



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 6p.m.
in
Solva Memorial Hall.

Attended by:

Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas (Chair), Richy Davies, (Vice Chair),
Colin Reynolds, Joe Griffin, Rob Richards, Bethany Hutson, Alyssia Fiander-Houlden

County Councillor Mark Carter

Newsletter Editor: Angus Gaskell

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The Chair welcomed the following members of the community:
 - a. Sue Denman.
 - b. Brenda Lloyd.
 - c. Kay Reynolds.
 - d. Jill Thomas.
 - e. Barbara Bale.
 - f. Iain Robertson-Steel.
2. **Apologies.** Community Councillor Sam Ellison.
3. **Matters Arising.**
 - a. **Lloyds Bank Closure St Davids.** The Chair informed everyone SCC was aware of the announcement. Steven Crab MP was meeting with Lloyds about the decision which would help inform the SCC discussion at their July meeting. SCC also awaited a statement from St Davids City Council.
4. **Election of Officers.**
 - a. **Chair Motion.** Proposed by Community Councillor Colin Reynolds, seconded by Community Councillor Rob Richards that Community Councillor Richard Davies was elected as Chair for a period of one year. All members present voted in favour of the motion.



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

b. **Vice Chair.** Proposed by Community Councillor Joe Griffin, seconded by Community Councillor Bethany Hutson that Community Councillor Alyssia Fiander-Houlden was elected as Vice Chair for a period of one year. All members present voted in favour of the motion.

c. **Declaration of Acceptance.** Community Councillor's Richard Davies and Alyssia Fiander-Houlden signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. Reports.

a. **Chair.** The Chair's report was attached to these minutes.

b. **Finance.** The Clerk presented the attached end of year report. The accounts had been examined by the appointed SCC internal auditor, LM Griffiths & Co Chartered Certified Accountants. Paul Murray FCCA had signed the Internal Audit Confirmation in the Annual Return.

i. **SCC Annual Return Year Ended 31 March 2023.** The Annual Return accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were presented and approved by Solva Community Council, certified by the RFO, and signed by the Chair. The Annual Return and all supporting documents would be submitted to Audit Wales on Wednesday 7th June 2023. **Action Clerk**

c. **Newsletter.** The Editor's report was attached to these minutes.

d. **Memorial Hall.** The Chair of the Memorial Hall report was attached to these minutes.

e. **Solva Surgery.** Report by Sue Denman. It has been a busy time since Dr Sujana announced her retirement. The imminent threat to the Surgery was countered by the strong feeling of the community that the service must be retained. The Save Solva Surgery Working Group has played a key part in that and, together with the wider community, has seen the situation as an opportunity to strengthen local primary care services and to build in social care and prevention in the form of a Peninsula Hub. The immediate priority, however, is to retain and sustain General Practice for Solva and the outlying communities. The Health Board wants a plan in place by December 2023 so much remains to be done.

Three members of the Working Group: Gareth Chapman, Sue Denman and Iain Robertson Steel have been assigned to work closely with the Health Board



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

on solutions. The Working Group has submitted a number of papers to the Health Board on practical, achievable solutions and are awaiting a response and the start of joint planning meetings. Sue thanked the Working Group and Iain in particular for his tireless work on drafting papers to place us in a good position for the future.

i. **Vote of Thanks.** Community Councillor Colin Reynolds spoke saying he would like to record a special vote of thanks to everyone in the Surgery Working Group. Their splendid work, presence and devotion was much appreciated.

f. **Solva CLT.** Ifor reported the following. In 2019 PCC gave the go ahead for this ground breaking scheme. Progress since then has been painstakingly slow. We were encouraged when Ateb appointed a design team based on a brief prepared by the Solva CLT. Unfortunately the CLT carbon neutral objectives we set to free tenants from fuel poverty did not align with ateb's commercial imperatives. This further caused the scheme to go at a snails pace. The second public engagement event planned for last November was cancelled at short notice by ateb. Since then ateb have shown no desire to rearrange it. The scheme was still supported by PCC who allocated £3,000,000 in 2019 to it. Since then the value of that amount has reduced. The Solva CLT Chair had recently written to PCC setting out these serious concerns asking for direct and urgent intervention to get the scheme moving and prevent the Solva CLT vision from being diluted or removed by ateb. Ifor requested County Councillor Mark Carter urgently facilitate a meeting with John Harvey (PCC Cabinet member for Housing Projects) to help reinvigorate the scheme. Ifor conclude saying the overarching priority was to get more affordable housing in the village. **Action Mark re John Harvey**

g. **County Councillor.** The County Councillor report was attached to these minutes.

6. **Open Forum.**

a. **Lower Solva Public Toilets.** The PCC Cabinet decision to close PCC funded toilets listed in Group 2 which included Solva remained unchanged. The PCNA decision to financially support the running costs of the Solva toilets was not expected until September. The PCC November 23 deadline remained unaltered. PCC's Strategic Business Manager confirmed at SCC's May meeting that any CAT would not prevent the building from being developed for other business opportunities but it must have a public toilet that meets current standards (The Public Health (Wales) Bill).



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Everyone at the Annual Meeting agreed the provision of, and access to toilets in lower Solva was an issue that affects public health. If PCC closed the toilets it would impact on a person's physical and mental health, as well as affecting the wider environmental health of Solva. Used daily by scores of people and even more during the summer, the lower Solva toilets mattered to everybody and any closure was a high-profile issue within the community. The car park toilets were even more important to certain groups within the village and to those who visit, including older people, people with disabilities, people with particular needs (including certain medical problems), women, children and young people and their families. All these groups would be disproportionately affected by any closure. All agreed PCC must do everything in their power to keep these toilets open. Closure was not an option!

SCC members agreed to progress a CAT decision at their July meeting to meet the PCC November 2023 deadline. Significant increases to future SCC precept levels would also be carefully considered. **Action Clerk**

b. **Solva Care The Future.** Barbara reminded everyone that Lottery funding ceased at the end of March 2024. Prudent financial management would ensure Solva Care funds were in place by March allowing for the continuation of operations until September 2024. Barbara gave assurance that trustees were doing all within their power to secure long term and sustainable funding. Nobody wanted Solva Care to end – for many in the village it helped individuals to remain in their own homes and carry out tasks they otherwise wouldn't be able to. Barbara concluded by requesting strong collaboration with SCC over the coming months to help address Solva Care's future and the complex challenges of Social Care.

7. **Questions from the Floor.** None.
8. **Closing Address.**
9. **DONM.** Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 6p.m. in Solva Community Clubhouse.

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 9th June 2023

Signed by: (Chair)