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

**Present:** Cllr Liz Williams (Chair); Cllr Bruce Carlisle (arrived 19:45), Cllr Jason Crowther, Cllr Phil Eynon:

Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk). **Apologies:** Cllr Phil Davies, Cllr Victoria Evans.

**In Attendance:** Mr Nick Watt, Chair – Standards Committee, Pembrokeshire County Council

**Declarations of Interest**: None

The Council held 2 minutes silence in commemoration of VE Day 80 before business commenced.

**25/001: Minutes of the previous meeting:** There was some debate from Cllr Eynon as to whether the minutes of the previous meeting were accurate. There was discussion between Cllr Eynon and Cllr Crowther. The clerk played the relevant section of the meeting. Mr Nick Watt, in his capacity as Chair of the Standards Committee, suggested there be a vote. Cllr Williams followed the advice of Mr Watt. Cllr Williams proposed the minutes were correct. Cllr Crowther seconded the proposal. At this point Cllr Carlisle arrived at the meeting. Cllrs Williams, Crowther and Carlisle voted in favour of accepting the minutes as an accurate record. Cllr Eynon voted not in favour of the minutes. The minutes were therefore adopted as a true copy of the meeting.

**25/002: Matters arising:**

**a. VE Day 80 Community Picnic, Saturday 10th May:** Cllr Williams reported on the arrangements for the picnic. It was decided to keep it simple and to encourage people to bring their own food and drink. Bunting will be put up, with benches and tables also available. The length of the grass at the play area was discussed. The clerk was attempting to contact the department at the local authority, however as a time sensitive matter it was agreed Cllr Carlisle would cut the grass on Friday 9th May. Cllr Crowther will drop off wooden benches on the morning of Saturday 10th May. Cllr Clements offered some plastic chairs for the event.

**25/003: Planning:**

**a. Applications Received**: None received.

**b. Application Notice Received:** NP/25/0071/FUL. Southern Pitts Farm. Construction of Slurry Lagoon. Confirmation of withdrawn planning application. The clerk presented this information to the meeting.

**c. Other Planning Matters**: Cresswell Quay Conservation Area. Cllr Clements reported. She attended the recent meeting. Cresswell Quay is not in the ward of Martletwy, but it is the gateway to the ward. The parks are sometimes accused of non-consultation, so they have been keen to consult with regard this matter. Cllr Clements has forwarded a PowerPoint presentation for those who are interested.

**25/004: Highway Matters**

**a. Temporary Road Closure:** 2025/139 Unclassified (U6112) road at Martletwy**.** The clerk confirmed this information had been sent to all councillors and had been put on various media platforms.

**b. Councillor Highway Maintenance Issues:**

**i.** Cllr Crowther confirmed the council had been very swift to sort out the potholes by Church Bridge in Martletwy. Clerk to send email to say thank you.

**ii**. Cllr Carlisle commented the team had also done a good job on the ditches near Dells Cross.

**25/005: Finances:**

**a. Financial Report:** Clerk gave the financial report and went through the details of the email sent previously to all councillors. Receipts to date of £3756.73. Payments of £1452.78.

**b. Invoices and Remittances:**

**i. RBLI (VE 80) Bunting**. Invoice paid by clerk who requested approval for reimbursement. Approved.

ii. Pembrokeshire County Council: first precept payment received for this financial year £3750.

**c. Audit:** Clerk reported it is a full audit within the audit cycle for the community council. It will require meeting in June in person.

**d. VAT Update:** The clerk reported the VAT reclaim has gone into HMRC. The claim is for £746.95. We now have to wait to see if the claims are successful.

**e. Bank Signatories:** The clerk reported the bank signatories need updating. The clerk asked the council to agree to complete a mandate and for someone to propose the changes and to agree. The clerk confirmed some people will be removed, and others will be added. Cllr Williams proposed the bank mandate be updated. Cllr Eynon seconded the proposal. All in favour. The clerk explained the electronic process that will happen. The clerk also raised the matters in updated model financial regulations which states the need for authorisation of online banking payments. She explained it may be necessary to change banks if the current bank, Nat West, is not able to offer this service. The clerk to investigate further.

**f. Clerk Salary Report:** The clerk presented the salary report, as emailed to all councillors. This was approved and paid. At this point Cllr Eynon raised the issue of the clerk’s hours, specifically in relation to calling fencing contractors. This then turned into a discussion about dealing with waste fencing timber. The clerk confirmed she had telephoned NRW three times. She explained no one understands why she is raising this issue. Cllr Williams stated that the clerk is wasting a lot of her time now trying to sort out nonsense. The clerk explained why she called the fencing contractors, as per her previous email to all councillors. Cllr Crowther returned to the matter of the clerk’s salary. The clerk confirmed she has an appraisal coming up and has already raised several issues with Cllr Williams and Cllr Evans, who undertake the appraisal. The main points are the hours on the contract are not in line with other community councils and the hourly rate is not in line with other clerks. The appraisal is due to be scheduled for June.

**25/006: Community:**

**a. Community Events:** Cllr Williams confirmed she has already reported on the VE Day 80 picnic on Saturday. There are currently no other community events scheduled.

**b. Community Initiatives**: Cllr Williams confirmed she had asked Martletwy community if they would like a Christmas tree for Christmas 2025. They were very pleased to be asked and would like to take part in the initiative. The clerk confirmed we are still awaiting a response from Lawrenny.

c. Grant Application Opportunities and Updates: The clerk reported on her recent application to Random House for a Little Book Stop as part of a Penguin initiative. Cllr Davies had originally seen it and asked the clerk to complete it which she did. It was sent in April. Not heard anything since then. It’s all about secondhand books. It would fit in well with what is happening in the play area.

**25/007: Community Council Policies:**

**a. Annual Report:** This is in hand and will be presented in due course.

**b. Training Policy:** Carried forward to the next meeting.

**25/008: Councillor/Clerk Training:**

**a. Group Training Sessions**: The clerk continues to explore this with other councils. Uzmaston are keen and looking into it.

**b. Code of Conduct Training**: The clerk has asked if anyone else apart from Cllr Evans has looked at the dates of the training and booked themselves on. The clerk is happy to book people on. It is essential the Code of Conduct training is up to date. Cllr Crowther asked if it would be cheaper for all the councillors to do it together. The clerk said it would, but it would require everyone to turn up at the same time. Nick Watt, Chair of the Standards Committee, suggested the council contact the Monitoring Officer at the council to ask for code of conduct training to be facilitated by the county council. He offered to ensure at least one member of the Standards Committee would be in attendance to answer any questions and to assist. The clerk will approach the Monitoring Officer.

**25/009: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk:** None reported.

**25/010: Correspondence Received:**

a. Pembrokeshire County Council: Dog Restrictions on the Beaches. The clerk reported there was a press release regarding dog restrictions on Pembrokeshire beaches over the Summer. There are several partial dog bans on several beaches and total bans on others.

b. One Voice Wales – Motion for AGM. The clerk presented One Voice Wales invitation to send in a motion for possible discussion at their AGM. The clerk suggested perhaps the cost of audit fees, as sent last time, may still be appropriate. All voted in favour. The clerk to send in a motion.

**25/011: Communication:**

**a. County Councillo****r Report:** Cllr Clements confirmed the newsletter is ready and will be delivered over the next week or so. If required she may ask for assistance in distributing it. Within council business, they are currently working on a school modernisation plan. Pupil numbers are decreasing causing many spare spaces across the county. It is not about budget savings but rather about resources. Within the council there is a reorganization of the senior leadership team. There continues to be considerable pressure from social services. A preventative agenda is a key priority. Pembrokeshire County Council are trying to bring some services back in-house. There may be an argument in favour of repurposing property. The costs for new senior schools is huge. The costs have gone up to around £100million per school. Cllr Clements confirmed “vote by post” changes are now happening. Everyone will have to reapply. The clerk will find the information and put it on the website and on social media. At PCNP there was a vote yesterday regarding Article 4. Currently the rule is 28 days without the need for planning. Now planning permission is required. Applications will need to be made. Alternatively, sites can join a certificated organisation. Cllr Eynon asked how many days were now involved. Cllr Clements confirmed the Welsh Government are considering whether to increase from 28 to 60. They are awaiting decisions.

b. Councillor Eynon raised an issue regarding the gate post at Martletwy play area being damaged. He was only told at 5:15pm. Cllr Williams asked him to send her the details in an email.

**25/012: Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 9th June, 7:30pm at Lawrenny Village Hall.

**Meeting closed**: 8:32pm.

**Signed:………………………….. Date:…………………… Position:………………………….**