

**DALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING
AT
THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.
ON
11TH JANUARY, 2016.
AT
1900HRS.**

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

In attendance: Mr L Davies (DCWW – Item 1 only); Mr C Jones (DCWW – Item 1 only); Mr P Kingdom (DCWW – Item 1 only); Mr D Williams (DCWW – Item 1 only).

Apologies for absence: Cllr R Owens.

- 1. Sewerage stinks – report of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) representatives –** it was noted that, at the meeting of the Community Council on 8th December, 2014, the representatives of DCWW undertook to conduct a year long study of the performance of the Dale treatment plant and to report their findings at the end of that period. During that period, Dale Community Council has reported stinks incidents on 6th May (coincided with tanker activity at the plant), 27 June (faint whiff reported), 2nd August, 5th October, 2015 and 5th January, 2016.

The meeting welcomed Mr Davies (Pipes Network Manager), Mr Jones (Odour Specialist), Mr Kingdom (Catchment Manager) and Mr Williams (Customer Service Manager).

Mr Jones reported that odour detectors had been installed in various locations around the village and around the site of the treatment plant (inside and outside). These monitors have provided continuous observations throughout the year, but have recorded only two spikes of odour. Neither of these spikes coincided with any of the odour incidents which have been reported in the course of the year, and neither was part of a discernable pattern. In each case the filters were replaced and that seemed to resolve the problem that the monitors had detected. Operatives had responded as quickly as possible to reports by the public of odour incidents (the site is a priority trigger site), but failed to get there in time to detect the reported odour and were not able to trace the cause.

All the external seals on manholes / equipment have been replaced and upgraded. Work on the site continues at the plant and all the equipment in the plant is being serviced / maintained / improved / replaced where possible. In addition, DCWW is proposing to install new air handling equipment to prevent release of untreated air from the site to the atmosphere – this is in the planning and design phase and should progress within the next 3 to 6 months. It was agreed that progress reports on this project will be sent to the Clerk in due course.

Action: Mr Jones / Mr Williams to arrange progress reports.

Mr Kingdom reported that all the evidence is that the site is performing correctly and is well up to specification to deal, not only with local requirements, but also with the surges of demand during tourism seasons. It is as good as a treatment plant can be. DCWW has reviewed the option of moving the plant to a less sensitive location, but this is expensive (about £3million) an

would necessitate a pumping station at this location, which would be just as vulnerable to stinks incidents as the treatment plant. The proposal has, therefore been dismissed.

Mr Davies reported that he / his team attend to inspect the pipes network on a regular, weekly basis and arrange to jet them as required. They have paid particular attention to the problems at and around Townend where reported incidents do occur from time to time which are treated by chemicals – the option of a non-return valve has been examined, but dismissed because of the risk of other problems caused by the valve. The situation is kept under close review.

The meeting noted that the DCWW operatives have made every effort to rectify the issue of odours and continue to make improvements, but that it is still not possible to eliminate the risk of the nuisance of odours. It is recognised by DCWW that the site is a sensitive one, and every effort is made to respond quickly to reported incidents and to eliminate potential causes of this nuisance before incidents occur, however it is not possible to guarantee that the site will be free of public nuisances.

The meeting thanks Messrs Davies, Jones, Kingdom and Williams for their efforts and for their reports and they left the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th December, 2015** – the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th December, 2015 were agreed as a correct record subject to correction of the date at Item 1. It was agreed that the Minutes should be placed on the website.

Action: Deputy Clerk to arrange with website.

3. **Matters Arising** – it was noted that all matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council have been included in the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.
4. **Declarations of interest** – 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 matters were discussed was noted.

5. Progress Reports.

- a. **One way system abuse** – it was noted that the Police have indicated that they are happy to send representatives to a later meeting and the Clerk was asked to invite them to the March, 2016 meeting .

Action: Clerk to invite Police and confirm to the next meeting.

Cemetery corner – it was noted that the Clerk has asked the Castle Estate to co-operate in the release of land for the proposed road widening scheme. There has been no response from the Estate, but it was noted that there is no immediate prospect of the County Council undertaking this work. The option of installing a pipe covered by concrete was noted as an alternative to the plans proposed by the County Council.

- b. **Flood gate issues** – it was noted that the floodgate had been deployed on 29th December 2015 and the gates had been left in place until the water levels receded. An attempt to close the gates on 28th December, 2015 had failed because the build up of debris on the beach side of the gates made it impossible to shift the gates. Some debris and water had reached the road on 28th, December, 2015, but not damage has been reported. The need t

monitor the level of stone / debris build up on the slipway was identified and Mr Reynolds agreed to monitor the site and clear the stones / debris as necessary. The meeting thanked Mr Reynolds.

Action: Mr Reynolds to monitor / clear and report as necessary.

Small flood gate – it was noted that the stones / debris build up becomes very impacted and it was agreed that two shovels should be purchased and stored in the box by the gates.

Action: Deputy Clerk to arrange purchase/ storage of shovels and confirm to next meeting.

Keys – the Chairman agreed to recover the keys from The Griffin Inn and transfer them to Mr Garnish.

Action: Chairman to arrange transfer of keys and confirm to next meeting.

- c. Floodgate - DRAFT notice** – it was noted that the text of the notice has been agreed and it was agreed that 2 A4 plastic signs should be purchased from “Bubbleworld” at a cost of £29.45 plus VAT – which is recoverable..

Action: Deputy Clerk to finalise / purchase and confirm to next meeting.

d. Village maintenance issues – it was noted that the “Walk the Village Event” had been postponed due to adverse weather conditions. It was agreed that the event should be rescheduled to a time when weather is likely to be better and a date set at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to reschedule Walk-the village / invite Castle Estate.

e. Car Park issues – it was noted that there has been no progress with the works or with the recommendations promised by the County Council officers at the meeting in 26th November, 2015. The Clerk has drawn the attention of the Officers to the water levels in the car park during the recent heavy rains.

The car park figures for the 2015 season have now been provided and that the number of tickets sold between April and October, 2015 is 20,806 (2014 – 18,413; 2013 – 16,343). It was noted that the comparative figures may have been distorted by the change in the scale of car park charges.

Action: Clerk to discuss / remind the County Council and report to next meeting.

- e. Pontoon – markings / notices** – it was noted that a quote has been received from “Bubbleworld” for 5 aluminium signs to be affixed to the pontoon during the season. It was agreed that the quoted price of £178.64 was too expensive and it was agreed to purchase 5 A4 sized plates of aluminium and 5 plastic signs to be affixed to the aluminium plates. It is estimated that this option will cost about £100 plus VAT and a budget of £110.00 plus VAT was agreed for the purchase of the necessary parts. The Deputy Clerk and Mr Truelove were authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

Action: Deputy Clerk / Mr Truelove to finalise / purchase and confirm to next meeting.

Markings on the pontoon – it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Mr Truelove will identify non-slip safety tapes or paint sufficient to mark the restricted area of the pontoon and report to the next meeting with proposals and a quote.

Action: Deputy Clerk / Mr Truelove to investigate and report to next meeting.

- f. **Benches** – it was noted that the Deputy Chairman has contacted Mrs Y Gainfort who has provided details of the proposed hardwood bench, which were approved provided that the slats are sufficiently sturdy . It was agreed that the bench should be erected in a suitable spot on the waterfront.

Action: Mr Morgan to finalise arrangements and confirm to next meeting.

It was noted that the bench design is good (subject to confirmation as to sturdiness of construction) and that it was being constructed by a local craftsman in St Ishmaels. It should, therefore, become the “standard” for future benches.

- g. **Mast, Dale Airfield** – it was noted that the Clerk has, as requested, sent an email message to The Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP and to Mr Paul Davies AM requesting their assistance in obtaining an extension of the time limit on the government funding scheme. Both the MP and the AM have acknowledged the message. Meanwhile the CEO of the County Council has written to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport pressing for an extension of the time limit. It is understood that the CEO of PCNPA will also be writing in similar terms to the Secretary of State.

Action: Clerk to monitor and report to later meetings.

- h. **Coronation Hall** – it was noted that the dispute with the contractors continues, with the contractor threatening to submit the Adjudicator’s decision to Arbitration.

Action: Clerk to monitor and report to later meetings.

6. County Council issues

Coastlands School – it was noted that the Clerk has, as requested, written to the County Council Director of Education to ask how much longer the Coastlands School will be led by temporary Head teachers. There has been no response and the Clerk was asked to send a reminder.

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

7. Planning matters.

- a. **81, Blue Anchor Way, Dale** – proposed extension at the rear. Approved by PCNPA.
b. **Others** – nil.

8. Finance.

a. **Receipts** – - **£550** - 3rd instalment of precept.

Payments - **NIL.**

b. **Balance - £1,629(approx).**

c. **Budget – spending proposals** – the meeting noted and approved the Spending Proposal for 2016 / 2017 Financial Year – including the amendments agreed at the meeting on 14th December, 2015.

d. **Precept – proposals** – it was noted that the Clerk has, as requested, applied for unchanged Precept for the 2016 / 2017 Financial Year.

e. **Bank Accounts – signing authorities** – it was noted that arrangements are being made to add the Deputy Clerk to the list of signing authorities with the Community Council bank account.

Action Deputy Clerk to arrange and confirm to next meeting.

9. Correspondence – NIL

10. Any Other Business.

a. **Property ownership / leases** – Mr Morgan made a report, clarifying the position of land ownership / tenure in and around the village.

b. **Broadband** – it was noted that Broadband service has deteriorated in recent weeks, becoming very patchy and slow. It was agreed that the relevant authority should be contacted to seek a solution.

Action: Clerk to identify / contact Broadband provider and report to next meeting.

c. **Street lights** – it was noted that the defective lights previously reported have now been repaired by the County Council, but that the light at the junction by the Boathouse seems to be failing.

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

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, 15th FEBRUARY, 2016.

AT

THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE

AT

1900hrs