

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Martletwy Community Council
held on Monday 9 January 2023 - 7.30pm. Online

Notes:

- a. with the agreement of all parties involved these proceedings were recorded
- b. Coronavirus: all due care & attention is taken to ensure the safety of all in attendance

Present: David Cole (Chair); Victoria Evans (Vice Chair); Jason Crowther, Phil Davies, Phil Eynon, Liz Williams (Councillors); Di Clements (County Councillor); Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk)

Apologies: None

22/080: Minutes of previous meeting: Clerk confirmed corrected minutes of December minutes had been amended as agreed and signed by the Chair. All confirmed minutes of January meeting were a true copy of business and signed.

22/081: Matters arising:

a. Community Play Areas inc Funding: Cllr Davies confirmed there was a grant available for £1500, but he had not accepted it to date. He also confirmed the initial application to National Lottery had been unsuccessful. They cited a lack of consultation. It was agreed by councillors there should be consultation, utilising social media, and signs in public spaces. Cllr Davies confirmed there was no legal requirement to have fencing around the play area at Lawrenny. More needs to be known whether residents want to keep the play areas as they are. Cllr Eynon pointed out it was important to ensure whether people without social media were able to take part in consultation. Cllr Evans queried the cost of the SLA's for the playground. Cllr Davies suggested letting the equipment going to the end of its natural life and reconsider at that time. Cllr Eynon stated he felt a fence around Lawrenny play area was important. It was agreed Lawrenny was a well-used play area. Cllr Davies suggested concentrating the council's efforts on the Lawrenny play area for now. There was discussion with regard PCC's inspection report previously and that it did not mention there was an issue of any kind with the fence at that time. Seems unlikely it has degenerated that quickly. It was agreed would see if there was any response to the consultation in the newsletter. Cllr Eynon offered to put up a poster in the Lawrenny shop, seeking opinions. Clerk suggested it was a good time for council to become proactive with regard to communicating with residents.

b. Chat Benches: Cllr Clements confirmed no further information. This matter is now closed.

c. Joint Project with County Councillor: Cty Cllr Clements and Cllr Davies confirmed all newsletters had been delivered within a day. Cty Cllr Clements confirmed people seemed pleased to receive it. No responses to any of it so far. It was suggested and agreed at least one should be sent out annually, with the possibility of doing it every 6 months if there is enough content. Cty Cllr Clements and Cllr Davies thought it worked well doing it as a joint venture. The Clerk thanked Cty Cllr Clements on behalf of the Community Council for including them in the newsletter project.

e. Woodland Trust Trees & PCNP 70-year Anniversary Trees: Cllr Cole confirmed delivery of trees to children had begun, he is currently confirming numbers to ensure all children receive a tree. The Clerk updated council on the news from the Ranger with regard to the delivery of the trees for the PCNP 70-year Anniversary. Tree order could be delivered to us on 8th March. Would like to deliver to one central point. The trees (20cm high) are plugs and will need to be planted by end of March. Cllr Cole confirmed he would be happy for them to be delivered to his property. Clerk will liaise with the Ranger and give him Cllr Cole's contact details. After some discussion it was agreed a provisional date for planting would be 11th March. Hedge planting will hopefully take place in February half term, week commencing 24th February.

f. Ironman: Clerk reported PCC officer has been on leave, returning today. Clerk will contact and await possible dates for a meeting between PCC and Councillors. Clerk confirmed PCC officer cannot do evening meetings. Cty Cllr Clements confirmed presentation with LCW organisers this week. Clerk raised issue of LCW sending out maps as final when they are supposed to be consultations.

g. Dementia Friendly Pledge: Cllr Williams is still waiting to hear back from her contact. Hopefully

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they will be in touch soon. Carried forward to next meeting. Cllr Evans will report back on Dementia Bus at next meeting.

h. IRPW – Mandatory payments to Councillors. Clerk reported on the new draft IRPW report. The payments for expenses and consumables are mandatory and cannot be returned. This will have an impact on the budget. Councillors expressed frustration at this decision. They unanimously agreed they would prefer it to be voluntary. Discussion followed as to what the thought process was behind the decision to make the payments mandatory.

22/082: Planning

a. Applications Received:

22/0804/PA: Bluestone National Park Resort, SA67 8DE: Solar Panel application.

Clerk confirmed planning application notice had been forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting. Clerk confirmed comments went into the pre-consultation application, and reminded councillors of the points raised, with regards the quality of the land used for the solar array. After further discussion encompassing the pre-consultation response, councillors voted on whether to support the application. Cllr Cole proposed supporting the application. Cllrs Williams and Evans supported the proposal. Cllrs Crowther, Davies and Eynon abstained.

b. Application Notices Received: None received.

c. Other Planning Matters:

i. Monitoring & Enforcement:

Cllr Davies confirmed he was pleased to see new Enforcement Officers were making site visits. Cty Cllr Clements confirmed she had spoken to the new Director of Planning at PCC who confirmed additional enforcement officers had been recruited. Cllr Crowther stated his approval, and how pleased he was to see PCC were at last taking the matter more seriously. There was some discussion regarding sites where planning was being flouted. It was agreed not to minute the names as PCC could be looking into it.

ii) Water Access – Lawrenny. Clerk confirmed response had been sent to the interested party. Has not received a response. This matter will no longer be on the agenda.

iii) Canaston Bowl, Cross Hands: Clerk confirmed the inspection by PCC has been done. Notice served. Clerk asked the officer what the notice included and updated councillors. For copy of report apply to Clerk. Cty Cllr Clements confirmed she had not received a response from the General Manager of the holding company in the UK, Aspro. She is seeking further information, and if necessary, she will write to the headquarters of Aspro in Spain. They own both Oakwood and the empty properties. There was discussion regarding loss of the car park. The issue was raised that if it was not safe it was better it was not used.

22/083: Highway Matters

a) Clerk Report: Clerk confirmed the list of outstanding highway issues had been sent to the officer at PCC. PCC officer confirmed the issues would be passed to the team for assessment. Awaiting responses. Clerk confirmed issue with regard to laybys needing clearing had been forwarded to PCC as well.

b) Councillors Reports:

Cllr Davies: Pothole on road outside Furzehill

Cllr Crowther: Depression by Big House, Landshipping, at turn by Anchorage. Responsibility of the Coal Board.

Cllr Eynon: a) Mill Bridge – pipes blocked either side. b) Garron Bridge – culvert blocked. C) Road to Lawrenny Ferry – pipe under road blocked. d) Knowles Farm – blocked grid.

Cllr Evans: No report

Cllr Williams: No report

Cllr Cole No report

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- c) County Councillor Report:** a) Cllr Davies raised the issue with Cty Cllr Clements of the safety of the junction at Cross Hands. Cty Cllr Clements confirmed budget was an issue. To follow up, b) Bubbleton junction needs attention, c) will enquire when Mountain View will be resurfaced
- d) Dog Fouling Signs:** To be removed from agenda

22/084: Finances:

a) PCC Budget: Cty Councillor Clements reported on the current situation regarding the PCC annual budget. Previously reported there was a £1.5M deficit for the current financial year, and £25M for following financial year. This was based on a 3% increase by Welsh Government. However, UK Government gave the Welsh administration more money, a proportion of which has filtered down to local government. New base is now 9%. So there is currently a £19M shortfall for 2023/24. This will need to be made up of cutting services, possible council tax increases, although it is noted that for every 1% increase in council tax is only £600,000. Difficult decisions to be made. Cllr Davies noted some family members may live on property owned by parents etc in mobile homes. If they lived in a property it would be an additional stream of council tax payment.

b) Draft Community Council Budget 2023/24. Clerk presented the draft budget for the financial year 2023/24. There was considerable discussion. Draft included actual figures for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Forecast/actual figures for 2022/2023. Clerk explained the detail. Numbers include the 2x SLA's for the play areas, which for 2023/24 are in excess of £650 each. There is also maintenance costs. Clerk confirmed mandatory IRPW costs also included. There is also council and clerk training costs to meet the training plan as required. Attached for information. It was confirmed the ward has some 300 households. Discussion as to whether or not we should use some of the reserves. Clerk confirmed the costs of the defib and SLA's had depleted some of the reserves. Initial reaction from several councillors was to adopt the total amount of the budget of £9040. Cllr Eynon queried the cost of training. Cllr Evans confirmed that in order to meet the legal requirement all councillors and the clerk needed to undertake extensive training. £660 was equivalent to 3 sessions each. Clerk confirmed the landscape of local authority at T&CC level is changing considerably and more financial onus is being put on community councils. Cllr Davies felt the cost of maintenance on the play areas was conservative. The cost for maintenance of the defibs only allowed for one new pair of pads per year. Have to be able to afford to replace them in case they are used. Inflation will also be a factor. This will eat into reserves. As will staffing costs. Budget allows for absolute bare minimum. Cllr Eynon suggested using some of the reserves to reduce the increase in Precept payment. Cllr Davies suggested using £1500 of the reserves. Further discussion ensued with regard to costs expected in the next 3 months. The possibility of the fencing requirement at Lawrenny. Cllr Crowther pointed out a new fence would wipe out 50% of reserves. Cllr Cole went around the room for initial response to the budget. Cllr Evans voted to accept the budget as it is, commenting costs continue to rise; Cllr Williams agreed and voted to accept the budget as presented; Cllr Crowther voted to accept the budget as presented; Cllr Eynon voted not to accept the budget as is, preferring to reduce it by the use of some of the reserves; Cllr Cole accepted budget as forecast. All Councillors agreed to use £1500 of the reserves after further discussion. Clerk to rework the budget, using a) £1500 of the reserves. Cllr Evans suggested turning Martletwy play area into a green space. Clerk to ask PCC for details of SLA costs for a green space, and removal of play equipment.

c) Grant Applications: Clerk confirmed Warm Spaces Grant of £1355 had been received. Cllr Evans confirmed the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant application is to be considered by PCC in February.

d) PCC – Election Charges: Clerk reported she is currently in correspondence with PCC regarding the unexpected election charges. Confirmed to the local authority the council wish to pay over 5 years.

e) Invoices: Clerk presented two invoices for approval. Both unanimously approved

i) Lawrenny Village Hall for meeting venue costs: £80 and,

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ii) Wild Lakes. From the warm spaces fund: £26.60

22/085: Audit: Clerk confirmed it was nearing completion.

22/086: Community Council Policies: Clerk confirmed she has been working on the Financial Regulation policy and Standing Orders. Will send to all for perusal when they are complete. Cllr Evans confirmed she is working on several the councils' policies. Cllr Evans enquired with regard the Privacy Notice. Clerk confirmed there was one.

22/087: Councillor/Clerk Training: None reported

a) Councillor Training Plan: Cllr Evans will hand out forms for completion at the end of the meeting. Community Council should publish training plan in November. It has be agreed and approved. Subsequent plans will need to be produced within 3 months of the election of community councillors. So will not need to do it after this until 2025. Fill in forms and give them to Cllr Evans at next meeting – or email them to her. Cllr Evans has forwarded training draft to Clerk. It was noted it is important to fill in form accurately.

22/088: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk:

a) Working Better Together. Clerk confirmed she had attended this session online. It was a good meeting and Clerk suggested a Councillor may wish to attend. Confirmed next meeting is on Wednesday 15th February at 6.30pm.

b) Warm Space Meetings: Ideas were discussed as to how to utilise grant between now and end of March. More hot meal sessions, and warm sessions in local spaces to be organised.

22/089: Correspondence Received: Nothing in addition to other agenda items.

22/090: Communication:

a) Clerk confirmed there had been further correspondence from the resident enquiring about a community hall in Martletwy. Cllr Cole will action this matter.

b) Cty Cllr Clements raised the issue of the road triangle in Lawrenny. Previously the cutting and keeping tidy was organised locally. Clerk to email Lawrenny contact to see if there are any plans for this patch.

c) Clerk suggested council need to start being more pro-active with regard to communication with residents.

22/091: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th Feb 2023 at 7.30pm. Venue: Lawrenny Village Hall.

Meeting declared closed: 21.31

Signed:  **Date:** 6th FEB 2023

Position: CHAIR