

BRAWDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting (November 21) of Brawdy Community Council held remotely on Tuesday 14th December 2021.

2021/24.

1. Present. Cllr M Carter, Cllr Mrs A. Morgan, Cllr Mrs A Loch, Cllr DE Jones and Sean O'Connor Clerk.
2. Apologies. Cllr Mrs G Lawrence.
3. The clerk confirmed that acceptance of the minutes of the October meeting had been properly proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch prior to the meeting. The minutes had been added to our website. These actions were endorsed at the meeting.
4. The Chairman asked each councillor in turn whether they wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda. Cllr Mrs A Morgan declared a personal interest in item 5a, and Cllr Carter declared a personal interest in item 7.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the October 21 meeting.
 - 5a. Bus shelter project at Penycwm. Cllr Mrs A Morgan declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion. Cllr Carter advised that the project was to commence in early January with Evan Pritchard & Co doing the work. The project will take approximately 2 weeks, to complete, and both the community council and the local residents will be advised of the start date.
 - 5b. Cllr Carter advised that the local YFC had indicated their agreement to assist with the seasonal treatment of the village notice boards and benches. This is following an entry added to our social media page by Cllr Tierney. As he was not present at the meeting, the Chairman offered to contact Cllr Tierney for an update.
 - 5c. Cllr Loch advised that the update on the work required on the local paths and nature tracks was ongoing, and she would provide an update at the next meeting.
 - 5d. Cllr Carter provided a list from PCC, outlining the opening dates for all of their public toilets. It was noted that the facilities at Aberiddy, Porthgain and Newgale remain open throughout the year.
 - 5e. Cllr Tierney had provided an update by email regarding the Southwood project prior to the meeting. As he was not present it was agreed to discuss it at the next meeting.
 - 5f. The clerk confirmed that he had received an acknowledgment from Save a life Cymru regarding our application for a defibrillator at Penycwm. They confirmed it had been received on time, and that we would be advised of the outcome in January.
 - 5g. Following the recent storms, the road at Newgale was again shut down, for over 3 hours. The Chairman read out a letter from our AM Paul Davies to the first minister regarding this matter and asking for a response. Cllr Carter also advised that there is a meeting due to take place shortly regarding this matter, when the option on diversionary routes will be discussed. All community councillors were in agreement that the best option must be a predominately one-way system, should an alternative diversion be required in the future. Cllr Carter agreed to carry these suggestions forward to the impending meeting, and report back regarding the outcome.

Correspondence.

Pembs County Council.

6. Confirmation of approval of Planning Application. Ref No. 21/0667/PA. Two new velux windows at Cart-Tws Treffynnon Haverfordwest. Received and filed.

7. County Councillors Monthly update.

Cllr Carter advised that he had attended the first budget meeting for the new financial year (22/23). He showed a slide of the outline draft budget, and advised that the difference between what is required for 2022/23, and what has been received by PCC in 2021/22 is £25.7 million. PCC will know shortly the amount they will receive from the Welsh Government, and depending on that figure the council will meet to set the council tax figures for the year. He advised that whatever figure we receive, it is very likely that a big reduction in services will be seen after April 2022. Once the amounts are finalised and agreed Cllr Carter will advise councillors accordingly.

He also advised that the head of the legal department at a PCC had resigned. The position regarding the inquiry into the departure of the previous Chief Executive was still ongoing. Councillors raised the point with regard to funds being released by the Welsh Government to Councils. If funds were so tight, why were they spending money on a scheme that gives a tree to everyone. The Chairman would find out what the response from the opposition party was on this matter, and he encouraged councillors to write to Paul Davies personally to outline their opposition.

Pembs Coast National Park.

8. Planning Application. Ref No. NP/21/0778/FUL. Alterations and extension at Min Y Mor Newgale Haverfordwest.

Cllr Carter declared a personal interest as the property is next door to his own.

The Chairman showed the plans and drawings on the shared screen for councillors to view and inspect. This included the planning history and also how the property would look once completed. A discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that we support this case. This was unanimously agreed. In the reply to PCNP the clerk was instructed to inform, that that there were several inaccuracies within the wording of the application.

Other Correspondence.

8. Dog fouling campaign by Cary Cymru. The clerk advised of details of a new campaign from Caru Cymru to reduce, manage and prevent dog fouling. Full details were available in the email, which included a poster for insertion within the village notice boards. These details would also be added to the community information board.

9. Prior to the meeting a copy of the clerk's annual contract of employment was forwarded to councillors. As no annual salary increase had yet been agreed, it was agreed that this year's contract be agreed including last years' salary rate. This was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan. The Chairman signed the contract as confirmation. As soon as a new rate was agreed this could be adjusted accordingly.

10. Annual Donations.

The clerk advised the amounts and the recipients of our donations in the last financial year. A discussion took place and it was unanimously agreed that we support the same recipients again this year. As we supported the four local churches, the question was asked whether we should also include Llanreithan.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Loch and seconded by Cllr D E Jones that we should, and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Loch would speak to the local vicar, and advise him of the purpose of the donation. Once known she would advise the clerk where to send the payment. It was proposed by Cllr Cllr A Morgan and seconded by Cllr D E Jones that we spend a total of £775 on donations this year. A list of the recipients appears below, and the clerk and the Chairman would arrange to meet in the new year to arrange to sign the cheques for payment.

Paul Sartorial, Wales Air Ambulance, Solva Surgery, & Shalom House all £100.

Llandeloy Church, Brawdy Church, Trefgarn Owen Chapel, Treffynnon Chapel and Llanreithan Churchyard all £75.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

11. The clerk advised of up-to-date bank balances as at 14/12/21 as Current Account £14.44. Deposit Account. £ 2650.16. Election Deposit Account. £ 4275.31.

12. The monthly bank statement had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting which confirmed the above balances.

13. The clerk's salary and income tax payments for November were for the standard 16 hours, and were included on the bank statement.

14. The clerk confirmed that the last annual transfer had been made to our Election Deposit Account. The account now stood at £4275.31, and should be sufficient to cover costs, if an election is needed in 2022.

15. Annual Income & Expenditure Review and precept request.

The clerk had provided an income and expenditure forecast prior to the meeting. This included the current position compared to previous years and our expected position at the end of the financial year. A lengthy discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Morgan and seconded by Cllr D E Jones that we apply for an annual precept figure of £6615.00 which is an increase of 4% on our current figure of £6360. This was unanimously agreed. The clerk would send off our request to PCC.

16. The clerk presented a claim for reimbursement of expenses amounting to £75.23 for the period September to December 2021. This included receipts. It was proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch that this be paid.

17. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Morgan and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch that we transfer the sum of £900 between our accounts to cover the payments agreed at this meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

18. It was proposed by Cllr M Carter and seconded by Cllr D E Jones that we apply a 12-month dispensation for Cllr Mrs G Lawrence regarding her attendance at community council meetings, due to her recent period of ill health. This was unanimously agreed.

19. The date time and venue for the next meeting was set for Monday January 31st 2022 remotely at 7.30pm.

20. Councillors discussed the absence from meetings of Cllr Mrs G Lawrence due to ill health. It was unanimously agreed that she be granted a further 12 months, beyond the statutory 6 months sick leave, until December 2022.

At the discretion of the Chairman.

The position of the damaged wall at Brawdy Church was raised and discussed. Both Cllr Carter and Cllr Morgan declared a personal interest. It was agreed that if a fund-raising campaign is launched, we could consider our support at the time.

Concern was shown about the deterioration of the services provided by the Ambulance services, with many examples of very long waiting times. A discussion took place and the Chairman showed a graph on the shared screen, regarding waiting times at all Welsh hospitals. It was agreed that is not a county council issue but a nationwide problem, and there was very little we could do in these unprecedented times.

Before closing the meeting at 9.20pm the Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe and happy new year. This was reciprocated by all.