

PENDINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF (VIRTUAL) MEETING

13TH JANUARY 2021

Present: Councillor J. Lipman (Chair)

Councillors: P. Bowring, E. Mills, S. Mills (Acting Responsible Financial Officer),
J. Owen (Acting Clerk), P. T. Owen and D. Thomas.

Also present: County Councillor Jane Tremlett.

Virtual Meeting: 7:00pm – 21:37pm

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CHAIRMAN'S INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

There were no members of the public present in the virtual meeting.

4. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER 2020

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9th December 2020 be accepted and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – J TREMLETT

In relation to Morfa Bychan, County Councillor Jane Tremlett stated that no further progress had taken place due to the latest lockdown which has further impacted upon the staffing levels within the National Trust.

In reference to CCTV, Councillor Tremlett reported that there may be scope for support from the County Council providing there is evidence of anti-social behaviour and / or flytipping in the area. This was currently being reviewed by the County Council's legal department and upon completion would be shared with Council members.

After discussion with the Councils enforcement department, Councillor Tremlett provided the options in relation to dog management which included:-

- The current Public Space Protection Order which currently covered the beach area;
- The gathering of intelligence eg dates and times of dog fouling witnessed and reporting to the Councils enforcement team;
- The Councils enforcement officers visiting the area based on intelligence gathered.

It was also highlighted that there was an option of the County Council delegating powers to PCC staff to carry out enforcement. Members of the Dog Management Working Group would consider this as an option.

In relation to the concern regarding the overflowing drains on the main road in Pendine. Councillor Tremlett reported that whilst she has reported this to the Council, this matter was the responsibility of Welsh Water. The Chair reported that he had reported an incident to Welsh Water together with picture evidence of raw sewage that had emanated from the drain and deposited onto the road. Welsh Water attended the incident the next day and cleaned up the area. During discussion it was raised that more complaints would need to be sent into Welsh Water about this matter, picture evidence would strengthen the complaint. By way of the Council website, Members of the public to be encouraged to complain directly to Welsh Water seeking for a unique complaint/report number in the hope that they will do something about the situation. In addition, it was suggested that the Council send an e-mail to Park Dean highlighting the extent of the matter which may affect their businesses near to the location of the offending drainage system.

6. COUNCIL FINANCES

The Council, supported by a slide presentation, considered a breakdown of income, account balance up to the 31st December 2020 and the expenditure for January 2021 for approval.

December Income:

Source	Description	Amount (£)
HMRC	VAT Reclaim	15,32.60
Carmarthenshire County Council	Precept – 3 rd instalment	1,594.90
Total Income		16,907.50

The Account Balance as at 31st December 2020 was provided as follows:-

Current Account	£28,355.32
Reserve Account (1)	£6,351.50
Reserve Account (2)	558.10
TOTAL	£ 35,264.92

The following expenditure for payment reported for approval:

Payee	Reason	Amount (£)
Beach Warden	PCC Staff	87.28
HMRC	PCC Staff	21.60
Acting Clerk	Office Costs	10.00
Microsoft O365-Subscription	December	11.28
1 & 1 Internet	Web hosting	12.00
A. Williams	Motorhome Contractor	6,092.51
VAT	Motorhome	1,218.50
Donation	Llanmiloe School PTFA (minute 9b. 13/1/21)	500.00
TOTAL		7,453.17

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that:

- 6.1 the Council Finances up to 31st December 2020 be noted.
- 6.2 the expenditure for payment as listed above be approved.

7. PRECEPT 2021-22

The Council met informally on 6th January 2021 to scrutinise the Council's finances and to discuss potential future income. Councillors, whilst acknowledging the difficulties of estimating what impact the Covid-19 pandemic would have on future services and income, took careful consideration in calculating the alternative precept level options.

The Council having received the tax base figure of 164.91 from Carmarthenshire County Council were able to translate the precept requirements into the Council Tax could be levied for a Band D property and to all other bands.

Council members based their considerations on the following criteria:-

1. **Community** – Maintain Core Services, Support Community Groups, participation
2. **Financial** – Risks, Stability, Growth, Planning for the future
3. **Improvement/Maintenance** – Potential projects to enhance the village.

It was acknowledged that whilst it may be possible to continue to provide the Council's core responsibilities/functions by utilising the reserves available, concerns were raised with regard to the reliability of the financial support provided by additional income in 2021. Councillors were minded that it would be irresponsible for the Council to rely solely on reserves at the risk of exhausting the account leaving the Council in a precarious position.

Since the informal meeting Councillors were made aware that the VAT reclaim had been received which provided the Council with a healthy account. However, it was acknowledged that this was only a snapshot of the current finances and that further substantial payments were yet to be made, including the 3rd and final instalment of the motorhome project, the initial costs setting up the motorhome booking system the improvements in relation to the recommendations of the dog management working group and future security plans (installation of CCTV).

Based on the considerations, it was considered prudent that the Council would need to increase the precept level similar to 2019/20 with a view to be in a better financial position for 2022/23 thus enabling the Council to lower the precept once again.

Based on Carmarthenshire County Council's tax base calculation of 164.91 It was therefore proposed to increase the precept level for 2021/22 to £45.00 per household. This was seconded. Following a majority vote it was;

RESOLVED to increase the precept level for 2021/22 to £45.00 per household translating to an annual contribution to Pendine Community Council of £7420.95.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

As a statutory consultee, all Councillors had received by e-mail notification of a planning application number PL/00946 for comment. No concerns / comments had been received by Cllrs during the consultation period ending on 7th January 2021.

9. COMMUNITY MATTERS

a) Children's Play area – Top of Pendine hill

The Council had recently received good news from Carmarthenshire County Council confirming that it had would receive grant funding to remove and replace the equipment within the play area to the up to the £12.5k.

The Acting Clerk reported that in line with the grant funding requirements the project would be completed by 31st March 2021 and due to the tight timescales, the project would be managed by CCC's minor works contractors to oversee and appoint a preferred contractor.

b) Request for a donation - Llanmiloe School – PTFA

At its meeting on 14th October 2020, the Council considered a request from the Treasurer of Llanmiloe School PTFA seeking for financial support to help fund the schools play area [Minute 8 refers]. Following the Councils advice to seek funding from the local funding steam - Parc Cynog Community Fund in the first instance, the PTFA confirmed that they would be applying for funding and therefore subsequently amended their request. Llanmiloe PTFA would like to receive support in funding for a shed to store play equipment.

Councillors were keen to support the local community school and therefore it was proposed to make a donation of £500. This was duly seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council would provide a £500 donation to Llanmiloe School PTFA towards a shed to store the schools play equipment.

c) Request for a donation - Pendine Community Newsletter

The Council considered a request from the Secretary of the newly created Pendine Community Newsletter seeking financial support to cover the initial printing costs for the first 2 months of production. It was understood that after the 2 months of production the newsletter would be self-funding utilising advertisement costs.

Following discussion, Councillors expressed that in order to make an informed decision more information about the newsletter would be required eg type of content, frequency of the newsletter and if there were opportunities of working closely in relation to community news. Councillor E. Mills agreed to liaise with the Secretary and report to the next meeting.

d) Christmas trees – sustainable option

It was raised that Christmas trees were costly and were not sustainable. After considering a number of options, it was agreed that it would be more environmentally friendly to utilise and decorate planted trees thus saving the Council over £400 on the annual Christmas tree costs. It was proposed that in readiness for next Christmas, rooted Christmas trees be purchased and placed in a suitable location on Council land.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that in order to be more sustainable rooted Christmas trees would be purchased.

10. PENDINE DEVELOPMENTS

a) Attractor Project

Reference was made to the County Council's Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17th December 2020. Council members acknowledged the report and powerpoint presentation which provided information on the £6.7m Pendine attractor Project development highlighting the proposed delivery timelines, future governance options, high level financial forecasts, key actions and future communications. The minutes of the meeting were noted.

b) Pendine Outdoor Education Centre

Reference was made to the County Council's Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17th December 2020. Council Members were made aware of a report which highlighted the key issues that affected the Pendine Outdoor Education Centre together with suggested ways forward in delivering outdoor education in Carmarthenshire. Council members noted the report explained that the current facility was ageing and that its replacement would require a significant capital investment of circa £5m set against the County Councils' capital programme. As a result of those factors, the County Council were considering alternative means of provision which could, for example, include downsizing the current facility, use of alternative buildings/facilities within the county and a mobile service provision.

Council members extracted from the report, that an Outdoor Education Forum had been established, including representatives from leisure, education and schools, to identify future service delivery options. It was raised that the report had stated that Pendine Community Council had been consulted, however, there was no evidence or recollection of this. The Council would request for the Council to be consulted in the future, Councillors acknowledged that the facility had provided an important role in teaching children the heritage of Pendine, raising its profile thus encouraging them to return with their families to Pendine in the future. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that the current facility also provided additional revenue for businesses within Pendine. The Minutes of the meeting were noted.

c) Motorhome Project

The Council at its meeting on 9th October 2020, agreed to further consider the costing analysis [minute 9 refers]. Council members met informally on Friday, 8th January 2021 to consider and analyse the explorative finance projections in relation to the potential revenue income from the site. In addition, discussions ensued in relation to the future management of the site and the provision of security. Council members felt strongly that the provision of CCTV was a necessity and quotes would be obtained for consideration.

Whilst the grant funding covered the capital aspect of the project the provision of a booking system was the responsibility of the Council. It was therefore considered important that a booking system would need to be as automated as possible and demos into such systems would be arranged in due course.

In light of the in-depth discussions at the informal meeting, the Council agreed to apply charges which would reflect an upmarket site, introducing costs on a nightly basis reflecting Low, Medium and High periods/weeks.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to apply the following charges to the motorhome site:

Period	Charge
Low	£20 per night
Medium	£30 per night
High	£40 per night

11. BEACH MATTERS

a) Barrier and Key Holders

The Council at its last meeting discussed this matter of keyholders and resolved to charge clubs £100 per key. The Council discussed this matter further as it was suggested to revoke the resolution and introduce a refundable deposit fee for a key and an annual charge. The annual charge would enable the Council to manage the keyholder register in a robust manner, covering administration costs.

Council members discussed the benefits of an annual fee for both the Club/Group and the Council. Suggestions included free adverts for the Club/Group on the Pendine Community Council website, improve contact with Clubs and enable regular dialogue informing them of upcoming events / beach bookings, in addition this approach would enable the Clerk to manage the keyholder register and provide the Community with a regular annual income.

In light of the suggestions and further discussions, a proposal was made and duly seconded.

It was therefore;

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to revoke part of resolution 10a.2 made at the Councils meeting on 13th January 2020 and revise the charge as follows:

Upon a successful application, clubs/groups must provide the Council with;

- I. A refundable deposit fee of £50 per key, and
- II. A reoccurring annual fee of £75, until such time the key is returned.

b) Slipway chains

It was reported that the new chains The Chains had been purchased and would be duly fitted before the upcoming season.

12. REPORTS ON GROUPS AND MEETINGS

a) Website Working Group

Due to work commitments and other informal meetings of the Council, the website group had not yet met. No further update.

b) Dog Management Working Group

A meeting would be arranged over the next few weeks.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor E. Mills reported that she had received a concern from a member of public in relation to the 'ponds' on the left hand side of the approach into Pendine from Llanmiloe. The concern related to the depth of the 'ponds' which could be a risk to the lives of small children and pets who walk along the path. As this location came under the jurisdiction of the County Council, the Clerk would e-mail County Councillor Jane Tremlett to raise the concerns with the relevant department of the County Council.

Meeting Closed at 9:37pm