

**DALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING
AT
THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.
ON
6TH MARCH, 2017.
AT
1900HRS

MINUTES**

Present: Mr L Jones (Chairman); Mr P Garnish; Mr A Truelove; Mrs T Warlow; Mr H Bishop (Clerk).

In attendance: Mr W James (Item 1 only); Ms Z Khamidullina.

Apologies for absence: Cllr R Owens; Mr P Morgan; Mr M Reynolds; Mr D Nockels (Deputy Clerk).

- 1. Valero Pembroke Refinery CHP Project – report – Mr W James** – it was noted that the owners of the Valero refinery in Pembroke are planning to construct a 45 megawatt Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit at the plant, which is intended to meet the power requirements of the refinery at Pembroke. The CHP unit would use waste heat from the refinery to make the refinery largely self sufficient for power and therefore independent of the high cost of power in the UK. This will enable the refinery to operate at a competitive price for the foreseeable future, safeguarding jobs and future operations at the Pembroke site. The estimated cost of the development is about £100million and will be designated as a “Development of National Significance” and, therefore, subject to special planning regulations and ultimately to decision by the Welsh Assembly Government. The application will probably be made in April, 2017 and will be followed by a statutory consultation period (six weeks) during which there will be 4 “open days” (two north and two south of the Haven) at which the plans will be available for examination by the public – with particular emphasis on such matters as use of local contractors noise pollution, traffic management, visual impact and the arrangements planned to minimise adverse effects on the local community. Mr James reported that it is presently planned that the CHP plant will be constructed at the south west part of the site (overlooking Angle Bay) and will have a stack 35metres high. He urged the community and the Community Council to participate in the consultation and to raise questions and concerns with the Valero team at the open days or through the website which will be open throughout the consultation period. The meeting thanked Mr James for his report and confirmed that the Councillors welcome the steps which are being taken by Valero to protect skilled jobs in the County.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th December, 2016** – the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th December, 2016 were agreed as a correct record.
- 3. Matters arising** – it was noted that all matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting and report on progress made since that time have been included in the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.
- 4. Declarations of Interests** – at the request of the Chairman, the Clerk reminded the Community Councillors of the obligation on them to declare any interest that they may have in matters for decision by the Community Council. The obligation on those with a “prejudicial interest” to leave the room while such items were discussed was noted.
- 5. Progress Report** – the meeting received a brief report on the progress made on issues which have been considered / agreed at previous meetings. It was noted that the issues of Valero, car park

issues, the village sign, planning matters and finance are included in the Agenda for consideration under Items 1,6, 7,11(c) and 12 . In particular, the following issues were noted:

- a. **Sewerage stinks** – there has been no report of incidents during the period since the last meeting.
- b. **Slipway / beach/ pontoon issues** – it was agreed that Community Councillors should meet the County Council beaches officer on 8th March, 2017 – immediately following the proposed meeting with the County Council car parks officer. It was agreed that the items for discussion should include the future of the pontoon and the Blue Flag and the issue of dog excrement.
- c. **Village maintenance issues** – the meetings with the officer of the County Council who deal with street maintenance has been arranged to take place on 8th March, 2017 – immediately following the proposed meeting with the County Council car parks officer. It was agreed that the items for discussion should include clearing the surplus vegetation / branches from the path by the toilet block, clearance of the drain holes in the sea wall and the need for additional rubbish bin capacity at the top of the slipway. It was noted that the grass cutting contract is managed by a different officer from the County Council – Mr Harries – who has reported that the contractor will start the first pre-cut and cutting service in some areas of the County (unspecified) at some time in the next two weeks. There is no indication as to when the contractors may come to Dale. It was noted that the grass in the village is already long and growing strongly.
- d. **Broadband issues** – it was noted that the broadband and telephone system seems to have improved somewhat and, with the agreement of the Chairman, the Clerk has refrained from protesting to the AM, MP and County Council. It was noted however, that the plans for extension of the fibre service to Dale has been deferred and the Clerk was asked to discuss with Mr Rogers and to support his efforts in this respect.

Action: Clerk to discuss with Mr Rogers and report to a later meeting.

- e. **Rubbish collection** – no progress to report.
- f. **Castle Estate** – no progress to report.
- g. **Benches locations** – no progress to report.
- h. **Dale Fort** – no progress report has been received from Dale Fort and the Clerk was asked to enquire.

Action: Clerk to enquire with Dale Fort and report to a later meeting.

- i. **Highway issues** – it was noted that the County Council will undertake road widening work at the cemetery corner starting on Monday, 13th March, 2017.
- 6. Car park issues** – it was noted that the car park sub-committee had held a meeting with the County Council officers on 25th January, 2017 at which the concerns of the community and of the Community Council were explained. The officers agreed:
- a. To arrange and hold a meeting with the Dale Castle Estate to discuss issues relating to the Lease – overnight camping, prevention and removal of trailers, maximising use of available spaces etc.
 - b. To arrange increased patrols to enforce the car park regulations, prevent picnics and enforce considerate parking.
 - c. To contact dive centres to request co-operation in not leaving trailers in the car park.
 - d. To discuss alternative trailer parking with Mr Reynolds.

- e. To undertake pruning, scraping, undergrowth clearance and other physical maintenance.
- f. To discuss car parking issues / solutions with organisers of village activities.

It was noted that the next meeting between the sub-committee and the County Council car parks officer will take place on Wednesday, 8th March, 2017.

Action: Sub-Committee to report to the next meeting.

- 7. **Village sign** – it was noted that the County Council has reported that this project has been delayed by staff shortages, but that the County Council is now ready to proceed subject to clarification of the question of the request for a “frog” image to be inserted at the top of the sign. It was noted that such an image is only permitted in the case of specific images of historic significance, unique to the village in question (e.g. coat of arms). It was agreed that the “frog” does not qualify and that the sign should go ahead without it. The Clerk was instructed to notify the County Council accordingly – it was noted that the project will not be finished / paid for during the 2016/2017 financial year.

Action: Clerk to notify County Council and report to next meeting.

- 8. **Election – May, 2017 – arrangements** – it was noted that the Community Council (and County Council) elections will take place on 4th May, 2017 and that nomination papers MUST be delivered by hand to County Hall by 1600hrs on 4th April, 2017. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the papers are correctly completed and submitted within the time limit, but it was noted that the Clerk will be able and willing to assist candidates to fulfil this responsibility – indeed, the Returning Officer has requested that the Clerks should (if possible) hand in the papers in order to reduce congestion at County Hall.

It was noted that the Clerk has passed a pack of nomination papers to each of the Community Councillors.

Action: ALL.

- 9. **Clerk – appointment** – it was noted that the Clerk will retire from office at the next Annual General Meeting (which will take place at the end of May, 2017) and that no replacement has offered himself / herself to fill the vacancy. The Community Council agreed, therefore, that the vacancy should be advertised as soon as possible in the village and in Peninsular Papers. Any / all responses should be reported to the Chairman who will lead the recruitment process.

Action: Clerk to advertise vacancy / report to Chairman.

- 10. **County Council matters** – deferred.

11. **Planning matters.**

- a. **Land adjacent to the Vicarage – NP/16/0683/OUT** – it was noted that, following a site meeting, the Community Council raised no objections to the plans and that outline planning permission has now been granted, but subject to a number of restrictions.
- b. **The Old Post, 145, Castle Way – NP/17/0003/LBA** – it was noted that, following a site meeting, the Community Council raised a number of objections to aspects of the plans which

seemed out of keeping with other buildings in the village. The response of PCNPA is awaited.

- c. **PCNPA planning policies / precedents** – it was noted that, as part of their response to NP/17/0003/LBA (above) the Community Council had raised concerns about the direction of travel of recent planning decisions, with approval of wood cladding / glass / steel features which seem out of character with existing properties in the village. The PCNPA Team Leader of Development Management (Ms Nicola Gandy) has offered to attend a meeting with Dale Community Council to discuss the concerns expressed. It was agreed that Ms Gandy should be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting / the first meeting of the Community Council after the election.

Action: Clerk to invite Ms Gandy and report to next meeting.

12. Finance.

- a. **Receipts - £550.00** 3rd instalment of Precept.
Payments - £30.00 governance advertisement – Minutes 10-10-16 Item 6.
- b. **Balance £1,746approx.**
- c. **Budget 2016 / 2017** – it was noted that the cost of the new village sign (£450.00 estimated) will not now fall within the 2016 / 2017 financial year, but that the Community Council is committed to this item of expenditure, which is now expected to fall within the 2017 / 2018 financial year. It was, therefore, noted that the budget agreed at the meeting on 12th December, 2016 should be amended to reflect this change, reducing the estimate of expenditure for the financial year 2016 / 2017 from £2,157 to £1,707 and the estimated deficit from £507 to £57. On this basis the estimated balance at the end of the financial year 2016 / 2017 is about £1,379.
- d. **Budget 2017 / 2018** – the meeting noted that the Budget figures for the 2017 / 2018 financial year which were agreed at the meeting of the Community Council on 12th December, 2016 should be amended to reflect the increase in Precept from £1650.00 to £1,800.00, the increase in the estimated amount to be carried over from the 2016 / 2017 financial year and the estimated cost of the new village sign (£450.00). On this basis, it was noted that expenditure for the financial year 2017 / 2018 will amount to about £2,325 and that the deficit for the financial year will amount to about £585 – with an anticipated balance at the end of the financial year of £854 which was agreed to be sufficient cover to provide for unexpected / unbudgeted expenditure.
- e. **Precept 2017 / 2018** – it was noted that Pembrokeshire County Council has agreed to increase the Annual Precept from £1,650.00 to £1,800.00.

13. Correspondence – nil.

14. Any other business.

- a. **Grass cutting** – it was noted that the grass in the common areas of the village is growing strongly and is now very long. It was also noted that Pembrokeshire County Council do not anticipate that their contractor will start their programme of grass cutting for about two weeks (and there is no certainty that the contractors will come to Dale early in the programme). It was also noted that the contractors do not collect the cut grass, but leave it on the surface, which, given the length that the grass has already reached and the damage to the grass that would be caused by leaving it uncollected, is not satisfactory. In the circumstances, the Community Council agreed that, contrary to its normal policy of non-intervention in such matters, on this occasion it must seek a local contractor to do a first cut and collect of the grass around the Henr

Tudor Stone and the triangle and Mr Truelove agreed to get quotes from local contractors and report to the Clerk.

Action: Mr Truelove to collect quotes and report as soon as possible.

- b. Mud on the roads** – it was noted that the roads into Havefordwest (between Slate Mill and Mullock) and into Milford Haven (between St Ishmaels and Sandy Haven) are in very poor condition with heavy mud, which is slippery and dangerous – there are reports of three accidents in the area of Sandy Haven. The Clerk was asked to report the matter to the County Council Highways Department.

Action: Clerk to report to County Council and confirm to next meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE:

MONDAY 24TH APRIL, 2017.

AT

THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE

AT

1900hrs

N.B. It was agreed that, in view of the possibility that there may be a contested election on 4th May, 2017, this meeting should be a short meeting to agree the accounts for submission to the Annual General Meeting and to agree arrangements for the Annual General Meeting itself.