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Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at
7 p.m. in the Memorial Hall

Attended by:

Community Councillors Josh Phillips, John Price, Joe Griffin, Vicky Barker,
Joanne Gibbins, Colin Reynolds

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk: Bruce Payne

1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The chair welcomed Mollie Roach to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas and Wendy Wright. (Representing SCC at a One Voice Wales Pembrokeshire Area Committee meeting.)
3. **Declarations of interest.** None, personal or prejudicial.

Matters Arising

4. **Agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2017.**
Agreed and signed.
 - a. All actions were reviewed.
5. **Solva Care.** Mollie informed members of the upcoming changes to the Governance structure for the charity. The aim was to establish two Trustee groups; one responsible for strategic issues i.e. financial sustainability; and the second focusing on service delivery and the day to day operational elements. Additional Trustees would also be recruited. A full LEADER application had been invited by the LAG. The Solva Care application would be considered by the LEADER funding panel on 16th November. Tessa Hodgson (PCC Cabinet member for Social Care) would visit Solva Care on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 10a.m. Work to develop Solva as Wales 1st Compassionate Community was progressing with Luke Conlon (Compassionate Communities Champion). Mollie asked SCC to confirm they had made contact with Luke. Josh confirmed they had.
6. **Solva School.** No additional information was available. Members had seen the PCC webcast and the St. Davids City Council newsletter which gave a progress update on the Ysgol Dewi Sant site and addressed recent concerns about the Solva school site. It was agreed the Chair and Solva's

DRAFT

County Councillor would keep a watching brief on current and future developments regarding Solva School.

7. **Communications.**

- a. Newsletter. NTR
- b. Solva News website. NTR
- c. SCC website. NTR
- d. Key meetings. NTR

8. **St Davids & District Ploughing Society.** The Secretary had written to SCC requesting a financial contribution towards the 2018 event. Members reluctantly agreed that SCC were unable to provide financial support for the Championships as this was contrary to Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972¹; hence, SCC policy was to ONLY make small grants available to voluntary and community groups in the Solva ward. Organisations outside of Solva, Whitchurch and Middle Mill, such as the St Davids & District Ploughing Society, would be requested to identify alternative sources of funding to help run such events (i.e. St Davids City Council). Solva facilities would be available to support the Championships on request. **Action** – Clerk to write to Secretary.

9. **Review of the Community and Town Council Sector.**

- a. SCC members had been informed the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government had recently established an Independent Review Panel to oversee the review of the community and town council sector in Wales.
- b. The review would:
 - i. Explore the potential role of local government below Local Authority councils, drawing on best practice.
 - ii. Define the most appropriate model(s)/structure(s) to deliver this role.
 - iii. Consider how these models and structures should be applied across Wales. This would include consideration of any situations in which they would not be necessary or appropriate.
- c. The Review Panel had issued a call for evidence and set out a four question survey for councils and stakeholders to complete:
 - i. What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?
 - ii. How should they operate?
 - iii. What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?
 - iv. How do councils ensure they best represent their local community?

¹ This permits Solva Community Council to **only** spend money on activities that is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to the area or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants.

DRAFT

d. In order to ensure there was a full and detailed response to the call for evidence One Voice Wales would be running a series of consultation events across Wales: SCC would attend on the following dates:

- i. Monday 04/12/17 7-9pm St Clears RFC, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4AA **Action** Bruce
- ii. Josh - Monday 11/12/17 2-4pm Ty Newydd Community Centre, 17 West Street, Gorseinon, SA4 4AA **Action** Josh

e. SCC members answered the questions set:

1. What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?
 - a. *Car parks*
 - b. *Ground Maintenance (GM) tasks in Solva ward (specifically those carried out by PCC²; noting that both PCNPA and NT also have GM contracts.*
 - c. *Toilets*
 - d. *Benches*
 - e. *Provision of Public Liability insurance for play and skate parks*
 - f. *Litter collection & litter bins*
 - g. *Deterrence and policing of Dog Fouling*
2. How should they operate?
 - a. *In collaboration with PCC.*
 - b. *By achieving financial self-sufficiency – in Solva’s case, by owning, managing and administering the car park which collects circa £70,000 per year of which the local community benefits by £0.*
 - c. *Added certainty would be provided if 75% of second home tax was given to the community. This would increase stability for local councils such as Solva as we transition to a world where PCC transfers more responsibility for services to community councils. Locally raised taxes would help fund these local services.*
 - d. *Precept. SCC must clearly demonstrate restraint when setting increases to the precept that are a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities.*
 - e. *Any increases must be transparent to our local taxpayers.*
3. What’s standing in their way to deliver for the local community?
 - a. *PCNPA.*
 - b. *Insufficient funding for any additional services; Additional service delivery and follow-on precept cost*

² Opportunity to consolidate GM contracts

DRAFT

pressure would be challenging and seen as counterproductive if PCC raised council tax.

c. No Charter with PCC.

d. No SLA with PCC for delivery of additional services (PCC remuneration to SCC for each additional service delivered; only if SCC is not financially self-sufficient.)

e. No permanent SCC office.

4. How do councils ensure they best represent their local community?

a. By bridging the gap between PCC and other local authorities. If this is achieved we can help make these public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the community SCC represent.

b. SCC also needs to look at ways to build the resilience and capacity of the Community Council, in order to strengthen their role as service providers and voices for the community.

f. **SCC 2018/19 Budget.** No allowance for additional services has been considered in the budget which will be agreed by SCC in December. The precept figure will be submitted to PCC in mid-January 2018.

g. PCC should engage with SCC and other Community and Town Councils ASAP to start consultation on the transfer of appropriate local services. SCC request PCC aligns any transfer with the local budget setting process.

10. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (Saturday 2nd December).** All arrangements were in place.

11. **Local Community Requests/Issues/Complaints**

a. **Bro Dawel turning bay.** The parking and congestion in the turning area in Bro Dawel has raised local concerns. The issue is about ensuring that ambulances and social services vehicles have sufficient space to turn round. This could be considered as a police matter or SCC could ask for yellow line restrictions that require a Traffic Order. SCC members agreed that neither of these two options were appropriate and that local residents who park their vehicles in this area need to be aware that it's designated as a turning space and should not be used for parking.

b. **Removal of earth gabion (Skate Park).** This action was complete. The area would be pressure washed on Monday 13th November.

c. **Accident at old canon.** The canon had been removed from its mount and placed on the ground. The mother of the son injured had requested details of the canon's private owner.

DRAFT

12. Reports from Sub-Committees.

a. Play & Skate Parks.

i. **Skate Park Sustainability.** SCC is committed to improving facilities for young people in Solva. The need for improvements and repairs has been continually raised by PCC who are responsible for provision of public liability insurance – current equipment requires regular maintenance/repair at a cost to SCC. Members agreed to take this forward as a project and decide after consultation with residents and the young people of the community the best way forward. Members also acknowledged the area provides a meeting place for young people where social interaction goes hand in hand with sporting activities. The challenge is to look at a solution that will be hard wearing and require the minimum of maintenance.

Actions: 1. Clerk - Book the Hall on a date in the New Year for a Play and Leisure meeting with residents and young people.
2. Chair - Open SCC Facebook page and pose the question re skate park requirement and alternatives (Clerk to clarify with PCC Monitoring Officer).

ii. Gamlin Play Park Project. NTR.

iii. Community fund raising and grant applications. NTR.

b. **First World War commemorative plans 2018.** Joe reported plans were progressing. A meeting with the Parc y Capel committee to discuss the siting of a flag pole was positive but no decision was reached. Once a way forward was agreed, 14 Signal Regiment would be approached about donation of the flag pole or the cost of purchase and installation.

c. **AFC Refurbishment & Regeneration Project.** The next EOI window for grants from the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme was April next year. See link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/?lang=en>

The committee would prepare the EOI based on the previous unsuccessful submission and seek additional advice from PLANED.

Action: Josh/Ifor

d. **Traffic Working Committee.** NTR

e. **Firework Display.** The event was well attended. Over £2,000 was donated on the evening with additional donations still to be received. **Vote of Thanks.** SCC congratulates everyone involved in the Solva Firework Display; also recognises the contribution by individuals; and takes great pleasure in extending a hearty vote of thanks to all for acting as ambassadors for the community.

DRAFT

- f. **Community Action Plan.** NTR
 - g. **Community Christmas Lights and Fair.**
 - i. Upper Solva. Members agreed that no event for 2017 would be held.
 - ii. Lower Solva. Planning for the event on Wednesday 6th December was taking place. A final coordination meeting for all would convene on Wednesday 22 November at 5p.m. in Harbour House. **Action:** All
 - h. **Planning** (Josh, Ifor, Vicky). The following planning applications were reviewed by the SCC Planning Committee. No planning concerns were raised to the Authority:
 - i. Nil
- Planning Decisions:**
- i. PCC 17/0532/PA Proposed Agricultural Building - Cattle Shed - Mount Farm, Solva. **GRANTED**
13. **Clerk & RFO Report.**
- a. **SCC Bank Balance at end of October.** The balance at 31st October 2017 was £8445.03. Income & Expenditure (actual) for October was presented and agreed by Councillors.
 - b. **Budget Review 2017/18.** Expenditure was reviewed against the agreed budget.
 - c. **Draft Budget 2018/19.** The draft budget was presented to members. Target date to approve: Tuesday 5th December 2017.
 - d. **Correspondence.** All correspondence had been distributed to members by email and where appropriate had been circulated in the SCC Box.
14. **Report from County Councillor.** Mark spoke to members about:
- a. Options for the allocation of funding for Community Grants from the second homes levy.
 - b. Solva School
 - c. Recycling and refuse collection (future changes)
15. **Report from Community Councillors.** NTR
16. **Date of next meeting**
- a. SCC - Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7p.m. (Hall not available – alternative venue tbc.)
 - b. Solva Christmas Lights and Fair meeting – Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 5p.m. in Harbour House
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DRAFT

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 14th November 2017

Signed by: Josh Phillips (Chair)