

OLD ST. MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Newport Rd,
Old St. Mellons at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th May 2012

Present:

Councillors: Mr R Blackmore	Mrs D Rees
Mrs A Davies	Mrs J Rogers
Mrs R James	Mr D Stroud
Mrs S Johns	Mrs S Williams
Mr L Phillips	

Clerk to the Council: Mrs N.Winstanley

1 Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The Clerk witnessed and received all 9 Councillor's Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms.

2 Appoint Chair, Vice Chair, Committees and Working Parties

2.1 Chair:

Cllr Rogers was proposed by Cllr Stroud. Due to work commitments, Cllr Rogers declined.

Cllr Rees was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Williams
Cllr Rees accepted the post as 'Chair'.

A great deal of thanks was awarded to Cllr Derek Stroud during his year as Chair. Cllr Stroud took over in a difficult financial position and with a new Clerk in post. He also took on a large amount of extra work at the Village Hall, dealing with a variety of issues, which was very much appreciated.

2.2 Vice Chair:

Cllr James was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Williams
Cllr Rogers was proposed by Cllr James and Cllr James withdrew her proposal, so long as Cllr Rogers wished to take position as Vice Chair. Cllr Rogers was then seconded by Cllr Stroud
Cllr Rogers accepted the post as 'Vice Chair'.

2.3 Village Hall Working party:

Cllr Stroud was proposed by Cllr Rees and seconded by Cllr James
Cllr Johns was proposed by Cllr Rees and seconded by Cllr Stroud
Cllr Blackmore was proposed by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Johns
Cllr Stroud, Johns and Blackmore accepted posts as the 'Village Hall Working Party'

2.4 Playing Fields Working Party:

Cllr Phillips was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Stroud

Cllr Johns was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr James

Cllr Williams was proposed by Cllr Rees and seconded by Cllr Stroud

Cllr Phillips, Johns and Williams accepted the posts as the 'Playing Fields Working Party'.

2.5 Governor Representative for St Mellons Church in Wales School

Cllr James was proposed by Stroud, Cllr James declined the position

Cllr Williams was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Stroud

Cllr Williams accepted the post as Governor Representative

2.6 It was agreed to confirm details of other Working parties at the next meeting.

Cllr Davies offered to update the website with the new Councillor's details.

3 Any other (urgent business)

3.1 Cllr Stroud raised concerns about the Caretaker who has handed in his resignation and will be leaving on 13th May 2012. Cllr Stroud has been informed of someone interested in the position but felt this would need to go through the proper process. With such a short space in time to find a replacement for the Village Hall, it was agreed that someone could be offered the appointment as an interim whilst the post was advertised, since the position should be filled ASAP. Clerk to check details on employment of interim roles and PAYE.

3.2 The Clerk has also handed in her resignation and last day of working will be 2nd June 2012. It was decided that the Clerk's role should be advertised as soon as possible on the noticeboards and on the website. There were also suggestions the position could be advertised in the Capital Times, Marshfield Mail and possibly the Echo. Clerk to check costing for advertising in the Echo.

3.3 The Chair thanked the Clerk for the extra hours worked in previous months in order to complete tasks and enable finances and correspondence to be up to date. She expressed that something needs to change, considering the changeover of Clerks in the last few years. Prior to this the Clerks were in post for long periods. Cllr Stroud suggested continuing the Finance Working party to assist the Clerk in their role. It was agreed to look at this at the next meeting.

3.4 The Chair suggested that all Cllrs should be aware of the finances and all Working Parties should circulate their information for discussion at the next meeting

and any questions should be answered and resolved at the meeting, so as to not overburden the Clerk with the responsibility.

Cllr Phillips was excused from the meeting.

3.5 Planning application received:

Application No. / Rhif Cais: 12/00522/DCO

Date / Dyddiad: 02/05/2012

Please ask for / Gofynnwch am :Tim Walter

Telephone / Ffon: (029) 2087 1157

Dear Sir

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Proposal: TO PROVIDE FOR STATIONING OF CARAVANS FOR 5 NO. GYPSY PITCHES (TO SERVE 1 NO. STATIC CARAVAN AND 4 NO. TOURING CARAVANS) AMENITY BLOCKS AND WARDENS OFFICE

Location: LAND AT DRUIDSTONE ROAD, ST MELLONS

Cllr Rees suggested she stood back as a County Councillor.

3.5.1 A previous application for four houses on this site has been requested, to which the Community Council had already placed objections. The previous application has a recommended refusal from the Planning Officer, which is unlikely to be overturned therefore leaving the site open to the application above. However, this application will be looked at by the Council as a completely separate application, since Gypsy and Traveller applications are taken as a separate process. A similar application on Coal Pitt Lane went to appeal but the travellers won the case. Using the Human rights act, this application could therefore be difficult to over-turn and is a very serious concern for the community.

3.5.2 Cllr Rogers showed a guide for travellers called "The Road Ahead, Travelling to a better Future" which guides gypsies and travellers in their application for sites. Cllr Rogers read sections from the guide which she will circulate after the meeting. Cllr There is currently 4000 travellers in Wales and 2000 in Cardiff. Established sites are already in Shire newton and Rover Way but the government are looking to establish 500 new pitches across Cardiff and need to find locations for these.

3.5.3 Cllr Rogers informed that a petition with 50 signatures has already been submitted at City Hall. Apparently residents will be given the option to speak before a committee.

3.5.4 All agreed to place an objection on the application. Reasons for objection:

- Deemed as Countryside on the Local Plan, outside the Settlement Boundary
- Lack of connectivity, does not have access to local shops, amenities, public transport. The site is not sustainable. Use of a car would be needed, extended traffic along a single track road.

- Not compatible with neighbouring land which is private, residential and large plots.
- The site could damage the community of existing local residents and there is unlikely to be a peaceful co-existence between communities.
- Due to a single track road, the site is not capable of being accessed safely with the caravans and lorries which would need to access the site. Safety concerns for other road users and residents.
- Not acceptable development under the terms of conservation of the neighbouring 300 species of flora and fauna such as Dormice. The area is recognised as a local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and an area of biodiversity.
- No connection with Old St Mellons

Clerk to write a holding objection letter ASAP and send a further letter of objection before the deadline date.

3.6 Cllr Stroud raised a request from a resident concerning the owner's foul sewer drain which is located in the Playing Fields. (Cllr Davies declared an interest). The manhole cover has been lifted on occasions and items thrown inside causing it to block. The resident has requested that they grow grass over the manhole cover in order to conceal to visitors to the park. There were concerns that this may not be located in future years or the grass would make it difficult to lift. Clerk to receive a phone call from the resident and request further information.

4 Items for next meeting

Standing Orders – acceptance and amendments

Playgroup

St Edeyrns Graveyard

Audit Report (to be addressed under Finances)

Job advertisements and conditions for Clerk and Caretaker

5 Date of next meeting

5.1 Chair requested that the next meeting be held in two weeks. All agreed for the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 24th May 2012.

5.2 The Chair also requested to look to amend the Standing Orders and requested that after the meeting on 24th May, the following meetings to be held every second Thursday of the month. After a short discussion, a vote took place and with the exception of one objection from Cllr Davies, all others agreed this was possible. It was accepted that the agreement of the standing orders would be a separate item on the agenda for the next meeting when the matter can be further discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Nicola Winstanley
Clerk to Old St Mellons Community Council