

OLD ST MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held in the Village Hall,
Newport Road, Old St Mellons on Thursday 6th January 2011.

Present	Councillor	Mr M. Briggs (Chairman)
	Councillors	Mr L. Phillips Mr D. Stroud Mrs G. Jones Mrs D. Rees Mrs J. Rogers Mrs D. Brown

Apologies for Absence.

Mrs A. Davies, Mrs P. Jenkins.

Councillor D. Brown was proposed as Clerk for this meeting.

No residents were present (see s/o. 81)

The Meeting

Was opened by the Chair at 7.35pm.

There had been burst pipes in the Pavilion due to the extremely cold weather; the water had been turned off at the stop cock. Thanks were given to Councillors Rees and Rogers for notifying all those concerned.

No written correspondence had been received however; one payment of £165 had been received for a memorial at St Edeyrns Church.

Councillor Jones raised a query regarding advert in Newsletter as they had not been invoiced for payment. Councillor Jones also presented an invoice for £481 for printing of the Newsletter by Designer print.

Staffs have raised issues with the Chair regarding expense claims and payments.

The Chair had contacted Nat West regarding signatories on cheque book as we no longer have a clerk. Councillor Jones volunteered to speak to Nat West to arrange meeting a.s.a.p. regarding signatories, with Councillor Rees or Councillor Brown also in attendance.

Cheques have already been raised for payment to Cardiff County Council £116.47 for a replacement Hoover, £215 P Barnett for last cut at St. Edeyrns Church and £150 P Morgan (auditor). Cheques for the Cleaner, Caretaker and purchase of door guards by the Chair have also been raised.

The Clerks position is to be advertised on notice boards and the website a.s.a.p and as soon as conditions of employment and salary have been checked.

Mazars (auditors) have contacted the Chair regarding a query on the Audit Report seeking clarification on changes to expenses. It was pointed out that this had been due to the turnover of staff by the Community Council. At this point Councillor Rees asked for it to be minuted that Finances be reviewed, this was agreed by all Councillors present. A Copy of the audit was requested by Councillor Rees and Chair stated a copy would be sent to all Councillors.

The Chair had contacted Cardiff County Council regarding the setting of the precept. We have been informed we have until 31st January to submit our recommendation. On that basis the discussion on the precept began.

Councillor Rees proposed that there be no change to the precept as we are in a recession and some residents may find it hard to find any increased monies. Councillor Rogers stated she was also concerned for residents with an increase and questions whether we need to review user group fees.

Councillor Jones stated that the precept had not been increased for many years previously and that by increasing a little each year we could avoid one large increase like last year. Councillor Phillips agreed and suggested the increase be in relation to inflation. The Chair who said he had previously been against an increase now believes an increase is needed to provide and maintain our assets.

Councillor Stroud said that every year the Community Council charges go up and those have to be found from somewhere. It was further discussed that over the next few years a significant amount of money will be needed to repair and make improvements to the Village Hall. Discussions then continued on how we as a Community Council could generate funds. To look at what we provide now and what we could provide in the future, to list priorities, to implement a Village Plan? Councillor Jones stated she thought finance meetings could be held separate to the monthly Community Council meetings Councillor Brown agreed.

Proposals for an increase to the precept ranged between 3.5% - 5%. An increase to the precept by 3.5% was carried by a majority and will therefore be our recommendation to Cardiff Council.

At this point Councillor Stroud sought permission to buy lights for both halls which was given.

Councillor Rogers then raised the possibility of a Party in the Playing fields to celebrate the marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton on Friday 29th April which falls during the children's Easter holidays. Councillor Rogers then went on to say she is happy to make a donation for this to take place.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm