

MINUTES OF NOLTON AND ROCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT VICTORIA HALL, ROCH

2 March 2020

Members Present

R. Thomson, J. Gale, D. Smith, D. Weale (arrived 7.50pm) and Cllr. J. Adams
Clerk - A. Jones

1597 Apologies

A.Peach, M. Canton, M. Harries and J. Hancock

1598 Declaration of interest

J. Gale declared an interest with respect to the Newgale road.

1599 Minutes of the previous meeting 3 February 2020

No members present from that meeting - approval deferred to next meeting.

1560 Clerk's report on matters arising

- **Welcome signs improvements and traffic calming** - The Clerk reminded the Councillors about the Community Works Grant (CWG) which is administered by PCC and up to £10k can be applied for. A. Peach has been in touch with PCCs Transport Planning Officer. The application requires a location plan and a provisional cost estimate. A. Peach is pulling together a location plan with the help of Google maps and some photographs, but as far as the cost goes it may be that we need an actual quote for the job.
 - Action: A. Peach to draft the CWG with help from the Clerk if required. D. Smith to send sign designs to M. Harries for costing with relevant PCC team.
- **Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant** - all agreed that looking into extending the play area may be the best way forward.
 - Action: M. Harries to look at additional playground options for younger and older members of the community and cost options.
- **Newgale road developments** - J. Gale confirmed that PCC and Atkins representatives had visited all farmers affected in the valley for the first time. Sadly, hitherto, the farmers have felt ignored and not listened to; the original farm report was incorrect as no consultation was undertaken and it did not take into account the fact that the moor is grazed all year. Although the visit was appreciated, it is a real shame they were not carried out before the design stage. PCC and Atkins enquired about the land use, history, mineshafts, movement of animals and livestock crossing points to incorporate into the next design stage. The fact that some boreholes did not have the right sensor and others incorrectly dug on top of slag heaps was also discussed. PCC confirmed they will look at redoing them next year. J. Gale again raised her concern with regards to the gradient of the current route as it first turns off the A487, stating that it would be much more preferable to take a slightly different route which is far less steep. She also highlighted the ancient ash tree in the valley which is registered as a tree of significance.
- **Drain at entrance to Wood Village** - no update; PCC Highways confirmed that the tarmac lip should be addressed when the team get round to checking the drain as they work through their maintenance list.
 - Action: Cllr. J. Adams to follow up with the relevant PCC team.

- **Nolton drains** - no update; R. Thomson confirmed that the sand is now back again around the yellow lines as well as the drains.
 - Action: Cllr. J. Adams to follow up with the relevant PCC team.
- **Nolton and Roch Community Land Trust** - D. Smith confirmed that there has been lots of activity with regards to the CLT. There are now 11 on the steering group with a great mix of skills. All the relevant incorporation paperwork and funds have now been submitted; hopefully in the next 2-3 weeks the group will be registered as a CLT. Sally Boyton has done an amazing job of creating the logo and website which are nearly ready to be launched. The housing needs survey will go out on the website as well as in paper form in the next week or so. They are also looking for suitable plots around Roch at the moment, but will also look at Nolton and elsewhere in the community. Encouragingly, the Chief Executive of Ateb is very supportive of CLTs, as their unique selling point is their ability to obtain land and planning permission over Ateb / housing associations. D. Smith also spoke about his visit to Ty Solar, a prototype of affordable and sustainable homes at Rhosygilwen, and to Bristol; both of which were very inspirational trips and provided plenty of food for thought with regards to self build or self finish opportunities.

The focus for the group over the next few weeks will be information gathering, representing the community and becoming legally incorporated. An AGM will be held once the survey results have been gathered. It is at this point that you could become a member of the CLT for £1 or shares could be issued. Crucially, the CLT are going to need funds to take this forward, so finance and donation options are also being explored.

- **Overhanging trees on the road from Nolton Haven towards Nolton** - no update.
 - Action: Cllr. J. Adams has been in touch with the relevant people at PCC but will get in touch again.
- **Roch Motel junction - missing 'slow' on road** - J. Gale mentioned that the 'slow' written on both sides of the road by the junction are no longer there and need replacing.
 - Action: Cllr. J. Adams to follow-up with PCC.
- **NRCC projector as a community resource** - D. Smith proposed after some research that a projector around the £1k mark would be a sensible decision and of a good quality. It was resolved by all to make a decision with regards to the projector when looking at donations for the year end (deferred to next meeting).
- **Community Spring Clean Events** - Clerk mentioned that there are a couple of upcoming beach cleans over the next couple of weeks, perhaps we could look to hold a community event over the Easter holiday. All Councillors were in support.

1561 Planning

- **PCNPA proposal: alterations and extensions to the property and replacement storage building, location: Beatties Cottage, 10 Wood Village, Newgale, SA62 6AR (application NP/20/0094/FUL). Comments due by 11 March** - no comments.
- **PCC decision: CONDITIONALLY APPROVED replacement dwelling and detached garage, site address: Rock Farm, Rock Farm, Roch, Haverfordwest, SA62 6HF (application 19/0939/PA).**

1562 Finance

- **One Voice Wales membership due** - all resolved to renew and pay the membership fee of £172.
 - Action: Clerk to make the online transfer of £172 to OVW.

- **NRCC CLT banking arrangements** - Clerk confirmed that the full balance of £2425 transferred to newly opened CLT account on 13/2/20.
- **Wales Audit Office** - online payment of £227.75 made 11/2/20.
- **£1500 transferred into election savings account (bus bank instant)** - as per the requirement to fund our own election costs if needed an additional £1500 was transferred into the savings account on 4 February 2020 (total now £4,409.29).
- **Online payment of £50 made to the Round Up on 4/2/20 (for 18/19 financial year)**
- **Budget at the 19/20 year end and going forward into 20/21** - the Clerk went through the letters received requesting donations for the 19/20 financial year end:
 - Victoria Hall
 - Nolton Reading Room
 - Penuel
 - Nolton URC
 - The Round Up
 - St Madoc, Nolton
 - St Mary's, Roch

All agreed to defer decisions to the next meeting as further information is needed from Nolton Reading Room as to their future plans and need for funds.

- **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report - February 2020** - the relevant changes with respect to Town and Community Councils was read out by the Clerk; none applicable to the Councillors.
- **Consultation on Future Audit Arrangements for Community Councils in Wales** - Clerk confirmed that she would like to comment on the new proposed arrangements stressing the need for proportionality for smaller councils, saving public money on costly audits. Also, it is important to stress that no change in audit arrangements is going to solve the much larger issues at the heart of the town and community council sector, namely a lack of awareness nationally of the role of CTCs and the lack of competent clerks. All agreed to respond accordingly.
 - Action: Clerk to submit comments as above.

1563 Correspondence

- **PCC CSC Assistant email** - Clerk read out the email from the CSC Assistant which sets out their role within Pembrokeshire County Council as engaging with, supporting, and encouraging members of the public to communicate with PCC via digital means, mainly via the My Account website. She is looking to attend any events happening locally / go along to any groups who would benefit from learning more about the My Account and its services. She will be accompanying the mobile library van that goes to Roch on 13 March 2020 to offer support to anyone that needs it regarding PCC digital services.
 - Action: Clerk to promote these services and share the mobile library schedule with Councillors and on the Facebook page.
- **Keep Wales Tidy: Green Growth and Local Places for Nature scheme** – a brand-new initiative, funded by Welsh Government, that aims to create, restore and enhance hundreds of habitats across the country has been launched. Every community council can apply for 1 of 3 packs for free, including a fruit tree pack which could be the start of a community orchard. All agreed this was something worth exploring.

- Action: Cllr. J. Adams will speak to the school to see about location. Clerk to start putting together the application as deadline is 12pm 6 March 2020.

1564 Meetings attended by Councillors / forthcoming meetings

- Nothing to report.

1565 Other items

1566 PCC report

- Cllr. J. Adams confirmed that council tax has been increased by 5% and police by 4.8%. On a more positive note, Cllr. J. Adams will be exploring the possibility of a shared use path between Simpson Cross and Roch under the extra highways schemes. All Councillors agreed that this would be a great addition to the community.

1567 AOB

- R. Thomson reported that Nolton Church (St Madoc) has unfortunately suffered some damage in the recent storms leaving an area taped off. Hopefully just loose slates and they can be back up and running for their monthly service soon, but something to be aware of.
- R. Thomson sadly confirmed that he and his family are relocating in the summer and he will be stepping down from the council after our meeting in June. All Councillors expressed their sadness at this news, which will be a great loss to the Council, and thanked R. Thomson for all his hard work and dedication.

1568 Items for the next agenda

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next meeting: 6 April 2020 7.30pm Victoria Hall, Roch

Signed

Chairman