the consultation process in line with government policy. He also explained what would be the procedure if the present shopkeeper applied for a Post Office Local, and if he then gave notice in future.

Cllr. Richards checked the procedure for a having a postal van on a temporary basis. After discussion, members agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Twidale, seconded by Cllr. Jessop to having the van on a temporary basis. Mr. Jenkins

will need to discuss the timing with the operator, and also decide where the van would need to be sited to have a connection for services, and if a licence will be required. Mr. Jenkins was thanked by the Chairman for his presentation, and for answering the many questions both from the floor and from Council members. He provided the Clerk with a contact detail in case anyone wished to consider running a Post Office -

www.postoffice.co.uk/business-opportunities

Mrs Smith was then invited by the Chairman to speak to the meeting with regard to the village shop. She advised that they do not wish to sell the premises, as they are aware they are now the only permanent shop on the Peninsula. She confirmed that their sales had fallen, and that they both felt that the retail operation of Lockley Lodge by the Wildlife Trust, and the increased sales of postcards by the National Trust at Martins Haven, and recently of buckets and spades at the Marloes National Trust car park had exacerbated their position this year. As had been stated earlier there is insufficient local trade to sustain the business without visitor trade. She considered that more should have been done by the Community Council to protect the village shop. They were also concerned that the Clerk had told them that the Community Council would object if there was an application for change of use of the shop to a domestic premises. Cllr. Richards commented that the Community Council had always actively supported and defended the local shop in all discussions. The Clerk outlined the retail classification of Lockley Lodge as A1, which did not specify what items could be retailed. She had worked at Lockley Lodge for nine seasons, and had managed the retail sales to protect and enhance the Community as much as possible. Over the last five years, particularly with the sale of ice cream at the Lodge there was less incentive for vehicles to stop in Marloes on their return journey. The Clerk admitted that she had made a mistake in not sending a letter from the Council in respect of the new National Trust building, but retail was not specified in the planning application. Reference was made to the meeting two years ago attended by Mr. Sash Tusa, Wildlife Trust Board member who has a house at Martins Haven. He had e-mailed the Clerk to advise he could not attend tonight, and that as the couple who run Lockley Lodge do not work on Monday then they would not be present. He had asked to be told of future meeting dates. Cllr. Smithies advised the meeting of his recent visit to the Lodge. They are selling some local produce, but their advertisement for people to bring their products along in August is not advertised locally.

Mr. Smith advised that there had been no profit for two years. They had given up the Post Office so his wife could take another job. The mortgage conditions would not permit them to sub-let the shop. He was advised that it was respected that he had personal business decisions to make. It was noted that the sale advert for the building does not refer to the shop, which may make it

difficult for an application for a change of use if the building was sold. Cllr. Owens explained what would be required by the National Park, and offered to contact the relevant officer on their behalf so they could receive clear advice. Cllr. Beal then thanked Mr. & Mrs. Smith for attending the meeting, and for speaking frankly about their own affairs. They then withdrew from the meeting, having confirmed that they had no problem with the community looking into ways that the shop might be secured as a Community Asset. (Cllr. Jessop had declared an interest in this matter, as the shop has a book of his for sale at present.)

Further points were identified at this point and earlier -

Mr. Cullen had asked if it was known when the A1 classification was conferred on Lockley Lodge.

Questions were asked as to whether the National Trust are permitted to retail from their car park huts.

Brian Johnson proposed that the National Trust should be asked to take over the shop. He also raised the issue of the Council Tax levy on holiday homes.

Diane Ferris asked if there was Government money that could be applied for.

The possibilities of a community run- or community owned + tenanted Shop/Post Office were discussed and later in the meeting it was agreed that Cllr. Burnett make enquiries of the Plunkett Foundation.

It was noted that the present shop had operated for many years, and the Post Office was taken over by Mrs. Joan Llewellyn when the then operator gave up the business.

Other points raised included:-

Mr. D. Scale – Issues with the County Council raised in the press by Solva Community Council – Cllr. Owens responded to this matter.

Mr. D. Davies – drew attention to the regular parking of a County Council vehicle on the pavement outside 11, Tower View. He considered this to be a safety issue for pedestrians.

The meeting was advised by the Chairman that they would now be continuing with their agenda, and almost all the community residents left the meeting.

- 1) The minutes of the May Business meeting were read, approved, and then signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Beal, proposed by Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Jessop.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) St. Brides -Telephone Box – Noted that glass has been replaced. Cllr. Jessop was asked about the Defib. Group placing a notice by the PAD unit, advising where the telephone box is located. Clerk also advised that there had been

- problems with the Marloes Kiosk, but it is now fully operational.
- b) Police Matters – Noted there had been no vandalism since the last meeting, and there had been no problems over the Bank Holiday.
- c) County Council – Highways.
 Clock Tower Footpath – Cllr. Owens advised that a site meeting had been arranged for 10.30am on the 18th June. Cllrs. Twidale and Jessop available to attend, and meet Mr. Codd. Clerk to advise Mrs. Champley. The latter had arranged for the branch overhanging her fence to be removed. Not known if the Dog signs have been sited on this path, or on the North Lane.
 Other Issues – Action yet to be taken on the surface in front of Jubilee Villas. Clerk has reported the water running down the Glebe Lane near the Church end. The speed measuring apparatus was put into place before the Bank Holiday, near the Recreation Area as agreed. Following a request from the Lobster Pot landlord, the Clerk had asked if a Public Convenience Sign can be placed on the Marloes toilet block as the signs on the door are not visible from the main road.
 Hedge Trimming – Agreed that the local Highway staff are asked to trim the road from Mullock Bridge to Stembridge as a priority in this area. Problems outside our area were reported by Cllr. Richards and had been dealt with.
- d) Recreation Area – Noted that new swings were now in place.
- e) Clock Tower Donations- After discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Twidale, that a donation box is purchased at a cost up to £45 to be fastened inside the Tower, subject to no objections being raised by Mr. Scourfield, National Park. Cllrs. Twidale and Burnett to be responsible for emptying the box, and for passing the money to the Clerk at the end of the season. They will also open and close the Tower for the time being as Mr. Duffey is not available.
- f) National Park Matters/Cliff Falls – Mr. Matheson, National Park had responded after consulting PCC, and the National Trust. The latter, as landowners had placed a sign on the path recently, but this had fallen over. Local NT warden to be advised. Leaflets and advice on websites are also available on the dangers of the cliffs in general.
- g) Standing Orders – No information from Mr. Bishop to date.
- h) Skomer – 40 tickets from Dale Sailing/Wildlife Trust had been made available for local residents. Mr. Cullen had agreed to arrange circulation of a note, and distribution of tickets as previously. Clerk had asked Mr. Cullen to offer tickets to the Village Warden as a special thank-you from the Council for all his efforts in the Community. This action was endorsed by the Chairman, and the Council agreed that this should be approved. 10 more tickets may be received in due course, and Mr. Cullen advised there had been good take up to date. Council agreed that Clerk write thanking Mr. Cullen for his role, and to the Wildlife Trust/Dale Sailing for the donation of tickets.
- i) Community Resilience - Cllr. Jessop advised he had received further

information which he will pass to the Clerk.

- j) Exception Site – Affordable Housing. Clerk had arranged for Mr. Holmes, Pembrokeshire Housing to attend this meeting, but had then asked him to defer attendance as the issues concerning the Post Office needed urgent attention. Clerk had been advised that the planning application is delayed while surface water drainage issues are resolved.
- k) Beach clean, Marloes Sands – Cllr. Jessop confirmed this had been undertaken on the 14th May as planned.

3. Community Issues

a) Branch Temporary Closure – Marloes Post Office. The Clerk and members reported on the meeting with Non Williams (Post Office) held on the 14th May when many questions were answered. However much of the information received had been covered again earlier this evening. Although, there had been a change in that tonight there was now the possibility of having a temporary post office van while a more permanent solution was sought. Members agreed that answers to the points raised earlier should be sought from the various agencies.

It was noted that some local products are being sold at Lockley Lodge. However it was also reported that during August the Wildlife Trust may operate a “pop-up shop” on Skomer Island, as well as undertaking activities to attract children. This Council may need to seek advice from the National Park if this proposal does go ahead.

b) Rubbish Collection – No problems identified.

d) Village Action Plan – Work has started on the Hall. Clerk advised that the local history Group had held an initial meeting in Marloes reference proposed village leaflets, and intend holding another meeting in September.

4) Correspondence

- a) E-Mail Letters– Not referred to in the meeting because of limited time.
- b) South Hook Heat & Power Plant – Letter from the Planning Inspectorate Dated the 15th May with a survey to be completed. Noted.
- c) Withybush Hospital - Literature received from a local resident Ffiona Adams concerning the loss of major services to Glangwili. Council agreed that the Clerk include this in her report to Peninsula Papers.
- d) One Voice Wales – Spring 2014/15 Newsletter No 25 – The Voice. Noted.
- e) Western Power Distribution – May 2014 – Demonstration Pack of items useful in an emergency situation. To be held by the Clerk.
- f) PCC – Youth Strategy Document – passed to the Chairman.

5) Planning Matters

- a) NP/05/062 – Land by Anchor Cottage – outstanding planning condition for passing bays. Clerk has spoken to Karen Boulden, PCNPA, and she is waiting for a response from the County Council officer – Steve Benger.
- b) PCNPA – 27/01/14 – Letter advising that the 2013 Annual Monitoring report is out for consultation. Noted no response required.
- c) NP/14/0120 & 0121 – Information Signs at Marloes Sands Car Park and at Martins Haven Car Park – Clerk advised that she had brought this back to Council as consent was only granted for the Modular signs at both car parks. Flagpost signs at both locations were refused. Noted.
- d) NP/14/0143 - Letter dated the 6th June advising that this application has been referred to the Development Management Committee on the 18th June. If possible, the Clerk and Chairman will attend this meeting to support the objection by the Community Council.
- e) NP/14/0288 – Erection of 1.5 storey rear extension with associated engineering works, decking, and bridge access to garden, 2 No. velux windows, and new dormer window – Smithy Cottage, Marloes. The members compared this application to the previous one submitted a few weeks ago, which they did not oppose. It was noted that the extension is shorter in this application, and that the ridge height has been dropped by about 8 inches. They considered that this design should be more acceptable in scale while providing additional accommodation. They noted that there should be a reduced impact on the nearest neighbour, and the extension will not be readily visible from the main road through the village.

6) Financial Matters

- a) Audit 2013/14 – Members noted that the Internal auditor had raised no concerns with the accounts – only drawing attention to a change needed to the listing of two payments which had been transposed in the Income and Expenditure statement. The Clerk circulated copies of the annual Governance Statement with copies of the Accounting statement, and members agreed unanimously that all statements had been met. The Chairman and Clerk signed the front page of the Annual Return. Clerk to prepare the letter detailing the variances from last year, and send copies of the Return to the auditors before the 30th June.
- b) Change of Signatories – Lloyds Bank form signed by the relevant Councillors, and retained by Cllr. Burnett to take to the Bank for confirmation of her identity.
- c) Lloyds Bank Statement received.

d) Clock Tower – No contractor identified as yet who could quote for the painting work.

7) Urgent Matters/Any other Business

a) Church Matters – The Clerk confirmed that the resignation of the Vicar, Linda Evans on the ground of sickness had been accepted by the Bishop with effect from the 1st June. No information was known on any future appointment to the local parishes.

b) Dale Airfield – Cllr. Jessop whether there had been car racing there last weekend. Agreed that he contact Lawrence Landfill, as they had advised him about the recent event on the Bank holiday weekend.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 16th July 2014, at Moriah Chapel.

Others present:-

Malcolm & Glenys Cullen

Danny & Barbara Scale

Grace & Jean Lewis

Doreen Griffiths

Suzanne & Brian Johnson

Joan Llewellyn

Mark & Janet Smith

Derek Davies

Sue Davenport

Richard & Marina Titley

Diana Ferris