

**DALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING
AT
THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.
ON
5TH SEPTEMBER, 2016.
AT
1900HRS
MINUTES**

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

In attendance: Mr J Aylett; Cllr R Owens.

Apologies for absence: Mr A Truelove; Mr D Nockels (Deputy Clerk / RFO).

- 1. Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th June, 2016** – the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th June, 2016 were agreed as a correct record subject to correction of the date of the meeting in the heading.
- 2. Progress Report 18th July, 2016, 2016 – review / update** – the Progress Report dated 18th July 2016 and the Update dated September, 2016 were noted. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a “Walk-the-Village” session before the clocks change and, preferably, before the next meeting of the Community Council in order to review maintenance issues around the village before the onset of winter.
- 3. Matters arising** – it was noted that all matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting and the Progress Reports made since that time have been included in the Agenda for discussion at this meeting.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Sewerage stinks – incidents May / July / August, 2016** – it was noted that there had been reports / complaints of stinks coming from the area of the sewerage treatment plant in May, July and August, 2016 which had been reported to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and to the County Council. It was noted, therefore, that this Item covers two parallel initiatives:
 - a.** In the wake of the May, 2016 incidents (and the subsequent incidents) the Clerk had pressed DCWW to review their decision to draw a halt to their efforts to resolve the problems at the Dale treatment works at the conclusion of the works which they scheduled for this year. DCWW have declined to review their decision and suggested that if Dale Community Council is not content with the position, they should refer the matter to the Consumer Council for Water or to the DCWW internal complaints procedure. It was noted that the Community Council had referred the matter to the Consumer Council for Water in 2013 at which time they had declined to uphold our complaint because DCWW had demonstrated commitment towards resolving the problem. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek confirmation from DCWW that they have, indeed, drawn a halt to their efforts to resolve the issues with the intention that the performance of the plant should be monitored and that any future problem should generate a referral to the Consumer Council for Water.

Action: Clerk to contact DCWW and report to next meeting.

- b. The Clerk on the initiative of Cllr Owens and with his active support has complained to the County Council and tried to persuade them to take action against DCWW – suggesting that they might prosecute DCWW for public nuisance or similar offences. The County Council have declined to prosecute on the basis that they consider that DCWW's efforts to mitigate the problem would provide a defence. At Cllr Owens's request, Mr I Westley (CEO of the County Council) has offered to visit Dale to discuss the matter. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting between Mr Westley and the Community Councillors.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with Mr Westley and confirm to next meeting.

- c. The Clerk passed copies of the DCWW monthly report dated 2nd September, 2016 to the Community Councillors and it was noted that their weekly inspection has revealed no problems and that the incident reported in August, 2016 had coincided with the visit of a tanker at the works. It was noted that DCWW have undertaken to continue with their monthly reports and that the next report is scheduled for 3rd October, 2016.

- 6. **Car park / parking issues** – it was noted that the car park had been very full on several occasions during August (also at the Whitsun Bank Holiday). The problem had been made worse by a cluster of 10 / 12 camper vans with trailers and associated equipment, which had blocked off areas of the car park, restricting capacity and overnighting in the car park. The Clerk was asked to draw this matter to the attention of the County Council officers, drawing attention to loss of capacity in the car park, the consequential problem of cars parking in the village and to the need to get a solution before potential customers are driven away from Dale and its tourism offerings by the apparent congestion. The Clerk was asked to invite Mr Darren Thomas and Mr Marc Owen to a meeting with the Community Council in order to discuss the problem and to agree a way ahead.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with Messrs Thomas and Owen.

It was noted that the County Council has not yet provided a copy of the lease of the car park and the Clerk was asked to contact the agents of the Castle Estate to request a copy of the lease between the Estate and the County Council.

Action: Clerk to contact Chester Master and confirm to next meeting.

- 7. **Slipway / beach / pontoon issues** – it was noted that the July / August 2016 peak of the tourism season has seen some very busy days, but the season seems to have passed off without serious problems on the slipway, pontoon and beach. Problems reported include:
 - i. Boat blocking on the pontoon- probably slightly better for the markings, but not a complete cure
 - ii. Crabbers vs. Boats on the pontoon – some incidents were reported arising from differing opinions as to priority.
 - iii. Repairs to slipway – DONE.
 - iv. There are reports that there had been an incident involving contact between a child and a car on the slipway.
 - v. Dogs on the beach including the Blue Flag zone – there are no signs on the beach side of the zone and dog owners are not always aware of the issue.

- vi. Rubbish provision – the village was very full and generated a lot of trash – is it possible to have temporary, supplementary trash storage.
- vii. Signage – the profusion of signs could probably be made clearer and less unwelcoming and should be reviewed in order to provide a more positive welcome to visitors.

The Clerk was asked to arrange the usual end of season meeting with the County Council officer.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting and confirm to next meeting.

- 8. **Dog nuisance** – it was noted that the Clerk had received vigorous complaints about the nuisance of dog excrement in the village and on the beach and the failure of some dog owners to control and clear up after their dogs. The Community Council drew attention to the large / unsightly notice that had been erected without authorisation. The Chairman agreed to arrange with Mr Kehoe for its removal.

Action: Chairman to arrange removal and confirm to next meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should report the problem to the County Council and request more active intervention by their officers.

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

The Clerk was asked to contact Coastal Cottages Ltd and Quality Cottages Ltd, asking them to draw their customers' attention to the obligations of responsible dog ownership.

Action: Clerk to contact letting agents and confirm to next meeting.

- 9. **Village sign / brown sign** – it was noted that the village sign has been stolen and that the County Council has agreed to replace the sign and to relocate the sign to a site closer to the boundary of the village (i.e. near Pickleridge). The County Council has agreed to allow the Community Council to use this opportunity to redesign the sign and to add symbols indicating the attractions available in Dale. The Community Council reviewed and approved the proposed new design with symbols indicating the attractions of the beach, water sports, picnic locations, cafe and camp sites, but removing the symbol for the lighthouse. [POST MEETING NOTE – the Community Councillors noted and agreed the request of the Heritage Group for the addition of a symbol for their museum]. The option of including a logo – in the shape of a frog – on the sign was agreed.

It was noted that although the County Council would replace the stolen sign with a like-for-like replacement without cost, the cost of the improved signage / symbols would be about £450.00. The Community Council reviewed their budget / spending proposals for the 2016 / 2017 financial year and, noted that there are sufficient funds available, taking account of the provision for village maintenance (£200.00), the provision for the installation of a planter (which has had to be deferred for a further year) (£110.00) and the provision for the cost of a leaflet (not required in 2016) (£25.00). This would increase the expenditure of the Community Council by about £115 above the budget, but, even allowing for other increased expenditure, this would leave the Community Council on course to finish the year with funds in their bank account in the region of £1,000.00, which was agreed as a sufficient margin to cover unforeseen expenses.

The Clerk was instructed to arrange for the new sign to be manufactured and erected by the County Council.

Action: Clerk to arrange replacement sign and confirm to next meeting.

10. **County Council Matters** – Cllr Owens reported that the business of the County Council has continued during the past months, although the holiday season has meant that activity has slowed. The GCSE results from Milford Comprehensive School – A to F – were better than ever before, while the performance of other schools in the County had also shown some improvement. The challenge faced by the County Council in recruiting permanent Head Teachers with the necessary paper qualifications was noted. The temporary Head of the Coastlands Primary School does not have the necessary paper qualification, but is being allowed twelve months in which to acquire the necessary paper so that he can apply for the permanent post for which he is so well suited.

11. Planning matters.

- a. “Meadow Lodge”, 133 Castle Way – it was noted that planning permission has been granted (despite opposition from the Community Council).
- b. Others – nil.

12. Finance.

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| a. Receipts | - | £550.00 – 2 nd instalment of Precept. |
| Payments | - | £250.00 – Coronation Hall grant – Item 10(f) Minutes 13-6-2016. |
| | | £250.00 – Cemetery grant – Item 10(f) Minutes 13-6-2016. |
| | | £50.00 - Peninsular Papers – Item 10(f) Minutes 13-6-2016. |

Balance - £1,650 approx

- b. **Bank account signing arrangements** – it was noted that the process remains stalled until the Chairman provides the necessary documents to the RFO and he agreed to be in contact with the RFO as soon as possible..

Action: Deputy Clerk to finalise, apply and report to next meeting.

- c. **Audit progress report** – the Auditor’s report dated 15th August, 2016 was noted and the Clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of the Internal Auditor.

Action: Clerk to report to the Internal Auditor and confirm to next meeting.

- d. **Spending proposals** – the meeting reviewed the Budget Documents (updated) which had been prepared by the RFO and the following items were noted and agreed:
 - i. Audit fee – provision to be increased from £96.00 to £170.00.
 - ii. Poppy wreath - £75.00 – to be paid as and when delivered by RBL.
 - iii. Christmas equipment - £150.00 – to be paid to Mr Truelove.

- iv. Fireworks – village event – provision increased from £150.00 to £200.00 – and it was agreed that this grant should now be paid to Mr Truelove.
- v. Village sign – see Item 9 above – provision for payment £450.00 was agreed.
- vi. Planter – provision £110.00 – progress has proved impossible in 2016 / 2017. It was agreed that this provision of £110.00 should be deleted.
- vii. Leaflet – provision £25.00. This had not been required during 2016 / 2017. It was agreed that this provision of £25.00 should be deleted.
- viii. Village maintenance – provision £200.00. It was agreed that the replacement of the village sign with improved signage – see Item 9 above – was an item of village maintenance and that the provision of £200.00 should be applied to this project.

It was noted that the impact of these adjustments / payments would leave the Community Council in a position to end the financial year 2016 / 2017 with funds in the bank accounts amounting to about £1039.00 – about 63% of the annual Precept. It was agreed that this was sufficient cover to protect the Community Council from unforeseen expenditures in the remainder of the financial year.

The RFO was asked to make the necessary adjustments to the spending proposals / budget documents and to arrange the payments that have been authorised – Items 9(d)(iii) and (iv).

Action: RFO to make necessary arrangements / payments and confirm to next meeting.

13. Correspondence – nil.

14. Any other businesses.

- a. **Coronation Hall** – it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should be appointed as the Community Council representative on the Committee of the Coronation Hall – replacing the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to notify Coronation Hall Committee and confirm to next meeting.

- b. **New Model Code of Conduct** – the Clerks were asked to circulate to the Community Councillors a copy of the new Model Code of Conduct and the explanatory document. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Clerks to circulate documents and arrange Agenda item for next meeting.

- c. **Fireworks** – it was noted that this year's event is planned as a village event, rather than a commercial / profit generating event. It was agreed, therefore, that it is appropriate for the Community Council to make a contribution towards the cost of the event and it was agreed that the RFO should be authorised to arrange payment to Mr Truelove of £200.00 (see Item 12(d)(above))

Action: RFO to make payment and confirm to next meeting.

- d. **Rubbish collection – holiday homes** – it was noted that the County Council has changed the arrangements for rubbish collection as it affects second homes / holiday let businesses. The Clerk was asked to enquire with the County Council – Ms Kate Daley – and request details of the new arrangements and the houses to which they apply.

Action: Clerk to enquire and report to next meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE:

10TH OCTOBER, 2016

AT

THE JUBILEE SUITE, DALE.

AT

1930HRS

It was agreed that this meeting of the Community Council should be preceded by a “walk-the-village” review – assembling at the Jubilee Suite, Dale at 1830hrs.