

BRAWDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting (October) of Brawdy Community Council held remotely on Tuesday November 16th 2021 at 7.30pm.
2021/23.

1. Present. Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Tierney, Cllr Mrs A Morgan, Cllr Mrs A Loch, Cllr D E Jones, and Sean O'Connor Clerk.
2. Apologies. Cllr Mrs G Lawrence.
3. The minutes of the September 2021 meeting had been correctly proposed and seconded prior to this meeting. The clerk confirmed that they had been added to our website.
4. The Chairman asked each councillor in turn whether they wished to declare an interest in any item on the agenda. Declarations were declared as indicated below.
5. Matters arising from the September 2021 meeting.
 - 5a. The clerk advised that following submission of our grant application for the defibrillator project at Trefgarn Owen, PCC had requested further information. This included copies of quotes for intended purchases, our organisations policies including standing orders, our Insurance Policy, evidence of our training programme, and our most recent bank statements. Much of this was not initially requested, but has now been sent. We await a response as to whether our application has been approved.
 - 5b. Cllr Mrs A Morgan declared a personal interest in this matter, as it was being constructed adjacent to her property. Cllr Carter advised as to progress regarding the bus stop project at Penycwm. A more formalised bus stop was being put in place, with a new 2 bay bus shelter on the opposite side of the road. Cllr Carter showed the plans on the shared screen facility, and it was unanimously agreed that this was a massive improvement, in both structure and safety. The clerk had received a telephone call from PCC asking for permission to move the salt bin which was currently on the bus shelter site. It transpires that we do not own the salt bin, and therefore were unable to decide on its' relocation. Cllr Carter would enquire as to the timescale on this project.
 - 5c. No progress had been made on the seasonal treatment to our village notice boards and benches. Cllr Tierney volunteered to add this to it community information board, to see if there are any volunteers.
 - 5d. Cllr Carter advised that the road sign had finally been erected in Trefgarn Owen.
 - 5e. Cllr Carter confirmed that he had contacted PCC on two occasions regarding insertion of seating in the bus shelter in Trefgarn Owen, but had still not received a reply.
 - 5f. Unfortunately, nobody was unable to attend the quarterly OVW area meeting. The clerk confirmed that he had not received any details of the minutes, since the meeting on October 28th.
 - 5g. Cllr Loch advised that she was in the process of working through a long list of paths and nature tracks in our area. Once completed, she would respond to PCC, and provide an update at the next meeting.
 - 5h. Cllr Carter offered to chase up with PCC the position regarding seasonal contracts for toilet cleaning and waste bin collection.
 - 5i. Cllr Tierney advised that he had heard nothing further regarding the Southwood Project.
6. County Councillors Monthly Update.

Cllr Carter advised that he had attended meetings examining the departure of the former chief executive of PCC, with further meetings planned.

He also informed the meeting of a shortage of staff in many departments within PCC. The monitoring officer had left her post, and there was still no enforcement officer in place. Both the property section and the legal section were running at 50% capacity. This was also true of many other departments including refuse collection.
7. Planning Application Consultation. Ref No 21/0667/PA. 2 New velux windows at Cart-Tws Bach Llandeloy Haverfordwest. This application had been sent to councillors by email as a reply was required by PCC prior to this meeting. It had been correctly proposed and seconded that we support this case, and the clerk had replied accordingly. This decision was endorsed at the meeting.
8. Planning Application Consultation. No. 21/0677/PA. Alterations and extension at 4 Sunny View Llandeloy Haverfordwest. Cllr Carter declared a personal interest in this case as the applicant was a work colleague. He took no part in the discussion or decision. The remaining councillors viewed and discussed the application, and it was agreed that the changes improved the property, without having any effect on neighbours. It was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Loch that we reply in support of this case.

9. Planning Application Consultation Ref No. 21/0774/PA. Conversion of outbuildings to create one full time residential unit and one holiday let at Clawddcam Mathry Haverfordwest. Cllr J Tierney declared an interest as the applicant in this case, both in writing prior to the meeting, and verbally at the meeting. At this point he left the meeting.

The remaining councillors viewed and discussed the application, and it was unanimously agreed that the alterations improved the property considerably. It was proposed by Cllr D E Jones and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that we reply in support of this case. This was unanimously agreed.

Other Correspondence.

10. The clerk read out a joint appeal letter from The Hywel Dda health board, the Ambulance service and the hospitals in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, requesting any help possible to reduce time spent in hospitals for patients. This was noted, with councillors asked to pass this information on where relevant.

11. The clerk had forwarded a survey from OVW prior to the meeting, regarding the role and duties of a community councillor. A response was required by 19/11, and the Chairman encouraged everyone to respond.

12. The clerk advised of a new scheme launched by the Welsh Government to supply defibrillators to areas where there is not one located at present. The clerk read through the qualifying criteria, and we appeared to meet all of the sections. After a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the clerk apply, with Penycwm (SA626AU) being the preferred choice. The clerk would attend to this urgently as all applications were needed by 30/11/21.

13. The Chairman advised of a recent incident where road closure and diversion signs were erected at Newgale. As we had not received any notification of this the Chairman checked with PCC, and it transpired that this was not genuine. This was investigated, and within a couple of days the signs were removed.

14. The clerk advised that the training dates for November and December from OVW had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

Report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

15. The clerk reported up to date bank account balances as at 16/11/21 as Current Account £ 19.56. Deposit Account £ 3635.13 and Election Deposit Account £ 3375.28.

16. The monthly bank statements had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting, which confirmed the above figures.

17. The clerk's salary and income tax payments for October also appeared on the statement, and was for the standard 16 hours.

18. The clerk had received information from OVW regarding increase in salary rates for this year. The Unions had rejected the current offers, and there was a threat of strike action in some areas. It was agreed that if and when an increase in the clerk's salary is agreed it would be applied and back dated accordingly.

19. It was proposed by Cllr J Tierney and seconded by Cllr Mrs A Morgan that the sum of £900 be transferred from our Deposit Account to our Election Deposit Account. This in accordance with our annual arrangement to provide for the election costs, should it arise in May 2022. This would be the final payment.

20. It was generally agreed that it would be sensible to arrange another meeting before the end of the year, when the precept request, and our annual donations could be discussed. The date was provisionally set for Monday 13th December, remotely starting at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.31pm.