

## **OLD ST. MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Village Hall,  
Newport Road, Old St. Mellons on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2008.

**Present**

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

In Attendance                Several members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**                Councillor D. Stroud.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **3. POLICE MATTERS**

There was no Police presence or report.

Reference was made to a recent spate of damage to / thefts from cars in the Beechtree Park / College Green area and if the ringmaster system was being used effectively to notify residents.

Details of the next PACT meeting was highlighted, as being a different evening and venue – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 7 pm @ Eastern Business Park.

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to the following amendment:

Item 12 – “The County Councillors Rees and Rogers reported on the following”

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5. The Chairman has spoken to the Monitoring Officer in relation to member training, arranged to be at 6.30 p.m., prior to the February meeting of the Council.

5. St. Ederyn’s Churchyard – Stones from the wall have been removed to within the church grounds by the Groundsman.

The work required to be undertaken is not covered by insurance. The Chairman has started to complete an application for assistance through the Church Act Fund.

Three quotations for repair work on the church wall have been received in the sums of £430, £390 and £400. The proposal was made and seconded to accept the quote of £390; agreed.

6. Code of Conduct.

The Chair has sought advice from the Monitoring Officer, who stated that this incident, whilst not to be condoned, was not required to be reported as a breach of the Code of Conduct.

6. Lights at footpath 14. & 10. Alley gating.

No reply has been received from the alley gating officer, the matter is to be deferred to the next meeting. Information from the County Council regarding lighting of the lane confirmed that lighting was controlled by electronic photo cell, to be in operation during the hours of darkness and that the view of the Police was that crime was more likely without lighting. Residents adjacent to the footpath were in favour of the turning off of lighting and were seeking a response from the

Community Council in relation to the funding of gating the pathway. A suggested cost of the alley gating of a footpath was £2,700

9. To set the budget for the coming year.

The Chairman stated the necessary paperwork in relation to the precept for 2009/10 would come from the County Council and would be confirmed and signed at the January Community Council meeting.

Reference was made by a County Councillor as to the setting of Cardiff County Council's precept. The cost of the audit as undertaken by the Audit office at the request of one resident was £2,350. The Chairman has written to the Audit office in relation to the high charge requesting terms. All recommendations of the Audit office report were confirmed as being in place, some of them many months previously.

11. Newsletter.

There had been considerable praise and positive feedback in relation to the recent Newsletter.

18. Vacancy of Clerk to the Council.

The Chairman reported that, due to a misunderstanding, the Clerk to Lisvane Community Council had not sought the approval of her Community Council to take the minutes for Old St. Mellons, therefore was not present at this meeting.

## **6. LOCAL RESIDENTS**

It was resolved to adjourn the meeting for fifteen minutes to allow residents in attendance to make their observations to Council.

## **7. HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING**

There were no planning matters.

The Chairman has written to the County Council, requesting the Community Council be kept informed regarding cycle lane proposals.

The Council will write to the County Council to express concerns over gritting the junction of Newport Road / Wern Fawr Lane following an accident on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## **8. FINANCE AND PAYMENT OF CREDITORS**

Details of income and expenditure for previous months were discussed.

November :

- the Chairman had, through necessity authorised as an emergency the repair of the central heating, following numerous representations and telephone calls, including several from the W.I. As an emergency situation, three quotations were not obtained but the work undertaken by professional previously used.
- the Groundsman had purchased loppers to enable him to reach trees requiring cutting.
- the telephone account payment was in relation to the previous Clerk and the memory sticks were purchased to transfer data to the new Clerk.

December :

- the net cost of the newsletter was £125.
- repairs to the mower were necessary due to water being found in the fuel tank.

In the Calor Gas Village of the Year, the Community Council won the Communication Award and received a prize of £500. It was proposed and seconded that the Chairman and Councillor Rogers be reimbursed for the cost of travel to London for the presentation; agreed.

Donations had been received for the Carols evening.

Another £25 had been received for an advertisement in the newsletter.

### **Finance – Budget for the coming year.**

It was determined that there is no increase to the fees for hire of the Village Hall.

Burial fees – deferred to next meeting, Chairman to obtain information as to charges at other burial grounds.

Salaries – to be reviewed in six months. All posts to continue.

#### **9. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

The County Councillors Rees and Rogers reported details of

- a petition to the County Council re. parking in Wern Fawr Lane. Recent Police involvement as ambulance unable to access area due to parked cars.
- areas covered by gritting (following bus routes).
- Boundry Commission meeting re. proposed removal of Canopus Close from Old St. Mellons ward. Residents of Canopus Close are 100% in favour of remaining within the ward of Old St. Mellons. Residents of Duncan Close are to be asked if they wish to be in Old St. Mellons.
- 30 mph speed limit implementation, completion due shortly.
- new proposals for cycle lane (Newport Road, area near Texaco garage), consultation to take place.
- “106” monies, “substantial” amounts involved.

#### **10. TO RECEIVE WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

a) Media : met - produced press statement in relation to Calor Gas competition, which has been sent to Echo and Cardiff Post.

b) Employees : met - job description of cleansing orderly has been drafted; health & safety executive have been contacted re. requirements; pro forma has been produced to enable employees to claim for additional hours worked and was presented to the meeting for approval; approval given. Chairman requested the working party to work on the job description / conditions of employment for the Clerk.

c) Village Hall : not met - continuing to compile details of keyholders / users.

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- G. Dyer – compliments on the work of the Council and of the newsletter.
- J. Hughes – meeting of local Community Councils; 3 representatives may be sent.
- Eastern Business Park – parking.
- 4 letters from residents with suggestions of use of “106” money.
- Old St. Mellons Village Association - suggestions of use of “106” money.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Playing Fields Working Party, to comprise Councillors Jones, Jenkins and Phillips, be formed and collate responses re. “106” money.

#### **12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- Archives
- Alley gating
- Terms of lease of the Tennis Courts

#### **13. APPOINTMENT OF A COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLERK**

The Chairman reported that from the 6 applicants, a short list had been produced, interviews held and an appointment made, subject to references. The new Clerk is due to start in January.

Non Agenda Item. It was proposed and seconded that the tape recording of Council meeting be implemented, for a trial period of three months. The Chairman determined not to proceed to a vote on the proposal but to seek advice, including technical advice and deferred the matter to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.01p.m.