

## **OLD ST MELLONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Newport Rd,  
Old St. Mellons at 7.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### **Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr Dianne Rees (DR)

**Vice Chair:** Cllr Rosemary James (RJ)

**Councillors:** Cllr Ricky Blackmore (RB)                      Cllr Andrea Davies (AD)  
Cllr Sarah Johns (SJ)    Cllr Len Phillips (LP)  
Cllr Jane Rogers (JR)    Cllr Suzanne Williams (SW)

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

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Good RFO (PG)

### **1. Apologies for absence (1 min)**

Cllr Derek Stroud – illness

### **2. Declaration of interests (1 min)**

DR: St. Edeyrns, Playing Fields

RJ: OSMVA, St. Edeyrns, Full Circle

JR: 8.1 Highway planning – “The Blanding – Druidstone Rd”, 13.1 Welsh Hearts

AD: OSMVA, Playing fields, St. Edeyrns,

### **3. Police Matters (1 min)**

Nothing to report.

### **4. Members from Outside Bodies (5 min)**

Denis Cooper – Summers Funeral Directors

Mr Cooper could not attend as he was called away urgently, however, he did state that the issues of the graves not conforming to regulations is still ongoing.

Chair asked if he could send a report.

It was noted that recent correspondence received from a resident, with regards to motorbikes using the churchyard as a shortcut was a concern, the motorbikes were seen weaving around the graves.

The Vice-Chair had produced photographic evidence of the point of access/exit next to a stile at the perimeter of the churchyard, this access is public right of way, but alongside the stile the hedgerow has been pushed back making this accessible for motorbikes to gain entry/exit, the other part of the graveyard has a stone boundary wall which has also been damaged, this is also a point of access/exit.

Vice-Chair had produced a quotation for works to repair the boundary wall and reinstate a boundary wall next to the stile.

The quotation provided two quotes from P Booth, short term solution post and rail fencing next to the stile of £65.00 or long term recommendation of reinstating stone boundary wall £285.00  
Chair had asked the Committee for their views.

**It was resolved: LP proposed, JR seconded to carry out recommendation at a cost of £285.00**

DR, RJ and AD declared an interest

**It was resolved: All other members agreed**

Kayleigh Cottle-Site Office Manager & PA-Haygrove Growing (UK)

Ms Cottle had sent apologies but will attend next meeting.

Clerk had read out the email as follows:

*I'm emailing you today from a local soft-fruit grower, Haygrove. We are based at a 20acre glasshouse site - Rhymney Valley Nursery, Began Road.*

*Haygrove feel very strongly about giving back to the community and have various community projects in the UK and in Africa (which includes Ross-on-Wye Community Garden).*

*The reason for my email to you today is, I am in the early stages of thinking about/finding a local community project for Haygrove to support in/around Old St Mellons. Perhaps like we have done in Ross-on-Wye, a local community garden which benefits people of all ages and backgrounds (provides them with a range of skills too) or a playground for children.*

*Do you have any ideas what would be of a great benefit to the local community, that we could support?*

It was proposed to think of a plan prior to next meeting.

Suggestions from Cllrs as follows:

Playing Field Working Party could come up with a plan  
A Walk route around field  
Tidy up the Village Hall garden

**5. Minutes – to approve as a correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (5 min)**

**Approved SJ proposed, RJ seconded – all agreed**

**6. Matters arising from the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (30 min)**

6.1 Goitre Farm – update  
See item 10 County Councillor report

6.2 Land East of St. Edeyrns – update  
Appeal was heard on 23<sup>rd</sup> January re high court judicial review – this was refused.

6.3 Attendance at Community Council meetings  
It was noted that the Chair was pleased at the attendance today and reminded Cllrs that they are elected and it is their duty to attend, if a member is unable to be present at the monthly meetings, they must submit a reason in advance.

It was noted that the Chair had stated that she appreciates everyone is busy and had said that the commitment of staff works very hard for the Community.

**7. 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.*

Resident had stated that the noticeboard door is now off.

Chair had noted that Arcon house will be replacing the door.

Resident had wanted to thank the Community Council in allowing a web link to the Old St. Mellons Action Group even though the outcome at the Court was not favourable and wanted to thank OSMCC for this support.

## 8. Highways and Planning (10 min)

### 8.1 15/00101/MNR full planning for a new house The Blandings Druidstone Rd

JR declared an interest.

It was noted that the Clerk to write a letter of objection.

**It was resolved: SW proposed, RB seconded, JR abstained**

**It was resolved: all other members agreed**

### 8.2 14/02891/MJR Churchland land north and east of Lisvane

It was noted that this has gone to non-determination (1200 houses) a new application has been submitted, which has changed from 1200 to 1000 houses.

It was noted that a letter of objection to be sent by the Clerk with regards to the traffic impact to the Community.

**It was resolved: All agreed**

### 8.3 14/01434/DCO 15 Units Land to the north of Bridge Road, Old St. Mellons

This is an appeal against the refusal of planning permission by Cardiff Council.

## 9. Finance (10 min)

*(RFO to present financial report)*

### 9.1 Hall Hire – alternative payment method to cheques – online banking A discussion took place with regards to bond payments and online banking.

It was noted that online banking would be difficult to set up and present signatories would require pin numbers. RFO stated it would be an onerous task and not really benefit the CC

With regards to the bond payments, it was agreed to pay these into the bank account.

**It was resolved: all agreed to bank the bond money, and to go along with the recommendation to keep the bank account system the same.**

### 9.2 Pest control contract

It was noted that the cost is the same as last year £315.00 plus VAT – awaiting invoice.

### 9.3 SLCC joining fees, and attend conference Sept. 2015

It was noted that the RFO did not require to become a Society of Local Council Clerk member, this to be retained by the Clerk.

A request to attend the SLCC conference in Sept 2015 for both Clerk and RFO.

**It was resolved: SW proposed, RJ seconded - all other members agreed**

### 9.4 Overtime Clerk – attending training course

**It was resolved: all agreed to the overtime.**

### 9.5 Bond for keys – to bank?

A cheque has been received as a bond for the hall keys, it was noted to bank this.

**It was resolved: all agreed.**

Clerk asked if the bond for the hall hire could also state about cleanliness at the end of the hall hire be included in the hire agreement form, to reiterate the importance of cleaning up after use otherwise bond could be retained.

**It was resolved: all agreed**

It was noted:

- Direct debits are down this month
- Cheques need to be approved and signed
- Electrical contractor – this has been ongoing since July, remedial work now completed
- Invoices from W.I. now completed
- Gas and electricity in credit
- Currently in line with budget

Membership of One Voice Wales is due for renewal at £308.00

**It was resolved: RJ proposed SJ seconded all agreed to renew**

## **10. County Councillor Report (10 min)**

*(Cllr Dianne Rees and Cllr Georgina Phillips to present their reports)*

Cllr Georgina Phillips did not submit a report.

*County Councillor Report- Dianne Rees February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015*

*Another busy month particularly with planning matters in our area. I have written and submitted detailed objections to the continual onslaught of applications in our area most of which are on green fields (previously undeveloped land) for example Churchlands, Goitre Farm. I have also supplied information to the community council for the clerk when decisions have been made on responses by the community council at previous meetings.*

*In addition I have attended on two full days hearings of the Local Development Plan Examination at City Hall and made submissions to the Inspector in the "round table" discussions with Council officers and developers, vigorously defending our area.*

*I have received complaints from residents about litter, particularly along Newport road in the village and again have had to report the matter to Waste Management who have scheduled extra cleansing. I have also had complaints of criminal damage to the fencing and shrubs planted at Bluebell Drive and have asked for police monitor the area. An ongoing problem of damaged fencing to the verges at Silverstone Close has received new fencing to the boundary with Eastern Avenue. A new problem has arisen at the entrance to the former SWALEC Training ground at Ty'r Winch Road with fencing removed and a dangerous situation with no fencing and a thirty foot fall onto Eastern Avenue which has needed urgent attention.*

*On Wednesday of this week I attended Planning committee and spoke on the Goitre Farm application. The developers have appealed non-determination, a hearing of which will be conducted in April or May. The council brought a report to Committee saying that if the Committee had been able to determine the application, the officer recommendation would have been to refuse. This course of action must be because the LDP is being examined at present and the council does not want to be accused of pre-determination as with the St Edeyrn's application.*

*I have written and delivered two further statements on the alternative sites proposal.*

*At full Council I took part in a debate on the closure of libraries in Cardiff. The proposal to close many Cardiff North libraries and Rumney and Rhydyphenau Libraries has now been removed from the budget proposals.*

*I have had meetings with the Cabinet Member for Schools about Eastern High School and am due to have a meeting with officers regarding necessary improvements to the ancillary space at St Mellons Church in Wales School.*

## **11. Working Party Reports (10 min)**

*(Working Parties to present their report)*

### **a) Village Hall Working Party**

*The Hall Working Party has had an exceptionally busy month.*

- 1. The toilet refurbishment is drawing to a close. The builders have a few items picked up on the snagging list that will be rectified shortly.*
- 2. The green room switch has been repaired.*
- 3. EON has taken meter readings on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. EON will now arrange for access to read the meters by contacting the Caretaker directly.*

4. *Cleaner terms and conditions have been reviewed in readiness for a new cleaner.*
5. *Timesheets have been drawn up for the Caretaker and Cleaner roles. This is for internal and external auditing purposes. The Caretaker is already filling out a timesheet.*
6. *New cleaning equipment has been bought for the hall. Red mops, buckets and cloths for the kitchen, blue mops, buckets and cloths for the toilets – this is to prevent cross contamination. The brooms have been repaired. We request that all hall users adhere to the new colour coded system.*
7. *There have been complaints about the notice boards; therefore the working party has tidied up the two at the village Hall.*
8. *A joint Old St Mellons Community Council and Old St Mellons Village Association meeting took place to discuss future joint improvement projects for the village Hall. It was a fruitful meeting resulting in agreements to refurbish the front doors and the kitchen area.*

Chair had thanked the Village Hall Working Party for their hard work.

**b) Planning Working Party**

It was noted that the Planning Working Party had not been meeting and whether it was feasible to continue – deferred to next meeting.

**c) Playing Fields Working Party**

It was noted that the Tennis Courts at Tyr Winch playing fields needs attention.

RJ – declared an interest

It was agreed to obtain quotes for jet washing the tennis courts, Fields in Trust plaque needs attention, net needs minor repair and the boundary fence with protruding trees needs to be looked at.

It was agreed to obtain quotes for the works to be carried out.

**(LP stated he had to leave and left the meeting at 9pm)**

**d) FIT Working Party**

It was noted that DR has been in contact with the last sponsors of the Field in Trust event and asking everyone to see if they know of anyone that would like to participate.

It was noted that this will be a joint event with the Old St. Mellons Village Association.

A suggestion was made to put something in the noticeboard or a flyer to get the community to be involved.

**12. Newsletter (5 min)**

**12.1 Newsletter – update**

It was noted for suggestions for the next newsletter, requests for articles.  
Deadline 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**13. Correspondence Received (15 min)**

**13.1 Welsh Hearts – heart screening sessions**  
Clerk awaiting information.

Defer until next meeting.

**13.2 Making Wales A Good Place To Grow Older For Everyone – Ageing Well in Wales**

It was noted that correspondence was received an excerpt:

*A concept to engage local and town councils in Wales An age-friendly community is one in which consideration of all ages is taken in its development, with participation of local residents - We think that Community and Town Councils can provide a really valuable link to their local communities, to help share ideas and good practice.*

It was noted that Chair will look into this.

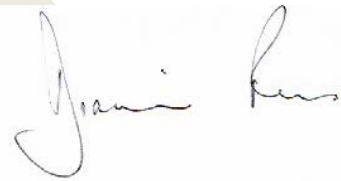
13.3 Haygrove Growing UK – community project  
See item 4.

13.4 Teenage Cancer Trust – appeal for support  
Correspondence received requesting for donations.

**14. Items for next meeting (2 min)**

- RFO computer and printer for purchase equipment
- Future projects medium and long term – plan update
- Green room refurbishment

**Meeting closed at 9:40pm next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**



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