



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes (v3) of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 6p.m.
in
Solva Community Clubhouse.

Attended by:

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

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

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1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The Chair welcomed:
 - a. Sue Denman (Item 17 Solva Surgery & Item 18 WG dormant assets).
 - b. Community Councillor Gareth Chapman (Item 7 Acceptance of Office).
 2. **Moment of Silence.** Flags were at half-mast as 4 beloved members of the community had been lost.
 3. **Apologies.** Community Councillor Joe Griffin.
 4. **Declarations of interest - Personal or Prejudicial.** None.
 5. **Agree the Minutes of the meetings held on 5th December 2023¹.** All actions were reviewed.
 6. **Public representations on items of business to be discussed.** None.

Items of Business.

7. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Gareth Chapman was co-opted to serve as a community councillor at the December meeting. Gareth dutifully signed his

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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acceptance of office at this meeting and confirmed his Register of Interest was complete and available on the SCC website.

8. **Testing of Community Bathing Water in Solva.** Due to budget constraints PCC would cease 24/25 testing in Solva. Members agreed SCC would be unable to fund future testing.

a. **Funding.** SCC would apply to the Welsh Water Community Fund for a grant to fund PCC testing over the prescribed period which was part of the requirement to register Solva beaches as approved bathing areas in Pembrokeshire. **Action Clerk**

<https://contact.dwrcymru.com/en/online-services/community-fund-application-form>

Post Meeting Note: Application submitted on 12th January 2024

b. **Solva & Approved Bathing Areas.** SCC will apply to register its beaches as approved bathing areas in Pembrokeshire. PCC was responsible for monitoring and assessing the compliance of bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/EEC). **Action Clerk**

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/pollution-control/bathing-water-in-pembrokeshire>

9. **SCC Purchase of Salt Bins and Rock Salt.** Members declined the offer from PCC to purchase these items and be responsible for spreading the salt.

10. **Approve SCC Precept and Budget 2024/25.** Proposed by RR seconded by AFH that the SCC Precept and Budget for 2024/25 was approved. All members present agreed the motion. The Precept was to be submitted to PCC. **Action Clerk**

Post Meeting Note: Submitted to PCC Revenue Services on 12th January 2024.

11. **Save Solva Surgery Working Group.** One member of the Group resigned on 7th December 2023. SCC wrote to the resignee on 13th December (letter attached) requesting the resignation was withdrawn. The member concerned replied to SCC on 4th January 2024 to confirm the letter of resignation would be revoked. The member requested the minutes record an offer for the individual to work as a mediator across the Peninsula in the best interest of the population in Solva.

a. **Peninsula Mediator.** SCC members discussed the offer. Their conclusion was it would not be in the best interest of the Save Solva Working Group to have an independent Medical Advisor or Mediator as a member of the Group. The SSSWG Secretary was invited to note the decision and inform the member concerned.



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b. **Code of Conduct.** SCC members asked if the SSSWG had adopted a Code of Conduct. The SSSWG Secretary confirmed a Code would be presented and adopted by all members at their meeting on 11th January 2024.

Post Meeting Note re item 11a:

c. **SSSWR.** The member had acknowledge the concern to the SSSWG Secretary and would not undertake roles relating to Solva Surgery. The member reserved the right to undertake other health related roles on a local and national basis. As a Registered Medical Practitioner with the UK GMC the member had a duty to act ethically and in best interests.

12. **Review of SCC Key Objectives.** Members reviewed progress to achieve the 7 objectives set out in their Annual Report which was available on the SCC website: [SCC-Annual-Report-2022-2023.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#). Members commented as follows.

a. **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.*) Youth involvement was challenging. Members agreed to invite pupils from Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi, accompanied by parents, for an introduction to local democracy and what SCC do. Dates to be agreed.

Action Alyssia and Colin

b. **Objective 2** (*To urgently implement the adopted Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.*) Since 2021 SCC has planted 450 trees in the local area. Members agreed residents should be encouraged to use local transport, avoid single-use plastics such as drinking straws, plastic utensils, plastic bags, and bottled water, and support community initiatives that promote plastic reduction and recycling.

The initiative to fit solar panels on the Memorial Hall would be pursued in 2024.

c. **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.*) Bethany was now project lead for the new skate park which was dependant on funding. The new basketball area had been agreed, funding was in place, the basketball post, hoop and net etc had been ordered, and once delivered the contractor would install and lay tarmac.

d. **Objective 4** (*Work towards the protection and development of local green areas to improve biodiversity and space for nature within our community*) To help encourage pollinators in Parc y Capel wildflower seeds would be planted on the perimeter (seeds available from the Bug Farm) **Action Bethany**



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Members supported a children's competition about biodiversity, pollinators and nature at the Spring Fayre (date to be agreed). **Action Bethany and Alyssia**

Dog fouling in the village continued. The problem was especially prevalent on the airfield at Whitchurch. Members agreed:

- i. To request help from PCC Enforcement Officers. **Action Mark**
 - ii. To publish the PCC email address for the reporting of dog fouling incidents every month in the Newsletter:
(Enviro-crime@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) **Action Clerk**
 - iii. To display signs in the village and on the airfield. Members agreed that signs would be in Welsh and English.
 - o Wording and graphics to be sent to the Clerk for quotes. **Action Ifor, Colin & Rob**
 - iv. Newsletter. A regular feature on dog fouling would be included in the Newsletter. **Action Colin**
 - e. **Objective 5** (*To actively support and promote the Welsh Language, Welsh Heritage, and its traditions.*) Members agreed the objective would be a standing item for all future SCC meetings. **Action Clerk**
 - f. **Objective 6** (*To achieve the General Power of Competence.*) One requirement is for the Clerk to gain the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). Cost is circa £450.
<https://www.slcc.co.uk/qualification/cilca/>
 - g. **Objective 7** (*To accomplish more homes with greater housing choice that will foster better employment opportunities.*) The CLT was moving forward, although the pace was slow. NP/23/0545/FUL (Planning Application) had been submitted for the first phase of the development. SCC had concern with the ability of the current sewage system to deal with the additional capacity.
13. **SCC Support to Solva Care.** Members were aware that Lottery funding for Solva Care ended on 31st March 2024. Members unanimously voiced their support for the organisation and acknowledge what they had done to help elderly residents since 2015. To help support Solva Care, SCC suggested they organise a number of enrichment events to raise awareness, generate funds and hopefully reach new



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audiences, whilst giving people a great experience. The proposal would be presented at the Solva Care Management Group on 16th January 2024. **Action Clerk**
Suggested events included:

- a. Cider talk and tasting. (Gareth)
- b. Outing to Whitesands Beach. (Richie)
- c. Friendship Café events.
 - i. Members agreed SCC would liaise with Solva Care and look into how best SCC could run events and the timeframe that would be feasible.
Action Alyssia and Bethany

14. **Parc y Capel.** Members agreed to progress the following areas:

- a. New power points. **Action Richie**
- b. Replace Christmas tree. **Action Gareth and Rob**
- c. Quote to repair/replace entrance gate. **Action Clerk**

15. **Planning.** Applications received.

a. **Headlands Development:** Conditions NP/23/0242/DOC. The discharge of Conditions remained unclear. CHA had seemed to have discharged the Conditions of NP/21/0298/FUL on 24/10/23 but no formal communications to confirm this had been received from the Planning Authority. The proposed meeting with CHA had yet to be agreed.

i. **Construction Fence.** The lack of any construction fence to secure the site was a concern of SCC. Concern had also been raised by parents with young children who use the play park. The matter had been reported to the Health and Safety Executive Carmarthen.

ii. **Rubbish.** Complaints about rubbish on the development site had been received from a resident. The question was asked about possible contamination with asbestos.

Members agree that if no tangible movement to clarify the overall position had been received by the February meeting, the developer would be invited to attend the March SCC meeting. **Action Clerk**



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Applications received:

- b. **Application No:** NP/23/0545/FUL
Proposal: Hybrid planning application for affordable housing exceptions development, flexible open space and associated works. Full planning permission is sought for a first phase of development comprising social-rented dwellings, flexible open space, landscaping, highways and drainage infrastructure, and other associated works. Outline planning permission is sought for a second phase of residential development (all matters reserved for future consideration).
Location: Land Adjacent to Bro Dawel, Solva, SA62 6XW
- c. **Application No:** NP/23/0493/FUL
Proposal: Alterations and extension of an existing property.
Location: Mor Awelon, Solva, SA62 6TG
SCC object to the application. It's over development and the size is disproportionate to the area. In addition:
There will be negative effects on neighbours and the community - particularly due to:
Noise
Disturbance
Overlooking & loss of privacy
Nuisance
Shading / loss of daylight
There will be a negative / adverse visual impact of the development - particularly on the landscape.
Highway Safety: Access for Construction traffic is a major concern!
There will also be a detrimental effect of the proposed development on the character of the local area.

Reports & Discussion

16. Clerk & RFO Report.

- a. **SCC Bank Balance at end of December.** The balance on 31st December 2023 was £37,288.76. Income & Expenditure (actual) for December was presented and reviewed.



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RISTRICATED FUNDS	
IRP Determination 44 Payments to Members	£208.00
Community Elections contested / non-contested	£1,000.00
Gamlin Play Park	£1000.00
Skate Park	£85.00
SCC Reserve	£3,942.49
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	£3,031.02
Solva Community Events (Fayres etc)	£0.16
Defibrillator (Bay View Stores)	£300.00
Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	£0.00
Total	£21,581.42
Free cash	£15,707.34

TOTAL £37,288.76

b. **Defibrillator Pads Motion.** Proposed by Colin, seconded by Alyssia, that a new fund for defibrillator pads was set up and £100 was transferred from the SCC Reserve to cover the cost of new pads following a recent incident. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

i. **Incident.** Members agreed to send a card to the off-duty police woman who was passing and helped with the casualty. **Action Colin**

ii. **Air Ambulance Motion.** Proposed by Colin seconded by Alyssia that SCC donated £30 to the Air Ambulance who attended the incident. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

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

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



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17. **Save Solva Surgery Working Group.** Sue updated members. Solva surgery was currently operating well although the future remained uncertain. One of the key factors was the population across the peninsula which was not big enough to support a surgery in Solva and a surgery in St Davids. The WG were pressing for urgent discussions about this with the health board and in those discussions the future of Solva surgery must be agreed. Progress to achieve any of these important issues was very slow. The press and media picked this point up and prior to Christmas Sue D and Ifor were interviewed by the BBC. Following the broadcast, the Health Board contacted Sue D to arrange a meeting on the 16th January 2024. The deadline for a document going to the Health Board Executive was the end of January. It was unlikely the Health Board would meet the deadline. Many unanswered questions remained and answers must be agreed before the document was submitted. The SSSWG Report would be a standing item at all future SCC meetings. **Action Clerk**

18. **Welsh Government - Future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales.** Members appointed Sue D to organise and Chair a Dormant Assets Consultation with the community on Tuesday 30th January 5:30 – 7pm in Solva Community Clubhouse.

19. **SCC Goggle Drive folder demonstration.** Carried over to the February meeting. **Action Alyssia**

20. **The St David Church, Whitchurch.** The Venerable Paul Mackness Archdeacon of St Davids had clarified the position in a letter to SCC on 19th December 2023.

21. **Memorial Benches.** Colin updated members on requests received and asked that a Memorial Bench Policy was drafted. **Action Clerk**

22. **County Councillor.** Mark updated members on the following: The last full Council meeting before Christmas saw several important matters decided. One was how much to increase the Council House rents. 2 options were available either 5% or 6.7% plus £2 per week in both cases. Mark voted for the higher amount as he believe Council House rents offer good value for money, less than the private rentals and the more revenue raised would allow for more houses to be built and modernisations to be made to existing properties. The higher rate was passed by 43 votes to 9.

Next up was the most controversial item, the setting of the level of Second Homes council tax premium with 200% being proposed. This is the premium added to any property owned by a person but not lived in as their main home. The premium was introduced at 50% in 2017 and for the last 2 years has been 100% in addition to the standard Council tax and now 200% on the table. The Council cannot say what



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type of property owner was being charged the proposed 200% premium, whether the house was a luxury holiday home or a property to subsidise a local residents income. Mark voted against an increase as it was clear to him that some of the losers forced to pay more tax would be local people with a letting property who achieve less than the 182 nights a year letting set by Welsh Government to be exempt from 2nd homes premium. The increase was passed by 28 votes to 21 and it was almost certain that little of the premium raised will be reinvested in affordable housing. Closely following this was a vote on increasing the Empty homes premium, which was passed with Mark's vote in favour at a 100% at the start of 3 years being empty, 200% at the start of 4 years being empty and 300% at the start of year 5 of being empty. Mark's feeling along with many other Councillors was that empty homes do nothing for the community. The increase was passed by 42 votes to 4. Several other items, questions and Notices of Motion followed, one of which Mark submitted to assist first time self-builders and delay any Affordable Housing contribution they were obliged to make until such times as they sold the property.

23. **AOB.**

- a. CC Gareth Chapman would represent SCC at the online OVW Pembrokeshire Area Committee on Wednesday 10th January 2024 starting at 7.00pm.
- b. SCC response. The structure of the school year. WG Consultation. Views of SCC members differed. It was decided to continue the debate at the SCC February meeting. **Action Clerk**
- c. Community Speed Watch Event Wednesday 8th of February 2024 at 7pm. Via Zoom. Members would ask Joe to attend. **Action Clerk**
- d. Câr-Y-Môr: Potential St Brides Bay Development. Members agreed to invite Justin Davis to brief members at the SCC meeting on 6th February. **Action Clerk**
- e. Richie and Bruce would attend the PCC Working Better Together online seminar on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm, on Microsoft Teams. These bi-monthly seminars are for City, Town and Community Councils to get together to collaborate, share ideas and good practice. **Action Richie and Bruce**
- f. Middle Mill Chapel. The Chapel grounds were in a poor state. A quote for 5 cuts per year would be invited from those who deliver the SCC GM contract. **Action Clerk**



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g. First Aid Course. Given the success of the previous course, Alyssia requested that another was organised. Members agreed. **Action Alyssia**

h. Parking on the main road in Lower Solva. Bethany raised the issue of illegal parking that continued and could cause a serious accident if not addressed. **Action Mark**

i. The memorial erected on St Davids airfield had come to the attention of the Planning Authority who, it was understood, wanted it removed. The Mayor of St Davids had contacted Rob to gain support from SCC that the memorial should be retained. See following Planning Application:

Application No: NP/23/0600/ADV

Proposal: Installation of interpretation panel with landscape/habitat plan/works

Location: St Davids Airfield, Ffos y Mynach, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6UE (Comments by 31st Jan 24) SCC Planning Committee comments to Clerk before 31st January. **Action Richie, Ifor, Rob and Colin**

24. **Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 17th January 2024

Signed by: (Chair)

Community Councillor Richie Davies