

Minutes of the Meeting of Marloes & St. Brides Community Council held on
Monday 14th August 2017 at Marloes Village Hall

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

- Mrs. Y. C. Evans - Clerk to the Council

Apologies received from County Cllr. Reg Owens, and Cllrs. Beal & Johnson
Cllr. Kimpton signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the start of the
meeting.

Visitors – Bee Buche (Joint Skomer Warden) & Leighton Newman (Skomer
Visitor Officer).

Cllr. Smithies welcomed Cllr. Kimpton to his first meeting, and also welcomed the
Skomer Warden & Visitor Officer who had not been able to return to the Island today,
and had agreed to attend the Council meeting. They were invited to give a summary
of Island matters over the 2017 Season.

Bee Buche (Warden) gave details of the bird counts undertaken this year. Puffins
were in excess of 25,000, and the Manx Shearwater numbers are around the 216,000
mark. Almost all the gulls are decreasing in numbers, except for the guillemots.
Kittiwake numbers have been particularly affected, and studies are ongoing to
identify possible reasons. Fulmars are stable in number. Research is ongoing into
feeding patterns and analysis of droppings have found micro plastic. There have been
no job changes this year.

Leighton Newman gave a report on visitor numbers. Day visitors have exceeded
16,000, and unusually very few boat trips to the Island have been lost this year. Their
main aim is to encourage visits in the shoulder months of April, August and
September. Over 1000 have taken up the visitor accommodation this year – this is for
a two night stay, with 1 night available for Saturday/Sunday. The late Spring Bank
holiday was as usual the busiest period. 5 Guided walks on Mondays took place.
Landing prices will remain as now for 2018.

Although no survey has been done recently, it is felt that most of the day visitors
stay locally with local guest houses busy in the May/June/July period. Council
members advised that a speed check had been undertaken in June, but no results were
available as yet. It was agreed that advance purchase of tickets on the day has meant
more use of village facilities. The Island staff were encouraged to submit reports/
information to go into Peninsula Papers. Bee & Leighton advised that the Skomer
blog provides regular Island news, and the magazine editor is welcome to use this

information as space permits. It was suggested that perhaps a talk could be given in Marloes Hall in February prior to the Wardens return to the Island.

Cllr. Smithies thanked both Bee and Leighton for their attendance and giving Island reports at very short notice. He also expressed his thanks on behalf of the community to the Wildlife Trust and to Dale Sailing Company for providing free tickets to the Island again this year. The take up had been good, with only one day lost to the weather. The visitors then withdrew.

1) Minutes - The minutes of the July meeting having been circulated to members, were approved subject to the correction of a name, on the proposal of Cllr. Richards, seconded by Cllr. Jessop.

2) Matters Arising

a) Police Matters – Noted visits had been made during the month. No incidents to report. Reminder had been placed in Peninsula Papers for people to be alert to possible suspicious activity ahead of the Bank Holiday.

b) County Council – Highways etc.

Mullock Bridge Junction – Nothing to report at present.

20mph – No results received as yet.

Hedge Cutting – All areas had been cut once.

Mullock Junction Sign – Sign had been replaced shortly after the last meeting.

Tavern Putt Crossroads – Noted that the road markings/signs are not linking to the main direction of travel for traffic on the B4327. Clerk yet to report this.

Agreed that no changes to the actual junction should occur, and we may have to accept the signage as it is.

St. Brides Beach Junction – Cllr. Richards reported that a sign at this junction has been damaged. Clerk to report.

Village Hall – Clerk had received a comment about parking on both sides of the road by the Hall, causing a problem for through traffic. The person had suggested that double yellow signs may help. Members noted the problem, but thought apart from being unsightly, this may cause other issues. Problem to be monitored.

c) Village Toilets – To be painted by Daflo in September.

d) St. Brides Pay Phone – Still out of order.

e) Broadband Issues – Some households are signing up for the enhanced service.

f) Members Declarations – Clerk to contact PCC officer.

g) Skomer Visits – See item above. The Friday visit was cancelled because of heavy rain. One report of multiple tickets being requested by one family - not all living locally. Cllr. Beal had advised that her family had visited, and the children had greatly enjoyed the experience. She had noted that some of the new families had also been to the Island that day. Clerk to send letters of thanks to the Wildlife Trust and to Dale Sailing.

h) Children's Notice Board – Planning ongoing..

i) Hall Notice Board – Repair by Mr. Gillespie has enabled use of the present

Board to continue without problems.

- j) Lifebuoy – Cllr. Jessop still in contact over the replacement.
- k) St. Brides – Parking. Cllr. Richards advised that no bollard had been sited as yet. He confirmed that overnight parking was still a problem at St. Brides, although usually for one night only.
- l) Electoral Consultation – Cllrs. Smithies & Jessop had attended the meeting on the 28th July, and presented a verbal report. The reform affects the County Council areas, and this Council area is below the number required. It is possible that a revision may stretch towards Hubberston rather than a rural extension. The Council to seek the views of Cllr. Owens before responding.
- m) National Trust Preview Days - Runwayskiln – Council members and the Clerk had attended on the 31st July. Mark Underhill and Alex Wigmore had been two of the staff present. The public open day was today. The Trust is undertaking work on the proposed Cafe building, but will not undertake any improvements to the other buildings. Documents for the submission of tenders will be sent out after today.
- n) Fishing Gear – Mark Burton had confirmed to Cllr. Jessop that gear has been reported maliciously damaged – some tensions between fishing operators locally.

3. Community Issues

- a) Co-option – see item above. Clerk to advise County Council of both appointments
- b) Spontaneous Events – Reminder in Peninsula Papers about the need to be vigilant.
- c) Rubbish Problems – Cllr. Smithies is continuing to monitor on Thursdays. Problems vary from week to week. Dog litter had been identified as a particular problem this month. Complaints particularly about fouling in the North Lane, Glebe Lane, and the Sandy Lane. Clerk to speak to PCC Dog Wardens about the problems, and to put a strongly worded item in Peninsula Papers. Agreed that the practice of leaving the plastic bags containing the litter hanging on adjacent hedges was deplorable, as well as being unsightly.

4) Correspondence

- a) E-Mail Letters– See list below.

11/07/17 – OVW – Revised School Organisation Code

12/07/17 – OVW – Welsh Govt. Workshops – Radio Active Waste Management.

12/07/17 – OVW – Consultation Welsh Revenue Authority – Criminal Powers

17/07/17 – PCC – Election survey.

19/07/17 – Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue – Question Survey – Refer to Cllr. L. Beal.

22/07/17 – Cllr. Jessop – Reported dead seal on Marloes Sands.

25/07/17 – Pembs. Housing – Clerk had reported an area of grass around the “Swale” needed cutting. Responses received on 01/08 & 02/08.

26/07/17 – OVW – Summer Newsletter from the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales – To put link in Peninsula Papers.

26/07/17 – OVW – Consultation re Plastic Microbeads – Responses summary.

27/07/17 – OVW – Conference & AGM reminder.

28/07/17 – BS 5709 Gaps, Gates & Styles Consultation until 19/08/17.

31/07/17 – Mid & W.W. F & Rescue – Calon Tan (Service Magazine)

31/07/17 – OVW – Annual Review 2016/17 – Consumer Council for Water.

01/08/17 – OVW – The Ombudsman Casebook - Issue 29.

01/08/17 – Planed – Community Forum Network – Survey & Next Event on 02/11/17.

04/08/17 – PCC – Community Meetings on 09/10/17 (H. West) & 19/10/17 (Milford Haven).

07/08/17 – Cllr. Jessop – Vandalism of Signs at Marloes Sands reported.

08/08/17 – Mid & W.W. Fire & Rescue – Well-being Plan Priorities

08/08/17 – Skomer MCZ – Advisory Committee Minutes – Clerk has advised Mr. Newman that Cllr. Owens is the PCC representative.

10/08/17 – OVW – Wales Audit Office – Good Practice Exchange Events.

10/08/17 – PCC – Draft Well-Being Priorities – Closing date 26/09/17.

14/08/17 – PCC – Dale C. C. Clerk is Debra Pearce. Noted.

b) Other Correspondence

11/07/17 – Pembrokeshire Area Comm. 19/07/17 – Clerk not available to attend.

21/07/17 – Local Democracy & Boundary Comm. For Wales – Review of County Council Electoral Arrangements – Respond to consultation by 22/10/17 – details to be put in Peninsula Papers.

August 2017 – NRW – Taking Forward Wales’ Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – Consultation by 13/09/17 – Clerk drew members attention to this consultation which had not been circulated by One Voice Wales, but had been publicised in the farming press. There will be

implications for landowners/farmers. Agreed that the Clerk forward information to members who will discuss this with Farm Union representatives. Clerk has contacted NRW, but no response as yet. Broxap Catalogue received, also a Wholesale Bulb Catalogue which was passed to Cllr. Kimpton.

5) Planning Matters

- a) NP/15/0649/CLE – Clerk read out an e-mail received from Nicola Gandy. She advised that the National Park is employing an Officer one day a week to investigate unauthorised camping and caravanning sites in the National Park. Camping on the field in St. Ishmaels Area is covered by the 28 day rule under permitted development rights. This rule does not apply to the area around Slate Mill Lodge as this site contains buildings. Members noted that a complaint had been made to National Park with regard to traffic implications on the access to the sites.
- b) Candidate Sites – Clerk read out an e-mail received from Martina Dunn advising how to access the details of sites already registered and how to submit more sites. Clerk to forward links to Councillors for information.
- c) Crabhall – No information to date on the submitted application.
- d) PCNPA Replacement Preferred Strategy – Letter received advising that the Council's letter of representation had been received after the deadline. Officers will review the contents of the letter. Clerk & Cllr. Jessop apologised for confusing the dates, and who was to respond.
- e) Planning Fiction versus Planning Facts. - This is available on the PCNP website.
- f) Car Parking - NP/16/0638/NMA – Limenaraki, Adjacent to the Village Green. Members noted that on the plans submitted with this application that there had been room for parking on the site via double gates. The owner has closed off this entrance. The property is being used as a holiday let for up to 10 people. Parking for visitors staying at this property has placed additional pressure on the on-road parking on the nearby Square. Clerk to draft a letter to the Park to seek clarification on the change to the plans and the use of the site generally.
- g) County Show – Members received an invitation to a reception in the PCNP marquee on Wednesday 16th August – celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Park. Noted.

6) Financial Matters

- a) 2016/17 Audit – Clerk has responded to telephone queries on the Audit documents.
- b) Clock Tower – Clerk yet to contact another possible donor to the Louvre

painting.

- c) Tithe Map – No further details on this proposal.
- d) Lloyds Bank – Bank Statements received.
- e) Ebico – Clock Tower Electric – Statement received – Paying £1.78 a month.
- e) Smiths of Derby – No contact as yet reference the maintenance contract.
- f) Bank Signatories – Letter received dated 26th June, but received on the 17th July. Clerk had then spoken to Bank Staff, and found that although the changes had been noted by one section, the actual signatures had not been put on screen to be recognised when a cheque was submitted. Payment to Mrs. Royle can now be made.
- g) AON – Insurance Policy – Letter received dated 28th July advised that next year they will no longer offer Councils renewal terms. Agreed that the Council wait for contact from BHIB Ltd – another broker in this sector.

7) Urgent Matters

- a) Skokholm Back – The meeting were advised that Mrs. Barbara Scale and Mrs. Hazel Champley with others had spent some time and effort clearing the hydrangeas at Skokholm Back of brambles recently. Cllr. Smithies had provided bags, and taken the brambles away. Clerk to put an item in Peninsula Papers expressing he thanks of the Council for this effort on behalf of the community.
- b) Western Power – Cllr. Jessop had been talking to the company recently, and had been advised that as the sub-station at Steynton is 5% overloaded they do not envisage approving any more solar farms. Agreed that Cllr. Jessop make further enquiries before the Council consider whether letters need to be sent to the MP & AM.
- c) Telegraph Poles – Cllr. Kimpton advised that more electricity poles will be removed in the near future, as there is some funding available from the Western Power Distribution “under-grounding programme”.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting, The next meeting is to be held on Monday 11th September 2017, when the draft minutes of the August meeting will be submitted for approval.