



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 5:30p.m.
in
Solva Community Clubhouse.

Attended by:

Community Councillor's Richie Davies (Chair), Alyssia Fiander-Houlden, Bethany Ellison (née Hutson), Joe Griffin, Ifor Thomas, Colin Reynolds, Rob Richards.

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

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1. **SCC Casual Vacancy Interviews.** 3 nominees were invited for interview. Post meeting and in private, members would select one candidate to be op-opted onto the community council. Nominees would be informed of the decision by 5p.m. Wednesday 6th December. **Action Clerk**
 - a. **Declarations of interest.** All members declared a Personal Interest. Candidates were known to each community councillor.
 2. **Welcome and Introduction (Main Meeting).** The Chair welcomed:
 - a. 16 Members of the community (2 attending via Zoom).
 - b. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (Kelly Jordan, River Quality Liaison Manager for West Wales, Richard Davies, Sewerage Manager for West Wales, Owain Coombs, Operational Supervisor for North Pembrokeshire Catchment).
 - c. PCC (County Councillor Rhys Sinnett Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, Nathan Miles Pollution Control).
 3. **Moment of Silence.** Flags were at half-mast as a beloved member of the community had been lost.
 4. **Apologies.** None.
 5. **Declarations of interest - Personal or Prejudicial.** None.



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6. **Agree the Minutes of the meetings held on 8th November 2023¹.** All actions were reviewed.

7. **Public representations on items of business to be discussed.**

a. **The St David Church, Whitchurch** (Item 15). Brenda Lloyd and Enid Morgan spoke passionately about the church and the local sadness on its closure. Brenda and Enid asked if SCC could help clarify what the future of the church was with the Archdeacon.

Items of Business.

8. **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.** Kelly delivered the attached presentation. Members of the community then raised the following points:

a. When it was dry all was fine. When it was wet sewage was discharged into the river/sea due to cross connectivity of surface/rain water, domestic waste and sewage into the same system. You've indicated some work was underway to resolve the problem but you haven't said what the timescales were. Mapping of the sewage system in Solva was also in need of urgent attention. Was there a short term drainage solution?

b. The swimmers spoke about the discharge of sewage into the harbour emphasising that sewage was sewage no matter how much you say it was diluted. It was thoroughly unpleasant, unacceptable and unhealthy. It **MUST** stop!

c. Solva was not a designated bathing area! If it was, what would this change?

¹ 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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d. There was an overarching view from the community that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water were complacent with the sewage problems highlighted and this was shocking. There were no creative solutions being offered. In 2009 residents were told the system would be upgraded by 2015! As we approach 2024, nothing has happened. Solva would see at least 17 new house built in the near future and the sewage system was at breaking point. The community wanted Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to do more NOW and deliver on past promises.

e. **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.** All concerns had been noted and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water would respond in due course.

f. **Solva Community Council.** Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water would be invited to return in 2024 to present updates and progress.

9. **Boundary Commission for Wales. SCC Effective Representation Motion.** Proposed by CR, seconded by RR that the Effective Representation, as presented, for the retention of 8 community councillors, one minor boundary amendment and no merger was approved. All members present agreed the motion. The Representation would be submitted to the Boundary Commission CE by 17th December 2023. **Action Clerk**

10. **SCC Precept and Budget 2024/25.** The precept and budget was presented by the Clerk. Comments and changes were invited before the January SCC meeting. **Action all**

11. **Social Media and Sharing of Information.** Alyssia suggested SCC members use a goggle drive folder, which was secure, to store information relevant for SCC activities, projects and events. Members agreed. A Google folder, including draft forms, would be set-up for a trial period and presented at the January meeting. **Action Alyssia**

a. **Social Media.** Alyssia proposed SCC adopt a policy to include what can and cannot be posted or shared, tagging rules and other relevant information. Members agreed. Draft policy to be written. **Action Clerk**



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12. Planning. Applications received.

- a. **Application No:** NP/23/0276/FUL (**Amended Plans**)
Proposal: Proposed extensions and internal alterations
Location: Bridge View, Middle Mill, Solva, SA62 6XD

Note: PCNPA Planning would be grateful to receive any SCC comments they may have on these drawings within the next 21 days (from date of PCNPA email 4th Dec 23).

SCC Planning Committee to review amended plans and notify Clerk of any planning concerns. **Action Richie, Ifor, Colin, Rob**

Reports & Discussion

1. Clerk & RFO Report.

- a. **SCC Bank Balance at end of November.** The balance on 30th November 2023 was £29,703.48. Income & Expenditure (actual) for November was presented and reviewed.

RISTRICTED FUNDS	
IRP Determination 44 Payments to Members	£1,664.00
Community Elections contested / non-contested	£1,000.00
Gamlin Play Park	£580.00
Skate Park	£85.00
SCC Reserve	£4,463.11
Solva Fireworks Display	£3,111.25
Parc Y Capel	£6,637.50
Clubhouse disabled toilet project (with baby changing facility)	£2,266.00
Upper Solva Youth Project	£3,531.00
Solva Community Events (Fayres etc)	£57.29
Defibrillator (Bay View Stores)	£300.00
Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	£450.00
Total	£24,145.15
Free cash	£5,558.33

TOTAL £29,703.48



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b. **Gamlin Play Park (2 x cradle swings).** Motion: Proposed by CR, seconded by AFH that SCC transfer £420 from the Reserve to meet the total cost of £1,000. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

c. **Upper Solva Youth Project.** Motion: Proposed by IT, seconded by BE that SCC transfer £282 from the Reserve to meet the total cost of the basketball element of the project, £781.98 (including VAT). All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

d. **Budget Review.** Expenditure was reviewed against the agreed budget.

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

14. **Solva Christmas Fayre – 7th December 2023.** All elements were in place.

15. **Closure of the St David Church, Whitchurch.** SCC members had received a number of enquiries from residents about this wonderful place of worship following the decision to close it. The steady decline in the size of the congregation, limited financial resources and the prohibitive cost of repairs were probably significant factors to that decision. Residents now wished to establish what would happen to the church. The following questions had been asked: Would it be sold? If so, when? Would the community have the opportunity to acquire it? Would the Diocese seek a new use for the church? What would happen to the cemetery? Who owns the land? SCC acknowledged the effects of closure which were profound. Members agreed SCC would write to the Archdeacon of St Davids asking for guidance. **Action Clerk**

16. **SCC Letter to the Interim Chair Hywel Dda University Health Board.** The SCC Chair wrote to the HDUHB on 20th November 2023 about the lack of progress made by the Peninsula Stakeholder Group. The Group needed to meet to secure the long term future of Solva Surgery. The interim Chair was asked to intervene.

17. **County Councillor.** Mark and County Councillor Rhys Sinnett reviewed arrangements of the 40mph Buffer Limit for Solva East. Hopefully the Buffer element would include new signage "Welcome to Solva, please drive carefully". The junction outside the Cambrian Inn was also discussed.

18. **AOB.**

a. **Deep Space Radar Base to be built in Brawdy creating 100 jobs.** Announced on 2nd December 2023 by Defence Secretary Grant Shapps.



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- b. **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.** The Edge Festival had awarded £450 toward the annual event which was a great success. 62 seniors attended and enjoyed a 2 course festive meal served by community councillors and volunteers. Entertainment, music, mince pies and a glass of wine were included.
 - c. **Solva & St Davids Newsletter Editor.** A new Editor was appointed on 29th November 2023 who would produce the February 2024 edition.
 - d. **Parc y Capel Christmas Lights.** Permission to take power from the Manse to be requested. **Action Clerk**
 - e. **Gamlin Play Park Trip Hazzard.** **Action RR**
 - f. **Whitchurch Airfield – Dog Poo.** Complaints about the unacceptable level of dog poo on the airfield walks had been received. The attached map confirmed the airfield was within Solva Ward. Members agreed to draft a plan of action to address the issue. **Action RD, BE, RR**
19. **Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 6p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 8th December 2023

Signed by: (Chair)

Community Councillor Richie Davies