

Minutes of the Meeting of Marloes & St. Brides Community Council held on
Monday 8th January 2018 at Marloes Village Hall

Present:- Cllr. P. Smithies (Chairman), together with Cllrs. Jessop, Johnson,
and Beal, Richards and Kimpton

- Mrs. Y. C. Evans - Clerk to the Council
- County Cllr. Reg Owens
- Mr. Jim Dunckley – Commons Registration Officer, PCC

The Chairman introduced Jim Dunckley to the meeting. He was attending at the request of the Community Council to discuss the proposed request to de-register a part of the Village Green. Mrs. Evans advised that she had left a message on the telephone of Mr. & Mrs. Groves to advise this meeting was being held this evening. Mr. Dunckley advised that Mr. Groves had subsequently phoned himself. He then went on to advise what action he had taken as the responsible officer. He was close to concluding his report, and would then forward his recommendation to his senior officer for a decision on the matter. He gave the Council the original 1967 file to look at. It was very brief, and the map of the Green was on a small scale. It was difficult to decide whether the then Clerk had left a thin white area in front of the property or not. Cllr. Smithies expressed regret that the applicant has not spoke to the Council prior to the application being made. Mr. Dunckley advised that a public notice had been placed in the Western Telegraph after May 2017 when the change in legislation had occurred, but no contact had been made directly with Town & Community Councils, nor had One Voice Wales been contacted obviously by Welsh Government on this change. He advised that the Open Spaces Society had made contact, and subsequently had endorsed the application. Mr. Dunckley had contacted PCNPA reference curtilage, and it was their view that in 2004 when a planning application had been made that the area concerned was part of the curtilage of the property. He agreed that this comment did not apply to the position in 1967. A member referred to the registration of the Village Green with the Land Registry, and Mr. Dunckley confirmed that he would be willing to assist the Council in the application process. He was thanked for this offer, and for attending this evening. He confirmed that a decision would be made next week, and the Council would be informed of the outcome. He then withdrew.

The Council was advised by the Chairman that the property concerned is presently advertised for sale.

The meeting then continued with the minutes of the last meeting.

- 1) Minutes - The minutes of the December meeting having been circulated to members were approved, on the proposal of Cllr. Jessop, seconded by Cllr. Johnson.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - a) Police Matters – No contact this month.
 - b) County Council – Highways etc.

Mullock Bridge Junction – Noted that council work staff had cleaned out the gutter alongside 1 Mullock Bridge. The Clerk had spoken to them and asked if the drain under road had been cleaned out. They will check, as the Gully Sucker will be back in the area shortly.

20mph - Clerk to check when the Traffic Order process would start, as the Skomer Season will start on the 1st April.

Street Lights –One of the two lights reported is working, but not the one by the Church. Cllr. Owens to check this out, and whether the further light (No. 927) has been reported, in that the cover had blown off and was held at 7 Gaylane Terrace. Cllr. Jessop also reported a light near the top of the Village as not working properly, and he agreed to pass the number to Cllr. Owens.

Village toilets – Cllr. Owens advised that Daflo had not painted the toilets in September, and the rotting downpipe wooden covers were still in place.
 - c) St. Brides Pay Phone – Clerk to contact BT again as it is still out of order. The Defibrillator Group have expressed concern that 999 calls cannot be made.
 - d) Members Declarations – PCC officer to be contacted this month.
 - e) St. Brides – Parking problems – Clerk has arranged with Mr. Wynn to attend in February. She had briefed him about the St. Brides matters as well as about the path across the airfield.
 - f) Marloes Sands– The Seismic Buoy (350 kilos) was removed on the 29th December by a group of local farmers and others concerned about the possible pollution implications. Photographs had been placed on the Community website
 - g) Moss Cottage - Cllr. Johnston confirmed that no contact had been made over the Christmas period. The Clerk will now write, care of Mrs Edwards as agreed, enclosing a photograph of the property taken from the adjacent road. Noted that there has been more press recently about empty properties and the action that can be taken by the County Councils.
 - h) Beach Clean, Marloes Sands – Considerable amount of rubbish removed - details separately in the February newsletter.
 - i) Carol Singing – held as planned.
 - j) “Living Wells” – to forward details to Cllr. Jessop.
 - k) PCC Refuse Survey – Clerk to respond.
 - l) Churchyard – Church PCC will meet on the 18th January.
 - m) Clock Tower Lane – Cllr. Smithies had visited the Lane. The fallen tree had been removed, so he had just tidied around the area.

3. Community Issues

- a) Village Green – See the item above at the start of the meeting.
- b) Rubbish/Dog Fouling - Fewer problems with rubbish this month. Slate Mill and one other household had placed black bag rubbish out on the wrong day. Cllr. Jessop to check when Mr. Pomfrey will restart his beach collections. Dog litter is particularly bad near Runwayskiln, and the nearby paths towards the coastal path and the beach. Agreed that a joint effort is needed by all the relevant organisations.

4) Correspondence

- a) Correspondence – See list below.

One Voice Wales – 04/01/18 – Pembs. Area Committee – Next meeting on Tuesday 16th January 2018 – 7pm. Clerk to attend if available.

One Voice Wales – Christmas letter from Cllr. Mike Cuddy, Chair of One Voice Wales.

Clerks & Councils Direct – Issue 115, January 2018 Issue received.

- b) E-Mails

12/12/17 – OVW – Update on Town & Community Councils Consultation Events – respond by 15/01/18. Noted.

12/12/17 – OVW – Expert Panel on Assembly Electoral Reform – Report Publication published.

13/12/17 – OVW – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties – 30 spaces available for current Chairman and Spouse – by ballot. Noted.

14/12/17 – PCNPA – E-Mail Christmas Greeting received.

15/12/17 – PCC -Budget Reductions & Medium Term Financial Planning – circulated to members.

15/12/17 – OVW – Tackling loneliness among older people – ENVISAGE.

19/12/17 – Review of the Community & Town Council Sector – from the Independent Review Panel – 71 responses from 735 Councils.

20/12/17 – Paul Davies AM – Christmas Greetings.

22/12/17 – OVW – Dec. 2017 News Bulletin & Christmas Greetings. Also a query on Council vacancies – Clerk has responded.

04/01/18 – PCC Surveys – Closing dates for current consultations; also consultation on proposed Budget - closes on 16/02/18. Circulated to Councillors.

Skomer Wardens – Talk planned for 19/02/18 - “News from the Island on your doorstep” - Clerk has booked Village Hall. Donations on the night. Island will be closed on Bank Holiday Mondays except the Spring B/H

5) Planning Matters

- a) NP/17/0717/FUL – St. Brides Farm, St. Brides – Change of use of existing timber sheds from agricultural use to pony riding stables.

It was noted that the applicant has made use of redundant farm buildings in the operation of the riding stables. The Council considers that this is an appropriate enterprise in a rural community area. The diversity is sympathetic to the surrounding agricultural nature of the rest of the farm concern. The applicant has advised that she works in conjunction with her nearest neighbour St Brides Castle (Holiday Property Bond) and advertises her services through that concern. It is good to note that two local businesses are working in cooperation.

The Council would recommend that this application is approved by the Planning Authority. Cllr. Beal advised an interest in this application as her children use the facility, and she did not take part in the discussion.

6) Financial Matters

- a) 2016/17 Audit – Clerk to seek clarification on a register of Member's interests by the February meeting.
- b) Lloyds Bank – Bank Statements received.
- c) 3rd Precept of £942 received by BACS payment.
- d) H. M. Revenue & Customs – Letters received date the 20th & 21st December advising that HMRC are changing their computer systems, and that new reference numbers will be issued for future VAT reclaims. Noted.
- e) Council Tax Base – 2018/19 – Firstly members considered the e-mail letter that had been sent on the 12th December by Jon Haswell, Director of Finance, PCC. The letter outlined the proposed County Council Budget Reductions, and their Medium Term Financial Plan. The letter confirmed that from April 2018 the County Council “will be recharging all Town/Community Councils for expenditure incurred by a Returning Officer”. Councils will then need to budget for the 2022 election, and for any By-Elections in the meantime. The actual costs will vary depending on whether it is a shared election with the County Council, and if the Council election is contested or not. County Cllr. Owens had obtained some figures from last years elections to give some guidance. Members discussed this change, and the implications for this

Council for the immediate precept planning, and for future years. It was also noted that if there was a significant increase in the precept then in time the Audit Fee would reflect this, by the Council moving into the next fee band. No other indication was given at this stage of other services in this community that might be withdrawn.

After this discussion, it was agreed that a letter is sent to the Director expressing their regret at the short notice given, and to ask a series of questions to better understand their future position, to enable this to be explained to the electorate. In particular, the Council needs to understand the position with reference to the holiday homes/lets in their area, and whether the Community Council benefits or otherwise on the Council Tax settlement on those dwellings.

Budget Review 2017-18 – The Clerk had circulated relevant papers to Members. It was noted that £500 had not been transferred into the Clock Tower account as originally intended, as a grant had been received from PCNPA towards the painting of the louvres. The £100 held in reserve from Mr. & Mrs. MacFee has now been spent. All other expenditure this year had been as planned last January, except that an additional £5 had to be spent for the new Website server. All VAT due had been received in the year.

Budget Planning 2018/19 – Members reviewed the usual expenditure items, and it was agreed that the estimates for most headings can remain as this year. It was noted that the Insurance Premium Tax is to increase again, but the Council has been advised by the Insurance Brokers BHIB that the premium for the Council Insurance will not increase. No request has been received from the Recreation Area, as their fundraising earlier in the year had been successful. Donations to remain the same for the next year.

Clock Tower – The grant from PCNPA will cover the painting of the Tower Louvres, and any surplus can be used to offset the unexpected expenditure on the Night Silencing equipment which failed in the Autumn. It was originally installed in 2006. The donations box was installed in the Tower this year, and received just over £70 towards maintenance. A further donation of £100 was received towards the annual service. Forward planning indicated that £800 will need to be precepted for each year to cover insurance, annual service, and to build up a sum to repaint (louvres and windows) every 10 years, and replace the Night Silencing equipment approximately every 10 years. It was agreed, that after this year the Clock Tower Accounts should be merged with the main accounts.

Election Expenses - It was agreed that for 2018/19 the Council will utilise the main account surplus to allow for a possible by-election. One Councillor may need to resign later in the year if he moves as intended. Normally any vacancies are filled by co-option after advertisement.

Precept 2018/19 – After consideration of the above, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Beal that the Council precept as last year for £2825.

7) Clock Tower

Clock Chime/Night Silencer – Cllr. Smithies advised Smiths of Derby have offered the Council a reduction of 5% towards the quotation for the replacement of the night silencing equipment was for £734 plus VAT. The guarantee on the equipment will be one year only. The work will be undertaken in the Spring.

8) Urgent Matters

- a) Church Service – The Clerk advised that there is a special service at St. Peter’s Church next Sunday remembering the crew of the trawler Gordon Richards lost on the 14th January 1938 – there is a window in memory of one of the crew in the church. The Mayor of Milford Haven has been invited to the service, and known relatives of the deceased.
- b) Martins Haven - Noted there is a sign in place with regard to drones being banned on the Deer Park.
- c) Ty Gwyn – Noted that a stone wall in front of the property has been knocked down recently.
- d) Lime Kiln, St. Brides – Cllr. Richards expressed concerns about the undercutting of the Lime Kiln following recent storms. Clerk advised that she has brought this to the attention of Dan Wynn, PCNP Ranger.
- e) May Event – Cllr. Jessop proposed a fund-raising event should be held during May to take advantage of visitors who often support events.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting. The next meeting is to be held on Monday 12th February 2018 when the draft minutes of the January meeting will be submitted for approval.