

LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Council Meeting held at
St Hilary Village Hall,
On Thursday, 3rd November 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: Vice Chairperson: Councillor Liz Loch
Councillors : Steph Bonnar, Heather Shaw, Ray Simkiss, Geoff Simpson and Jim Teague.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.
Vale of Glamorgan Councillor Nicholas Wood (via Zoom).

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillors Julian Hitchcock and Mary Llewellyn.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest.
Councillor Loch – Item No. 21.1 (Planning Application No. **2022/01057/LAW**).

Item 3: Community Police Matters.
PCSO Davies had provided the following report:
No Occurrences reported in the Community Council area for this period
Whilst on patrol in St Hilary Village the Police came across a white Ford Custom van registration AX07JYY the driver is known to the Police. The vehicle was probably in the area ‘lamping’, although the driver is known to commit other offences. If this vehicle is seen, Members and residents were asked to immediately report sightings to the Police.
The occurrence referred to at September’s meeting relating to common assault on a bus was queried with regard to its location. PCSO Davies clarified that this took place on the ‘X2’ with the culprit removed from the bus at St Hilary Junction on the A48.

Item 4: To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting held 6th October 2022.
Proposed by Councillor Bonnar, seconded by Councillor Simpson and **resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Vice Chairperson.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Minutes, which are not included in this Agenda.
5.1 Item 5.1 – Damaged wall at The Herberts. It was reported that the wall has now been repaired.

Item 6: Chairperson’s Report.
No report.

Item 7: Vale of Glamorgan Councillor’s Report.
Councillor Wood was welcomed to the meeting by the Members.
Councillor Wood advised that he, and his colleagues, would help, as far as possible, with matters especially the ongoing problems with HGVs in St Hilary.

Item 8: Clerk's Report

8.1 Finances.

Bank balance was noted at **£2,986.18** (Current Account £2,089.71 and Business Reserve Account £896.47).

Payments made since 6th October 2022 are:

Clerk's Salary (October) - £165.76;

HMRC Tax (October) - £41.44;

J Griffin (Reimbursement for Zoom fees 3 months, Jul, Aug, Sep £14.39) - £43.17;

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Local Government Election 5.5.2022) - £1,070.37;

St Hilary Village Hall (Hire for meeting) - £30.00;

J Griffin (see item 7.2 – Reimbursement of 50% of the cost to attend the Joint One Voice Wales/SLCC Event on 9th November) - £27.00.

Payments due to be made are:

Clerk's Salary (November) - £165.76;

HMRC Tax (November) - £41.44;

St Hilary Village Hall (Hire for meeting) - £30.00;

Society of Local Council Clerks – renewal of Membership - £56.00 (see 8.2 below - actual cost £112.00 with 50% shared with St Donats Community Council).

Monies received - None.

8.2 The Clerk advised that the Membership Fee for the Society of Local Council Clerks is due at a cost of £112. The cost can be shared between this Council and St Donats Community Council thereby reducing the sum by 50% to £56.

Item 9: To report Completion of Annual Audit for year ended 31st March 2021.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit for the year ended 31st March 2021, has now been signed off by Audit Wales with no comments or recommendations made. The 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021', along with the relevant parts of the Annual Return, have been posted on all the Community Councils noticeboards and uploaded onto the Council's website.

Item 10: To update on incidents of HGV issues in St Hilary Village.

Councillor Loch reported that there has been one more incident involving an HGV travelling from St Athan during the month. Besides the great possibility of the vehicle getting 'stuck', it had obviously driven over the weak bridge at Howe Mill. It was agreed that further incidents should continue to be collated for reporting to Highways. Councillor Wood suggested that post codes could be checked out against Google maps to see if they are correct which could be affecting sat navs. Councillor Wood agreed to speak to Mike Clogg at Highways about the issues.

Item 11: To consider the draft Training Plan prepared by the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that she had queried the cost for 'bespoke sessions' of training from One Voice Wales. The price would be £320 for a maximum of 20 attendees. Other local Clerks could be contacted to see if any of their

Councillors would be interested in joining the training session. Those Councils could then be invoiced for their share of the cost of the training. Such training is held on a remote basis. Members agreed that the cost is prohibitive and therefore would not consider this option.

It was agreed that not all the courses were relevant for this Community Council so the Clerk was requested to highlight those most relevant and refer back to Council for their final decision.

The Clerk had prepared several documents as a training plan which can be modified to suit the Council at any time.

Resolved to accept the Training Plan in its entirety and the document would be modified as and when required. Document to be uploaded onto the Council's website.

Item 12: To set a date for an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the Town and Community Councils 'Toolkit'.

Resolved that the document is placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

Item 13: To discuss a requirement/request for 'Dog Fouling' signs.

Residents in St Hilary had approached Councillor Loch and asked for signage relating to 'Dog Fouling' being placed around the Village Green in St Hilary. The Clerk had asked the Vale Council if they could source such signage and what the cost would be. The Vale Council agreed to supply and install the signage at their own cost.

Resolved that a further request be made for additional 'dog fouling' signs to be sited at The Spinney in St Mary Church and on the road between Castle Precinct and the Kennels in Llandough.

Item 14: To discuss comments/thoughts for taking forward to the 'Online Update Meeting in respect of 20mph Speed Limit Roll for Vale of Glamorgan'.

No points were made for taking forward to the meeting.

Item 15: To consider a draft document 'Bus Service Survey'.

Councillor Bonnar had prepared a survey and had circulated to Members for observations and comments.

Members discussed how a bus service currently in operation between St Athan and Llantwit Major could have its route diverted to service residents in St Mary Church.

It was suggested that a question relating to the use of 'Greenlinks' be added to the survey.

Resolved that the findings from the survey should be sent to Alun Cairns MP and the Vale Public Services Board for their consideration.

Item 16: To discuss cutting of verges in Llandough.

Councillor Simkiss reported that he could not agree with the Highways Department that the verges between St Athan Road and The Mill had been cut back this year as the growth was as much as 4 foot in places.

He has taken photographs showing the growth of the verges. Councillor Wood agreed to speak to Highways Department about the issue.

- Item 17: To discuss extending existing speed restrictions in Llandough Village.**
Councillor Simkiss asked that the Highways Department consider extending the 30mph restrictions to cover more of Llandough village.
Resolved that the request be made to the Highways Department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

- Item 18: Reports of Representatives.**
Councillor Bonnar gave the following report on the recent Community Liaison Committee meeting:

Police

- A regular police presence has returned to Cowbridge with an officer being based at the Fire Station in the Police room.
- Operation Husk was recently carried out targeting organised crime gangs, and 12 suspects have been arrested for money laundering £500k, and assets of £1m have been seized.
- A man importing GHB has been arrested and assets have been seized of £20k. Plus the first crystal meth related arrest has been made.
- Working with British Transport Police they have been tackling county lines issues and getting more police on patrol talking with the vulnerable in communities.
- Speeding issues have been seen in the rural Vale and these have been dealt with charging drivers with speed offences as well as mobile phone use and lack of seatbelts.
- Tom Price has been given a custodial sentence for offences against animals in the rural Vale.
- As Winter approaches the issue of Lamping has been increasing and this is being tackled with the use of Drones and motorbike support.

Fire Service

- A presentation was delivered by the Fire Service explaining the area covered by South Wales FS runs Bridgend to Monmouthshire, and employs 1850 staff. They share a control centre with Mid Wales FS which is located at Bridgend Police HQ. The SWFS also incorporates specialists in boat and rope rescue. The region encompasses 10 county areas with a total operational budget of £80m. Within this the Vale is the 6th region in terms of population and budget allocation, with Cardiff and then RCT being the 1st and 2nd.
- Stations for the Vale are located in Penarth, Barry, Llantwit & Cowbridge and on several sites they co-locate with other emergency services.
- They now respond to flooding calls and inland water rescue which both require boats and relevant training.
- Analysis of call outs has identified that 80% of fires are deliberately set. In order to combat this they deliver educational talks in schools, and provide home assessments as a preventative measure. They have also identified that arson can be used in domestic violence cases, and

officers have been trained to identify and support vulnerable people and target modern slavery issues.

- A regular call out will be for road traffic accidents where they work in unison with Ambulance and Police colleagues. However following Grenfell they are also involved in regular building assessment and are working with the owners of 20 buildings in the SWFS area to update the building materials.
- Additional duties include the removal of bariatric patients to support Ambulance colleagues, plus animal rescue where human life may be in danger.

Llandough 20mph

- The Community Council for Llandough near Cardiff submitted a proposal to the Community Liaison Committee for a 20mph speed limit to be implemented through their village / suburb to combat speeding issued and safeguard lives following recent concerns. The Vale Council is working on a 20mph Exception plan and this is being communicated to Councils across the next month.

The Clerk reported on a further item that was covered during the Community Liaison Meeting:

Community Review

- Presentation was given by Rob Thomas, Chief Executive of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- A review of the Town and Community Council boundaries must be carried out every ten years.
- Review to be carried out by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and is due to commence in January 2023.
- Terms of reference of the review to be drawn up during November 2022 by a cross party committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Commission.
- Community boundaries will be considered to ensure that they reflect local identity and if the capacity of the area is still relevant.
- There are 4 steps to the review:
 - (i) Initial publicity;
 - (ii) Initial investigation and consultation which can take 6-12 weeks;
 - (iii) Consultation on draft proposals;
 - (iv) Final recommendation and a review of the representations.
- The review could result in the creation, abolition or merging of communities and/or lead to changes to boundaries; ward names and ward members.
- The relevant size of a town/community council to be considered with reference to the elector to councillor ratio policy; population growth; new developments and whether the area is rural, urban or mixed.

Item 19: To report on the 'Draft' Independent Remuneration Report for 2023/2024.
The relevant parts of the draft Report had been forwarded to the Members. The major change recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel is under *'Determination 4 – Members of Community and Town Councils will be paid £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home. Furthermore, Councils must either pay their Members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively Councils must enable Members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables'*.

Members discussed the Determination 4 and were concerned at the cost burden this would place on small Councils. It was recognised that the principle is good as, in some instances, a Councillor may feel pressure not to take the allowance if the majority of the Members refuse it.

The Clerk advised that currently the allowance is taxed at source and this would involve increased workload for payroll.

Those comments would be forwarded to the Panel for their consideration.

Item 20: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion. i.e or noting only – *previously sent out by e-mail.*

- 20.1 One Voice Wales (OVW) – Training Sessions to be held end of Oct, Nov, Dec 2022.
- 20.2 E-mail from 'THINK' - launch 'Transport Issues In The Community Small Project Fund' - Deadline 30th November 2022.
- 20.3 Independent Standards Committee Members - Observation of Meetings of Towns and Community Councils – Meeting of 1st December 2022 to be observed.
- 20.4 OVW with Marie Curie invitation to attend a webinar - 24th November 2022.
- 20.5 Boundary Commission - 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales.
- 20.6 Vale of Glamorgan Council's Business Support Newsletter – 14th October 2022.
- 20.7 OVW – War Memorials Trust re War Memorials Workshop in Llanelli.
- 20.8 E-mail from Orla Lenehan who is conducting a survey into the Role of Buses and Travel Patterns in South East Wales.
- 20.9 Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board – Chief Executive Officer Connects Newsletters.
- 20.10 Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Liaison Committee Power point presentation regarding traffic speeds and the 20mph restriction rollout.
- 20.11 Planning Aid Wales – Planning Courses.
- 20.12 Welsh Government's Fuel Support Scheme.
- 20.13 Vale of Glamorgan Council's Business Support Newsletter.
- 20.14 Vale of Glamorgan Council's Replacement Local Development Plan on 'Vision Issues and Objectives Workshop' on 21st October 2022.

All items were forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting and were noted.

Item 21: Planning Applications.

21.1 Planning Application No. **2022/01057/LAW**

Location: Land North East of St Hilary

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness to establish the implementation of Planning Permission 2015/01093/OUT and associated Reserve Matters approval 2019/00805/RES: Construction of a Rural enterprise dwelling along with associated equestrian buildings.

Noted.

21.2 **Determinations on Planning Applications by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.**

Planning Application No. 2022/00858/FUL – Alterations to garage at lower ground level and single storey extension to ground level to extend kitchen at **New House, St Hilary – grants permission with 2 conditions.**

Noted.

Members thanked Councillor Wood for his attendance at the Meeting and Councillor Bonnar recognised how helpful it is to have one or all of the Vale Councillors present at the meetings.

Item 22: Place, Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 1st December 2022 at 7pm at St Hilary Village Hall.

..... **Chairman.**

Date : 1st December 2022.