

2018/08.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brawdy Community Council held at Trefgarn Owen Schoolroom on Monday 22nd January 2018.

1. Present. Cllr D E Jones, Cllr Mrs G Lawrence, Cllr Mrs A Morgan, Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Tierney, and Sean O'Connor (clerk).
2. Apologies. None.
3. The Chairman welcomed everybody to the first meeting of 2018. He proceeded to read the minutes of the November 2017 minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Tierney that they be accepted as a true record. The Chairman and the clerk signed the minutes as confirmation.
4. Matters Arising from the November 2017 meeting.
 - 4a. Election of new community councillor. The clerk confirmed that he had been in touch with the election department at County Hall, and they had not received any requests within the stipulated period of 14 working days requesting an election to fill this post. Councillors were asked to remove the notices from the village notice boards. The clerk advised that he had received a letter from Mr Alan Pike expressing an interest in the position. As he was listed on the current Electoral roll, he was eligible to fulfil the vacancy. It was proposed and seconded, and unanimously agreed that he be offered the position. The clerk would contact Mr Pike and invite him to complete the necessary registration forms, and attend the next meeting.
 - 4b. The clerk reported that he had been in touch with One Voice Wales regarding his Salary status. It was confirmed that he must in future (wef 6/4/18) be an employee of Brawdy Community Council, and must register as so, with HMRC. He also advised that we should use a professional firm of accountants to administer these transactions, and also to audit our annual audit. The clerk had also spoken to the clerk at Solva, who are already adopting this scheme, and using L. M Griffiths & Co of Haverfordwest. It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the clerk contact this company and arrange to set this up. Once this had been done a contract of employment would be drawn up, to be presented to the council for acceptance, which would be renewable annually.
 - 4c. During December the clerk had received the annual precept application form for the financial year 2018-19 as usual. Some five days later a further application was received with a covering letter from John Haswell the finance director at County Hall asking that councils reconsider the amount they request, as the cost of elections were in future to be covered by the community Councils, starting in 2022. A reply was requested by 12th January, but the clerk had agreed an extension until 23rd January, therefore the date of the monthly meeting was brought forward by 1 week. After further enquiries and investigations, undertaken by the clerk and Cllr Carter, it transpired that this was in fact correct, and on top of this, we should also budget for other items. These would include the new determination payments, which must be paid to councillors, an increase in audit fees, as we were to employ accountants; the clerks increased salary figure, as well as inflation on insurance and membership. A full list including proposed increased amounts was compiled by the clerk, and presented to the council for acceptance. A lengthy discussion took place, which resulted in a proposal that we apply for a figure of £6000, which is an increase of £2634 (77%) on last year. After a vote this was accepted by a majority decision. Some councillors voiced their discomfort at accepting the £150 payment, but it was pointed out that this must be paid. Cheques would be issued in April, and if councillors wished to return the payment, they would be able to do so. These transactions would be minuted accordingly.

At this point it was also advised that the Chairman would also be entitled to an allowance of £1500. per anum. All councillors present advised that if they were the sitting chairman, they would all decline this payment. As the figures to be requested were calculated and agreed, it was unanimously agreed, that this matter be publicised on Facebook and in our village notice boards, once the figure had been accepted by County Hall. This would ensure transparency, and enable councillors or the clerk to justify any queries that were raised, once the public, received their Council tax advice for the coming financial year. The clerk would advise councillors once a reply had been received. The general feeling was that this increase had been imposed upon the community council by County Hall, and it was decided that the clerk write to John Haswell expressing our objections and concerns.
 - 4d. The clerk reported that there had been very little response to the advertisements regarding the first aid training. It was reported that Solva CC were arranging training sessions shortly, and it was agreed to contact their clerk to see if there were any vacancies.

4e. The clerk had forwarded a letter from the St David's CLT Group in early December to all councillors regarding the proposed development at land to the west of Glasfryn Road St. David's.

Cllr Carter advised that there was nothing to report at the moment, as things were comparatively Quiet at present.

Correspondence.

Pembs County Council.

5. Confirmation of approval of Planning Application. Ref. no. 17/0745/PA & 0746/LB. Conversion and extension of outbuilding to create a dwelling and ancillary office to the north of Ty Llwyd Treffynnon Haverfordwest. Received & Filed.

6. PCC Budget Consultation 2018/19. The clerk advised that the consultation period for this was to run until February 16th, on the PCC website (Have your say). Cllr Carter reported that there was a £ 11.2 million shortfall, and there were 3 options available. A 5% increase in council Tax would see £3.5 million shortfall, a 8% increase would see a £2.1 million shortfall, and a 12.5 % increase would see the shortfall covered. If any further savings could be made they would be added to the education budget. The council were looking at other ways of saving & making money, to avoid the option of redundancies. The final decision which was to be a free vote was to be made in March.

7. The PCC LDP review was now available, and the clerk issued a paper copy to be circulated, commencing with Cllr Mrs A Morgan, followed by Cllr D E Jones. All other councillors opted to view the documents online.

Pembs Coast National Park.

8. Planning Application Consultation. Ref No. NP17/0708/FUL. Replacement and raising of existing tin roof to kitchen and lean-to at Sands Cafe Newgale Hill Newgale. This application was received by the clerk in early December, and as a reply was requested before the next meeting, the clerk had forwarded all of the details to community councillors. The details had been considered, and the clerk was instructed to reply in support of this application. The clerk confirmed that this had been done.

9. Planning Application Consultation. Ref. No. NP18/0011/FUL. Replacement dwelling at Cwm Mawr Penycwm Haverfordwest. Cllr Mrs A Morgan declared an interest and left the room. As the PCNP planning details was not available online, the clerk had delivered all of the paperwork to the Chairman, in order that it could be circulated to all members to inspect prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that we reply in support of this application, but with the instruction that consideration be made as to the likely increase in the volume of construction traffic, opposite the junction while this major project proceeds.

Other Correspondence.

10. Confirmation received from the planning inspectorate regarding the dismissal of the appeal for the planning case for land close to Chapel House Brawdy Haverfordwest. Ref. No.N6845/A17/3183174. Received & Filed.

11. Letter from Paul Davies AM with details of his surgeries in Pembrokeshire in 2018. These were distributed for insertion in the village notice boards. He also offered to attend one of our meetings. It was agreed to invite him to a meeting, and depending on when was able to attend, the clerk would contact councillors to prepare any questions or topics to be discussed.

12. The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the One Voice, Wales meeting in County Hall. He advised that at least 20 councils in Pembs were not members of OVW or PALC. He outlined Training days in 2018, and it was agreed that the vice-chairman attend the finance meeting in Fishguard in February. The clerk would confirm this. The next full meeting would be held on April 24th, and any relevant issues could be raised and discussed at this meeting.

13. Clerks & Councils direct brochure Jan 18 circulated commencing with Cllr Mrs A Morgan.

14. The clerk advised of a Christmas card received from the 14th signal Regt. at Brawdy. It was agreed that we send a card to them in return this year.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

15. The clerk reported up to date bank account balances as at 22/1/18 as; Current Account. £ 18.71 and Deposit Account . £3368.82.

16. The clerk confirmed receipt of the precept payment on December 22nd amounting to £1166.

17. The clerk presented an invoice with receipts, for additional hours worked and reimbursement of expenses, amounting to £ 141.79. It was proposed by Cllr M.Carter and seconded by Cllr J. Tierney that this be paid.

18. The clerk advised that the annual rent payment for the hire of the school room amounting to £77 was due to be paid. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs G Lawrence and seconded by Cllr M Carter that this be paid. The clerk would send a cheque to the treasurer of the Chapel.

19. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs G Lawrence and seconded by Cllr J.Tierney that the sum of £220 be transferred between our accounts, to cover the payments agreed at this meeting.

At the discretion of the Chairman.

It was clarified that although the last three Chairmen have served for two consecutive years, they are not elected for two years at a time. Each appointment is made for one year at the AGM.

Cllr Carter reported that the problem with the street-lighting was still outstanding, as the staff were on long term sick. This will be sorted as soon as possible.

Cllr Carter advised that there was a meeting at County Hall on Tuesday 23rd January regarding progress on the Newgale Options. He would attend the meeting, and provide an update at the next meeting.

Cllr Carter advised that there had been a reduction in the services provided by the Dog Warden unit at County Hall, with capacity seriously reduced. They advised that the dog fouling was not a necessity, and they were encouraging volunteers wearing a high viz jacket to act as a deterrent.

The date and time for the next meeting was set for Monday February 26th at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.