

# Dale Community Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7pm in the Coronation Hall**

### **1. Present**

Lyn Jones (LJ)(Chair), Peter Morgan (PM)(Vice Chair), Andy Truelove (AT), Francesca Jones (RFO)

**Via Zoom** - Jane Warr (JW), Paul Garnish (PG), Cllr Reg Owens (Cllr RO)

Members of the public – John Goodwin (JG) and Fill Marshal (FM)

### **Apologies**

Mark Reynolds

Katie Williams - Broadway

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

None

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held virtually 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 were agreed as a true record and Councillors were happy to sign them off.

### **4. Matters arising**

a. PM asked the Clerk if any signs regarding dogs on the beach had been sourced yet, the Clerk reported that the local dog warden had not yet got back to her with examples. FM queried the clarity of the old signs, Clerk pointed out that new signage, albeit small and still very ‘wordy’, had been put up by PCC during the 2021 season.

**Action** – Clerk to ask the dog warden for examples of possible signage

b. PM expressed his continued concerns regarding PCC’s ongoing list of promised changes for the village. Clerk and Chair explained to RO the types of things that still have not been carried out by the council since our meetings with Marc Owen, Emrys Llewelyn and Claire Williams. PM suggested compiling a list of all outstanding issues and sending it monthly as a reminder to County. RO explained there is a new chief executive – William Bramble, and he seems very pro – active, he suggested we invite him to meet with Councillors and to express

the concerns. PM asked for a list detailing which people in the Council do which job/area and RO offered to send the list to us that he has.

**Action** – Clerk to compile a list to monitor and send out. RO also asked for a copy of the list. To invite William Bramble to meet with councillors.

c. Regarding the Queen’s Jubilee this year, the Chair suggested that the Community Council purchase commemorative coins for the children under 16 who live in the Dale Community, as was done for the last Jubilee. Councillors agreed to the proposal and decided on a coin of the value £5, the same as before.

**Action** – Clerk to investigate the purchase of such coins and to create a list of all children under 16

d. PM asked if anything had been found out about the cost of the election. RO had earlier in the day emailed the Clerk to say that nothing had been forwarded yet but that the lady in County Hall was hoping to have a figure soon. RO also advised the Councillors that they would have 5 years from the date of the election in which to pay the fees, due to a change since the last election. This means that the Community Council no longer needs to save money in the lead up to an election.

## **5. Update from Katie Williams - Broadway**

Katie gave her apologies and sent the following update which the Clerk read out:

“I have been advised that all four Dale projects are in the survey stage, as per the email update I shared on 6<sup>th</sup> December, and are almost complete. This is current state of play on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Dale 1(Dale Village) – Overhead, Underground surveys have been completed and verification has been carried out. Subscriber survey (i.e. the attribution of the workpoint to the UPRN) has also been completed. This is now ready for build – awaiting date work will start.

Dale 2(Marloes) – OH and UG survey completed. UG needs to be verified.

Dale 3(St. Ishmaels) – OH survey completed. UG survey still in progress

Dale 4(Talbenny) – OH survey completed. UG survey in progress.

They haven’t mentioned any disruption to me per se so I have asked Pete for any further clarification.

The Ops team are having a full day session where they are delving into each project and will be providing us with a detailed update on each project.

As soon as I have that info, I will share.

Katie”

PG expressed his frustrations again, that Open Reach were aloud to waste so much money by bringing the infrastructure in to the village and then walked away without completing the work. JG was perplexed at the slowness of the service from Broadway and Councillors agreed that it was unacceptable.

FM reported to Councillors that a man called Matt Lewis of Broadway, had been to his property recently and asked to have a look around in readiness for overhead infrastructure being installed. Mr Lewis told Mr Marshall that they would be able to have their property connected to Broadway by the end of March 2022. Mr Marshall has queried this because at the last meeting of the Council in November, Katie Williams suggested to Mark Reynolds that properties outlying the village, like his farm, were looking at another 18 months before they saw connections. Mr Marshall asked the council to clarify the time frame as his property is also outside of the 'main' village and is classed as outlying.

**Action** – Clerk to ask Katie Williams to clarify this difference between her view and Mr Lewis'

## **6. Holiday Homes**

JW wished to ask RO if there was anything that PCC were or are planning on doing to address the issue of holiday homes in rural villages, such as Dale. RO explained that PCC are aware of the problem and have already put the council tax for second homes at a 100% premium but noted that this is still unlikely to deter people from purchasing holiday homes as they can cover the cost by income from lettings. He also noted that in Dale specifically, there is no free land that is available on which to build new homes. He suggested that there is no harm in writing to PCC to express the councillors' concerns. It was noted by FM that it would be more beneficial to support local people to be able to afford deposits when properties come up, but this is something that is currently not available.

**John Goodwin left the meeting at 7.50pm**

## **7. Parking**

The Clerk reported that her request for an update from Marc Owen had not been received as he was on holiday until today (10-1-22). This meant that there still hadn't been any figures received which showed the number of parking penalty notices given out last year. FM suggested if part of the meadow could be leased for overspill parking or for trailers, however, PG pointed out that the land is currently leased to a farmer and is not as straight forward as it sounds. This option has been looked in to before now and nothing has come of it.

PM had completed a map of the village showing the current double/single yellow lines within the village. He explained that the only difference between double/single is that on single yellow lines you can load/unload and you cannot on doubles. He has also found out that a road should be 11ft and you need a clear 17ft to include a space to park. The areas highlighted as problematic during the Maintenance Walk will now need to be measured and reported back to see if double yellow lines can be added here.

**Action** – PM and LJ volunteered to do this and report back at the next meeting

## 8. Highways

FM explained to the council that a Field Studies Council van belonging to Dale Fort had been parked deliberately across the road just past Point Farm House in order to prevent vehicles from accessing the road beyond this point. There was a post put on Facebook which read:

“Beyond this gateway the peninsula, including the Road and verges are PRIVATE PROPERTY.

There is NO VEHICULAR RIGHT OF WAY and the pedestrian right of way ends at the Coastpath finger post”

However, FM explained that this was in fact a public highway and is maintained by PCC. The Council had received an email from someone wishing this to be clarified as they too believe that the road was a public highway up until the main gate of the Fort, as is shown on PCC’s website.

Councillors agreed to find out from PCC to confirm whether it is a public or private highway. LJ pointed out that if it is a public highway and something similar happens again involving blocking the road, then it would be a matter for the police on the grounds of obstructing the highway.

**Action** – Clerk to contact PCC and gain confirmation of the status of the road.

## 9. Planning

PM had been asked by a resident about a planning application to see if it had yet been received by the Council. It had not. No planning information has been received by the Clerk since the last meeting in November.

## 10. Maintenance Walk

The findings from the walk held in November are shown below. It was agreed to hold a Village Work party on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> AND Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to carry out some general maintenance around the village. The last work party held before the Pandemic was very well attended by volunteers and it is hoped that this year will be the same.

### Dale Community Council

#### Village Maintenance & Highways Inspection – 07.11.2021

All members of the Community Council were present as well as Emrys Llewelyn from PCC who is the Highways Maintenance Manager.

1. The Road from The Gann to Dale – The Dale Community Council have been asking for many years to have the hedges cut along this part of the road, more often. The bends especially are very precarious as there is nowhere for two cars to pass and the village has seen a significant increase in visitors this year, many of whom use this stretch of road to walk on. It is the only way in and out of the village and is also the National Park Coastal Path. Emrys explained that the PCC cut hedges in mid-May, which is a safety cut, and the main cut is in July. The DCC walked the road all the way to the village, highlighting the main corners and discussing the possible solutions, none of which

are straight forward. Emrys said that he would re consider the corner at the Gann for a safety cut in May. He was going to go back and talk to the different people in County and see if anything can be done to improve the other corners along this route.

We highlighted to Emrys that a No Entry sign was missing adjacent to Brook Cottage. The replacement was requested four years ago and agreed by Fishguard. It was also pointed out during a meeting with Clare Williams back in the Summer.

2. Grit Boxes – all Grit Boxes are full, unfortunately some also have dog poo bags in them. Discussed the possibility of locking them in the Summer once they have been topped up.
3. The yellow lines in the village are enforceable between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September. This used to coincide with the dates that the Carpark charges were withdrawn. However, as the Carpark now charges all year round it seems obvious that people will simply park for free on the yellow lines. Claire Williams is to be asked about this.
4. One Way Sign opposite the Carpark entrance/exit was asked to be lowered in the hope that more drivers will see it when exiting.
5. White road markings outside entrance/exit to Carpark are well worn. Emrys to have them all redone and whilst they are there to check the whole village. It was again asked if the ‘SLOW’ could be painted on the road at the Gann where the pedestrians in the road sign is.
6. Light is not working in one of the No Entry signs at the entrance/exit to the Carpark – Emrys to report.
7. The sign warning of the ‘New Road Layout’ just before the Carpark was asked again to be removed – Emrys to request this.
8. Damage reported to the sign opposite the junction for South Street.
9. Parking along the fence and road behind the Boathouse on the new road – it was agreed to plant bushes here like the Henry Tudor grass area. There has been awful abuse of parking here all year which ended in a car slipping down the bank and causing costly damage to the fence. Clerk to check with Marc Owen before planting.
10. Bus signage at junction to South Street – not been updated since Covid began, sign is wobbly, Emrys to report it.
11. The No Entry sign at the Junction to the Fort Road no longer lights up and was also pointed out to be hidden by the telegraph pole. Emrys to report the faulty lighting, position here is tricky as signage cannot be attached to telegraph poles and there are no other posts that the sign could easily be moved to.
12. Parking at junction at the top of South Street-parking here has been a problem over the summer, on one occasion some four cars were parked on this triangular section of grass. This causes a huge safety issue to vehicles looking down the new road to be able to pull out. More Potentillas will be planted along the edges of this triangular section once Clerk has checked with Marc Owen. They had been planted here before but did not take as well as the ones around the Henry Tudor stone.
13. The grass sections outside properties along Meadow Vale were discussed as potential places to create better parking. It was thought that one resident had recently asked the Council about this and had been told it was not possible – Clerk to find out.
14. A couple of streetlights are out around the village – Clerk to report to the Street Care team. Also, to highlight the mess left behind by workers who replaced a section of cable along Blue Anchor Way. The residents were not informed and are not happy about the way the work was left. Some of the cable has been installed on private land without permission of the landowners. The owners

contacted Mr. Thomas who informed them that as PCC had not paid the contractor, they would ensure the situation would be rectified. They are still awaiting a response.

15. The Gully that carries water from under the road by the Cemetery was pointed out to Emrys and asked to be cleared again – Emrys to report the issue and have it cleared
16. The road between Drift Hill and the entrance to Hayguard Hay has had cars parked along it again this year. Planting bushes here is not an option and so Councilors wish to have Double Yellow Lines put here on both sides of the road, running all the way to Townsend Cottages. PM suggested marking on a map of the village the areas that need to be considered for double yellow lines – Clerk to find a map.
17. Parking at the Church – double yellow lines here could cause an issue and PM wishes to check with Tom Newing to find out what would happen with funerals, would they be able to park on the double yellow lines?
18. Parking at the Crescent – Lyn Jones informed Councilors that two residents (137 & 139) had been discussing with him a wish to dig out some of the green and create more parking. LJ suggested they would need to have all properties in agreement and put forward their case.
19. Parking for the properties along Castle Way would become an issue if double yellow lines are put here. It was pointed out that some of the houses in the past, sold their garages that are by the Coastguard and so no longer have any private parking. PM suggested writing to the residents before moving forward with plans for yellow lines.
20. Bushes to be planted along the grass section at the Exit to the Summer road as this has become another spot where cars park and cause safety issues for cars exiting the Carpark. Clerk to check with Marc Owen before planting.
21. The sides of the road along the back of Allenbrook and the Vicarage could do with a trim back again, the wall there is very precarious and so care should be taken when trimming.

A Community Council Work Party will be arranged in the new year before the season begins.

## **11. Precept 2022/2023**

It was agreed by all present Councillors, that the precept should be kept at £4200 as there are no predicted costs that should rise dramatically and knowing that any election will have 5 years to pay the costs, it means there is no need to continue saving.

## **12. Financial Report**

### **January 2022**

#### **Receipts/Expenditure/Balance**

#### **Community/Current Account**

Opening Balance (08/10/21) £1,00.37

Expenditure                    £100.00    MADPADS

   £75.00    Wreath RBL

Income                            £0

Closing Balance (09/12/21)    £825.37

### Business Premium

Opening Balance (01/7/21) £2,254.01

Closing Balance (07/10/21) £3,004.07

### Current Balance

Community/Current £825.37

Business Premium £3,004.07

### Payments to be issued today:

£600.00 Clerks Wages

Income in the form of cash £21.20 4 x Seagull sack @ £5.30 each (cash)

The Clerk informed Councillors that the audit decision has been returned as unqualified, they found nothing of concern and were happy with their findings. The necessary paperwork has been displayed in the Coronation Hall to be viewed by the public as well as on the Dale Village Website.

### **13) County Council Matters**

None

### **14) Correspondence**

- Email received from Sarah Bagley of Windswept Watersports to ask for opinions before they begin applying for grants to be able to site a disabled shower room for users of their facilities. They are hoping to extend the current disabled toilet to include a shower room. Councillors felt that it was a good idea and had no reason to object. RO mentioned one that is already in place in Tenby which includes all of the necessary equipment like shower, bed, hoist etc and suggested it may not too expensive to make happen. He advised that they contact the access officer at PCC.
- Emails asking to purchase seagull sacks from residents outside of Dale, all happy to do this.
- PM wanted to check whether the people who install and remove the flood gate would potentially be liable for any damage caused should it not be installed when advised by NRW. He also suggested that the list of people with keys to the gate be checked and updated and to also leave the main keys in one place with a key code type system, in case all key holders are away and unable to put the gates in. Clerk to find out the answers from NRW.

**15) Date for the next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Coronation Hall, Dale.

**Meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.**