

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Martletwy Community Council
Monday 7th April 2025, 7.30pm at Lawrenny Village Hall

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

Present: Cllr Liz Williams (Chair); Cllr Bruce Carlisle (Vice Chair); Cllr Jason Crowther, Cllr Victoria Evans (online), Cllr Phil Eynon; Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk). **Apologies:** Cllr Phil Davies; Cty Cllr Di Clements

Declarations of Interest: None

24/101: Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the January 2025 Ordinary meeting were approved as a true copy of the recording. The Chair signed and dated copies of the minutes for the record.

24/102: Matters arising:

a. Flood Signage Garron Pill: Cllr Davies not in attendance. Carried forward to next meeting.

24/103: Planning:

a. Applications Received: None received.

b. Application Notice Received:

i. 24/0941/PA: Tedion Farm, SA68 0QB. Conditionally approved.

ii. 24/0715/CL: Badgers Brook, Martletwy, SA67 8AS. Refused. The clerk confirmed the Delegated Decision Report shows three members of the public responded to application.

c. Other Planning Matters: The clerk confirmed resident correspondence was received regarding 24/0715/C as above. The Chair had replied to the resident and confirmed she had received an email in response thanking her for the reply.

24/104: Highway Matters

a. Clerk Report: The clerk confirmed she has not received any correspondence from the local authority but assumes they are completing the works. Cllr Carlisle confirmed the local authority workforce had done a good job of the culvert between Tedion and Pencoed. It was agreed the clerk would email the team to thank them. Cllr Crowther confirmed they also done a good job by Waddock Cross.

b. Councillor Reports:

i. Cllr Eynon reported issues in the highway surface outside Waisland. There are issues with the drains and there is a big pothole. Cllr Crowther to drop a pin for the location.

ii. Cllr Eynon brought up a matter covered previously, now closed, which he continues to pursue by email, regarding parking at the charity bonfire evening. The Chair and the clerk confirmed it would not be discussed again. It was not on the agenda. The matter was closed. Cllr Eynon continued to try to raise the matter. Cllr Crowther sternly requested Cllr Eynon desist.

c. County Councillor Report: No report from Cty Cllr Clements as she was not in attendance.

24/105: Finances:

a. Financial Report: The clerk presented the financial report previously emailed to all councillors prior to the meeting. The report comprised an initial balance sheet for the financial year 2024/2025. The balance sheet is currently £1.01 out. Cllr Williams has submitted further receipts to be included. Unspent grant funding money will also need to be returned. The clerk confirmed as at 1st April the balance in the current account was £3367.65. As at 1st April the balance in the reserve account was £6710.68. The clerk will send the draft accounts through to all councillors for approval at the AGM, before commencing further with the Full Audit.

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24/105: Finances: (cont'd)

b. Invoices and Remittances:

- i. One Voice Wales – Annual Subscription: Clerk presented Annual Subscription. £120. Council approved renewal.
- ii. Audit Wales – Invoice ARINV/012433 for the period 2023/2024. £200. Clerk confirmed this had been paid. Approved by council.
- c. **Clerk Salary:** Clerk confirmed there had been no comments received with regard the Clerk's Salary Report. The council had approved payment. Payment made online.
- d. **Audit Notice:** The clerk confirmed the Audit Notice had been received from Audit Wales. She is attending a seminar on Wednesday. The council has a full audit this year within the audit cycle.

24/106: Community:

a. Community Events:

- i. VE80. 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Cllr Williams reiterated the plan to hold a commemorative community picnic for the VE80 celebrations. There was confusion over the date of the event. It was then agreed this event would take place on Saturday 10th May, two days after the VE anniversary on 8th May. The event will be held in the play area at Martletwy. Initial discussions ensued with ideas for source of power, what to supply, opportunities for volunteering within the community. Possible options were a plant swap, tea and coffee. Cllr Williams, Cllr Evans and the clerk to create a subcommittee to organise the event. Complications could include lack of electricity on site. It was agreed any monies raised would be donated to the Poppy appeal. Cllr Williams stressed the importance of advertising the event as far in advance as possible.
- ii. VE 80 Beacon. Cllr Eynon confirmed the landowner where the Beacon had been lit previously had agreed to host the beacon on May 8th. Cllr Eynon confirmed the event will be private, by invitation of the landowner, and Phillip Eynon only. The clerk confirmed this could not be advertised as a community council effort. The Chair commented it was not inclusive, therefore it could not be considered a community event.
- iii. International Women's Day Event. Cllr Williams reported on the event put on for International Women's Day. The talk was given by Rev'd Shirley Murphy and was very interesting. Turnout was low, however those that did turn out thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was a nice evening enjoyed by all who attended. £70 was raised for the foodbank in Carmarthen.
- iv. Community Christmas Trees: Cllr Williams reiterated the idea of sharing the community Christmas Tree Initiative with both Martletwy and Lawrenny. The volunteers in Landshipping have suggested planting a tree which will last for years to come. Cllr Carlisle confirmed it was a bit late to plant a rooted tree at this time of year, but he will supply both a cut tree and small rooted tree for Christmas 2025 in Landshipping. Cllr Williams asked for suggestions as to whom to contact in Martletwy and Lawrenny regarding the trees for the villages. Cllr Williams suggested perhaps putting the tree in Martletwy in the play area. The clerk will contact Lawrenny shop committee to see if they can locate it somewhere. Cllr Crowther suggested the triangle. Cllr Eynon said that would not be possible as residents were already concerned that they didn't have a clear view of the highway. Cllr Williams suggested it could be outside the shop. Cllr Eynon said this would not be possible as they cut the grass. The clerk queried if they would continue to cut grass in December. Cllr Williams to make contact with Martletwy community through the village WhatsApp group.

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b. Community Initiatives:

i. What next? Cllr Williams asked if anyone had any other suggestions for community initiatives and what was next for initiatives currently underway. The following was agreed:

- Finish off play area.
- Restart litter picking – and bringing in the volunteers again. Make it a Spring tidy up.
- Additional Waste Bins. The clerk continues to pursue this with the local authority.
- Litter grabbers and bags: Cllr Evans suggested putting grabbers and bags in the Landshipping defib phone box with a sign on the outside saying people can use them and leave the bags for collection. Cllr Williams will sort out the grabbers and the bags.

ii. **Orchard Package Update:** Cllr Williams confirmed she had been expecting benches, with tables, but had only received two benches. Having spoken with her contact it was clear it was rather luck of the draw. The council agreed they are grateful for what we have, it was just a bit of a surprise. Cllr Williams confirmed the two benches delivered do look a bit lost in the area, which now needs finishing off. The bug hotel needs to be finished off, as does the Hedgehog house. Signs will be needed to make it more official and educational. Cllr Williams is looking for extra birdboxes. Cllr Evans will have a look as she has a source who may have some going spare. Cllr Williams would like to do this in time for the VE80 events. She also asked if the MCC solar lights can be used. No one disagreed with this. Cllr Carlisle and Cllr Crowther offered to make a few wooden rustic benches and tables. Cllr Williams asked them to be there for the V80 celebrations. Cllr Williams will speak to the volunteers. She is also looking at getting a few extra things for the area. Cllr Williams confirmed the support from Martletwy residents has been phenomenal.

iii. **Grant Application Opportunities:** Cllr Williams reported she and the clerk continue to look for grant opportunities that will help to enhance the community. She reported how complex some of the application process was, and in particular the fact they are scrutinised very differently, depending upon where the funding is coming from. It is quite stressful and going forward she would appreciate more assistance. The clerk agreed the experience between the different funding scrutiny has been a real eye opener.

24/107: Community Council Policies:

a. Model Financial Regulations: The clerk reported suggesting as it was only a month until the AGM it may be better to bring the new Model Financial Regulations to the meeting for approval as it would need to be done anyway. Council approved leaving the adoption of the new Model Financial Regulations until the AGM.

b. Annual Report: As per 24/107/a above the clerk suggested adopting the Annual Report at the AGM. The council agreed to this action.

c. Training Policy: As per 24/107/a above, the clerk suggested adopting the Training Policy at the AGM. The council agreed to this action.

d. Procedural note from One Voice Wales: Clerk reported regarding the content of a note regarding agenda items. A One Voice Wales specialist in this matter stated in an email:

“The content of an agenda is normally agreed between the chair of the council and the clerk. If there is a request from one of the councillors for something to be included, then normally the chair and the clerk will discuss this before agreeing on the final agenda.” The clerk hoped this would assist everyone with regard to agenda items.

24/108: Councillor/Clerk Training:

a. Group Training Sessions: The clerk confirmed she continues to speak to other community councils regarding group training sessions.

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24/109: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk: Cllr Eynon reported. He attended a meeting of the Lawrenny Shop Association. He confirmed they are applying for grant funding. They are hoping to fund structural improvements for the roof and to future proof energy supply. Cllr Eynon also noted he had met with the playground inspector. This had been raised in his earlier emails. His comment is noted, though the matter is closed. Cllr Crowther again had to ask Cllr Eynon to desist from continuing.

24/110: Correspondence Received:

- a. Resident Correspondence: The clerk reported a resident of Martletwy had emailed in February with regard to issues with vermin. The clerk had signposted to them to the department they needed.
- b. Resident Correspondence: The clerk reported a resident of Martletwy had emailed in February expressing concerns regarding a night prowler in the village. The clerk had put a gentle general reminder on social media and on community WhatsApp groups to be mindful of security. The clerk confirmed with the correspondent the best course of action if concerned again.

24/111: Communication:

- a. **County Councillor:** Cllr Clements not in attendance. Carry forward to next meeting.

24/112: Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th May. AGM 7pm, Ordinary Meeting 7:30pm.

Cllr Eynon stated the council should not have a meeting on 8th May because it was VE day and the Beacon was being lit at 8pm. The clerk reiterated that as it had been agreed this was a private event it did not impact on the council. He addressed the clerk saying it showed a lack of respect for those who had fought and died. The clerk responded by explaining she and no doubt other councillors had different and equally effective ways to respect the memory of the VE day anniversary throughout the day and it was offensive to suggest otherwise. Cllr Evans suggested holding a minute's silence at the beginning of the meeting. The clerk confirmed an invitation for the 8th had also been extended to the local authority and the Chair of the Standards Committee had accepted.

Meeting closed: 20.10

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