



# Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6p.m. in Solva Community Clubhouse.

Attended by:

Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas (Chair), Richy Davies (vice chair), Joe Griffin, Bethany Hutson and Colin Reynolds

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

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1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including:
    - a. Angus Gaskell (Newsletter Editor).
    - b. Members of the public. None.
  2. **Moment of Silence.** A moment of silence was observed for beloved members of the community who had recently passed.
  3. **Apologies.** Community Councillors Alyssia Fiander-Houlden, Rob Richards, Sam Ellison,
  4. **Declarations of interest - Personal or Prejudicial.** None.
  5. **Agree the Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.** Agreed and signed.
    - a. All actions were reviewed.
    - b. Publication of Minutes<sup>1</sup>.

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



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6. **Public representations on items of business to be discussed.** None.

7. **Items of Business.**

a. **The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems 2022 Report.** The draft report had been circulated to all members for comment.

i. **Motion.** Proposed by Community Councillor Colin Reynolds, seconded by Community Councillor Bethany Hutson that the report as presented was approved and published on the SCC website. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

b. **SCC Key Objectives.** Members reviewed progress to achieve the following Key Objectives in the SCC Annual Report 2021 – 2022<sup>2</sup>:

- **Objective 1:** To conduct all Community Council business in an open and transparent manner ensuring it contributes to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (see section 18).
- **Objective 2:** To urgently implement the adopted Climate Emergency Policy.
- **Objective 3:** To actively support healthy living through the delivery of a safe village environment that will include an improved range of recreational and play facilities.
- **Objective 4:** Work towards the protection and development of local green areas to improve biodiversity and space for nature within our community.
- **Objective 5:** To actively support and promote the Welsh Language, Welsh Heritage, and its traditions.
  - *An updated SCC Welsh Language Strategy would be presented at April's SCC meeting (Action Clerk)*
- **Objective 6:** To achieve the General Power of Competence and meet all statutory responsibilities set out in The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
  - *At least two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been declared to be elected (including unopposed),*

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<sup>2</sup> Green = Good. Amber = Average. Red = Poor.



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*whether at an ordinary election or at a by-election (section 30(2)).*

- *The clerk to the council holds such named qualification or certification as may be specified by the Welsh Ministers by regulations (section 30(3)).*
- *The two most recent Auditor General for Wales (AGW) opinions on the council's accounts are unqualified. The most recent must have been received in the previous 12 months (section 30(4))*

- **Objective 7:** To accomplish more homes with greater housing choice that will foster better employment opportunities.

c. **SCC Training Plan.** Members reviewed progress to achieve the following Training Priorities:

- Basic Induction
- Code of Conduct
- Financial management & governance
- Planning
- Firework safety training
- Clerk - CiLCA

d. **Newsletter introduction & way forward.** Members congratulated Angus on his first edition of the Newsletter. Angus set out a broad plan which was supported by members. Increased circulation was discussed. St Davids city council and other town & Community councils had voiced an interest in the Solva Newsletter. Sponsorship and opportunities to grow the publication would be progressed, initially with St Davids. **Action Angus**

e. **Nominations for the Kings New Year 2024 Honours** (by Friday 31st March 2023 at 17:00). One nomination was presented. **Action Clerk**

f. **Easter Fayre** (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April). Richie set out plans for the Community Fayre to be held in Parc y Capel. The event would be widely advertised and featured in April's Newsletter. **Action Riche and Angus**

g. **Planning.** An event organised by OVW and Planning Aid Wales (The Value of Planning and how it positively impacts our Welsh Communities) would be help on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. SCC would be represented. **Action Colin** (link below).



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<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-value-of-planning-and-how-it-positively-impacts-our-welsh-communities-registration-531977548167>

## Applications received:

- i. **Application No:** NP/23/0055/TCA (Tree Works)  
**Proposed Works:** T1 - Holm Oak - low hanging branches over seating area causing obstruction to customers - Crown lift to 3m and reduce lower laterals by 1.5m  
**Location:** Harbour House Hotel, 31-33, Main Street, Solva, SA62 6UT

## 8. Reports. Lead members reported on:

### a. Clerk & RFO Report.

- i. **SCC Bank Balance at end of February.** The balance on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was £33,739.56. Income & Expenditure (actual) for February was presented and reviewed.

<b>RING FENCED FUNDS</b>	
IRP Determination 44 Payments to Members	£100.00
Gamlin Play Park (match funding)	£5,332.00
Skate Park	£85.00
SCC Reserve	£1,707.38
Solva Fireworks Display	£3,083.91
Parc Y Capel	£6,885.18
Clubhouse disabled toilet project (with baby changing facility)	£1,150.00
Upper Solva Youth Project	£3,531.00
Solva Christmas Fayre	£300.50
Warm Welcome Community Spaces	£2,723.66
Total	£24,817.03
Free cash	£8,922.53

**TOTAL      £33,739.56**

- i. **Full SCC audit by Audit Wales.** The full audit was complete with a qualified audit opinion on:



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## Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, the Annual Governance Statement is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements:

- **Assertion 3** – The Council states it has taken all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with relevant laws. However, my audit identified that the Council does not publish on its website the information it is required to publish electronically by the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 including the annual governance statement and the audit opinion for prior years.

## SCC will address the governance points raised by Audit Wales. **Action Clerk**

- ii. **Budget Review.** Expenditure was reviewed against the agreed budget.
  - iii. **Correspondence.** All correspondence had been circulated to members via email.
- b. **Clubhouse & Sports Pitch.**
- i. **New Trustees.** Community Councillors Bethany Hutson and Joe Griffin would be registered as trustees. **Action Clerk**
  - ii. **Disabled toilets.** Costs were hoped to be presented at April's meeting. **Action Ifor**
  - iii. **Clubhouse Clean-up date.** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30p.m. **Action all available members**
  - iv. **New website.** Webzer were building the website. All information and photographs had been provided. Discussions for an online booking system continued. The target date for website completion was the end of March.
  - v. **Headland Banked Boundary.** The developer had requested access from the pitch side to remove old concrete posts and install a banked boundary. The bank would be grassed and planted for hedge and occasional trees. SCC had granted access.



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- c. **Enhancing Pembrokeshire Application (EP).** The PCC EP panel met on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Their recommendation to Cabinet would be to support the SCC Gamlin Play Park application for £21,328.00. The Cabinet meeting was on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Once funding was confirmed the order for new play equipment would be placed. **Action Alyssia, Bruce**
- d. **Skate Park and Youth Projects Motion.** Proposed by Colin, seconded by Richie that iteration to identify alternative site locations for both projects ceased (quotes were cost prohibitive). That the current skate park (with a limited extension) would accommodate both projects subject to pre-application advice from the Planning Authority. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**  
<https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/planning/planning-advice/pre-application-advice/>
- i. **New Skate Park Plan.** Draft plans (to support pre-application to be passed to Clerk. **Action Sam**
- e. **Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Invitation.** SCC had been invited to attend an event on 19th April at Pembrokeshire College, Haverfordwest. **Action Joe.**  
<https://tocyn.cymru/event/cb2070c6-1815-4e9c-8c00-e991689cb27b/s>
- f. **CWBR Youth Project.** Colin updated members and presented intriguing data from local school children. Members agreed this information was worthy of careful consideration and attention. It highlighted the value of play parks, basketball, Parc y Capel and places for children to enjoy. Colin requested and members supported that the next Enhancing Pembrokeshire application should focus on the upper play park. **Action Play Park Committee Ifor, Joe, Bethany, Sam and Alyssia**  
Enhancing Pembrokeshire submission dates to be confirmed. **Action Clerk**  
(**Post Meeting Note:** see my email circulated on 8<sup>th</sup> March re EP)  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/grants/the-enhancing-pembrokeshire-grant>
- g. **County Councillor.** Mark spoke about a matter of increasing concern received from a resident of Felin Ganol/ Middle Mill. Increasing numbers of camper vans were using the grassed picnic area for free parking and overnight camping. Litter, toileting and disposal of chemical toilets were potential health hazards. The SCC Clerk was in receipt of recent emails and these had been circulated to all members. Mark had spoken to PCC to confirm the land in question was under PCC protection. SCC had no responsibility. Mark had



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requested PCC Street Care to provide and install signage to deter/stop all such overnight wild camping in the area of concern. SCC would continue to monitor.

- i. Mark reported on the following items:
  - Council tax increase of 7.5%
  - Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grants
  - Public toilets in Solva

### 10. AOB.

a. **Foreshore and Lower Solva Picnic area.** Colin raised a question about reseeding the grassed areas and the positioning of picnic benches/tables. If confirmed reseeding was planned for early April along with the positioning of benches. Grass seed to be purchased. **Action Clerk**

b. **Future of Solva AFC.** Colin was aware the AFC needed support if it was to continue. Membership and players had dwindled and their future was in doubt. To understand an informed position SCC members agreed to invite a representative from the AFC to the SCC April meeting. **Action Clerk**

c. **Bro Dawel.** Joe raised the issue of ball games in the Bro Dawel cul-de-sac which was causing much concern with residents. They were seeing ball games played there and were worried about damage to their property. Currently there were no green areas or playing fields where children could play safely. A MUGA or green area would be part of the Solva CLT housing development but this was at least 18 months, or longer away. Joe requested new signage was erected in the cul-de-sac to deter ball games. Could SCC pay for multilingual signage? Wording to be provided (in English and Welsh. **Action Joe and Ifor**

Signage quote would then be obtained. **Action Clerk**

d. **Dog Fouling.** Joe again reported the crime continued to be prevalent in Solva. If action was to be taken against perpetrators, evidence was needed which could then be passed to the appropriate Authority. The matter would be highlighted in the Solva Newsletter and repeated on Social Media. **Action Ifor and Joe**

e. **Community Handyman.** Richie asked if members would support the employment of a handyman. General support was voiced and a proposal would be presented at April's meeting. **Action Richie**



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- f. **Bay View Stores Food Pod.** Members agreed that £100 would be donated towards the purchase of a shed for the food pod. **Action Richie & Bruce**

### 12. **Date of next meeting.**

- a. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6p.m. in the Clubhouse.
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Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Signed by: (Chair) Community Councillor Ifor Thomas