

Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Martletwy Community Council
Monday 2nd December 7.30pm online

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

Present: Cllr Victoria Evans (Chair), Cllr Bruce Carlisle (Vice Chair); Cllr Jason Crowther, Cllr Phil Davies, Cllr Phil Eynon; Cllr Di Clements (PCC); Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Liz Williams

24/076: Minutes of the previous meeting: Council unanimously agreed the minutes were a true account of the November meeting.

24/077: Matters arising:

a. Flood Signage Garron Pill: Cllr Davies confirmed this is ongoing.

24/078: Planning:

a. Applications Received:

i. NP/24/0509/FUL: Minwear Cottage, Blackpool Bridge, SA67 8BJ. No comments were offered with regard this application, and the council unanimously supported the application.

b. Application Notice Received: 24/0412/PA: Jericho, Martletwy, SA67 8AS. Clerk informed the council this application had been conditionally approved.

c. Other Planning Matters: None reported.

24/079: Highway Matters

a. Clerk Report: The Clerk reported on PCC's response further to Cllr Eynon's enquiry in September regarding the milk churn stand located at the Anchorage, Landshipping. The officer stated in an email the stand appears to be within private property and has been rebuilt as a decorative feature. The local authority do not consider it a risk to road users.

b. Councillors' Reports:

Cllr Crowther: Waddock Cross towards Cresswell Quay, sharp pothole in second layby on left side.
Cllr Carlisle: Pencoed Hill. The maintenance team filled in the big gaps on the edge of the highway on Pencoed Hill with gravel. The recent storms and bad weather have washed it all away again. It is a quite a big pipe gulley now. Someone has already been stuck in it and it is causing damage.

Cllr Eynon: Southern Pitts. Potholes are getting worse. This has been raised before.

Cllr Eynon: When the teams are clearing ditches, could they also sweep the lay-bys and passing points.

Cllr Eynon: Complained about parking on the highway at the bonfire event. He stated there were no passing points when he passed down the hill at 7pm. Clerk confirmed she and Cllr Williams had been at the top of the hill until 7pm, and if he missed them, it must have been by just a minute of two. Both the Clerk & Cllr Crowther also confirmed he was at the bottom of the hill until the same time. They also confirmed there was a passing place in the middle of the hill at the gate way to the event. The Clerk stated the highway at this location has no parking restrictions and therefore parking is permitted. It is only occasionally parking occurs. Cllr Eynon stated he met three cars. Cllr Clements stated if emergency vehicles could travel through and there are no road restrictions it is all acceptable and allowed. Cllr Evans stated it had been established there are no road markings, and therefore no restrictions on parking, and there was access for vehicles to go through because road was not blocked, so the matter was closed.

c. County Councillor Report: Cllr Clements confirmed she had received no complaints. She noted a few potholes had been filled and some brushing of roads had been done which is welcome. More to follow. It was noted the road team had a good deal to do following the terrible weather. Cllr Clements suggested where possible if councillors can get out there and clear the drains in their own local patches it would be helpful. Cllr Clements reported the Senior Officer in Highways, Mr Darren Thomas, is leaving the council and it will be a great loss. The Clerk agreed.

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24/080: Finances:

- a. Invoices and Remittances:** Clerk confirmed along with Cllr Williams they had gathered the invoices, and coordinated the last of the spend, for the Small Things Grant. These included invoices provided by Cllr Williams with regard the setting up of the volunteering group. There was also an invoice for the Jumble Sale, and the noticeboard for Landshipping, along with the display stand for the Martletwy playground. The total grant was for the sum of £1450. Clerk asked if any questions – none forthcoming.
- b. Audit:** The Clerk confirmed the Audit Office had returned the latest completed Audit, and the Audit Notices would be posted on the noticeboards and website shortly.
- c. Clerk Salary:** Report sent to all councillors previously. No queries. All in favour.
- d. VAT update:** Clerk confirmed this remains ongoing. The issue created by the change of computer and loss of spreadsheets continues. Cllr Eynon enquired about what VAT could be reclaimed. As an example, he asked whether VAT on fencing materials could be reclaimed. The Clerk stated that whilst she was not an expert, she assumed it was dependent upon whether the supplier/contractor was VAT registered. Other councillors, including Cllr Clements agreed with this statement.

24/081: Community:

a. Playgrounds:

- i. Lawrenny Playground Fencing:* The Clerk confirmed on Friday last week she was in receipt of an email from Cllr Eynon addressed only to her in respect of her email update regarding Lawrenny fencing, and she had therefore forwarded it to all councillors straight away with a few comments, and a request to be allowed to reset over the weekend following a very distressing week. Cllr Eynon stated he had sent it only to the clerk in error. The Clerk then asked for the opportunity to say something prior to councilors' discussions regarding the fencing. She stated how fed up she was at Cllr Eynon's constant criticisms of anything Cllr Carlisle attempts to do for the community. The Clerk stated she was so fed up with it all she could weep, and she does not have the bandwidth to deal with his constant snipping. The Clerk suggested either Cllr Eynon complete the works himself, including getting the estimates and completing the work, or he accepts Cllr Carlisle has input the pre-works organisation, including speaking to the County Council Inspector about what is required, and that he has the good of the community at the heart of decisions he makes and actions he takes. He should be allowed to complete the work without constant criticism. The Clerk stated she was so upset at having to deal with all this she was shaking. She stated this situation had been continuing every month since Cllr Carlisle had come onto the council, and it needed to stop. She confirmed Cllr Carlisle has the support of the rest of the councillors. Cllr Eynon stated he wanted a decent fence at Lawrenny that would last a long time as the current fence being replaced has been in situ for many years. The Clerk pointed out PCC has previously stated no fence is required, and there is also the possibility Lawrenny Sports Club may decide to move the playground at anytime as it is on their land. Cllr Eynon stated putting up timber that is not of good standard is not a sound economic decision. Cllr Carlisle stated that since he had joined the council Cllr Eynon had complained about Cllr Carlisle's actions at every meeting. Cllr Carlisle pointed out at this meeting Cllr Eynon had already directed three complaints or caustic comments at Cllr Carlisle. Firstly, with regard the parking at the firework event, then the VAT query, where he specifically used fencing as an example, and now the matter of the fencing materials at Lawrenny. Cllr Carlisle stated it was obviously a personal thing Cllr Eynon had against him. Cllr Carlisle concluded by saying Cllr Eynon had already seen the quality of the materials used for the fencing, as it is already at Martletwy. It is high quality Redwood fencing which is very durable and long lasting. Cllr Davies called upon the Chair to move the matter along. Cllr Evans bought the matter to a halt. Cllr Evans confirmed that as a council they had looked at the quotes, and what was suggested. It was in line with the requirements presented by the PCC Inspector. Cllr Evans stated as councillors they were not going to say yes to anything which would falldown in a short space of time. Cllr Crowther suggested perhaps Cllr Eynon should be given the details of the inspector so he could

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express his gripes directly to the inspector regarding materials, so the council did not have to continue listening to him complain. Cllr Evans reiterated the council had done all they could, having followed procedure, and liaised with the inspector. She stated Cllr Carlisle has already done the work at Martletwy. The remaining 5 councillors have agreed to the work for Lawrenny, and if Cllr Eynon did not agree to it there was still a significant majority and the council now has to get on with the job and the subject is closed. Cllr Evans thanked Cllr Carlisle for his work and stated the council needs to move forward.

ii. The Orchard Package: The Clerk reported on this in the absence of Cllr Williams. The work on this moves forward. Whilst Cllr Williams is away the Clerk is on standby to take delivery of goods from Keep Wales Tidy if required to do so. The council will then be guided by the contact at Keep Wales Tidy as to the way forward.

b. Events:

i. Mingle & Jingle: This event is on Sunday 15th December at 2pm at Landshipping Slip. It runs in conjunction with the Light up the Festive Season event. Cllr Williams has put the poster up. The Clerk has put the information on both the website and social media. The Clerk gave a brief resume of this event. It is an attempt to encourage people to put up external decorations if they can or indeed want to, in order to bring some additional festive cheer to the ward. The Mingle & Jingle will hopefully bring people together and on their way to the event they will see properties who have joined in. Offers of assistance have been sent out. Cllr Clements suggested offering lifts. The Clerk will add details and will liaise with Lawrenny contact. Cllr Carlisle has donated a large Christmas Tree for the event. There is a team putting it up and decorating it in due course (with solar lights and homemade decorations produced from recycled plastic).

ii. Jumble Sale: Cllr Evans reported on this event. Lawrenny Village Hall is booked for Saturday 25th January. The WI have been approached and are happy to help with refreshments. The event will raise money for the Air Ambulance. Cllr Evans, Cllr Williams and the Clerk have a meeting later this month. Donations of items for sale can be left at strategic points to be confirmed at a later date. Cllr Evans said it was nice to see such positive events happening in the community.

24/082: Grant Funding:

a. Doing the Small Things Grant: The Clerk reported. The final litter pick of the year took place in Landshipping a couple of weeks ago. Five volunteers were in attendance. Picked litter from Landshipping Quay to Clare House. The Clerk also confirmed she had been in correspondence with PCC regarding whether they would be able to collect waste bins should the community council provide their own. Awaiting a response. Cllr Clements confirmed PCC offer a collection of litter pick bags (pink colour) which can be left at specific locations as agreed with the council. Clerk to share with Cllr Williams on her return. Cllr Evans confirmed the Keep Wales Tidy contact is also going to assist with ideas both for biodiversity and for enhancing local waste management.

b. Safe and Warm Hubs: The Clerk confirmed this is the grant for the non-paid carers. The monies have been received, setting up is on hold until Cllr Williams returns.

24/083: Community Council Policies:

a. Planning Response & Enforcement Policy: Cllr Evans confirmed the recent publication of the local planning authority (PCC) planning response policy, in which there is no mention of a role for Town or Community Councils. Councillors confirmed they would retain the Martletwy Community Council planning response policy as previously adopted.

b. Meeting Policy: The Clerk reported regarding the previous consideration to amend the community council's Standing Orders to reflect the change to the number of meetings held each year. Having read through the Standing Orders once more, the Clerk reported there is no definitive number of meetings listed. Therefore, no amendment is required.

c. Annual Report: Work ongoing following loss of document during changeover of IT equipment.

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d. Model Financial Regulations: Clerk reported. Currently updating our Model Financial Regulations as per the new version supplied by One Voice Wales. Will bring it to meeting when ready.
e. Training Policy: Cllr Evans' reported. Tracking back individuals training sessions to see what has been done to date to work out repeat cycles. Still a bit of work to be done. Will bring it to the next meeting.

24/084: Councillor/Clerk Training:

a. PCNP Training: Cllr Evans attended this event on 21st November. It was quite useful. The Welsh Government are looking to make some changes, including doubling fees for new retrospective planning applications. Also, PCNP are looking at putting out a consultation next year on special interest properties. This is not listed properties as such, rather local special sites. Sending consultations out to Town and Community Councils to nominate any special properties they feel should be considered. Cllr Clements suggested careful consideration during this process.

b. Group Training Sessions: Further to receiving the details from One Voice Wales the Clerk was awaiting a response from Cllr Clements. Confusion as to whether the email was sent. The clerk to resend the email to Cllr Clements and await a response from the other community councils within her ward. Cllr Clements suggested approaching Jeffreyston and Carew CC, and possibly Wiston.

24/085: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk: None reported.

24/086: Correspondence Received:

a. One Voice Wales – Digital Guidance and use of email: Clerk reported. This guidance centres on the current practice of the use of private emails for council work. It is not considered advisable due to security risks, and this document recommends councillors use council email addresses and how to access them. Cllr Crowther suggested councillors have email addresses in conjunction with the website. The Clerk confirmed this was certainly possible but would cost more money. She will investigate.

24/087: Communication:

a. County Councillor: Cllr Clements reported on the current budget discussions at County Hall. There is a considerable shortfall in the budget, however it is understood there will be more funds made available by the UK Government to the Welsh Government, however there is current uncertainty as to how much of this will filter down to the local authority. With regard costs, Cllr Clements gave an example of the impact of the recent budget in Westminster. It has added £4.5M to the National Insurance bill at the county council. Social Service costs remain very high. It seems inevitable there will be a rise in Council Tax bills again. Cllr Clements asked the council if they would like to participate in her latest newsletter as the council has a lot going on. Councillors were keen to get involved, and it was agreed this would be extremely helpful. Cllr Clements to liaise with councillors regarding news to be included. This is scheduled for after Christmas.

b. Any Other Business: None reported.

24/088: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th January 2025. The meeting will be held online. It was agreed there would be no February meeting unless necessary. March meeting to be on the 3rd.

Meeting closed: 20:28

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