

Dale Community Council

(4 Woodside, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3RG)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17th May, 2021 at 7pm in the Coronation Hall

1. Present

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

Jane Warr (JW) via Zoom, Paul Garnish (PG) via Zoom

Members of the public – Johnathan Aylett (JA)

Apologies

Lyn Jones (Chair)

Mark Reynolds

Cllr Reg Owens

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held virtually 9th March 2021

The minutes were agreed as a true record and all were happy to sign them off.

4. Matters arising

PM noted that the machines are now in place in the car park, a few technical issues with the card and app payment methods however this seems to have been sorted now.

PG updated the councillors on progress with the Gann Car Park. The castle estate has been in talks with the parks still and 2 information boards are to be put up. It was agreed that the bollards have seemed to stop the problem of the overnight campers and the mess that was being left behind in the Lime Kilns and along the Pickle Ridge. The bollards have appeared to move slowly but surely to allow cars to park more safely alongside them with the note that a camper or two have been seen to have squeezed through to be able to park overnight. Going forward it is thought that permanent bollards will be put in place.

PM asked for Cllr Owens to follow up the whereabouts of the Blue Flag, progress with the Fort Road issue and the query of the place of the community council with respect to council house applications.

The pontoon is now in place and so far members of the public seem to be following the rules well. The sign this year is much more straight forward stating what the pontoon should NOT be used for. All happy that it is back.

Action – email Reg Owens to follow up the Blue Flag, progress with the Fort Road and the query of Council’s Position with housing applications.

5. Financial Report

Receipts/Expenditure/Balance

Carried forward	£2,254.05
Receipts for year	£4,200.72
Expenditure for year	£2,776.35
Surplus	£1,424.37
Total balance	£3,678.42
• Community/Current	£1,424.47
• Business Premium	£2,253.95

Clerk gave an overview of the accounts and discussed the Final Accounts, Internal Auditor Report and Annual Governance Statement with the Councillors who had received the documents before the meeting. All Councillors were happy to accept the Accounts and were happy to continue and sign the Annual Return in order for the external audit to be carried out.

PM queried the amounts for the Coronation Hall and Cemetery grant which the Clerk explained, as well as the amount for the Audit.

6. AGM

The meeting was adjourned so that the AGM could be held.

7. Maintenance Walk

PM suggested that a maintenance walk was indeed needed as the council have not done one for more than a year due to Covid. It was agreed to hold a walk now that the restrictions allow, a date is to be set for the first week in June.

Action – Clerk to circulate a date and confirm with all councillors.

8. Lockdown Easing

PM brought up the need for a Village Plan as we return to a ‘new normal’. The council should have a vision for the future and be prepared for the challenges that may arise moving forward. It was noted that the businesses that run in and from Dale need the visitors to drive their business and it needs to be accepted that Dale is a popular destination for many. PG noted that already the village is seeing a great number of visitors and this will only increase as the Summer season begins. Parking is one issue that is already becoming a problem throughout the village.

Action – Clerk to add Village Plan to the next Agenda

9. Car Park

AT brought up that there is still a problem with cars leaving the carpark to exit the village via the main entrance during the time that the Summer Road is open. This is meaning that unnecessary amounts of cars are driving all the way around the village, instead of exiting quickly at the back of the Car Park. A clear sign is needed before the 1st of June ideally stating Exit/Way Out which can be opened for the Summer season and then folded down during the winter. AT also addressed the problem with visitors parking in an un-orderly manor, which means the spaces are not maximised. He suggested marking out bays similarly to the carpark at Marloes Sands. The disabled bays on the beach front continue to be misused and again, no sign of traffic wardens has been noted and certainly no fines seem to be issued.

PM addresses a current issue with contractors parking outside Brook Cottage along the double yellow lines for the majority of the day which is making access harder for larger vehicles entering the village. He wished to know whether the rules for parking on the double yellow lines are the same for contractors as the public and noted that parking wardens have not been present in the village for a long time, especially at weekends.

PG followed up that point to mention the bay outside the Yacht Club. A resident pays for a parking permit which allows them to park in the bay, however it is regularly used and abused by visitors which causes the resident to not be able to easily park. This bay is never policed either and results in the resident having to confront people with regard to their parking.

Action – Clerk to ask Cllr Owens to arrange a meeting to review the Parking problems that affects the entire village.

10. Speed in the Village

Clerk addressed the issue as a couple of residents as well as visitors had brought the issue of speeding to the attention of the council. Speeding up Blue Anchor Way has been an issue in the past but towards the end of the Lockdown and since the easing of restrictions, speed in the village has increased. Clerk suggested a sign that flashes your speed as you approach, perhaps around the entrance to Blue Anchor Way. Jonathan Aylett agreed that those types of signs have been effective where he lives in Devon. PG suggested thinking about position of a sign like this as they can be bright and impact peoples homes. PM proposed a speed limit of 20mph be brought in for the whole of the village, as other villages have been doing like Marloes. All were in agreeance that this was an issue that needs resolving. The issue of parking around the village was again mentioned and causes extra hazards when cars are 'abandoned' in inappropriate places and positions. For example the corner under the castle has seen cars left on the side tucked in which cars coming round the corner won't necessarily see until the last minute. One way system abuse is still an issue with drivers clearly not taking notice of the signage around the village. Many have been seen turning in the bay outside woodside which has a sign right in front of the driver as they turn to go back the wrong way.

Action – Clerk to email Highways to see what suggestions can be looked at.

11. Budget 2021/2022

Clerk discussed the proposed budget for the year. Councillors did not see any obvious issues but decided to review the Budget properly at the next meeting when hopefully a full council will be able to meet.

Payments for

Clerk - £530

Zurich Insurance - £257.60

Both agreed and cheques to be signed.

Action – Clerk to add the Budget to the next Agenda.

12. County Council Matters

There were no matters to discuss

13. Correspondence

Cllr Owens had emailed to inform us that the planning appeal for 133 Castle Way had been dismissed.

Clerk is to meet with the rep for Broadway on the 18th May to discuss any updates and to explain how they plan to liaise with residents.

At the end of the meeting PG raised the issue of the poor handling of the recent road closure that happened unexpectedly and caused great disruption to the village. The councillors stressed their concern regarding emergency vehicles needing access to the village, which that day would not have been possible. No formal apology has been received and the worry is that it could happen again.

There has also been an issue recently with Welsh Water suddenly closing the road on Castle Way, there was no prior notice given (perhaps due to it being an emergency) however the carrying out of work was not managed well in terms of the traffic and danger to pedestrians walking.

Action – Clerk to invite Darren Thomas to a meeting to discuss general Highway matters.

PM brought up the Broadway issues with the installation of the Broadband which is still ongoing and has no end in site currently. The council are very unhappy with the way the program is being rolled out as the County Council sold the project to the village and yet have since failed to be involved or update the village in any way, instead they have left it all down to Broadway. The County Council are recruiting more rural communities and yet have failed to deliver to the ones they have already signed up. It is very disappointing to have no solid correspondence from the County Council.

Action – Clerk to ask Cllr Owens to contact the council to clarify the situation and to find out who oversees liaising with the public.

14. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was set for June 21st at 7pm, to be confirmed.

Meeting was closed at 20.10 pm.