

**Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Martletwy Community Council
held on Monday 9th May 2022 - 7.30pm at Lawrenny Village Hall**

With the agreement of all parties involved these proceedings were recorded

Present: Jason Crowther (Chair), David Cole (Vice Chairman); Victoria Evans, Phil Eynon, Liz Williams (Councillors); Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk)

Apologies: Phil Davies (Councillor); Di Clements (County Councillor)

CORONAVIRUS. *All due care and attention is taken to ensure the safety of Councillors, and the public, when attending meetings in person.*

Councillor Crowther welcomed all the Councillors to the meeting following the unopposed election in Martletwy Ward.

22/001: Minutes of previous meeting: It was agreed the draft minutes were a true copy. Signed and dated by Chair.

22/002: Matters arising:

a. Community Play Areas Funding: Cllr Davies not in attendance. Carried forward to next meeting.

b. New Defibrillator: Cllr Davies not in attendance. Carried forward to next meeting.

c. Council Complaints Procedure: Clerk confirmed she had undertaken additional research and the vast majority of outcomes were the same. Clerk reaffirmed her comments previously it is common practise for authorities to refuse to action anonymous complaints. They are noted as received and logged as 'no further action'. Clerk to note in writing various examples along with suggestions and bring to next meeting.

22/003: Planning

a. Applications Received:

i. 22/0016/DC: Woodside, Martletwy, SA67 8AW. The matter of planning was discussed. No issues with the planning and all in favour of supporting the application.

ii. NP/22/0241/LBA: Blackpool Mill, Blackpool Bridge, Narberth, SA67 8BL. Proposal: Erection of a porch / canopy removal of stair timbers exposure of stone quoins. It was noted the canopy in the planning fits in well with the rest of the site. Also, the staircase is being retained though replaced and the lift is going in. No other comments. Martletwy Community Council are in favour of supporting this application.

b. Application Notices Received: Notice of Decision: 21/1004/PA: Beulah, Land at Eweton Farm. Approved.

c. Other Planning Matters:

i. *Monitoring:* Councillor Clements not in attendance to report. Carried forward to next meeting.

22/004: Highway Matters

a) Clerk Report: Clerk confirmed matters from last month had been reported. No response as yet.

b) Councillors Report: Cllr Eynon confirmed he had a conversation with the PCC road maintenance team member who had worked on the placement and filling of grit bins. He repeated his thanks. It was noted the team member had not been passed the thanks offered at the time.

c) Litter Signs: Cllr Cole confirmed he and Cllr Davies have the matter of replacement the small signs with the larger ones in hand.

d) Dog Fouling Signs: Cllr Davies not in attendance. Carried forward to next meeting.

e) Landshipping Noticeboard: Further to the noticeboard collapsing in the storm it needs to be removed as it may be a health and safety hazard. A new noticeboard needs to be sourced which includes disabled access. Cllr Evans to look into whether a noticeboard can be acquired using the Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant.

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22/005: Finances:

a. Nat West Bank: Cllr Cole reported. Confirmed Cllr Crowther's details are now correct and verified. Now awaiting information from the bank.

b. Pembrokeshire County Council – Remittance Advice Note: Clerk presented remittance advice.

c. Zurich Insurance Renewal: Clerk presented documents from Zurich Insurance for the renewal of the Community Council annual insurance policy. The cost remains at £257.60. All in favour of renewing the policy. Cheque issued.

22/006: Councillor/Clerk Training:

a) One Voice Wales: Clerk reported the dates for One Voice Wales training. Cllr Williams will attend the New Councillor induction training. Clerk confirmed all councillors are up to date with the Code of Conduct training.

b) Planning Aid Wales: Clerk requested confirmation council is happy to proceed with the online planning portal. The cost is still £150. All in agreement. Clerk also confirmed there was an additional live online training session available on 15th June at a cost of £35 per person if anyone wished to attend.

22/007: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk: None reported.

22/008: Correspondence Received:

a. PCNP – Trees for 70th Anniversary: Clerk presented correspondence from PCNP with reference to the offer of trees from PCNP. Councillors queried whether these trees needed to be planted on public land or whether they could be sited on private land. The matter of tree species was also raised. Clerk to enquire with PCNP.

22/009: Communication:

a) Dog Access - at new footpath styles: Clerk confirmed receipt of correspondence from a resident. Many of the new styles at public footpath entrances are metal and have steel netting at the base which precludes dogs from running under the style. It was agreed this seems counterproductive. Councillor Clements not in attendance. Carry forward for response to next meeting.

b) AGM: Clerk confirm AGM has been scheduled for Thursday 12/05 at 7.30pm. Cllr Eynon enquired why it was not prior to the Ordinary meeting as is the usual practice. Clerk explained there was a query regarding the AGM as it was election year. Clerk went on to explain the query to the council was whether it was possible to hold an AGM on the same day Community Councillors were adopted as Community Councillors following the 2022 local council elections. By the time PCC answered the query there was not sufficient time to issue the notice prior to the Annual General Meeting. The AGM needs to be held within 14 days of this date, so the Clerk, taking into consideration her pre-booked annual leave, went for the earliest date, being 12th May. Clerk confirmed all councillors except Cllr Eynon had responded. Cllr Eynon stated he was not sure if he would be able to attend. Clerk confirmed there were likely to be at least 4 councillors in attendance.

c) Council Procedure: (bullet points for clarity)

1. Cllr Eynon produced copy email correspondence dated 9th March 2022, from a previous Casual Vacancy applicant. The email referred to two telephone conversations between the applicant and the Clerk, one in January and one in February. The email refuted recorded details of the two conversations, clearly in response to correspondence from Cllr Eynon. Cllr Eynon's correspondence prompting the applicant's response was not presented at the meeting.

2. When asked to confirm why he had brought the correspondence to the attention of the council, Cllr

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Eynon accused the Clerk of giving incorrect information and for not recording things properly. He referred to a comment he was minuted as having made with regard the applicant's comments pertaining to the council's recruitment process for the casual vacancy.

3. During the ensuing discussions other councillors expressed dismay and disappointment at the way in which he had brought this matter to the meeting and his bullying behaviour towards the council's member of staff. During discussions the Clerk stated on several occasions she was distressed and near to tears.

4. Councillors queried why Cllr Eynon had not brought this correspondence to the Clerk's attention before the meeting, to allow her to investigate the accusations, and why he had not previously shared this correspondence with the Council, nor asked for the matter to be put on the agenda. Cllr Eynon said he preferred to talk when people were around. It was noted he could have emailed, and the correspondence was now 2 months old. Cllr Eynon stated he had not attended the April meeting.

5. Without having sight of all information required to refute the accusations the Clerk stated she believed her reporting was correct and factual. She proceeded to check information she had in front of her including previous minutes and messages to Cllr Williams who was co-opted at the time. Cllr Eynon continued to argue the Clerk was wrong. The Clerk stated she wanted to leave the meeting.

6. Cllr Eynon stated Cllr Davies (not present at the meeting) whilst at the Snooty Fox one evening had apologised to the applicant for the way the matter had been handled and likened it to an episode from the tv show the Vicar of Dibley . Cllr Eynon repeatedly stated a third party had also likened the council to the "Vicar of Dibley". Cllr Crowther asked why the applicant had not complained in person.

7. Clerk confirmed she would only write to people in future to ensure there was a paper trail.

8. The Clerk confirmed the January conversation was entirely and only regarding the applicant being unsuccessful in the Casual Vacancy application process. The February telephone conversation was to discuss the concerns of the individual - as raised at the February meeting by Cllr Eynon.

9. After considerable discussion the Clerk confirmed she would check all her records when she had them in front of her, including her telephone records direct from the service provider.

10. Cllr Crowther reiterated the Clerk is an employee of the council & must be treated respectfully, in accordance with the rules. Cllr Evans said Cllr Eynon's behaviour went against the Code of Conduct.

11. Cllr Eynon continued to refute the minuted comment and stated he would not be recorded as a liar.


12. Having become too distressed to continue the Clerk left the meeting.

13. The recordings show there was further discussion following the departure of the Clerk. Cllr Eynon continued to state he did not want to be misquoted, referring again to the minuted comment attributed to him. Cllr Evans confirmed all meetings, including this one, were going to be recorded.

14. Clerk to verify information in due course when she has checked her records.

22/010: Date of Next Meeting. Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.30pm. Venue: To be confirmed.

Meeting declared closed at 20.40

Signed:  Date: 13th June 2022