



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 6p.m.
in
Solva Community Clubhouse.

Attended by:

Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas (Chair), Richy Davies (vice chair), Colin Reynolds (via Zoom), Joe Griffin, Bethany Hutson, Sam Ellison, Rob Richards

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

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1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The Chair welcomed the following members of the community:
 - a. Carol Ann Jones (via Zoom).
 - b. Lean Dixon (via Zoom).
 - c. Iain Robertson Steel (via Zoom).
 - d. Claire Davies.
 - e. Beth Stevens.
 - f. Nicola Schoenenberger.
 - g. Vicky Barker.
 - h. Paul Cowley (agenda item 5).
 2. **Apologies.** None.
 3. **Declarations of interest - Personal or Prejudicial.**
 - a. Community Councillor Ifor Thomas declared a personal interest with agenda item 8a (ii) - Planning application 22/0236/PA.
 - b. Community Councillor Rob Richards declared a personal interest with agenda item 8a (ii) - Planning application 22/0236/PA.
 4. **Agree the Minutes of the meetings held on 1st June 2022.** Agreed and signed.
 - a. All actions were reviewed.



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b. **Publication of Minutes**¹. The electronic publication of documents extends to include making available key information as soon as reasonably practicable, and within seven working days of the community council meeting taking place and must include: the names of members who attended; apologies for absence; declarations of interest; any decisions taken and the outcome of any votes. This would not apply to any decisions taken in private, or where disclosure of the information would be contrary to any enactment. **Action Clerk**

5. **Community Renewable Energy**. Paul Cowley, a resident of Solva, working for the Welsh Government Energy Service spoke to members about some of the key issues facing the community and Wales as a nation. Many people across Wales and in the community were struggling with energy bills. Solva was dependant on the provision of electricity and the village should be looking at heat pumps, solar photovoltaic and wind systems to help reduce energy bills. A number of options could be looked into including a local energy club or securing funds for a wider programme. A community survey would help identify energy requirements and the solutions people favour. We should also develop a community, bottom up, Energy Plan which could feed into the PCC and Welsh Government strategic approach. A survey and plan would be key to support funding applications. Paul concluded by offering his assistance and knowledge to help address the provision of green energy to the community to reduce bills. Eco Dewi would also support. Community Councillor Richy Davies would work with Paul on the project. Update at SCC September meeting. **Action Paul and Richy**

a. **Carol Ann** referenced a team of engineers in western Finland who had installed the world's first fully functional 'sand battery' that can hold renewable energy for up to months at a time.

b. **Colin R** fully supported the quest for low-cost electricity saying Welsh Government and other national organisations should be providing information and help to communities.

c. **Iain RS** spoke about the need to insulate the current housing stock to reduce energy requirements. Planning Authorities and their policies on Solar Panels etc didn't always support green energy. Rural communities should also be given to opportunity to move to a hydrogen /gas grid. In addition, price caps on heating oil should be pursued with WG.

¹ Summary of key provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector.



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6. Reports.

a. Chair.

i. **Code of Conduct.** The SCC Clerk was informed on 20th June 2022 that the Ombudsman had decided to investigate a complaint against a former community councillor regarding breaches to the Code of Conduct. All SC members were reminded of their obligations under the Code.

a) **Iain RS** spoke generally about those elected to public office following the Nolan Principles and adhering to all other rules. This applied to all areas of life including social media.

ii. **Village Forum 8th June 2022.** Ifor and Jamie King convened the forum as private individuals. They were not representing SCC. That judgement was questioned by those attending and Ifor had referred himself to the PCC Monitoring Officer for a formal opinion on his decision.

a) **Iain RS** requested confirmation on the status of the Forum and if SCC would take-up the issues raised, especially the Memorial Hall, the Clubhouse, further community consultation and overall business planning.

b) **Ifor** reiterated its private status. The Hall, Clubhouse, and the SCC Annual Report were agenda items when further clarity would be provided.

iii. **Notice of Election.** The attached letter, subject heading: By-Election, 4 August 2022 – Solva Community Council was received by the SCC Clerk on 1st July 2022. Details had been published on the SCC website and on the SCC Facebook page.

a) **Poll Cards.** PCC Electoral Services would issue Poll Cards to every electorate in Solva Ward.

b) **Election Cost.** PCC would pass the full cost to SCC, which would be between £4,200 and £5,000. SCC would request deferral with PCC until SCC had decided if the payment could be taken from the Precept in one year (2023/24) or spread over a five-year Precept period. SCC hoped to reach an agreement by



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December 2022. Members requested the PCC invoice gave a breakdown of the total cost. **Action Clerk**

- i) **Iain** RS commented that SCC had one of the highest Precepts in Pembrokeshire and wanted to ensure vfm. Any further increase would impact local council bands which would pay proportionately. Iain reiterated the route cause of the election.

POST MEETING NOTES.

Nominations Confirmed. The nominations period for the local election closed at 4.00pm Friday 8th July. PCC Electoral Services confirmed on the 8th at 4:46 p.m. that the election would be contested with a poll taking place on Thursday 4th August 2022.

Persons nominated are:

- Alyssia Fiander
- Iain Robertson-Steel
- Beth Stevens
- Sandra Young

Council Tax: County Councillor Mark Carter prepared the following figures to demonstrate the impact on council tax if election costs were taken in one year.

This assumes the current precept is maintained and shows two scenarios. If the bill from PCC is £4,200 or £5,000:

	£4200 bill	£5000 bill
Band B	£5.70	£6.79
Band C	£6.51	£7.76
Band D	£7.33	£8.73
Band E	£8.96	£10.67
Band F	£10.59	£12.61



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Band G	£12.22	£14.55
Band H	£13.84	£16.49
Band I	£15.47	£18.43

iv. **OVW Pembrokeshire Area Committee Meeting on 28th June 2022.** Ifor gave members on overview of the key points as per the attached OVW agenda.

a) **Next OVW Meeting.** SCC would be represented at the next Pembrokeshire Area Committee meeting in October by Community Councillor Richy Davies. **Action Richy**

v. **Newgale Coastal Adaptation - Update Fri Jul 8th, 2022.** SCC would be represented by Community Councillor Richy Davies. **Action Richy** (Post Meeting Note: Slides presented at the meeting were attached.)

vi. **Edge Festival Signage.** Signage had been safely erected and secured in the field opposite the Bay View Stores.

a) **Lena D** enquired about the new fence on the RHS of the Clubhouse sports pitch asking why it was needed for one weekend of the year. Colin R responded saying it replaced the original fence which had decayed over the years and stopped footballs going into the next field. The new fence would be paid for by the Edge Festival. There would be a secure gate in the fence to control entry for the campers attending the Edge.

b) **Iain RS** asked about signage to ensure access for Emergency vehicles responding to fire or medical emergencies. Iain also requested signage indicating that St Brides View was not a parking area for the public attending the festival. Colin R responded saying all appropriate signage had been ordered and would be in place prior to the festival.

vii. **Solva CLT.** Ifor confirmed a design team has been appointed. A Community Engagement Event would take place in the near future and advertised appropriately.



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- viii. **Multigenerational Path.** Ifor recapped on progress with the National Park who had agreed to construct the path from Penyaber, down through the wood, to the Quay Road. Work would commence in September. The preferred finish to the path was resin but this was financially prohibitive.
- ix. **Solva Clubhouse.** The charity continued to operate effectively with those who used the facility. Tariffs had recently been reviewed and adjusted to account for energy and other economic increases. Proposals to Improve the Clubhouse continue to develop and will be dependent on grant funding.
- a) **Nicola S** commented on concerns raised in an email to Bruce from her husband (Jim) about predatory behaviour from funders and developers. Jim had requested that everyone involved with Clubhouse improvements were made aware of the issues raised in the email to ensure they did not suffer a similar fate. A copy of the concerns was attached. **Action Ifor**
- b) **Iain RS** commented on the basic presentation on Clubhouse improvements at the Village Forum. The potential cost given was between £1.5m and £2m. Affordability is an issue. It is a very expensive proposal in difficult economic times. The community must be consulted on this and other issues such as noise resulting in increased usage of the Clubhouse post any upgrade. Should the Clubhouse be expanded to more than just football? Improvements to the Memorial Hall were also under consideration. We must be extremely careful with all these proposals to ensure understanding of the planning issues, overall affordability, and downstream costs. Iain had previously written to the Clerk to raise these concerns requesting the community has sight of a 5-year plan. Village facilities should support data captured in the 2021 Census.
- c) **Lena D** – SCC must ask the community what they want when considering improvements to the Hall, Clubhouse, and all other community facilities.



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- b. **Coastal Allotment Project.** Richy D spoke saying the project was developing and would always welcome more volunteers to help with hedge cutting, strimming, pond, and patio building. A poly tunnel was also planned and 15 people had voiced their interest. The communication campaign would continue in the Newsletter and on social media. Colin R commented on topsoil donated by the St Davids Rugby Club and was much appreciated by the project.
- c. **SCC Youth Representation.** Bethany H had approached Solva Youth Club and would discuss youth representation at the earliest opportunity. Their opinions on various topics including play parks, pump tracks and skate parks would be welcome. This was also an opportunity to discuss issues which impact on the lives of our young people. Report at SCC Sep meeting. **Action Bethany**
- d. **Eco Dewi & Biodiversity of our green Spaces.** Clause 4.4 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils requires SCC to prepare and publish a plan every three years setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. This is a requirement to achieve the General Power of Competence. **Action Clerk with assistance from Bethany**
- e. **Play & Skate Parks.** See item 6c. (to include discussion / consultation with young families – **Action Bethany**).
- i. **Ian RS** commented saying the Village Forum indicated that costs for a pump track would be made available. None to date had been circulated. This was a major issue and young people should not be the only ones involved. Play parks, skate parks, pump tracks and other recreational items was an issue the whole village should be consulted on. We need to know what people don't want. Bethany emphasised the importance of finding out, in the first instance, what the youngsters of the village wanted. **Action SCC Play Park Committee**
- ii. **Lena D** requested that the views and concerns of residents living in the immediate were considered in any decision to install a pump track, or other items infringing privacy. Noise mitigation should also be considered. Lena also pointed out that most of us living near the skate park objected to the original proposal. PCC at the time came to measure the noise impact and found it would be too noisy for neighbouring properties. Despite this it was built. It should all have been protected by a bank to keep the noise down and that bank disappeared years ago.



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There should be no equipment protruding above the bank but there is a ramp and from the top of it you can look into neighbouring properties (this was the case even when the original bank was in place). These are important points as SCC should try to avoid the same thing happening again. **Action SCC Play Park Committee**

iii. **Colin R** Children are the life of the village and should be allowed to play and make a noise.

f. **Solva Firework Display 2022.** Marc C had reviewed costing with Black Cat Fireworks to establish cost increases from the 2019 display. The shortfall was £262.00.

Motion: Proposed by Joe G, seconded by Richy D that the shortfall was taken from the SCC Reserve and the firework order was placed with Black Cat. All members present agreed to the motion. **Action Bruce**

g. **County Councillor.** Mark reported on, and was a member of, the Council Tax Working Group and Planning Committee. The latter discussed PCC plans to build an Eco Park to support the county's very successful kerbside collection service. The proposed development was essential to ensure the Council can continue to provide the statutory services surrounding Waste and Recycling Collections across Pembrokeshire. The proposed site will not only future proof the waste facility but will allow a much-needed modern replacement for the Winsel Waste and Recycling Centre to be built.

h. **Clerk & RFO Report.**

i. **SCC Bank Balance at end of June.** The balance on 30th June 2022 was £29,210.85. Income & Expenditure (actual) for June was presented and reviewed.

RING FENCED FUNDS	
IRP Determination 44 Payments to Members	£1,200.00
Play Park (match funding)	£3,799.81
Skate Park	£45.00
SCC Reserve	£4,586.06
Solva Fireworks Display	£2,045.98
Community Elections	£5,000.00



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SCC Green Fund	£366.00
Parc Y Capel	£7,169.21
Legal Fes (Deed of Gift)	£150.00
Total	£24,362.06
Free cash	£4,484.79.00
TOTAL	£29,210.85

ii. **Budget Review 21/22.** Expenditure was reviewed against the agreed budget.

iii. **Correspondence.** All correspondence had been circulated to members via email.

iv. **SCC Training Plan.** Members had reviewed the draft plan. There were no amendments.

Motion. Proposed by Rob Richards, seconded by Bethany Hutson that SCC adopted the Plan which would be published on the SCC Web Site. The SCC Training Plan would be a standing agenda item to verify progress. **Action Clerk & all members**

v. **SCC Annual Report.** The report covering the period 2021/22 was a statutory requirement set out in The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils². The Report was progressing and once complete would be circulated to all members for review. Target date to approve and adopt was 7th September 2022.

a) **Key Objectives.** The Report will provide details of 7 key objectives providing SCC with a strategic direction and framework. Priorities and annual budget requirements will be included.

b)

7. Solva Memorial Hall.

² (4.3) Section 52 of the 2021 Act requires community councils, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.



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a. **Farmers Market.** Richy D presented an idea to hold a Farmers Market in the Memorial Hall. During the summer, and weather permitting, it could be held in Parc y Capel. SCC members supported the idea requesting that local businesses were included. The market would mirror St Davids where stall holders pay £20 each. Market stalls were stored in a facility at the rear of Lloyds Bank. The logistic challenge of moving and returning everything would need to be addressed. Current stall holders would be approached to gauge interest and local business in Solva invited. **Action Richy**

i. **Iain RS** supported the idea but requested SCC first lobbied PCC Highways for double yellow lines along Glanhafan to preserve access to Fort Road and Saint Brides View. For those with mobility issues, drop-off points, outside the Hall and Parc y Capel should also be requested before any firm plans are made.

ii. **Hall Disable Access.** Joe G inform members that a disabled access proposal would be presented to the Hall Committee on 19th July at 6:30p.m. Access would be through the rear door. Current steps would be replaced with a ramp. Any official drop-off point should be on Glanhafen. All members were invited to attend the meeting on the 19th.

b. **Christmas Farmers Market.** The suggestion to hold a festive event in Parc Y Capel was supported by members. Plans would be prepared and presented at the October SCC meeting. **Action Davy R and Bethany**

8. Planning.

a. Applications received and reviewed:

PCNPA

i. Application withdrawn: NP/22/0254/FUL

Proposal: Creation of private open space with seating, including 2 x shepherds huts for holiday accommodation.

Location: Land adjacent to, The Moorings, Solva

PCC

ii. Ref No: 22/0236/PA

Proposal: Siting of a caravan and decking

Siting of a catering shed / site shop

Site Address: FFYNONDEWI, Ffynondewi

Holiday Cottages, SOLVA



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Last Date for Determination: 16-Aug-2022

- b. Decisions:
- i. Planning Reference: NP/21/0680/FUL
Proposal: Temporary access to existing private track
Progress: Approved 20th June 2022 for Temporary Period
Location: Field Tracks, Nine Wells to Solva, Solva

Note: No planning decision to date:

- ii. Planning Reference: NP/21/0454/DOC
Proposal: Discharge of condition No. 15 of NP/10/374 - Traffic Management Plan
Location: Harbour High, St Brides View

Local Concern. Residents had raised concern with SCC that no Traffic Management Plan (TMP) had been approved by the Planning Authority re NP/21/0680/FUL. Residents wanted to ensure that construction traffic was controlled and avoided Saint Brides View, Fort Road and Glanhafen. How would the TPM allow construction traffic to move safely, minimising conflicts with local traffic and people (many of whom were elderly). NP/21/0454/DOC also remained unchanged and undetermined.

SCC wrote to the PCNPA Case Officer on 5th July requesting clarification on the TMP and the impact on 0680.

9. AOB.

- a. **Joe G** suggested that a mobile café should be allowed to operate on Parc Y Capel with any Farmers Market. Members agreed.
- b. **Rob R** requested an update at the next meeting on twinning proposals with Solva in Italy. **Action Clerk**
- c. **Sam E** requested an update from PCC on the garages at the rear of Bro Dawel. **Action Mark**
- d. **Bethany** highlighted the continual danger to pedestrians and other road users from speeding vehicles in lower Solva. Police and PCC (Claire Williams) to be notified. **Action Clerk**



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e. **Richy D** raised the requirement for the road at Bro Dawel to be re-surfaced. Cleaning of Bro Dawel pavements and the repair of pot holes throughout Solva to be included. PCC Highways to be approached. **Action Mark**

f. **Nicola** spoke about the increased number of pedestrians (young and old) walking on the main road throughout Solva. The risk of injury was high. Could this be mitigated with signage? PCC to advise. **Action Mark**

g. **Vicky** requested information about SCC achieving the General Power of Competence and the Power to Trade. **Action Clerk**

h. **Iain RS** enquired if SCC was aware of cameras being mounted in Fort Road/Glanhafen. If confirmed they were not. The question would be raised with PCC. **Action Mark**

i. **Iain RS** asked if any re-surfacing requests to PCC could include Saint Brides View, Fort Road and Glanhafen. **Action Mark**

10. **Date of next meeting.**

a. Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 6p.m. in the Clubhouse

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 12th July 2022

Signed by: (Chair) Community Councillor Ifor Thomas