

BRAWDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September 2021 monthly meeting held remotely on Monday October 4th 2021.

2021/22.

1. Present. Cllr M Carter, Cllr J Tierney, Cllr Mrs A Loch, Cllr D E Jones and Sean O'Connor Clerk.
2. Apologies. Cllr Mrs A Morgan & Cllr Mrs G Lawrence.
3. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting, which had to be delayed by a week due to unavailability of members. He advised that both Cllr Morgan and Cllr Lawrence were unable to attend due to ill health and wished them both a speedy recovery on behalf of BCC. The clerk confirmed that the minutes of the July meeting had been correctly proposed and seconded, and that they had been added to the BCC website.
4. The Chairman asked each councillor in turn whether they had any declarations of interest for any item on the agenda. with the answers all being no.
5. Matters arising from the July 21 meeting.
 - 5a. The clerk confirmed that the application for our grant under the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Scheme had been submitted on time. However, PCC had asked for further information regarding annual accounts and our constitution, which we were not previously aware were required. We had until 26/10 to provide these, and the clerk would attend to this.
 - 5b. Cllr Tierney provided an update regarding the Southwood project. He advised that following the initial meeting, there had been an open day, which will be followed by another meeting next month. He will attend this meeting and report all the details at our next meeting.
 - 5c. Cllr Carter advised that he had heard nothing further regarding the road signage at Trefgarn Owen, where one entry to the village had been completed, but not the other. He would chase this up at County Hall.
 - 5d. The clerk confirmed that he had sent a copy of 'Operation London Bridge' to all councillors, and the Chairman confirmed with everyone, that they were aware of its content.
 - 5e. Nothing further had been heard regarding providing seating for the bus shelter at Trefgarn Owen. The Chairman would chase this up, and report back to the next meeting.
 - 5f. It was agreed that Cllr Tierney put a notice on our Facebook page asking for volunteers to apply autumn/ winter treatment to our 3 village benches and 3 older notice boards. We would provide the brushes and Cuprinol, and if there were no volunteers, we would consider employing someone to complete this job.

CORRESPONDENCE

6. Confirmation of Planning approval. Ref No. 21/0183/PA. Alterations and extension at Great Hook Farm Llandeloy. Received and filed.
7. Confirmation of Planning approval. Ref No. 21/0204/PA. Agricultural building for animal food and machinery at Parc Gwyn Llandeloy. Received and filed.
8. Direct Payment Scheme. Details of this new social care scheme from PCC to recruit new volunteers was discussed. It was agreed that the clerk send the details to Cllr Tierney who would apply the details to our Facebook page. 9. New electoral arrangements for both national and local election constituency boundaries were discussed. Details of the proposed changes had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting, and was available on the PCC website.
10. County Councillors monthly update.

Cllr Carter advised that there was a new project starting to make a safer bus stop at Penycwm. He would obtain further details as they become available and report to the next meeting. He also advised that there is a proposal being debated and voted on at next Full Council to adopt a 100% surcharge on 2nd homes council tax premiums, and also retain a surcharge of up to 100% extra council tax on empty homes after 3 years. The funds raised from the increase from 50% to 100% on Second Homes would all go towards affordable housing. In respect of the consultation and report on the Waste and Recycling centres he advised that three of the local amenity sites were running at below 50% usage. There were several proposals in place including, to reduce the days of opening, the hours of operation, alter the current booking system, or even close one of the sites. The decision was going to cabinet in November, and it was unanimously agreed that any reduction would be better than closure.

Cllr Carter advised that the new PCC chief executive took up his post on 13/9. He also advised that Claire Jones the monitoring officer had left her post. It was commented that this was a shame, as she had always been very helpful. Cllr Tierney suggested the possibility of some of the PCC contracts could be reviewed. Some seasonal contracts including Toilet Cleaning and waste bin emptying are paid for on a daily basis, and on some occasions, they are not

completed every day. Cllr Carter advised that it would depend on the terms of the contracts, but would look into this, with a view to a possible saving of money.

It was unanimously agreed that we continue meeting remotely for the time being. This was proving effective in both wellbeing and cost saving, as an alternative to meeting at the schoolroom in Trefgarn Owen. A confirmation letter had been received from OVW that remote meetings were perfectly acceptable going forward.

Our Election Deposit Account balance was discussed. The balance was currently £3375.22. There is an election scheduled in 2022, and it was agreed that we discuss this matter further in November before we apply for our precept figure, for the next financial year.

Other Correspondence.

11. Improvement to local paths and nature tracks. The clerk had forwarded details of this volunteer scheme to councillors prior to the meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed to send the details again to Cllr Loch, for circulation, as there are a few areas in our locality. Cllr Jones asked what was the position regarding Insurance to visitors on local footpaths and bridleways for landowners. It was agreed that the onus was on the landowner to have liability insurance cover. Councillors were advised to check this, and also pass on these details to other landowners.

12. The question of improvement to some footpaths was raised again, with signs being broken within the council area. Cllr Loch confirmed that she had received an email from PCC to provide details of areas of concern. She would provide a copy to other councillors, and any areas that have been missed could be discussed at the next meeting.

13. The clerk had forwarded details of remote training sessions from OVW for October to councillors prior to the meeting.

14. The clerk confirmed that the annual return to The IRPW had been completed. This was for payments made to councillors in the financial year, and this was again a nil return for 2020/21.

15. The clerk confirmed that future editions of the Clerks & Councils brochure would be sent directly to Cllr Loch.

16. Details of a temporary road closure for one day on 14/10/21 on the road between Caerwen and Llandeloy was issued.

17. A reminder of the quarterly regional OneVoice Wales meeting was received. This was due to take place on 28/10, with the agenda to be forwarded closer to the date.

18. Details of a survey regarding biodiversity around the coast path aimed at landowners and farm tenants was received. Councillors who it affected were encouraged to participate. Cllr Tierney agreed to add the details to our Facebook page. It was generally felt that all of the relevant landowners would have been contacted directly.

18. The clerk advised of a consultation on local taxes for 2nd homes and self-catering accommodation. The website address was provided and councillors were encouraged to participate.

Pembs Coast National Park.

19. Planning Application Ref No. NP/21/0629/FUL. Propose extension and remodelling, and external storage at Seaholm Newgale Haverfordwest. Details of this application were viewed and discussed at the meeting, including views of the drawings before and after completion. It was agreed that the proposal did not include a great detail of work, and the completed project improved the property greatly. It was proposed by Cllr Tierney and seconded by Cllr Loch that we reply in support of this application. This was unanimously agreed. The clerk would reply accordingly.

Report of Responsible Finance Officer.

20. The clerk advised of up-to-date bank account balances as at 4/10/21 as Current Account £ 24.68. Deposit Account £ 3920.06 and Election Deposit Account £3375.22.

21. The above balances were confirmed by the monthly bank statements which had been forwarded to councillors prior to the meeting.

22. The clerk's salary and income tax payments for both August and September for the standard 16 hours per month also featured on the monthly bank statement.

23. The clerk confirmed receipt of the second precept payment on 23/8/21 amounting to £2120.

24. The clerk advised of a query raised by the external auditors as to whether the defibrillator purchased during the financial year should have been included as a fixed asset on our annual audit return. The clerk had sought advice from our accountants before replying.

25. The date, time and venue for the next meeting was agreed as Monday November 8th remotely at 7.30pm.

The Chairman advised of a recent fox problem in Trefgarn Owen, where urban foxes had been brought into the village, and were being bred. They have now been humanely removed. The RSPCA had been approached to speak to the persons involved, to avoid this happening again, as this was upsetting to the villagers.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.