

**Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of Martletwy Community Council  
held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - 7.30pm at Lawrenny Village Hall**

**Present:** David Cole (Vice Chairman); Phil Davies, Victoria Evans, Philip Eynon; (Councillors); Lizzie Lesnianski (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Jason Crowther (Chair); County Councillor Di Clements

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

**21/105: Minutes of previous meeting:** Cllr Cole took the Chair. The minutes were taken as a true copy and signed and dated.

**21/106: Matters arising**

**a. Community Play Areas Funding:** Cllr Davies reported he was pleased to confirm a company, Sovereign, had come to look at the play areas to offer an estimate. Another company coming out next week. Cllr Davies confirmed he had spoken to Owen and Owen, estate managers about possible Ash Die Back affected trees in and around the play areas. Owen and Owen have offered to fell the trees for no cost to the community council. It was agreed this was a positive outcome. Cllr Davies confirmed he required another member to assist him with play area matters. Cllr Evans volunteered. The local authority Service Level Agreement was discussed. It was noted grass cutting costs are not included for the Martletwy site. Clerk to request a grass cutting cost be added to the SLA for Martletwy site.

**b. New Defibrillator:** Cllr Davies confirmed he had emailed all members about the purchase of the new defibrillator but had not received responses from two. It was unanimously agreed at the meeting Cllr Davies should proceed with the purchase. The cost is £1780 including the cabinet. Clerk reminded Cllr Davies the invoice to be addressed to Martletwy Community Council. Contributions are expected from the Snooty Fox Public House and Wild Lakes, Martletwy. Cllr Eynon queried whether the location in a public house would see the defib get more use than the other locations and impact on the budget for replacement pads. Cllr Davies confirmed he will take over the maintenance checks, along with Cllr Evans who will check the Landshipping defib, and Cllr Cole, Martletwy. Cllr Eynon reported there are ten training mannequins stored at Lawrenny Cricket Club. It was unanimously agreed further training sessions should be offered.

**c. Council Procedure:** Clerk confirmed all councillors had been sent emails relating to the matter of minute taking and now considered the matter closed. Cllr Cole enquired as to whether or not meetings could be recorded. Clerk to investigate. Cllr Eynon continued to argue the point of revising minutes after approval. The Clerk reiterated the points in her email. Having taken expert advice, it was clear minutes could not and must not be amended after they have been accepted as an accurate record.

**d. Council Complaints Procedure:** Cllr Evans reported on the research carried out to date about council complaint procedure with many councils categorically refusing to deal with anonymous complaints. Cllr Eynon stated anonymity is waived at the point at which the complaint is made as at least one person knows the identity of the complainant. Clerk will pursue issue with One Voice Wales for further guidance. Cllr Evans stated it was almost impossible for a complaint to remain anonymous as it was important the council carry out proper due diligence, including whether it is a matter for the council to pursue. Clerk to check on Public Service Ombudsman for Wales website as to whether there is further guidance. It was agreed policy was required for complaints, anonymous or otherwise, and should include both the community council and Councillor's remit.

**21/107: Planning**

**a. Applications Received:** None received.

**b. Application Notices Received:** None received.

**c. Other Planning Matters:** PCC Local Development Plan – new timetable. Cllr Davies explained this is due to the change to legislation by the Welsh Government with regard to Phosphates, essentially requiring planning authorities to rewrite their LDP's.



**Martletwy Community Council**  
**Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Lesnianski**  
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**i. Monitoring:**

**a. Ty Cornell.** Clerk reported on private email correspondence from Pembrokeshire County Council Enforcement team to local resident. Cllr Eynon queried if it would be appropriate for the Community Council to express interest in the land in question. Cllr Davies stated the council should proceed with caution and wait to see if the owners made an offer to the council to take over the land. The Clerk highlighted the issues of taking over responsibility for land that needed maintaining whilst at the same time freezing the Precept, and not having allocated budget for such an acquisition.

**b. Planning Queries Outstanding:** Cllr Davies enquired as to whether it would be possible to produce a list of outstanding queries with the enforcement team at PCC. Clerk explained this would take up an inordinate amount of her time which might be better focused elsewhere. Cllr Davies will look into it.

**c. Caravan / Camping Sites:** Cllr Eynon raised the issue of un-licensed caravan and camping sites and whether they should be paying council tax. Cllr Davies confirmed those set up under the 56-day regulations were exempt. Sites with council tax value less than £12K also don't pay under the relief schemes. Even large sites often exempt. Static caravan parks are treated differently. Most of these have planning anyway and pay rates. Cllr Davies reminded members touring sites also need planning if they have hardstanding or infrastructure such as toilet blocks. It was agreed the Clerk would raise the issue with the Planning Department at Pembrokeshire County Council.

**d. Letter from Community Council to Member of the Senedd:** Clerk confirmed she had a face-to-face discussion with the constituency Member of the Senedd, Samuel Kurtz MS. He is looking into the matter. Clerk to follow up.

**21/108: Highway Matters**

**a. Matters Reported:**

Cllr Davies reported tree felling had left public verges in a terrible mess. Debris everywhere and tractor treads. Can PCC look into this.

Cllr Eynon raised the issue of naturally felled trees across highways (by wind/storm etc) and whose responsibility to clear them. Clerk confirmed in the first instance it is the responsibility of the Highway Department at PCC as they are responsible for the roads and the safety of roads. Cllr Eynon asked if the council charge landowners. It was considered they would if they felt they needed to.

**b. Litter Signs:** It was agreed the new larger signs would initially replace the existing smaller signs already located. The location of the six other sets to be considered. Bring ideas to next meeting.

**c. Dog Fouling:** Cllr Cole raised the issue of dog fouling in the ward, specifically following a complaint regarding the high volume of dog mess in Martletwy village. It was confirmed residents can report dog fouling on the Pembrokeshire County Council website, via the "my account" option. The Dog Warden will then visit the area. Clerk to ask Dog Warden for policy and rules regarding dog fouling in public places. Clerk to also enquire whether there are posters or information suitable for posting on social media.

**21/109: Finances:**

**a. Budget 2022/23:** Clerk presented final Budget 2022/23 as agreed at January meeting. All in favour.

**b. Nat West Bank – Online Banking:** Cllr Evans has returned to bank with ID. Cllr Davies to return to bank with ID. Cllr Crowther's ID issue has been resolved.

**c. One Voice Wales Invoice:** Clerk presented One Voice Wales training invoice for approval. Agreed.

**d. Zoom:** Considering the Welsh Government's new guidelines regarding meeting venues, Clerk suggested purchase of an account with online virtual meeting programme such as Zoom. Agreed.

**21/110: Councillor/Clerk Training:**

**a. Code of Conduct Training:** Cllrs Cole & Evans shared reflections on recently attended online Code of Conduct training, how much they had learned and how essential it was for a greater understanding of their responsibilities. Clerk confirmed Cllr Eynon had failed to cancel and therefore



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a charge for his training would have to be met by the council. Clerk discussed other dates available with Cllr Eynon. Of the three dates offered Cllr Eynon was unable to commit.

**b. Planning Aid Wales:** Clerk reported PAW had not yet got back with a revised offer for training.

**21/111: Meetings Attended by Community Councillors/Clerk:** Cllr Davies reported on the Tall Ships Wales Trust meeting recently attended. He was disappointed to report Lawrenny will no longer host the event. It was reported their costs were too high and East Llanion had offered to host for free.

**21/112: Correspondence Received:**

*a. Martletwy Info Board Design:* Clerk confirmed awaiting answers to queries on this matter.

*b. One Voice Wales – Buckingham Palace Garden Party:* Clerk confirmed the process has changed. It is no longer just the Chair who can apply. Now Councillor's having to be nominated by their peers.

*c. Pride In Pembrokeshire Awards:* Discussion of possible nominations. Councillors to follow up.

**21/113: Communication:**

*a. Procedural matter regarding Casual Vacancy & related correspondence:* Vice Chairman Cllr Cole confirmed it had been arranged between the Clerk, the Chair – Cllr Crowther – and himself that he would chair meetings for the foreseeable future. It was on the Clerk's suggestion as Cllr Crowther needed more flexibility on compassionate grounds. She felt it would be beneficial to the continuity of council meetings, and for the members. All Councillors had been informed by the Clerk by email. Cllr Cole then expressed his disgust when he read Cllr Eynon's disrespectful written response - sent to all members and the Clerk on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 13.40. Cllr Cole stated Cllr Eynon must treat all members of the council, and the general public, with respect and that bullying will not be tolerated. Cllr Eynon made a statement saying he had not been aware Cllr Crowther's current situation required him to have flexibility under compassionate grounds. He stated he stood by his comments and had spoken to the unsuccessful candidate for the Casual Vacancy who had been extremely disgruntled by Cllr Crowther's candidacy application process. The Clerk confirmed, along with Cllr Cole, that the way in which Cllr Crowther had managed his decision-making process was entirely appropriate. Cllr Evans expressed her concern regarding the tone of Cllr Eynon's email, the blatant lack of respect for Cllr Crowther and his current situation, especially in light of everything she had heard in the Code of Conduct training. Cllr Davies agreed with the comments of Cllr Cole and Cllr Evans and expressed frustration at the amount of council time Cllr Eynon's behaviour was taking up. The Clerk voiced concerns regarding Cllr Eynon's general lack of respect for residents, members and herself, highlighting an incident at the end of the virtual January meeting when discussing the issue regarding accuracy of minutes. Cllr Cole went on to state Cllr Eynon must stop and desist with his behaviour immediately.

**21/114: Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm. Venue: Lawrenny Village Hall.

Meeting declared closed at 21.21

Signed:  Date: 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022