

OLD ST. MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall,
Newport Road, Old St. Mellons on Thursday 26 February 2009

Present	Councillor	Mrs G Jones (Chairman)
	Councillors	Mr M Briggs
		Mrs D Brown
		Mrs A Davies
		Mrs P Jenkins
		Mr L Phillips
		Mr D Stroud
	Clerk	Mrs C Ryan

1. APOLOGIES: Councillors D Rees & J Rogers

2.DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. POLICE MATTERS

There were no Police in attendance, although an invitation had been sent. Problems had been identified in the Playing Fields and the Chairman had e mailed Chris Williams, Groundsman, to plant shrubs around the station and provide a tuck hedge.

A Councillor informed the meeting that recently damage had been caused to residents' windows and the Heritage Trail Notice board at the Church site had been subject to a graffiti attack – a photo of this damage was circulated. There had also been more car crime in Beech Tree Park. It was agreed that the Police should take a more active involvement.

County Councillors have ordered more graffiti kits in order to tackle the problem. There would be a graffiti working party meeting on 27 February outside Londis Store at 10.00a.m.. It was also noted that only the odd Ringmaster Message was being received and they never contain any issues relating to Old St Mellons. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Police and raise the issues identified with them and request they attend the next meeting. This meeting was the 3rd meeting where there had been no Police presence. If they cannot attend, the Clerk will request that they e mail a report to her before the Council meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Newport Road, Old St Mellons on Thursday 15th January 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Attendees - Councillor Briggs was not in attendance – he had sent his apologies

3 Police Matters – There were attendees at the meeting – but not all residents had been invited

7 Highways & Planning – Should read Ty'r Winch Road and not Newport Road.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5. St Edeyrn's Churchyard

The Chairman stated that she wasn't aware that the work had started on the repairs. However a Councillor reported that they had visited the site and the repairs had been carried out but to a most unsatisfactory standard. A photo of the work was also circulated showing the poor standard of repairs The Chairman will

contact the Builders to discuss the issue and the Clerk will also follow up in writing. It was confirmed that the Clerk will not issue any form of payment until the work has been repaired to a satisfactory standard.

6. Alley Gating

The issue of ownership was raised of Pathway 14 – which runs from Ty'r Winch Road to Newport Road behind Beechtree Park. It was agreed that the decision to keep pathways open was in the first instance that of the County Council. No proposal had been received from the County Council to close this pathway.

It was also agreed that the County Council should take the lead on the Alley Gating scheme and to contact local residents direct.

9. Audit Office

A letter had been received from the Audit Office agreeing to the Community Council paying the Audit fees on an instalment basis over a 5 month period, as they will not reduce the fees any further. The first instalment will become due in March.

10. Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition

It was agreed that the Media group would look at obtaining 3 quotes for the replacement notice boards. 2 have already been obtained by the Village Association, with only 1 further quote needed. Upon receipt of the 3rd quote the Media group can consider them and bring their recommendations back to the Council Meeting.

Village Hall

The Key Count of the Village Hall was now complete with all keys now being numbered and tagged. Councillor Stroud was thanked for his work in arranging this.

11. Newsletter

All queries re the Painting classes have been resolved.

7. Planning

Gritting of Wern Fawr Lane to Ty'r Winch Road. A Letter had been received from the County Council to say that they had undertaken a review of the pre-salting network and unfortunately Wern Fawr Lane was not included in this. They had suggested that a site visit be undertaken and the possibility salt bins at either end of the road. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Council to ascertain if the site visit had been undertaken and what was the outcome.

Street Cleaning

A letter had been received confirming that following the recent complaints on behalf of a local resident to the County Council, a team had been sent to clean the streets and this would be scheduled to be cleaned weekly on a Friday. Clerk to write a response re monitoring the situation.

8. Finance

Bank Mandate is awaiting completion.

10. To receive working party report

The Chairman had followed up by e mail to ascertain the situation re the application. It was confirmed that 2 allocations of 106 money had been agreed for £36,234.04 and Contributions of £4937.24. This money is to be used for Open spaces. The final decision for the schemes lies with the County Council. The Consultations have been sent to the County Council and the work should start towards the end of the Summer. The Chairman confirmed that Mark Lawson would inform the County Councillors.

11. Archives

A letter had been received from the County Council Archives department agreeing to archive the Community Councils records at no charge. They will collect them from the Clerk and we will have access to them at any time that may be required.

12. Tennis Courts

The Clerk had searched for a copy of the Tennis Court Lease but had failed to find it. It was confirmed that the original Lease was for a period of 25 years, ending in 2012. The Deputy Chairman offered to search for a copy of the Lease.

14 Eastern Business Park

The Clerk had attended a joint meeting at the Business park, with Managing Agents, Residents, Local Police and the County Councillors. It had been a fairly positive meeting and it was agreed at the meeting that a 2 week trial would take place to use the multi storey car park as a short stay car park for people who could not have a permanent space, thus bringing the cars from Wern Fawr Lane onto the Business Park Site. The Managing Agents also requested that the Community Council write to all tenants to express their dissatisfaction with the current parking arrangements. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Business Park. The Clerk will also write to the Planning Authority to ascertain the parking agreement for the original build and to query parking options for the proposed new build on the site.

6. LOCAL RESIDENTS

It was agreed to the adjournment of the Council meeting for 15 minutes to enable residents to express their views or ask questions on issues within the powers, duties and functions of the Council. Issues raised to be considered by the Council

7. HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING

08/02770/E	Full Planning Permission	Expected Decision Level:	DEL
Received:	10/02/2009	Ward:	PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer:	Tim Walter		
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs M Evans		
Agents	Chris J Morgan – Chartered Town Planner, 4a Fontygary Road, Rhoose		
Proposal:	ERECTION OF STABLE BLOCK FOR 2 NO. HORSES		
At:	Land adjacent to Cefn Euwrg, Druidstone Road		

A query was raised re this application as a previous application was made for housing on this site, but had now been changed to Stables. This was possibly seen as an open way into converting the building into residential. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply stating that there was no objection to the stable block but not to be converted at a later date to residential.

A Councillor raised a query why the speed limit signs had been covered in the village and was informed that it was because the lighting above the sign was not yet in place.

It was also noted that any resident using Public transport by way on a Number 30 bus, should be aware that the policy for children under 5 travelling was different on the Newport 30 bus to that of the Cardiff 30, as on the Newport Bus there are charges for the under 5's.

A Councillor highlighted the situation of the pavement outside the new flats and the Jehovah's Witness Hall as being in a very poor state of repair. The Clerk to write to the Highways Department to request the repairs.

8. FINANCE MATTERS AND PAYMENT OF CREDITORS

EXPENDITURE

Payee	Service or Goods	Amount	Chq No
-------	------------------	--------	--------

Mr R Kimber	Cleansing Orderly	72.00	2729
M Longman	Groundsman	155.36	2730
J Fishpool	Caretaker	40.00	2731
J Attard	Cleaner	100.00	2732
C Ryan	Clerks salary (2 weeks)	206.74	2733
	Postage	7.36	
	Telephone	6.82	
British gas	Heating – Village Hall	911.81	2734
Gwent Fire Services	Fire extinguishers	1341.66	2735
	Risk assessment – village hall		
HMRC	Tax & N.I. July – December	754.90	2736
The Marshfield Mail	Advert for Clerk	40.00	2737
P Jenkins	Christmas presents for Carol Service	24.65	2738

Direct Debits

Powergen	Electricity – Village Hall	101.00	D.D.
Powergen	Electricity – Playing Fields	10.00	D.D.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £3772.30

INCOME

Summers Funeral Directors	Burial Fees - Coles	250.00
W McCaffrey	New cremated remains plot	200.00
J French	New Cremated remains plot	200.00
D Carter	New Burial Plot	500.00

Hall Letting

Nil

TOTAL INCOME £1150.00

Current Account at 24.02.2009	£4308.98
Capital Reserve at 24.02.2009	£6734.44

Balance carried forward – Current A/C less total exp.	£536.68
Capital Reserve	£6734.44

There has been a large amount of expenditure this month due to a previous gas bill going astray and not being paid and incorporated in the following bill.
Electricity charges are due to be reduced as the Council is in credit.

It was agreed to transfer £2000 from Capital Reserve Account to the Current Account in preparation for the forthcoming months expenditure.

A discussion took place re the reimbursement for the Clerk using her own telephone and broadband service. It was agreed to contribute 50% of the monthly charges plus the cost of phone calls for itemised amounts of 20p. It was also agreed that as the Council has no dedicated computer then the Clerk should be reimbursed for use of her personal equipment.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS, REES AND ROGERS

In the absence of the County Councillor's due to the re-arrangement of the Community Council meeting, a report was read by the Chairman in their absence. It covered:

- Boundary Commission report
- It was requested that this be an agenda item for March.
- Graffiti

Kits were available and a meeting was arranged for 27th January outside Londis.

- 30mph Signs Newport Road

Electrical works continuing and the signs would be uncovered upon completion of the work.

- Eastern Business Park

County Councillors offered support of a letter to the Business Park

- Closure of Ty'r Winch Road from Newport Road to The Ton

Notice of closure of the road was detailed.

- Theft of County Councillor Surgery Notices

It was noted that on 4 occasions notices have been stolen from the notice board at Ty'r Winch Road.

The thefts have been reported to the Police. The Councillors raised the question of when will the new covered Notice Board be provided?

10. DOG FOULING

The issue of dog fouling was raised. It was noted that there are no dog bins provided anywhere for use. There are also no notices against dog fouling in Beech Tree Park. There are 2 waste bins provided but they are always full and not regularly emptied. A Councillor had contacted the dog warden requesting that the pavements should be cleaned of the dog mess. The Councillor had received notices which can be displayed on lamp posts and the Notice boards. There is also a telephone number on the notices where you can report offenders. It was also noted that the dog fouling in and around the park is also increasing.

11. KEYHOLDERS FOR THE PLAYING FIELDS

A Councillor requested that with the forthcoming good weather following Easter, could the park be closed and locked at 8p.m. to discourage the youth interest and unruly behaviour. The signs should be amended to state that the park would be locked "Half hour before sunset or 8p.m. at the latest. It was agreed to do this and the reasons why should also be communicated to all gate-keepers and included in the next Newsletter.

The issue of a resident having their own key to the main gate due to inaccessibility problems was raised, but there is no spare key available, these keys are supplied by the County Council. The Chairman is to decide if we could get quotes to make the small gate more accessible due to the obstruction by the raised kerb and tree obstructions.

The Chairman will also check if there are spare keys for the pavilion and the cabinet for the lawn mower.

It was also agreed to appoint additional key holders for the park. Councillor Davies will approach residents who live the nearest to the park to see if they would be prepared to become key holders. Councillors M Briggs, L Phillips and P Jenkins also volunteered.

12. MEDIA UPDATE

A Councillor had noted that the web site was in need of being updated and amending e.g. there are minutes and agendas missing from previous meetings. Also e mail address for Clerk to be added.

The Chairman will arrange for a meeting with web master and ask him to bring a lap top and update along with the Media group. The Chairman stated that they would also raise the issue of a personal web site being linked into the Community Council web site as it was inappropriate. The Media Group to feed back to the Council following the meeting.

Councillor Briggs volunteered assistance in updating information in the future, if help was required.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Cardiff Council re ownership of Bethania Calvinistic Cemetery. Clerk to respond to say that the Community Council have no jurisdiction over the cemetery and are not aware of who the current owners may be.

- Letter from Mrs Rees – re shrubbery around Runcorn Close. The shrubbery has been removed and the area is now unsightly waste ground. Clerk to write to County Council to request reinstatement of shrubbery for the benefit and pleasure of the residents.
- An e mail was received from a French resident suggesting that Old St Mellons twin with their town. The Deputy Chair volunteered to contact the local History Society to pass the info to them and the Chair will also send a copy of the e mail to the local school.
- The Chairman had sent a £10 gift card to the web master as a thank you for the work that he does. He had e mailed back his thanks.
- Letter from National Training Advisory Group re the qualification for the Clerk. There is a £150 charge for this and the Council agreed to pay for this qualification.
- A letter had been received from One Voice Wales re the nomination to attend the Buckingham Palace garden Party. Nominations are placed in a hat for the draw to attend. The Chairman's name to be put forward.
- Letter from Welsh Assembly Government – re Borrowing by Community & Town Councils – Agenda item for next meeting.
- CD received from Caerphilly Borough Council re the Development Plan 2021.
- Letter from W.I. re the Code of Practice for use of the Village Hall by W.I. – Village Hall Working party to respond.
- Kidney Wales Foundation – requesting sponsorship.
- A Community Councillor had received correspondence from Cardiff County Council stating that requests for information from the Council or its staff could only be considered from the County Councillors on the Community Council. Information had been requested by one of the Working Parties when looking at job descriptions. The Clerk will write to Kate Berry to clarify the position, also clarify with the Ombudsman what is the legal position.

14 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Purchase of land alongside A48 as identified by local resident.

Boundary Commission

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 19th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 10.15p.m.