

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Martletwy Community Council  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 7:30pm at Lawrenny Village Hall

Note: With the agreement of all parties involved proceedings were recorded

Present: Cllr L Williams (Chair); Cllr B Carlisle, Cllr J Crowther, Cllr P Eynon, Cllr A Newman. Also in attendance: Cllr D Clements; L Lesnianski (Clerk).

Declarations of Interest: None

Members of the Public Present: Two representatives from the Lawrenny Community Shop

### Chairman's Welcome

**25/089: Apologies Received:** Cllr V Evans (Vice Chair)

**25/090: Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the February Ordinary meeting were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

### 25/091: Matters arising:

a. Oakwood Lights: Cllr Clements reported. Having been unable to get a further response from the owners Cllr Clements has reported matter to PCC Public Protection team and is awaiting a response. They deal with matters of bright lights.

b. Lawrenny Shop: Cllr Williams welcomed the representatives from the Lawrenny Shop Committee (LSC). The Clerk reported on further information received from the LSC as requested at the last meeting. The Clerk thanked the Lawrenny representative for being so prompt in their reply and shared a briefing document with the meeting (see attached redacted copy) running through main points. The Clerk confirmed prior to the meeting they had corresponded with the Lawrenny representative by email explaining the limitations of what funds might be available as a grant from the community council and suggesting they prepare answers to likely questions as this would be more enabling for all present. Cllr Clements confirmed there were approximately 240 households in Martletwy Ward. At the end of the presentation the clerk asked if the shortfall was going to impact any specific area of works. Cllr Williams asked the representatives how the work was progressing. It was reported work is going well. Following general discussion, it was confirmed the main outgoing for the shop are the energy costs. This is one of the main drivers behind installing solar panels and a battery for storage. Cllr Clements enquired as to the current energy costs per annum. It was reported energy costs for the previous financial year exceeded £2,500. Refrigeration has to be on 24hrs a day. The solar panels will considerably reduce energy costs. Various ideas were discussed. Cllr Eynon reminded the Lawrenny team they had originally mentioned seeking financial assistance to finish the community area within the shop. The LSC was not seeking help with running costs. The Clerk enquired regarding the mechanism LSC used for advertising shop hours and the automatic entry system. It was agreed by all present it would be helpful to put information on the community council social media and website, as well as in the next newsletter. Cllr Carlisle commented on the shop being a valuable resource. The automatic entry system (fob) is also having an upgrade. The Clerk confirmed they had forwarded the Pride of Place Impact fund application forms to the LSC. The representatives confirmed an application had been put in. The Clerk enquired if there was any way to isolate the cost of the community space to enable the community council to look at this in more detail. It was agreed this information would be forwarded to the clerk before further discussion at a future meeting. The Chair thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting. The LSC representatives left the meeting.

**25/092: Planning:**

a. Applications Received:

- i. NP/26/0088/TPO:* Woodland between Little Retreats & St Caradoc's Church, Lawrenny SA68 0PW: The council voted unanimously in favour of this application.
- ii. 25/1024/PA:* Jubilee House, Martletwy, SA67 8AP: Councillors reported they were unable to access this planning application on the planning authority portal. Clerk to report to PCC.

b. Application Notices Received:

- i. 25/0412/PA – Oaklea, Martletwy.* The clerk confirmed a notice had been received with regard to public speaking at committee. This had been circulated previously to all councillors.

c. Other Planning Matters:

- i. Cresswell Quay:* Due to its proximity to the ward the clerk reported on the recent planning application at Cresswell Quay with regard the food outlet. Consultation ends 25/03.
- ii. PCNP Local Development Plan 3:* Consultation ends 23/03. Cllr Clements confirmed PCNP are also seeking candidate sites. Clerk distributed flyers. End date 20/04.

**25/093: Highway Matters**

a. Previous issues raised: Clerk reported on responses.

- i. Pothole outside Swallows:* PCC to arrange temporary repair when funds are available.
- ii. Pothole by old wreck:* PCC have dealt with this.
- iii. Deep gully in road surface at Cline:* PCC required confirmation of location.
- iv. Road Sweeping:* PCC confirmed sweeping of the carriageways is part of the environmental protection which requires sweeping debris from the carriageways. At this time of year the local authority undertakes leaf fall sweeping around the county. Soon they will revert to general sweeping of general debris until next Autumn.

b. New Issues Reported by Councillors:

- i. Cllr Eynon* reported gully trap blocked by Kiosk in Martletwy. Water running down hill. Gully needs clearing.
- ii. Cllr Crowther* reported that following the removal of the Martletwy play area waste bin cat litter is now being thrown directly into the hedges.

**25/094: Finances:**

a. Financial Reports:

- i. Financial Report:* The Clerk presented the financial report for the period 01/02/26 to 28/02/26. Opening joint balances £14,269.03 (current account - £7499.47). Payments for the period £1241.32, include regular direct debit for website management; to HMRC for tax element of staff salary; salary payment; training; and an invoice for fencing. Receipts for the period totalled £4.93 from interest received. Closing balances £13,032.64 (current account £6258.15). Report attached.

b. Invoices and Remittances: £40 contribution toward Martletwy Christmas decorations paid as agreed.

c. Clerk Salary: Clerk confirmed all councillors had previously received the report and approved by email.

**25/095: Community:**

a. Easter Party – funded by this round of Warm Spaces grant funding. Cllr Williams reported the event is booked at the Snooty Fox on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, commencing at 3pm. Open to all residents including children. Free 2 course lunch for all included. Easter egg hunts for children and grown-ups. Cllr Williams circulated a poster. Clerk confirmed it will be advertised across social media and the website along with local chat groups and the noticeboards. The clerk asked all councillors to share the information. Cllr Williams asked for councillor support for the event. People need to register their interest by 23<sup>rd</sup> March to enable the Snooty Fox to cater for the meals.

b. Play Area – Martletwy - Village Green Status: The Clerk reported on information that had recently come to light –unknown to them, and previous clerks, until now. In 1989 Martletwy Community Council took ownership of the Martletwy village green/play area. This information was not included in any documentation passed to the clerk on their commencement 11 years ago. Having made enquiries the clerk confirmed previous clerks were not aware. The community council took ownership, according to the PCC Common Lands Registry, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1989. Cllr Eynon, the longest standing councillor, who was not on the council in 1989, was unaware of the status. The clerk confirmed this will require the community council's Register of Assets to be updated.

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There was discussion as to how or if this information would change anything with regard to the running of the play area. The PCC Common Land Registry team can find no record of the transfer to the community council – and had commented this was not surprising as it was 37 years ago. Records are not required to go back this far. Cllr Carlisle suggested it would be unlikely to be worth any value as it is common land. Cllr Newman asked if this new information would impact the ongoing service level agreement. The Clerk asked Cllr Carlisle to check with the PCC inspector as to whether it changes anything. The clerk will check with insurance company. The clerk reiterated it is important we have a clear understanding of the impact this information may have going forward. Cllr Eynon suggested asking a previous named local clerk from further back.

c. Play Area – Martletwy - Mowing: Clerk to resolve questions regarding item b. above prior to mowing quotes.

d. Play Area Martletwy – Freestanding Unit Location: Cllr Carlisle to ask PCC inspector as to suitable locations.

e. Community Noticeboards – The clerk reported. Explained in order to keep the cost for new noticeboards within the budgetary figure it would be necessary to drop the worded banner across the top. Consideration had been given to increasing the size of the board to put a banner inside the board. Most reasonably priced noticeboards are standard sizes. This would make the board too big and raise the unit cost. It was also noted by the clerk most noticeboards are lockable. There are very few without locks and again this raises the unit cost. The clerk will do more research and get prices and specifications to councillors in due course.

f. Newsletter: On going preparation. Move forward.

**25/096: Community Council Policies:**

a. Council and Councillor contact details:

*i. Email for councillors:* Clerk reported. Cllr Evans is not yet able to send emails. Clerk will discuss further with website site team.

*ii. E-sim for council:* Clerk sourcing details and costs of business e-sim.

*iii. Postal address:* Clerk reported. They have been in conversation with the local authority about the issue of not using their private address, specifically for publicly accessible documentation such as the annual return. Following email correspondence with both the Working Better Together team at the local authority, and One Voice Wales, both agree non-elected officers of Town and Community Councils should not have to publish their private addresses. There is a Working Better Together session on Thursday at which this matter will be discussed further. These conversations are ongoing and the clerk will report back when there is any update.

b. Update of Declarations of Interest: The Clerk reported renewed Declarations of Interest have been received from councillors Williams, Evans and Newman. Remaining councillors should endeavour to get these completed as soon as possible.

**25/097: Councillor Clerk Training:**

a. Councillor Training – Free Places: The Clerk reported the completed free training allocation form had been forwarded to One Voice Wales. The Clerk has now forwarded the OVW training schedule, via link, to all councillors, and would ask them to choose convenient dates for the relevant training.

b. Clerk Training – ILCA: Clerk confirmed they have commenced the SLCC ILCA training.

**25/098: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk:**

a. Lawrenny Spring Lunch: Cllr Williams reported they had given a hand at the recent Lawrenny Spring Lunch. It had been well attended with some 40 residents in attendance. Funds raised exceeded £1000.

b. Councillor Attendance at Events: The Clerk suggested perhaps each councillor should attend at least one event per annum – either to assist with the event, or as an attendee. This matter can be considered further. Cllr Williams agreed it was a good idea and perhaps councillors would like to start by attending the Snooty Fox on the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**25/099: Dates of Meetings:** Cllr Williams confirmed the clerk had issued a schedule of meetings until the end of the financial period 2026/2027 and felt it was very helpful moving forward. The Clerk confirmed the dates could be altered as/if required.

**25/100: Correspondence Received:**

a. Local Resident Correspondence: Clerk reported. Correspondence was received from a Martletwy resident via the website. This was unexpected as they have emailed the clerk many times before. The resident enquired as to when the Christmas tree, supplied to, and erected for, the village under the Christmas Tree Initiative would be removed from the Martletwy play area. It has lain there since it was taken down after the Christmas period. Cllr Crowther and Cllr Carlisle both offered to remove the tree. The clerk suggested it may be worth being clearer with villages regarding disposal of trees going forward.

b. Non-Resident Correspondence: The Clerk is in receipt of correspondence from a non-resident with regard to the save Withybush Campaign. The correspondent is encouraging people to join them in fighting Hywel Dda University Health Board's (HDUHD) proposed changes impacting both Withybush and Bronglais Hospitals. There is a link to the petition. In order to get the matter raised in the Senedd it requires in excess of 10,000 signatures. Cllr Clements confirmed it had already exceeded this number. Clerk offered to forward the correspondence to councillors who would like to get involved.

c. PCC – Draft Welsh Language Strategy: The Clerk confirmed the information pertaining to this matter had been emailed to all councillors previous to the meeting. Cllr Evans has offered to work on this matter as it ties in with other current work undertaken. Cllr Clements enquired whether all councillors would see Cllr Evans' response. The Clerk suggested all councillors who wished to have any input should email with their suggestions.

d. BBC – Invitation to Senedd Debates: Clerk confirmed this email had been forwarded to all councillors.

**25/101: County Councillor Report:** The budget was voted on at end of Feb by all county councillors. A council tax increase of 4.6% was approved. Extra income approved for building maintenance, highway maintenance and the contact centre as these were considered to be under extreme pressure. The wet winter had caused greater issue with highways - i.e. potholes and the lack of gully clearance.

On 5th March Cllrs sat for a 10-hour council meeting discussing some very difficult issues and making extremely difficult decisions. There were 2 school closures to consider - Manorbier and Clydau. After a very emotional discussion - it was resolved to shut both. Manorbier had suffered extensive fire damage and Clydau had limited numbers attending with a high number of spare places. A further difficult debate was had on the proposed reorganisation of Stepside and Saundersfoot school due to increasing levels of spare pupil places and funding constraints. The outcome and decision was to commence statutory consultation on establishing a new 3-11 primary school on Saundersfoot school site (to use existing buildings), close Stepside and Saundersfoot school and extend the catchment area of Kilgetty and Stepside. There were a number of public petitions submitted - The Save the Cleddau petition was notable for the Martletwy area. A decision was made for the subject to be sent to Services Scrutiny Committee for further examination/understanding and further action. Public petitions only receive 15 mins debating time in the chamber. Cllr Clements requested an emergency notice of motion be debated on the decision by HDUHB to cease emergency general surgery at Withybush and is pleased to confirm the chair agreed to the request. Cllr Clements requested the council agree to send a letter to the First Minister asking them to intervene and reverse the decision. They also requested the HDUHB Chief Executive be invited to the next full council meeting to discuss the matter further. This was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

**25/102: Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Venue to be confirmed.

Meeting closed: 8:55pm

Signed:..... Date:..... Position:.....