



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 6p.m.
in
Solva Community Clubhouse.

Attended by:

Community Councillor's Alyssia Fiander-Houlden (Chair), Ifor Thomas (via Zoom)
Richard Davies and Colin Reynolds

County Councillor Mark Carter

Clerk & RFO: Bruce Payne

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1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The Chair welcomed all members:
 2. **Moment of Silence.** None.
 3. **Apologies.** Community Councillors Rob Richards, Joe Griffin, Gareth Chapman.
 4. **Declarations of interest - Personal or Prejudicial.** None.
 5. **Agree the Minutes of the meetings held on 7th May 2024¹.** All actions were reviewed.
 - a. **Item 11 (May Minutes).** PCC proposed CAT of Allotments at Bro Dawel to SCC. PCC Legal had not responded to the SCC email of 13th May 2024 setting out a number of clarification questions. This was to be hastened. **Action Clerk** Post meeting note: Hastened on 7 June 24.
 - b. **Item 15 (May Minutes).** Welsh Water. Kelly (River Quality Liaison Manager – Southwest) had agreed to attend the SCC meeting in September.
 6. **Public representations on items of business to be discussed.** None

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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Items of Business.

7. **Motion to elect SCC Vice Chair.** Deferred to the SCC July meeting.
8. **Notice of Election, United Kingdom Parliamentary Election, 4th July 2024, Mid and South Pembrokeshire Constituency.** Notices would be posted on village noticeboards. **Action Colin**
 - a. **Pre-Election Protocol for Elected SCC Members.** The Chair reminded all members of the protocol as previously circulated.
9. **SCC Annual Return Motion.** Proposed by Colin, seconded by Richard that the Solva Community Council accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 were approved. All members present agreed the motion.
 - a. **Annual Return.** The Chair signed the Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024. The Annual Return and supporting documents were to be submitted to Audit Wales by 30 June 2024. **Action Clerk**
 - b. **Audit Notice.** The Notice of Audit for the public inspection of accounts must be published by 16th June 2024. **Action Clerk**
10. **Save Solva Surgery Working Group (SSSWG).** Motion: Proposed by Alyssia, seconded by Richard that the SSSWG was dissolved. All members present agreed the motion. SSSWG members to be informed. **Action Alyssia (in consultation with Gareth and Ifor)**
11. **Defibrillators.**
 - a. **Bay View Stores.** Confirmation was required that the defibrillator was registered on the National Defibrillator Database. **Action Ifor**
 - b. **Defibrillator Training Dates.** These were to be confirmed with the Calon Hearts trainer. **Action Clerk**
 - c. **Whitchurch & Middle Mill Defibrillators.** Members agreed SCC would submit an Edge Festival funding application post August 24. **Action Clerk**



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12. **D-Day 80 Solva Event 6th June 2024.** The Clerk, Alyssia, Colin and Richard confirmed that everything was in place to honour the memory of those who fought and died during the D-Day landings.

13. **SCC Casual Vacancy.**

a. **Co-Option Closing Date.** Closing date for co-option applications was Tuesday 25th June 2024.

b. **Interviews.** Candidates would be interviewed after the 2024 General Election. Candidates to be notified of interview date post 25th June 2024. **Action Clerk**

c. **Interview Panel.** Members agreed the panel would be:

- i. SCC Chair.
- ii. Independent member.
- iii. Independent member.

d. **Independent Members.** The independent members would sit alongside the elected community councillor bringing unique expertise to ensure effective scrutiny. They have full voting rights and equal responsibilities as elected members, contributing to the transparency and accountability of the interview panel.

14. **Newsletter.**

a. **Editor Vacancy Closing Date.** The closing date was Friday 28th June 24.

i. **Interviews.** Candidates would be interviewed on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 5pm in the Clubhouse.

ii. **Interview Panel.**

- Alyssia
- Ifor
- Colin
- Richard
- St Davids City Council member



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b. **July Edition.** The current editor would produce the July edition but was not available to collect the Newsletter from the printers or deliver it to the Bay View Stores. **Action Alyssia, Gareth**

15. Play and Skate Parks.

a. **Annual Inspection Report.** Members agreed to keep this item as a Standing Item until all points in the report had been addressed. **Action Alyssia, Clerk**

16. **Church of St David Whitchurch.** Members requested a closure update from the Archdeacon. **Action Clerk**

a. **Old cemetery.** SCC had invited a quote to repair the path in the old cemetery. The quote was £2,172.00 and was unaffordable. Members asked for clarity on the SCC Statutory Power to maintain the cemetery given the church had been suggested for closure. **Action Clerk**
The closure process, the Archdeacon had confirmed, can take a minimum of 6 months but usually 2 years.

Post Meeting Note: The Archdeacon's letter of 13th December 2023 is attached for information. The letter references the following: The Churchyard remains a separate trust on closure and redundancy and would still be open for burials as long as there is space, equally maintenance and upkeep would be the responsibility of the Local Ministry Area – where resources allow.

Post Meeting Note: OVW were requested on 11 June 24 to clarify which Statutory Power allowed T&C Councils to maintain local cemeteries.

Post Meeting Note: OVW provided the answer on 13th June 2024.

The following are the relevant legal powers that councils have in respect of cemeteries and crematoria:

Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria

*Power, as a burial authority, to acquire and provide with a duty to maintain
Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials
Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries*

Open Spaces Act 1906, ss. 9 and 10

*Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous) Act 1970, s.1
Local Government Act 1972, s. 214*



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17. **Welsh Language, Welsh Heritage, and its traditions.** Airfield signage (in Welsh and English) to inform dog owners had proved expensive. Before any SCC decision to purchase, the National Trust and National Park would be invited to address the prevalent problem of dog fouling on the airfield at Whitchurch. Members requested confirmation which Ward the Airfield was in. **Action Clerk**

Post meeting Note: The Airfield was in Solva Ward.

18. **Edge Sign - Basketball Playing Area.** Motion: Proposed by Colin, seconded by Alyssia that SCC purchase a sign saying, 'The Edge Festive kindly gave funds to support the installation of a basketball playing area for the young people of Solva'. The sign would be position at the end of the Clubhouse. All members present agreed the motion. **Action Clerk**

19. **Parc y Capel Power Project.** Motion: Proposed by Ifor, seconded by Colin that SCC secure a quote from National Grid for a single metered connection. **Action Clerk**

Post Meeting Note:

a. **National Grid.** The Clerk had concerns with the high daily standing charges set by energy companies. High charges would make the project unaffordable. Given the concern, SCC proposed an unmetered connection with National Grid who then clarified on 11th June that the project would not qualify. SCC had already applied to National Grid requesting a quote for a new single metered connection. Once SCC had received the quote, which was valid for 90 days, SCC could decide at their July meeting on a way forward. Key to that decision was;

b. **Energy Companies.** If the project was to go forward, SCC must secure an affordable quote for a tariff to supply electricity to Parc y Capel, including a low Standing Charge. This was **pivotal** to inform the way forward. (Help from members to contact energy companies for quotes would be welcome. **Action All**).

c. **Funding.** The project had been registered with Enhancing Pembrokeshire. If agreed, an EOI would be submitted for 80% of project costs. 20% from the SCC Parc y Capel fund.

20. **Planning Applications.** None.



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Reports & Discussion

21. Clubhouse.

- a. **Cleaner.** A new cleaner would be appointed on 14th June 2024. **Action Clerk**
- b. **Fire Safety Inspection.** This had been arranged and would take place prior to the Edge Festival.
- c. **Electrical Safety Inspection.** To be arranged. **Action Ifor**
- d. **Gate.** The access gate to and from the coastal path at the far end of the sports pitch was broken. PCNPA to be asked if they would repair or replace. **Action Clerk**

22. Clerk & RFO Report.

- a. **SCC Bank Balance at end of May.** The balance on 31st May was £28,808.32. Income & Expenditure (actual) for May was presented and reviewed.

RISTRICED FUNDS	
IRP Determination 44 Payments to Members	£1,664.00
Community Elections contested / non-contested	£2,000.00
Play Parks	£121.31
Skate Park	£85.00
SCC Reserve	£3,903.82
Solva Fireworks Display	£3,761.74
Parc Y Capel	£6,613.76
Fetes	£1,346.76
Defibrillator spare (pads etc)	£100.00
Welsh Language Fund	£200.00
Total	£19,796.39
Free cash	£9,011.93

TOTAL £28,808.32



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- b. **Budget Review.** Expenditure was reviewed against the agreed budget.
- c. **Correspondence.** All correspondence had been circulated to members via email.

23. **County Councillor.** This month's report will be shorter than usual as many meetings in County Hall have been postponed due to the Election. One topic that always creates a response is the subject of speeding in Solva and there has been discussion on this topic on social media. We all know since last September, Solva has had a 20mph restriction from Lower Solva bridge to the end of Bro Dawel. On the St Davids side there is a 40mph zone from Nine Wells and shortly a 40mph zone will be introduced from the top of Solva hill to the bridge to prepare traffic for the 20mph restriction. The yellow hatched lines are faded and last June I asked for them to be refreshed to remind drivers and particularly visitors of the dangers of the bridge. Hopefully that task will have been completed by the time you read this report. In relation to the suggestion that the 20mph is being exceeded, I have further requested a speed survey outside the Ship Inn with 2 wires across the road. This will provide evidence of speeding and hence provide reasoning should traffic calming measures be required. The speed survey should take place late July. In the meantime, if residents do see drivers clearly driving at excessive or inappropriate speeds please report to 101. It is only the Police who can enforce the rules.

24. **AOB.**

- a. **Colin** mentioned Micky Beckett from Solva who had been selected for the British Olympic squad. Solva was proud and wished him every success.
- b. **Richard** again highlighted the lower Solva car park and the lack of lighting during the hours of darkness. SCC wrote to PCNPA on 1st March 2024 which was passed on to their Dark Skies Officer to respond. Previous to 1st March the PCNPA position was:
 - The provision of lighting within our car park did not emerge as a priority during the extensive local consultation which informed the upgrade of the car park circa 10 years ago
 - In recent years 'Dark Sky objectives' from a Welsh Government Policy level downwards continue to gain momentum to the extent that the introduction of new external lighting would only be considered appropriate in the most exceptional of circumstances. Instead, the contemporary



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focus sees us being actively encouraged to remove external lighting from our property estate where ever possible and where that is not realistic, at least reduce the brightness and spread of existing installations. The issue that your Chairman has pointed out re the Pembs CC street lights may well be a product of this same policy

- For good or for bad(!) the proliferation of new technology in the guise of mobile phones and very small lightweight torches means that an ever growing proportion of the population can have access to and use of their own personal light source should they require one.

c. **Richard** informed members the grass needed to be cut in the Community Car Park. **Post Meeting Note.** The grass had now been cut by a local resident.

d. **Ifor** raised concern about the gudel in lower Solva which was being used as a storage area for gas bottles. The Gudel was a public right of way to Solva river. **Action Mark**

e. **Clubhouse Play Group. Alyssia** and members warmly welcomed the initiative to restart the Play Group. SCC would provide support to help ensure the continuance of the venture. Details to be agreed at the July meeting. **Action Clerk**

Compiled by:

Bruce Payne (Clerk) 12th June 2024

Signed by: (Chair)

Community Councillor Alyssia Fiander-Houlden