

Dale Community Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DRAFT

**1st November 2021 at 7pm in the Jubilee Suite,
Coronation Hall**

1. Present

Lyn Jones (LJ)(Chair), Peter Morgan (PM)(Vice Chair), Andy Truelove (AT),
Jane Warr (JW)via Zoom, Paul Garnish (PG), Mark Reynolds (MJ), Francesca Jones
(RFO)

Member of the public – Ellie Morgan (EM)

Katie Williams - Broadway

Maria Goddard – PCC Broadband Engagement Officer

Apologies

Cllr Reg Owens (Cllr RO)

2. Declaration of Interest

None

Item 5 was conducted here to allow the visitors from Broadway to leave as soon as they had delivered their information.

3. Minutes of the meeting held virtually 27th September 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th September 2021 were agreed as a true record and Councillors were happy to sign them off.

4. Matters arising

Clerk updated the Councillors that she had approached the local Dog Warden to ask about signage for the beach front and will hopefully have some options to show Councillors soon. 10 Seagull sacks that were agreed to be purchased via email, have now been collected and one has already been sold.

5. Update from Katie Williams - Broadway

KW gave a brief overview of her background in the role. She gave as much of an update as she currently can give and then answered questions from Councillors. Last November Broadway needed a new Investor which they hoped would have taken 6 months but it has taken a year, they now have an investment of £145 million. To date, they have spent £1 million in Pembrokeshire on Broadband, mainly on infrastructure. KW said that they are planning to begin connections from January which will accelerate quickly once this part of the process has begun. PM asked KW if she meant in Dale village or the Dale Project Area which includes many small outlying villages. She did explain that the connections will be in the Project Area and we may see connections beginning in St. Ishmael's, for example, first. Councillors were keen to stress that further updates are made clear as to whether they mean the village or the project area. In the whole of the Project Area there are 863 properties who have currently signed up to Broadway. From March the firm will be spending £1 million per month. KW made it clear that the cable that Broadway are using is brand new and has no connection to the cables that Open Reach installed back when they first attempted the project.

PG asked MG about the waste of money spent by Open Reach in their attempt to bring fibre to the area. He highlighted what a waste of public money this was, to then simply walk away. KW assured Councillors that the original offer of 100mbs for £19.99 still stands and she also made them aware that there will be a 'Dale Offer' (which she was going to clarify if that is Dale Village or Dale Project Area.)

She also informed us that those residents who need a 'quick fix' can in fact apply for Dragon Wifi with the Access Broadband Cymru voucher, which will not affect the Broadway voucher scheme. This means that they can apply to access the 4G wireless solution and then choose to use Broadway when it eventually accessible. She made it clear that this is not passing the book so to speak, but that Broadway are very aware of the village's frustration and the need to be online more these days than ever. When PG queried this, as he had been told this was not the case, she did agree to double check and to circulate the information with the Clerk asap so that the information can be shared with the community. (At the time of publishing these minutes, this has been verified as accurate by KW)

The reality for properties further out of the village like MR is that they will not be connected for around 18-20 months due to the more difficult routes the infrastructure will need to take. KW has said she will attend the next meeting of the Council in January when she hopes there will be a more 'rock solid plan' and more to update us on.

KW gave her thanks to Kevin Rogers for all of his background work with the project and also to the Clerk for attending the meetings to try to gain as much information to report back to the residents.

Action – KW to attend the next meeting of the Community Council.

KW, MG and EM left the meeting at 7.38pm

6. Parking

There is to be a meeting with Marc Owen on Tuesday 16th November at 1pm to discuss the carpark layout for next year and the parking around the village will be highlighted here also. The parking around the village is still awful, with cars being 'parked' in odd places even now that the tourist season is over and the carpark is empty. A car attempting to park on the grass by the Boathouse slid down the bank and has caused a lot of money's worth of damage to the new fence there. Councillors discussed the need to put strategies in place to stop people from being able to park in certain areas around the village, this can be discussed and highlighted on the Maintenance Walk on Sunday 7th Nov.

7. Visitors to meetings

JW wished to add the item to make sure that members of the public who attend meetings and may have something to say or ask, do not have to sit until the end or until the item comes around. LJ made it clear that they have always had an open approach to visitors attending and would welcome people to make it known what they wish to say. If someone needed to address the Council and could not stay for the whole meeting or until the item, if possible, items on the Agenda could be shuffled.

8. Carpark Trees

JW had noted via email that the trees in the Carpark had been cut down to stumps earlier in the season. When the Clerk had asked PCC about this, we were told that they were showing signs of Ash Die Back, however JW pointed out that not all of the trees were Ash. LJ explained that on the day that the trees were removed, he challenged a member of the Council's work force as to the reason for removal. They explained that the trees were infected with Honey Fungus which hollows out the trees and makes them very unsafe. He was shown the stumps from previous felled trees and the work men explained that the fungus lives in the ground which is why this has recurred.

9. Village Walk Agenda

JW wished to make sure that the sign for the new road layout by the carpark entrance is noted for removal. This was asked of Clare Williams in the Summer however the sign is still there. The Clerk was asked to bring along the last list made from the Maintenance Walk which was pre-Covid. The Fort Road was mentioned again as Councillors are not satisfied with the response from PCC. Again, the weather recently has brought debris and water down the road and deposited it outside the YC

cellar door. PM noted that the list of items that were to be done following our meeting with Clare Williams in the Summer, has hardly, if at all, been touched. Clerk offered to check those items in readiness for the walk.

10. Vision for the Village ideas

JW had suggested for this; holiday homes, use of hall, parking. PM did say that perhaps now this may not be needed after all. The idea came about at a time of great uncertainty and worry when it was not clear how Covid-19 would affect tourism and our village. Going forward, most items that may have been up for discussion will have been dealt with or addressed. There was worry expressed from the councillors that there was no hospitality open at the moment, especially during half term. Members of the public had been chatting with a couple of the councillors expressing their upset at coming on holiday having spent a lot of money on accommodation, only to find nothing open in the village or nearby.

11. Financial Report

i) Receipts/Expenditure/Balance

Receipts/Expenditure/Balance

Community/Current Account

Opening Balance (10/9/21) £2,550.37

Expenditure £200.00 Fireworks
 £600.00 Clerk Wages

Transfer to Business Acc £750.00 Election

Income £0

Closing Balance (07/10/21) £1,000.37

Business Premium

Opening Balance (01/7/21) £2,254.01

Income £0.06 Interest

Transfer for election £750.00

Closing Balance (07/10/21) £3,004.07

Community/Current £1,000.37

Business Premium £3,004.07

Payments to be issued today:

None

PM asked how much the election will actually cost. £750 was agreed to be sent each year to the business account to cover an election and so when we have enough, the transfer should stop. There was also the thought that if our election coincides with the County Council elections, then there is no cost to the Community Council. The Clerk was asked to find out about costings so that we can budget accordingly moving forward.

12. Correspondence

- Clerk had circulated an email from the Welsh National Sheepdog Trials, asking for donations to support the event as it is in Pembrokeshire this year. The Councillors did not wish to support this event as it does not directly impact our local community.
- Thanks had been sent to the Clerk from MADPADS for the annual donation.
- Thanks had been sent to the Clerk from Harriet Bishop and also from Lynda Thomas, for the council's support in their two applications.
- Planning application NP/21/0113/FUL Point House, Dale has been Approved

13) County Council Matters

None

14) Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was set for 10th January at 7pm in the Jubilee Suite, Coronation Hall.

Meeting was closed at 8.38 pm.