

OLD ST MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Newport Rd,
Old St. Mellons at 7.00pm on Thursday 11th September 2014

Present:

Chair: Cllr D Rees (DR)
Vice Chair: Cllr R James (RJ)
Councillors: Cllr R Blackmore (RB) Cllr L Phillips (LP)
Cllr S Johns (SJ) Cllr S Williams (SW)

Clerk to the Council: Mrs N Evelyn-Gauci (NG)

In Attendance: Mrs Nicola Winstanley RFO (NW)

1. Apologies for absence (1 min)

Cllr Derek Stroud – Holiday
Cllr Jane Rogers – Work commitment
Cllr Andrea Davies – Work commitment

2. Declaration of interests (1 min)

DR: St. Edeyrn's, Ty'r Winch Road Playing Field, OSMAG
RJ: OSMVA, PCC, St. Edeyrn's, Full Circle

3. Police Matters (1 min)

There was a PACT meeting at Caersalem Church unfortunately there were no attendees.

DR had stated a report was received from a resident in Ty To Maen Close, with regards to a problem, this is ongoing at the moment (to remain undisclosed at present).

4. Minutes – to approve as a correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on

10th July 2014 (5 min)

Accepted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 10th July 2014 (30 min)

5.1 Crusaders Football Club - keys update

It was noted that the Clerk is to write once again as after numerous attempts contacting the football club there has been no response.

5.2 Health & Safety

Defer to next meeting.

5.3 Review sale/ownership on mower.

Defer to next meeting.

5.4 Set up a Hall Management Working Party

Ongoing.

5.5 Progress of refurbishment to Village Hall WC

It was noted that OSMVA has confirmed that they will part fund this project if a grant is accepted, they are currently in the process of applying for a grant, which looks reasonably favourable at the moment.

5.6 To set up a FIT Day Working Party

OSMVA had agreed to have a joint day and as the Fete is normally on the 2nd Sat in July, there were no objections to this day, but historically the last FIT day was a preference of a weekday.

Defer to next meeting to arrange a Working Party.

6. Local Residents (15 min)

Under Standing Order 84 the meeting may be adjourned for up to fifteen minutes for a public session. Each member of the public may speak only once and may express observations only. Members of the Council should not enter into any discussion. The Chair may limit an individual's speech to provide equal opportunity to all members of the public.

OSMAG was in attendance and referred to the letter sent to the Clerk (see 12.9)

7. Highways and Planning (10 min)

(Planning Working Party to present their report)

7.1 14/01571/DCH Proposed extension and alterations to dwelling Grey Gables, Druidstone Rd.

Noted.

7.2 13/00578/DCO 1020 houses final version

It was noted that on the 30th July there was a decision to approve the application, there was no mention of the Welsh Government's objection during the planning meeting and it was also noted that WG did not remove its objection, Cardiff Council overrode WG's objection. Cardiff Council disregarded the national policy 9.10 that the best and most versatile land should be protected.

Due to the overwhelming objections by residents and Cardiff Council's actions, there will be a judicial review for this application.

RJ had reported that she had attended the planning meeting, and was not impressed by the way the planning meeting was conducted, there was no opportunity to speak, County Councillor was shouted down, and no members of the public were allowed to comment, RJ had commented that the meeting was very distasteful and felt it was not conducted very fairly.

RJ had pointed out that OSMCC had wanted an extraordinary meeting but 3 clear working days would mean the meeting could not take place in time prior to the planning meeting.

DR asked for a site visit, this was ignored. This land is farmland and is currently being used as farmland at the moment, harvesting has been taken place during the summer.

It was noted that the Clerk had written to the monitoring officer and copied in Cllr Michael Michaels complaining of the lack of notification to this planning application, and where notified had been given very little time to comment, to date Clerk had still not had a response.

It was noted that Clerk to write another letter to complain once again about lack of response.

7.3 14/01656/DCO 45 dwellings Church Road

Noted.

7.4 14/0088/DCO 19 dwellings Tyn-y-Gollen, Newport Road

Noted – Clerk had already sent a letter with regards to this application, Clerk to re-iterate and send another letter to planning.

7.5 14/01863/DCO Proposed extension Grey Gables, Druidstone Road

Clerk to write to planning to query why different application number, as it appears to be same planning request.

8. Finance (10 min)

(RFO to present financial report)

8.1 Signing the Annual return.

The RFO has received communication from the external auditors. The auditors requested the RFO place total cash and investment figures in Box 9 but otherwise, the report states that: "There are no issues in respect of which we propose to qualify our audit opinion on the Annual return ended 31 March 2014".

The Chairman signed section 3 – certification and approval. The RFO had already signed this section.

The RFO will forward a copy of the letter to Cllrs and send back the Annual return.

It was resolved: All agreed, Chair and RFO signed form

- 8.2** The RFO also provided to all Cllrs present a budget forecast for the Cllrs to inspect in preparation for discussing the Precept next month. The Community Council has a forecasted underspend in the Village Hall budget through overestimation of the Gas and Electricity costs and maintenance of the hall. These amounts were required to ensure costs were met and to cover any unforeseen circumstances in need of repair/replacement at the Hall. The Community Council is expecting a fall in hall receipts, since there are less user groups utilising the Village Hall.

The agreed electrical work for observations coded C1 and C2 have been carried out at the Village Hall and the Pavilion and an invoice is due, this commitment is listed in the Budget Forecast.

9. County Councillor Report (10 min)

(Cllrs to present their reports)

Cllr Georgina Phillips was not present and no report had been provided.

Cllr Dianne Rees presented report:

There have been a number of antisocial behaviour reports from residents including reports of drug abuse.

The overgrown grass in Newport Road and the roundabout has been addressed.

Litter complaints has been building up again and reports from residents stating refuse bins has not been collected on time.

Tyr Winch Road, cutting back the hedges has been addressed.

10. Working Party Reports (10 min)

(Village Hall Working Party to present their report)

It was noted that the Working Party did not meet in August, but are currently working with OSMVA to obtain and complete grant for toilets refurbishment.

11. Newsletter (5 min)

11.1 Newsletter – Autumn/Winter

It was noted that a request for contents for the newsletter to be sent to RJ, each member to think of an article that they would like published.

It was resolved: all agreed – deadline for completion of newsletter 9th October

12. Correspondence Received (15 min)

12.1 Summers Funeral Directors Report – St. Edeyrn's

It was noted that St. Edeyrns has the cheapest burial charges; it was suggested by Mr Denis Cooper to increase charges in line with Cardiff Council rates. There has been also an increase in interments requesting larger graves, this is proving problematic as the graveyard space is very limited.

It was noted to thank DC for his report and consider new charges in our October meeting, it was also suggested to have a site meeting. Clerk to speak to DC and arrange a date and time.

12.2 Licence variation – Sunday

Clerk had reported that the licence did not included Sunday as historically this was the case. Clerk had arranged for a variation to the licence to include Sunday, the variation cost was £89.00. This has now been approved and new licence which includes Sunday is displayed on the noticeboard.

12.3 Village Hall keys – brownies

Defer next meeting.

12.4 Noticeboard keys for OSMVA

It was noted that any notices required to be put in the noticeboard should be requested through the Clerk.

12.5 Change Step – Advice service for veterans

This is a service provided by Veterans for Veterans, by providing mentors to people suffering from e.g. post-traumatic stress.

It was noted to ask if a leaflet or poster could be provided and this could be put on our website.

12.6 World War 1 Centenary Commemoration – keepsake

Purchasing of keepsakes e.g. mugs, coins etc. – noted.

12.7 Katrina Ward – WW1 commemoration seat £535

It was noted to send a copy of this to OSMVA for info.

12.8 Training – Clerk Use of IT, Website & Social Media

Clerk requested to attend this training course.

It was resolved: All agreed.

12.9 OSMAG (Old St.Mellons Action Group)

Mr Craig Smith – Chairman

Re Planning of the 1020 houses. After the public meeting which showed a huge amount of protest and a significant number of residents were in objection, there were serious concerns with regards to the planning application and as a result of this there has been advice from a QC that there are grounds of a judicial review, as the application decision appears flawed. This resulted in forming the Old St.Mellons Action Group, this is a non-political group whose only interest in fighting this application decision and are currently raising funds to help with this campaign. OSMAG has already informed Cardiff Council that we are challenging this decision and are still waiting for a reply.

OSMAG are asking for your support and respectfully request for a donation. A similar action group has been set up with regards to the Solar Panels and their Community Council had donated £2000.00

Although we are not asking for a specific figure we are asking if you can provide financial assistance.

We are also asking if OSMCC could provide a link to our website for support to advertise our campaign.

DR thanked Mr Smith

DR at this point declared an interest and had advised that she will be refraining from comments, and handed Chair over to Vice Chair Rosemary James.

DR left the room at 20:50

Mr Dennis Matthews re-iterated Mr Craig Smith comments and noted that a letter was sent to the Clerk, also stated that it will take approximately 3 weeks to arrange a judicial review, but there is a strong case with implications for the community, effects on traffic and services etc, as well as a substantial amount of houses on green land.

OSMAG requested the use of the hall for meetings.

Vice Chair Rosemary James had stated that OSMCC where possible would help, but as for the donation on advice from Clerk we must look at this legally and obtain advice from OVW,

It was resolved: all agreed they could have use of the small hall and have a link on OSMCC website.

There followed a very lengthy discussion as one of the Cllrs felt the request for a donation should have been an item in its own right, and was not sure of the implications if we were to go ahead.

The RFO had already looked into this and had noted that we may be able to provide a donation on S.137 *to promote and improve economic social and environment wellbeing - the power of well-being* so long as such activity is not prohibited by statute

It was agreed that if legally possible that a donation maybe possible.

DR returned to the meeting at 21:25

RJ briefly informed DR that there were legal issues with regards to making a donation and it was suggested to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this and the RFO will look further into this.

All agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting dated Thursday 18th September at 7:30pm in order for the absent Councillors to be aware of this it was agreed to send the agenda by email to all Councillors.

12.10 Beachcroft Claims – insurance claim nursery

It was noted that a settlement has been made and no further action needs to be taken.

13. First World War Event – to have an exhibition (10 min)

It was noted for the Clerk to send a letter to the Police asking for the road closure and inform them that the service will be a little longer this year due to the Commemoration.

DR had asked members for any information to provide for the exhibition.

DR noted that she will obtain the Poppy Wreath.

14. FIT Day & OSMVA Fête to organise one for 2015 (10 min)

Defer to next meeting.

15. Items for next meeting (2 min)

Information for Newsletter.

Details of Christmas event.

Discuss Precept.

Discuss Burial Charges.

Hall Hire charges review.


Planning updates re 1020 houses.

Site meeting update re St. Edeyrns Churchyard.

SO re notification of meeting email/post.

Meeting closed at 10:21

Next meeting date is 9th October 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Rees", is centered within a white rectangular box. The signature is written in a cursive style.

*Cllr Dianne Rees
Chair to the Old St. Mellons Community Council*