

**Minutes of a Remote Meeting of St Harmon Community Council held on Thursday
3rd March 2022**

Present: Cllr D Lowde, S Lewis, M Williams, A Mills, D Jenkins, P Hunt
Cty Cllr D Evans (8.30pm)

Apologies: Cllr L McPhee

SH 40/22 **Declarations of Interests**
Cllr S Lewis SH 48/22b Personal

SH 41/22 **Minutes**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2022 were approved and signed subject to an amendment to minute reference SH 31/22. Cllr Jenkins abstained from the vote.

SH 42/22 **Information from Minutes**

a) Stores Farm Barn

Notification had been received from the new owners who wish to reassure the council their intentions are to make the area as safe as possible whilst they await permission to take The Barns down to a safe level.

To ensure the safety of the public they will be erecting a fence around the access road behind the bus stop, leading to the property. Therefore, in the meantime, should anything fall from the building then the general public will be kept a safe distance from the area. As soon as they have approval from PCC they will start to remove the slates and upper level of the building. This was welcomed and noted.

b) Noticeboard at Community Hall

The Chair had received approval to remove the old noticeboard from outside the community hall.

c) Marteg Messenger

Cllr Hunt had obtained two quotes for printing at £40 and £45. He is still awaiting event dates from the Community Hall.

Resolved: to accept the lowest quote and fund the printing from the Bryn Titli fund as this is of community benefit.

d) Council Process

Cllr Jenkins pointed out that the Chair and Clerk should follow the letter of the Law and stated that neither the Chair nor Clerk have the authority to remove a member from the meeting or place them in the waiting room.

The Chair assumed Cllr Jenkins was referring to the previous meeting SH 31/22 Written Notice of Motion, when the Chair stated that he would ask the Clerk to put Cllr Jenkins in the waiting room if he persisted in verbally attacking another member of the council.

Cllr Jenkins was actually referring to two open meetings held in 2021 when Cllr Lowde suggested that Cllr Jenkins verbally criticised a member of the public, Cllr Jenkins stated he merely spoke the truth concerning training.

Cllr Jenkins stated "it is a pity that the Chair didn't think about this in the 2 open meetings he attended in previous years. He felt this was double standards."

SH 43/22

Public Speaking

a) Mr A Bates – Football Club

The Football Club had been asked by the Council to attend the meeting with regard to previous grants awarded.

Mr Bates apologised to the council but explained the on-going difficulties with the Barclays Bank closure and the new bank mandate as he took over as Treasurer for the group late 2021. The new mandate was submitted in 2021 and has still not been processed.

Mr Bates felt that in order to move forward this situation he would ask the former Treasurer to sign the refund cheque providing they are still on the mandate. He assured the council that the monies remain within the account and would be refunded asap.

The Chair thanked Mr Bates for addressing the meeting.

Resolved: to await the outcome of the approach to the former Treasurer.

SH 44/22

Correspondence

a) Powys County Council Planning Dept – 21/2250/FUL

Email from the planning officer in response to queries raised at the last meeting as follows:

- 1) "It was also noted that there are anomalies within the paperwork and clarification is required as to whether the units are one bed or two bed and are for 2 or 5 people.

The submitted floor plans indicate one bedroom.

The Design and Access Statement states:

The applicant proposes eleven hobbit homes. They are a cylindrical shaped home formed of recycled waste plastic, creating high density polyethylene walls and ceiling, covered with turf with timber doors and windows. The internal diameter is 3 metres with a floor height being circa 2.8 metres. Two different sized units are proposed;

- Straight home 14m x 3.2m providing 2 bedrooms
- L shaped home 12m x 3.2m plus 3.2m circa 4m with 2 bedrooms

As stated above, the submitted plans indicate one bedroom for the straight and I shaped home and as such it is considered the information is an error in the design and access statement.

2) It is also not clear where the water from the hot tubs will be dispersed.

I have not seen any reference to hot tubs within the submission.”

This was noted.

b) Powys County Council – Overgrown Tree, St Harmon

A copy of the response sent to Cllr Evans was presented to the Council. It confirmed there are issues with regards to ownership. PCC Grounds Team have been asked to take a look at the tree with regard the required work.

The Clerk was disappointed that the council had not received a direct reply from PCC despite several reminder emails. This was noted.

c) Cadno – Garn Fach Wind Farm

Notification that the Full Development of National Significance (DNS) has now been submitted -

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/developments-of-national-significance-guidance-consultation-and-publicity.pdf>

As Council representative on this project the Chair updated members and confirmed the council will now await the application consultation.

SH 45/22

Planning Applications

a) 21/2355/FUL

Grid Reference: **E:301711 N: 272001**

Proposal: Siting of 8 no. holiday units (comprising 6 holiday cabins and 2 'Hobbit homes') including formation of 2 new vehicular accesses, associated parking, installation of sewage treatment plant and all associated works Site Address: Land Near St Harmon, St Harmon, LD6 5NG.

Cllr Lewis and Cllr Mills had concerns over environmental issues and the water waste from the hot tubs. It was noted that Natural Resources Wales have similar concerns and noted the absence of a Habitat Assessment.

Resolved: to not object to this application, however to point out concerns over the hot tub water dispersal the anomalies with the drainage within the plans, the absence of a Habitat Assessment and concerns over the River Wye as an SAC.

Concerns were expressed about the number of holiday homes being applied for in the area. The Clerk will speak to Peter Morris the officer responsible for the LDP to see if there are statistics for this.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Peter Morris.

b) 21/1760/FUL

Grid Reference: E:299607 N: 274407

Proposal: Siting of a timber lodge unit for residential use, formation of vehicular access, parking area, installation of a septic tank and all associated works - Site Address: Land at Glan Marteg, St Harmon, Rhayader, LD6 5LY,

This application was withdrawn by applicant.

SH 46/22

Grant Applications

None.

SH 47/22

Finance

- a) Salary - £354.50 - approved
- b) HMRC - £49.80 - approved
- c) Clerk's Expenses & Home Working Allowance - £144.43 - approved
- d) Bank Reconciliation

Reconciliation	@	24.02.22
Balance @	27.01.22	43642.78
Plus Receipts		275.00
Less Payments		405.30
Total Balance		43512.48
Breakdown:		
Council	c/f	20086.05
Plus Receipts		275.00
Less Payments		405.30
Balance		19955.75
Bryn Titli	c/f	23556.73
Plus Receipts		0
Less Payments		
Balance		23556.73

- e) Annual Audit Returns - Update

The Clerk had contacted Audit Wales. Unfortunately, due to issues with the 2018/19 and 2019/20 audits, these returns are now with the Executive Director for final assessment. The Clerk had received confirmation that the audit for 2020/21 has received an "unqualified" outcome which is excellent news.

SH 48/22

Bryn Titli Fund Applications

- a) **Rhayader & District Motor Cycle & Light Car Club**

Members agreed to award the full grant of £1500 to this group.

The Clerk advised members as RFO that in view of previous issues with Bryn Titli grants, the council may wish to notify the group of the allocation and advise them that that monies will be released once their additional funds have been raised. This was agreed.

Resolved: To award a grant of £1500 to be ring fenced and issued to the group once the remaining funds have been raised for this project.

b) St Harmon & District Parish Hall Pant y Dwr

Cllr Jenkins did not object to this application, however he felt that reasons for this application were on health and safety grounds.

Cllr Jenkins pointed out that once again the application form from this group had been completed incorrectly. He noted that a handwritten figure stating the amount claimed excluding VAT had been written in. The Clerk confirmed she had done this in discussion with Cllr Lowde, the Hall representative and the Chair of the Hall Committee. Cllr Jenkins stated the Clerk should not have defaced the form.

In response the Clerk reminded members that she had been criticised for not checking a previous form and therefore checked the entries submitted and identified the omission.

The Clerk pointed out the rules for VAT with grant applications for the benefit of all members.

A group is permitted to apply for any amount of money up to £1500. This can be a gross figure. If the group is able to reclaim VAT the council should only allocate the net amount. However, it is acceptable for the council to award the gross amount if VAT is not reclaimable by the group.

Resolved: to award the full grant of £829.34 to purchase Table Trolleys.

The Clerk suggested the application form be amended to include a box to clarify if the applicant is able to reclaim VAT.

Resolved: to amend the form.

SH 49/22 June Council Meeting – Amended Date

The Clerk requested to move the June meeting from the Bank Holiday Thursday 2nd June to Thursday 9th June 2022.

Resolved: this was agreed.

SH 50/22 Community Broadband Scheme

The Clerk circulated notes of the first Focus Meeting with Broadway Partners on 14th February 2022. Plans are now well underway and letters to all residences within the community should be sent out in the next 3 weeks.

SH 51/22 Future Project Proposal

Cllr Mills brought forward an idea being supported by Welsh Government which falls into 2 phases:

1. to offer every property in Wales the opportunity to receive a tree to be planted within their land.
2. To obtain trees for planting on community or common land at a small purchase price. Cllr Mills would be happy to carry out a scoping exercise to identify PCC land for the planting of trees.

The Clerk confirmed she has experience with regard to this project and pointed out that any trees sited on PCC land would need commitment from them to the upkeep and maintenance and insurance. Cllr Mills was grateful for this advice.

Cllr Mills suggested that if the council proceeds with this project he could provide Cllr Hunt with information on the first phase with contact details to be included in the Marteg Messenger.

Cllr Lewis reflected back to a time when children in the community planted trees on several Jubilee years as commemoration and felt this was a good idea.

Resolved: to adopt phase 1 and advertise in the Marteg Messenger and to give Cllr Mills the authority to carry out the scoping exercise with PCC and report back to the council.

SH 52/22

Platinum Jubilee – Commemoration Mugs

Cllr Lewis reminded members that throughout the years the council had given out commemorative mugs to the children of the community. She felt this idea should be carried on.

The Clerk had provided examples of mugs and also plastic drinking bottles at £1.99 each. Members felt that plastic drinking bottles would be used by more children.

Resolved: to purchase 72 bottles initially from the Bryn Titli fund; further bottles could be ordered if required.

SH 53/22

Community Hall Report

The Chair reported two future event dates:

- 20th August – Pant y Dwr Show
- 1st & 2nd October – Motorcycle Show

He also reported that although the Community Council noticeboard at the road entrance to the hall had weathered the recent storms the hall board had been damaged and the supporting shelter should be checked. Cllr Williams agreed to take a look at the damage and report back to the council. He may also need to measure up for new boards.

SH 54/22

County Councillors Report

Cllr Evans reported on the St Harmon tree and other community issues. Cllr Lewis brought up a few issues with parking and other matters.

The Chair reminded members of the self-reporting service via the PCC website. The Clerk will forward the link once again to all members.

SH 55/22

Other Matters & Information

a) Financial Regulations

Resolved: to defer the review of these until May 2022.

b) Bryn Titli Application Form

CLlr Jenkins pointed out that despite the Clerk stating she had checked the Community Hall Bryn Titli application there were typos within the form. The Clerk will amend these.