

**DALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING
AT
THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.
ON
7TH NOVEMBER, 2016.
AT
1900HRS

MINUTES**

Present: Mr L Jones (Chairman); Mr P Garnish; Mr P Morgan; Mr M Reynolds; Mrs T Warlow; Mr H Bishop (Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr R Owens.

Apologies for absence: Mr A Truelove; Mr D Nockels (Deputy Clerk / RFO).

- 1. Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th October, 2016** – the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th October, 2016 were agreed as a correct record.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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 village maintenance, the car park, the flood gate and the new Code of Conduct are included in the Agenda for consideration under Items 5, 6, 8 and 9, respectively. In particular, the following issues were noted:
 - a. Sewerage stinks** – the meeting with Mr Westley has been postponed. There have been no reported incidents in the period since the last meeting.
 - b. Highway issues** – the County Council is reviewing the matters raised at the recent review of maintenance issues.
 - c. Village sign** – the County Council is working on the design.
 - d. Broadband issues** – no progress to report.
- 5. Village maintenance Review – progress report, November, 2016** – the meeting noted a brief progress report on the maintenance issues identified at the review on 10th October, 2016 and that some progress has already been achieved in the matters of:
 - i.** The valerian on Castle Way has been cut back by the County Council
 - ii.** The issues at the slipway have been dealt with – the meeting thanked Mr Reynolds for pushing back the stones that had built up close to the gates, hampering the operation of the gates.
 - iii.** The drain holes in the sea wall have been cleared by the County Council.

- iv. South Street had shown some flooding in the recent rains (5th November, 2016) and the Clerk was asked to report this to the County Council and request that they bring forward the jetting of the drains.

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

- v. The wall/ trees at WI hut area – the Clerk was asked to prioritise this part of the task list.
- vi. Grass cutting – the Clerk was asked to press the County Council to supply details of the grass cuts done by the contractors during the 2016 season.

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

- vii. Boathouse dinghy park – it was noted that the Chairman (not Mr Morgan) had undertaken to do this work and the Chairman confirmed that the work will be done when suitable machinery is available.

Action: Chairman to arrange clearance and confirm to a later meeting.

It was noted that Mr Codd (County Council maintenance supervisor for our region) has retired and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with his replacement – Mr Emrys Llewelyn.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting and confirm to next meeting.

6. Car park issues – it was noted that a meeting with the County Council officer responsible for the car park and car parking (Mr M Owen) had taken place on 2nd November, 2016, attended by Messrs Garnish, Morgan, Truelove and the Clerk. Among the issues discussed included were:

- i. Col. Webber's tree – Mr Owen reported that he is in discussion with Col. Webber to arrange for trimming of the lower branches and the dead wood.
- ii. Gate at Castle Way exit – Mr Owen reported that he would inspect the gate in order to assess the best solution – including permanent repair of the existing gate, replacement with another gate or replacement with a collapsible bollard.
- iii. Winter work programme – Mr Owen reported that the County Council plans to scrape back the edges / top of the grasscrete to improve drainage. They also plan to trim / tidy the trees.
- iv. Congestion – Mr Owen inspected some photographs of the congestion experienced during some weekends during the summer – noting the blockages caused by colonisation of the car park by camper vans.
- v. Height barriers at the entrance – Mr Owen declined the request to erect height barriers as required in the Lease. He said that there never had been a barrier and the installation of a barrier could block the car park to ordinary cars with a roof rack.
- vi. Signage – Mr Owen reported that he plans to erect a sign at the entrance to the car park restricting access for large vehicles and preventing overnight parking.
- vii. Tariffs – Mr Owen agreed to review the tariffs to deter the camper vans and encourage other vehicles.
- viii. Tariffs – Mr Owen agreed to supply figures for the car park during the 2016 season - broken down by tariff, if possible.
- ix. Additional parking space - Mr Owen agreed to hold a review with the County Council property department to identify County Council holdings in the village that might be used to provide additional parking space. He also agreed to ask the County Council

property department to seek additional land from the Castle Estate that might be used for seasonal overspill parking space for vehicles and trailers.

- x. Parking at the entrance – it was agreed that the Clerk should request double yellow lines at the entrance to the car park.

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

- xi. Events – the impact of events such as the beer and cider festival etc on car parking in the village on busy weekends was noted.

The Community Council reviewed the outcome of the meeting with Mr Owen and concluded that they were not satisfied with the proposals. There had been widespread discontent about parking issues in the village and the proposals seemed an inadequate response to a serious and deteriorating situation. The Clerk was asked to report accordingly to Mr Owen and the County Council and he was also asked to seek assistance from the Castle Estate.

Action: Clerk to report to County Council / Castle Estate report to next meeting.

- 7. **Beach / pontoon / slipway issues** – it was noted that a meeting with the County Council beaches officer and the dog warden has been requested to review the issues from the 2016 season. It was noted that the Blue Flag pole has been taken down.

- 8. **New Code of Conduct** – the meeting noted that the Deputy Clerk is in contact with the County Council Monitoring Officer, but he has not yet been required to submit the signed Code of Conduct (for passing to the Ombudsman), nor has he received an invoice for the cost of the advertisement (£30). The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Code of Conduct has been signed by all Community Councillors except Mr Reynolds – who agreed to contact the Deputy Clerk to do the necessary signing.

Action: Mr Reynolds to arrange signing and confirm to next meeting.

It was noted that Messrs Jones, Morgan and Truelove, together with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk have attended a training session with the County Council Monitoring Officer and that the papers from the training session had been copied by the Clerk and passed to those Community Councillors who had been unable to attend.

- 9. **Flood gate issues** – it was noted that Natural Resources Wales had attended to service the right hand gate which has become very stiff. They report that they are surprised to find that the hinges are corroding rapidly and they are taking the matter up with the manufacturers. Meanwhile they have applied WD40 and worked the gate up and down. They promised to supply a longer wrench to assist with the operation of the gate. It was agreed that this is not a permanent solution to the problem and the Deputy Clerk was asked to follow up the matter with Natural Resources Wales to establish a more sustainable solution.

Action: Deputy Clerk to contact NRW and report to a later meeting.

It was noted that keys to the gates are held by Messrs Garnish, Jones, Morgan, Nockels and Truelove and that the operation of the gates is, therefore, in the hands of members of the Community Council only.

10. County Council matters – Cllr Owens reported that the business of the County Council has included matters of finance (continued search for economies / the recruitment of additional senior staff), mergers (a policy now stopped by the WAG and replaced by an increased obligation to amalgamate services including front line services) education (especially the arrangements for 6th Form education).

11. Planning Matters.

- a. **97, Blue Anchor Way – NP/16/0568/FUL** – it was agreed that there should be a site meeting to review this application at 1130hrs on Saturday, 12th November, 2016.
- b. **Local Development Plan** – it was noted that there had been no movement on the one development site in the village and that the site will be reviewed through the LDP review process.

12. Finance.

- a. **Receipts** - **nil**
Payments - **nil**
- b. **Balance** - **£1,300(approx).**

Payments authorised but not yet made include £30 (County Council – Code of Conduct advertisement – Minutes 10-10-2016 item 6 and £75 (Royal British Legion – Minutes 5-9-2016 item 12(d)(ii)).

- c. **Bank account signing authorities** – there is no progress to report and the Chairman agreed to contact the RFO / Deputy Clerk to finish off the signing / submission process as soon as possible.

Action: Chairman / RFO to press for resolution and confirm to next meeting

- d. **Budget review** – the meeting noted the balance of funds in the Community Council bank account after making the payments which have been agreed will stand at £1,195(approx). Further planned payments are limited to payment for the new road sign (approx £450), but it is not yet clear that this cost will fall within this financial year. Even if this payment does fall within the 2016 / 2017 financial year, this would leave a balance of £745 (approx) – 45% of the Precept - available for unbudgeted / unexpected expenditure, which (in the light of past experience) is considered adequate cover.

13. Correspondence – nil.

14. Any other business.

- a. **Review of Community Council processes** – it was noted that the current processes of the Community Council are cumbersome and that better focus could be achieved if projects (eg sewerage stinks; eg car parking) could be delegated to a sub-committee of the Community Council who could address the issues more fully and report back to the full Council as required. This might result in a reduced number of meetings, but an improved decision

making capability. It was agreed that the Community Council should consider the matter further at their next meetings.

Action: Clerk to report at next meeting.

- b. Benches on the sea front** – it was noted that there remains considerable pressure to allow additional memorial benches. The options of alternative locations – e.g on Point Road adjacent to the Fort – or the placing of memorial plaques in suitable locations were debated. The Clerk was asked to enquire with the County Council.

Action: Clerk to investigate and report to next meeting.

- c. Dale Fort – control of students** – it was noted that there have been newspaper reports of the recent Coroner’s Court inquest into the tragedy that occurred during the summer. The Clerk was asked to press the Fort management to make greater efforts to control their students.

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

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE:

MONDAY, 12th DECEMBER, 2016

AT

THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE

AT

1900HRS.