

OLD ST. MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall,
Newport Road, Old St. Mellons on Thursday 16th April 2009

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

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor P Jenkins – Flower Show September – Husband is an Allotment holder
Councillor M Briggs – Playing Fields, Ty'r Winch Road – lives in close proximity
Councillor D Rees – Playing Fields – lives near to them & parents buried in St Edeyrn's Churchyard
Councillor G Jones (Chairman) – Pathway St Mellons Church – PCC Member
Councillor Davies – Playing Fields – proximity of home & Land adjacent to M48 – employee of landowner and proximity of land to home.

The Chairman requested that all Declaration of Interests should be recorded without exception.
The Chairman at this point also requested that all e mails to the Clerk are to be sent to the Chairman for her to direct through to the Clerk and that any requests for amendments to Minutes will only be done at the Council meeting and not beforehand.

3. POLICE MATTERS

An invitation had been sent to the Police, but there were no police in attendance and no report had been received. The Chairman reported on 2 occasions to 101 the matter of the graffiti, but had been told that there was a backlog of work and that it would be resolved as quickly as possible. A County Councillor also reported that they had had confirmation that the work should be done by Wednesday or Thursday at the latest due to the backlog.

A Councillor stated that 3 or 4 cars had been broken into at Beechtree Park and that people should be vigilant. Also on Sunday evening there had been damage to properties and to the Bus stop and Wednesday evening a car had been set on fire in St Mellons Church grounds. The Clerk to write to the Police expressing the concerns of the Community Council.

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 19th March 2009 were not approved at this stage as the following amendments were discussed:

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The incorrect date appeared at the top of the minutes. Should read 19th March 2009.....

5. St Edeyrn's Churchyard

The work has still not been done to rectify the poor workmanship. The Chairman had spoken to the Builder and he was intending to visit the site over the Easter period. The Chairman followed up again, but not managed to get a reply from him. The Clerk to write and inform him that he will not be paid and that an alternative Builder will need to be employed to rectify the damage.

6. Alley Gating

There is a spelling mistake in the previous minutes, should be County Councillor in order.....

The Chair read a letter handed to her, from a County Councillor, from the County Council, stating that Footpath 14 is a Right of Way and is not owned by the County Council, nor is the owner known to them.

9. Audit Office

The second instalment of £500 has been paid to the Wales Audit Office.

10. Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition

A suggestion was put forward, that the £500 received from Calor Gas could possibly purchase a lap top and broadband facility. This will be discussed at the Media group meeting and brought back to Council. Agenda item for next meeting.

7. Planning

Salt bins had been agreed and the Clerk had written to the 3 residents living in close proximity to them.

8. Finance

Bank Mandate is on-going. The Chairman is still liaising with the Bank. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the bank informing them of the Council's displeasure and to instigate the Bank's Complaints procedure.

11. Archives

A full list of archived files has now been received from the County Council Archive Officer.

12. Tennis Courts

A Councillor raised the question of when the 2nd tennis net would be put up. It was identified that a post needed to be replaced before this could be done. The Clerk to write to the Secretary of the Village Association to query when this will be done.

14 Eastern Business Park

No further updates.

8. Finance Matters

The Clerk had sent a Special delivery letter to Gwent Fire Services. When the letter was tracked, it recorded that the Postman had attempted to deliver it, but had failed and that a card had been left for them to collect it from the Post Office. The Clerk will document the details should there be a problem at a future date,

The Working Party has still to meet to agree reimbursement for personal equipment for use by the Clerk. This equipment identified as Computer, Printers etc.

9. Theft of County Councillors Surgery Notices

County Councillors wished it reported that they were not present when this item was discussed at the March meeting. At that meeting photos of defaced notices had been shown to Council Members. This was not minuted at the March meeting, but a vote was taken and it was agreed that these details should now be included in the minutes.

10. Dog Fouling

No response had been received to the letter sent by the Clerk requesting regular cleaning.

11. Keyholders for the Playing Fields

New key holders for the playing fields have been identified. It was agreed to look again at the list and decide on a new rota for the key holders.

12. Media Update

The Chairman is still waiting for a meeting to be set up with the Web Master.

13. Correspondence

No reply re Bethania Chapel.

Old St Mellons School have been in contact with the French town re twinning.

The Clerk had received a reply from Paul Anderton, in Kate Berry's team re access to information and will respond to him.

9. To receive reports from County Councillors, Rees and Rogers

- *Amendment to minutes, Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme, should read ... if we would support a proposal and not submit a proposal.....*
- Pavement outside new flats - A new company has taken over the development, and their priority is to complete the work
- The area in front of Kingdom Hall, is owned by a private landowner, and not the County Council.
- *The Dell area – minutes stated that the clearing of this area would be combined with the Annual Litter pick – this was incorrect. The Dell area clearing was agreed for 17th April at 5p.m. and the Litter Pick was Saturday 18th April at 10.00a.m.*

Councillor D Stroud arrived at this point in the meeting.

Footpath to the Graveyard – The County Councillors had met with various people including the County Council Police, the Vicar and Local residents trying to improve the safety of the area.

11. Purchase of Land Alongside A48

A County Councillor stated that residents had registered distress to them, that a Community Councillor spoke at length on this item when they had expressed an interest. The Community Councillor had stated that in her opinion it would not be in the Community Council's best interest to consider purchase of this land as there would be considerable expenditure involved in the up-keep. The County Councillor stated that the Community Councillor would have a contiguous interest as the land was to the rear of her boundary. The previous minutes should state that Councillor Davies did declare an interest at this point.

Councillor D Rees put forward a motion for further discussion in this item at the next meeting. This was seconded by Councillor J Rogers.

The minutes also stated that the land was leased – this was incorrect – it is subject to a formal licence. No response has been received to the letter to Western Power asking if the land was actually for sale. Until this fact is established, the matter cannot progress in any case.

Councillor Rees asked, through the Chair, if any Councillor had an interest or had tried to contact Western Power, to buy, lease or purchase this piece of land within the last few months or ever. If so, they would have a personal and financial interest and should withdraw from discussions.

Councillor Davies requested the right to take further advice from Kate Berry at County Hall.

The Vice Chairman stated that everyone should err on the side of caution and declare their interests.

Councillor Phillips requested that the meeting move on before it deteriorated into a shouting match. Councillor D Rees wanted it recorded that she wanted that comment retracted.

At the point the Chairman moved the meeting on.

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 19th March 2009 were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

- 09/00413/E** Full Planning Permission **Expected Decision Level:** DEL
Received: 12/03/2009 **Ward:** PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer: Tim Walter
Applicant: Tim Harris, 6 William Nicholls Drive, St Mellons, Cardiff
Agents Mr Rod Dobbins, 4 Woolacombe Avenue, Llanrumney, Cardiff
Proposal: CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION OVER EXISTING LIVING ROOM TO FORM A BEDROOM AND ENSUITE AND NEW GARAGE AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL
At: 6 William Nicholls Drive, Old St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 5DE
- 09/00428/E** Full Planning Permission **Expected Decision Level:** DEL
Received: 16/03/2009 **Ward:** PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer: Martyn Rees
Applicant: Mrs Hobbs, Pwll Coch House, Druidstone Lane, Old St Mellons
Agents Cwarchitects Ltd. Grosvenor House 8 Park Grove, CF10 3BN
Proposal: Proposed 2 story extension, refurbishment and alterations
At: Pwll Coch Uchaf Ty Win, Druidstone Road, Old St Mellons
- 09/00429/E** Full Planning Permission **Expected Decision Level:** DEL
Received: 18/03/2009 **Ward:** PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer: Martyn Rees
Applicant: Mrs Hobbs, Pwll Coch House, Druidstone Lane, Old St Mellons
Agents Cwarchitects Ltd. Grosvenor House 8 Park Grove, CF10 3BN
Proposal: Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new dwellinghouse with detached garage
At: Pwll Coch Uchaf Ty Win, Druidstone Road, Old St Mellons
- 09/00439/E** Full Planning Permission **Expected Decision Level:** DEL
Received: 16/03/2009 **Ward:** PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer: Daryl Jones
Applicant: Mr Jose Gouveia, 2 Capel Edeyrn, Pontprennau, Cardiff
Agents Mr C le Guilcher, 1 Powys Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan
Proposal: TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND LOFT CONVERSION
At: 2 Capel Edeyrn, Pontprennau, Cardiff CF23 8XJ
- 09/00338/E** Full Planning Permission **Expected Decision Level:** DEL
Received: 23/03/2009 **Ward:** PONTPRENNAU/OLD ST. MELLONS
Case Officer: Mark Hancock
Applicant: Mr P Bullen, C/O Agent
Agents SK Designs, 53 Corporation Road, Grangetown, Cardiff, CF11 7AP
Proposal: CHANGE OF USE OF GROUND FLOOR INTO HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY WITH CUSTOMER CAR PARKING & FUME EXTRACTION SYSTEM

At: Old St Mellons Post Office, 150 Newport Road, Old St Mellons, Cardiff

The last Planning Application was discussed and the Councillors voted unanimously in favour of writing to the Planning department to express their concerns over the issues on additional traffic, parking near to the zebra crossing, litter, noise and that the area is on the border of a Conservation area. The Clerk will write to the Planning department.

There were no concerns raised with the other planning applications.

8. FINANCE MATTERS AND PAYMENT OF CREDITORS

EXPENDITURE

Payee	Service or Goods	Amount	Chq No
Mr R Kimber	Cleansing Orderly	72.00	2745
M Longman	Groundsman	155.36	2746
J Fishpool	Caretaker	40.00	2747
J Attard	Cleaner	100.00	2748
Wales Audit Office	Audit Fees – 2nd Payment	500.00	2749
C Ryan	Clerks salary	206.74	
	Postage	12.01	
	Telephone & Broadband Rental	18.00	
	Phone calls	2.60	2750
Digital Mapping	Heritage Info leaflets	391.00	2751
One Voice Wales	Membership fees	242.00	2752
Total expenditure to 16.04.2009		£1739.71	

Direct Debits

Powergen	Electricity – Village Hall	53.00	D.D.
Powergen	Electricity – Playing Fields	10.00	D.D.

INCOME

Precept	£20,000.00
Green Willows Funeral Services – AS Edwards	500.00
James Pigeon – R Lewis X50	250.00
Western Power	60.00

Hall Letting

Nil

TOTAL INCOME £20,810.00

Current Account at 24.02.2009 £3000.00
Capital Reserve at 24.02.2009 £24634.84

Balance carried forward – Current A/C less total exp. £1260.29
Capital Reserve £24634.84

9. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET REPORT

The Clerk presented the Budget for the year 2009-2010. The figures do not include for any large expenditure on new equipment etc for the year as the regular income for the hire of the Hall is less, due to the loss of the Play group.

Councillor Rees proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk, which was seconded by the Vice Chairman.

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

- The Graffiti team should be able to complete their work by next week.
- Councillor Rogers updated the meeting on the work on the M4. There is steel sheet piling work to be undertaken, but this work will be done between 9pm and 3am over a 2 day period. Work starts on Monday and residents in the area have been informed and have been given a name and telephone number for the front officer if the noise becomes unacceptable.
- Councillor Rees had a meeting in private to facilitate between residents of The Ton and Courtney Close. This meeting had been arranged by the County council, to assist in determining the facts in ownership of the Churchyard footpath. It was agreed to a voluntary 6 week trial period of closing the gate at the Churchyard. The Police were invited but did not attend.
- Councillors Rees and Rogers had met with representatives from the County Council in connection with 3 projects under the Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme Funding. This application is in competition with other areas of the city who have also applied. There should be a response within 4 weeks and the Community Council were asked to support the proposal.
- Reported Fly tipping at Fosters Lane, which included dangerous items including tyres. The fencing has been destroyed deliberately and waste is being dumped there. This area needs a commercial clean as it is too big an area for volunteers.
- Meeting at The Dell on Friday re graffiti and small scale fly tipping and litter pick.
- The 30mph signage is now complete but traffic not adhering to the speed limit.

Discussions followed re the use of the village hall and the charges for meetings. This arose following an emergency meeting of the County Councillors and several other parties at the Village Hall for which no charge was made. This will be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

The County Councillors then proceeded to pay £5 donation each towards the village hall.

11 TO RECEIVE WORKING PARTIES REPORTS

A1 Village Hall

Media group to look at putting together an advert to encourage users of the village hall.

The Table tennis tables, owned by the Community Council need to be repaired. A quote for £50 had been obtained by the Vice Chairman and it was agreed to go ahead with the repairs.

In the meanwhile the Clerk will write to the users of the tables to inform them that under Health and Safety issues, they would not be in use until repairs completed.

A2 Village Hall Fees

A vote was taken on the introduction of a charge of £5 per session for regular sessions and to agree a proposal for revised charges (as per the report circulated prior to the meeting). Agreed unanimously.

B Playing Fields

3 quotes have been obtained for a Blower machine for the Groundsman to use to keep the paths free of leaves etc. 2 of the quotes were for a smaller machine and the 3rd for a larger version. The Chairman will speak to the Groundsman to find out his recommendations and will report back.

The Chairman had met with the company who were arranging for the traps for the moles. However, it transpired that 10 traps were needed and the revised cost would be £300. The company did not trap then, they would leave the traps and the Groundsman would be required to empty them and remove the dead moles. It was agreed to seek the Groundsmans advice about what to do next.

Concerns had been raised that the playing fields were closed on Bank Holiday Monday as the Groundsman had carried out repairs to the path. The Chairman explained that the Groundsman works full time and needed to do the work which involved concreting the path, when it was a fine day in order that the concrete would set properly. Wheelchair users can now access the area safely.

The issue of the area around the village hall was raised and work required in cleaning the paths and cutting back the vegetation. The Chairman will speak to the Groundsman.

C Media Group

3 quotes had been obtained for the new Notice boards. It was recommended that the boards be purchased from Semaphore – at a cost of £1594 including VAT. This also included the cost of the posts. The Clerk will write to the Village Association to recommend this proposal. A vote of thanks to the Village Association for their donation was also proposed and unanimously agreed.

It was proposed that the Newsletter should be A5 size rather than A4. a List of items for possible inclusion has also been drawn up. It was requested that each Councillor make an effort to recruit 1 advertiser for the newsletter, at a cost of £25 per quarter page advert.

Articles to include:

How precept money is spent – Councillor Briggs

Sylvia Atherton – History of St Mellons – Chairman to speak to her

Police & Dog issues – Councillor Rogers

Small follow up article on Calor Gas competition – Councillor Rogers

Bulb planning and photos – Councillor Rees

Village Association & WI – Councillor Jenkins

Entertainers – Councillor Stroud

106 Money – Councillor Phillips

Churches – Chairman

?????????? – Councillor Davies

If anyone has any other ideas please e mail the Chairman. All articles to be e mailed to the Chairman beforehand and brought back to the next meeting

D Employees

A query had arisen re the hourly rate for the groundsman when he does additional hours. His contract just details an annual figure. It was discussed and agreed to pay him £8 per hour for additional work.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

- Cardiff Local Development Plan meeting at County Hall on Tuesday 28th April between 10-12 mid-day. Councillor Davies may be able to attend.

- Dogs Trust Appeal
- Freedom of Information DVD
- Army Presentation Evening on 21st May. Clerk to send apologies – Council meeting scheduled.
- Letter from The Brownies – stating they cannot afford the £5 charge
- The possibility of giving small groups the 1st month free was discussed. – Agenda item for next meeting.
- Letter from the organisers of the Flower show requesting free use of the village hall. The Clerk will respond to say that they may use the Hall but that there may be a charge involved. Discuss at next meeting.
- Letter to be sent to Kate Berry to ask her to attend a meeting as previously discussed and agreed with her.

14 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Charges for the Village hall
 A48 Purchase of land
 Groundsmans request for Blower machine
 Calor Gas money for purchase of laptop
 Allotments
 Invitation to Kate Berry

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Thursday 21 May 2009