

**DALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING
AT
THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.
ON
12TH DECEMBER, 2016.
AT
1900HRS
MINUTES**

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

In attendance: Dr J Mecklenburgh.

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

- 1. Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th November, 2016** – the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th November, 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 the car park, the flood gate, Dale Fort and the procedures review are included in the Agenda for consideration under Items 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively. 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. Highway issues** – the County Council continues to review the matters identified at the recent review of maintenance issues, but has agreed to take steps to widen the road at Cemetery Corner during the current financial year.
 - c. Village maintenance issues** – the meetings with the officers of the County Council who deal with beaches and general maintenance have been deferred until the New Year. (The Beaches Officer is on sick leave; the Maintenance team (Messrs Harries and Llewellyn suggest a meeting on 10th January, 2017 – it was agreed that this should be fixed at 1030hrs).

Action: Clerk to finalise arrangements for the meeting.

- d. Village sign** – the County Council is working on the design.
- e. Broadband issues** – no progress to report. It was noted that a large number of complaints had been received at the continuing experience of problems with the land lines / broadband which are not being resolved by BT. The Clerk was asked to write to the MP, the AM and the County Council to seek assistance.

Action: Clerk to write to MP, AM and County Councillor and confirm to next meeting.

- f. **New Model Code of Conduct** – the County Council has confirmed that all steps necessary to implement the new Code of Conduct have been completed – although the cheque in payment of the cost of the advertisement has not yet been cashed.
 - g. **Rubbish collection** – no progress to report.
 - h. **Village maintenance** – some works have been done and the issues will be discussed with the Maintenance Team at the meeting on 10th January, 2017.
 - i. **Castle Estate** – no progress to report.
 - j. **Benches locations** – **alternative** locations at the Gann and at the Fort were discussed and the Clerk was asked to check on the ownership of these locations.
5. **Car park issues** – the meeting noted the report of the County Council Car Parks Officer dated 30th November, 2016 which showed that 22,317 tickets had been sold during the 2016 season (2015 – 20,806; 2014 – 18,413; 2013 – 16,343). The Clerk was asked to enquire whether it is possible to have daily figures so that the days which form pinch points can be identified.

Action: Clerk to enquire and report to the next meeting/ Sub-Committee..

It was agreed that the issues involved in the management of the car park are so serious and so complex that they should be reviewed in more detail by a sub-committee of the Community Council who should review the issues and report to the Community Council at their next meeting. It was agreed that a sub-committee should consist of Messrs Morgan, Garnish and Truelove (with the Clerk).

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

6. **Flood gate issues** – it was noted that the flood gate had not been deployed in the period since the last meeting.

It was noted that the Deputy Clerk will not be available to participate as an active member of the team for the immediate future and has returned his keys to the Clerk who was asked to retain them in safe keeping for the time being. It was noted that the Deputy Clerk has been the point of contact between Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Community Council and that NRW is in the process of reviewing the condition / maintenance of the gates in the light of the corrosion from which they have suffered. It was agreed that Mr Truelove should take over as the point of contact for NRW and the Clerk was asked to notify NRW accordingly (and to press them for progress).

Action: Clerk to notify / press NRW and report to the next meeting.

7. **Dale Fort** – it was noted that some other residents had been annoyed at the Community Council report in the December, 2016 edition of Peninsular Papers, which, they felt, did not accurately reflect the outcome of the Coroner's Court proceedings. The Community Council noted that the report may have been infelicitously worded, but it accurately reflected the position of the Community Council that the late night rowdy behaviour of students from Dale Fort during the summer season of 2016 had, on a number of occasions, been unacceptable and the source of justified complaints made by residents at the time. However, the Community Council had felt constrained from raising the issue with the Dale Fort management while they were dealing with the tragedies. It was also noted that the problems experienced with students from Dale Fort are long standing, but that, over the years, they have migrated from youthful high-jinks towards

unacceptable rowdy behaviour. Now that the Coroner's Court proceedings are complete, the constraints on the Community Council have been removed and they have acted promptly to take the matter up with the management at Dale Fort, so that the managers can have adequate opportunity to respond to the issues before their programme for the 2017 season is fixed.

It was noted that, as agreed, there had been a meeting with the management of Dale Fort on 7th December, 2016 at which the management expressed their annoyance at the report that had appeared in the December edition of Peninsular Papers. They were, however, surprised to note the strength of the annoyance felt by residents at the behaviour of students from Dale Fort. It was pointed out to them that during August the village had been very full of tourists / visitors, yet there were no problems / no complaints from residents; in May there had been a beer and cider festival in the village which attracted many visitors, but no complaints of rowdy behaviour. However, students from the Fort had on a number of occasions behaved in a rowdy manner late at night, giving rise to complaints. The students from the Fort are, therefore, the common factor in the nuisance.

It was noted that school customers at the Fort are prevented from going to the pubs etc in the village, but that the university customers consist of young adults who cannot be stopped from visiting the pubs. A member of staff from the university in question is required to be on duty in the Fort at night in case there are reports of problems, but no record is kept of students leaving the Fort or of their return and there is no requirement on the university customers to monitor or control the behaviour of their students. Equally, it was noted that the pubs in Dale (unlike town centre pubs) do not employ bouncers and that (unlike town centres) response from the police to calls for help are unlikely to receive a prompt response. It had been agreed:

- a. The Fort management will contact their university clients to ask for an expected standard of behaviour.
- b. Community Council to ask the management at the pubs to meet with the management of the Fort to review procedures and ways and means to prevent nuisance in the future.
- c. Community Council / residents and others are to report ALL incidents to the Fort management - the Fort management will supply contact details to be used for this purpose.
- d. Fort management / pubs to design a process / system for responding to complaints / incident
- e. Fort to design a control on their university clients.

The Fort apologised for the nuisance caused and promised to sort it out.

The meeting noted the outcome of the meeting and the Clerk was asked to follow up on the actions steps agreed.

Action: Clerk to contact pubs and Fort management.

- 8. Community Council Procedures Review** – the meeting noted the document prepared by the Clerk in advance of the meeting and agreed:
 - a. to reduce the number of meeting of the full Community Council from eleven to six – to be held during the months of February, April, May (AGM), July, October, and December – a sequence sufficient to maintain the necessary controls over finances while operating at a frequency more in keeping with the pace of action from County Council and other officers.
 - b. To retain the option to hold meetings in response to special events / demands as and when required.
 - c. To retain the practice of holding site meetings as and when required for the purpose of examining planning applications.

- d. To establish sub-committees of the Community Council to review issues of special importance / significance and make recommendations to the full Community Council (which will retain the sole power to make decisions). Minutes of the meetings of these sub-committees are to be made available to the full Community Council as required.
- e. The first such sub-committee is to deal with the issues of the car park – see Item 5 above.

The Clerk was asked to implement the new process and to notify the residents by a report in Peninsular Papers.

Action: Clerk to implement and report in Peninsular Papers.

9. County Council matters – deferred.

10. Planning Matters.

- a. **97, Blue Anchor Way – NP/16/0568/FUL** – it was noted that, at a site meeting on 12th November, 2016, it had been agreed that there is no objection to the proposed development and the Clerk has notified the planning authority accordingly.
- b. **The Old Chapel, Dale – NP/16/0605/FUL** – it was noted that notice of this planning application has been received, but the proposed development is very minor indeed and, with the agreement of the Chairman the Clerk has notified the planning authority that there is no objection.
- c. **Other** – nil.

11. Finance.

- a. **Receipts** - **nil**
- Payments** - **£75.00** – RBL – poppy wreath – Minutes 5-9-2016 Item 12(d)(ii).

N.B. Payment £30.00 – Code of Conduct advertisement – cheque signed but not yet cashed by County Council – Minutes 10-10-2016 Item 6.

- b. **Balance** - **£1,225(approx).**

N.B. Once the cheque £30.00 is cashed by the County Council, the balance will reduce to £1,195 (approx).

- c. **Bank account signing authorities** – it was noted that there has been no progress, but it was agreed that the effort to add Mr Nockels to the list of authorised signatures should be deferred for the time being. It was noted that Barclays Bank PLC has now confirmed that the list of authorised signatures consists of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Clerk. It was agreed, that, with elections scheduled for May, 2017, this list of signatures is safe and that the position should be reviewed after the elections.
- d. **Budget review** – the meeting noted the review document prepared by the RFO in advance of the meeting and noted that the Community Council remains on course to end the financial year with a balance of over £900.00 even if the cost of the new village sign falls wholly within the current financial year. It was agreed that this is adequate cover for unexpected / unbudgeted expenditure.

- e. **Budget 2017 / 2018** – the meeting noted the Budget Proposals document for the financial year 2017 / 2018 which shows a proposed deficit of about £25.00 despite the proposed elimination from the budget of £200.00 for slipway stones (which has been included in the budgets for recent years, but not yet used). This would leave a balance in the region of £900.00 which is deemed sufficient cover for unexpected / unbudgeted expenditure, but at the cost of losing the figure of £200.00 which has operated as a contingency fund in recent years. It was agreed that the loss of this “contingency fund” reduces the margin of safety to an unacceptable level and it was agreed that the Budget Proposals should be amended to reinstate the provision for £200.00 as a “Contingency Fund”. This would have the effect of reducing the estimated balance at the end of the Financial Year 2017 / 2018 to the region of £700 – which was considered to be an unsafe margin of safety. It was noted the Annual Precept had remained at £1,650.00 for the financial years 2015/6 and 2016/7 and it was agreed that the County Council should be asked to provide an increased Precept for the financial year 2017 / 2018.
- f. **Precept** – it was agreed that the County Council should be asked for an Annual Precept of £1,800.00 – an increase of £150.00 which would provide an estimated balance at the end of the financial year of about £850, which, with the restoration of a “Contingency Fund” of £200.00, was considered sufficient cover for unexpected / unbudgeted costs.

Action: Clerk to request increased Precept and confirm to next meeting.

- g. **Responsible Financial Officer** – it was noted that Mr Nockels will be unavailable to carry out the functions of the RFO until further notice and it was agreed that the Clerk should take on this role again for the time being.

Action: Clerk to notify relevant authorities.

12. Correspondence – nil.

- 13. Any other business** – it was noted that Mr Truelove has identified a more sturdy metal / non-slip yellow strip that could be affixed to the pontoon for the coming season as a marker for the “pick up / drop off zone”. The cost is estimated at about £60.00 and the Community Council authorise Mr Truelove to place an order for a supply of this product – and to install it when the pontoon returns for the 2017 season.

Action: Mr Truelove to place order and pass invoice to the Clerk for payment.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE:

MONDAY, 6th MARCH, 2017.

AT

THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE

AT

1900HRS.