

ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF ST BRIDES MINOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT SARN LIFE LONG LEARNING CENTRE AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Councillors: M John (Chair)
E Davies (zoom)
P Ford (zoom) (from 6.15 pm)
D McConnell
S Morgan
T Nicholls from 6.06 pm
T Thomas (zoom)
B Tiltman
Y Walton-Davies
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)

Apologies: Councillors R Teahan-Dyer

Clerk: Ann Harris

Public: 3 Members of the Public

Minute No: 55/23-24

The Chair welcomed Councillor Jake Williams to his first meeting as a councillor of St Brides Minor Community Council.

56/23-24 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Name	Minute Number	Declaration	Speak/Vote
Emma Davies	66/23-24	Employee Awen Cultural Trust - Library Services at Sarn Centre	No/No
Paula Ford	58/23-24	All BCBC Matters Member Coity Wallia Board of Conservators	No/No
Yvonne W-Davies	66/23-24	Member Coity Higher Community Council	Yes/No
Mark John	63/23-24 67/23-24	All BCBC Matters including Development Control Ynysawdre CC Tenant Community Garden	No/No No/No
Terry Nicholls	63/23-24	Ynysawdre CC	No/No
Tim Thomas	63/23-24	All BCBC Matters Ynysawdre CC	No/No
Jake Williams		Item 10 Footpath 3 and Ynyswadre CC	No/No
Martin Williams	63/23-24	All BCBC Matters Vice-Chair Coity Higher Community Council	No/No No/No

Note: Councillor Mark John declared an interest as a Member of BCBC's Planning Committee and did not take part in any discussion. Councillor Bernard Tiltman chaired this item.

57/23-24 ITEM 3 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2023 ORDINARY and EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the July 2023 Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings had been distributed with the Meeting papers.

Resolved: The council agreed to accept the minutes of the July 2023 Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings held on 10th & 20th July 2023 as a true and accurate record and the Chair signed the minutes

58/23-24 ITEM 4 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2023 MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from the July 2023 Extraordinary Meeting.

Ordinary Meeting:

Minute 41/23-24 Consider Matters Arising from the June Meeting

T&CC Funding Application: Following the unsuccessful application for funding for a MUGA, Councillors Thomas and John met with BCBC Officers for further guidance and updated the meeting.

In the meantime, BCBC has asked failed applicants to complete an Expression of Interest form for possible capital grant funding, the condition being that work must be completed by the end of March 2024. The closing date for submissions was before the date of this meeting, so the Clerk had submitted an Eol application.

Bench Jubilee Crescent: Following the council's proposal I chased a response from V2C, but the only response received was to offer up the names of two contractors to obtain quotes from. The Clerk had done this, one had not responded and the other declined to quote.

Wigan Terrace: No update from BCBC on a replacement bin.

Coity Wallia Conservators: Councillor M Williams had made a referral to BCBC regarding funding and had been informed that BCBC recognizes the work of the conservators and officer time will be made available to them, but no monetary will be committed. Councillor John said that at the Conservators meeting they were told that provided receipts are shown for the work carried out by the Conservators, BCBC will give a reimbursement of up to £5,000 a year. Cenin Renewables is also positive about providing funding. Councillor Walton-Davies said that the Conservators will apply for any available funding, perhaps via Green Spaces, Wild Spirit etc.

Welcome Signs: No update from BCBC on the criteria for signs.

Minute 42/23-24 Crime Figures

Following a request at the July meeting, members will now note that RCT are included in the crime figures.

Minute 43/23-24 Christmas 2023

The Clerk had a site visit with a representative from Centre Great, to look for lighting columns in Bryncethin which could be adapted this year, to hold new column motifs purchased for installation in time for Christmas 2024. Only one column is usable on Blackmill Road, which is on the corner before the bends and 6 columns from the Masons towards the Royal Oak were identified. All other columns in these areas are not permissible. The quote for the adaptations is £1,820.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted and approved. A leaflet drop to houses within the area or an opportunity to gather views following the viewing of plans of the MUGA would be arranged by Councillors Thomas and John. The Clerk was asked to wait for a response to the council's offer from V2C and given authority to go ahead with adapting the columns identified using general reserve funds with a view to including funding for additional

motifs in the precept budget for 2024/25.

59/23-24 ITEM 5 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JULY & AUGUST 2023

The crime figures for July and August 2023 had been distributed with the meeting papers. There were no SW Police in attendance.

Resolved: The crime figures were discussed and it was noted that the ASB category is a broad category.

60/23-24 ITEM 6 CO-OPTION SARN WARD

One application had been received and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Ian Curzon to the Community Council to represent the Sarn Ward.

61/23-24 ITEM 7 ABERKENFIG BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Tim Thomas raised this item following a conversation with the Club. He asked if prior to precept setting for 2024/25 the council will look at financial support for their scheme as whilst it may be Aberkenfig in name, it is a local institution which is attended by children from St Brides Minor wards. Councillor Y Walton-Davies asked what proportion of children from the 3 wards attend Councillor, but the information was not available. It was also noted that earlier this year the council had approached the Club regarding provision in the St Brides Minor area, but the reply had not been helpful.

Resolved: Councillor Thomas would speak to the Club to gather more information and to ask them to submit a funding request for 2024/25 by November 2023 for consideration.

62/23-24 ITEM 8 PLAY AREA REAR OF KEEN PLACE

Councillor Terry Nicholls raised this item; the ownership of the play area had been identified and recent activity on it along with some anti-social behaviors was noted. The borough councillors were aware of the activity at the site.

Resolved: The issues raised were noted.

63/23-24 **ITEM 9 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW**

The first part of this review being carried out by BCBC is to invite Councils to submit any proposals or changes they may have to assist BCBC in preparing draft reports. This may include boundary amendments, the merging of communities, the warding of communities, the renaming of communities or wards and the electoral arrangements within communities.

Resolved: Following a discussion, it was agreed to recommend combining St Brides Minor Community Council and Ynysawdre Community Council and the name suggestion was St Brides Minor and Ynysawdre Community Council.

64/23-24 **ITEM 10 FOOTPATH 3**

During the summer recess the Clerk had been approached by BCBC's Rights of Way department on this matter and due to the next council being in September a temporary measure had been put in place over July/August.

BCBC has received several queries regarding this footpath leading between Ty'n y Coed Close and Leyshon Way, namely the reason for the path being moved and a missing kissing gate. Having carried out site visits and further research the RoW section has confirmed that the new route of footpath 3 is that of the definitive alignment, however, they've also received reports of motorbikes using this new route which is of concern to members of the public. Due to the reports of its illegal use, the RoW section has installed a temporary kissing gate, with a view to it being permanent and asking the council for its views. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to respond to BCBC saying that they have no issue with a gate in this location to stop the illegal use by motorbikes but that it needs to be accessible for all and suggest a kissing gate with a gate to the side that could be opened by those with the use of a radar key.

65/23-24 **ITEM 11 WARD NOTICEBOARDS**

The Finance Committee was asked to discuss this at their meeting in early October and report back to the October Ordinary Meeting with recommendations.

Resolved: The item was deferred to the October 2023 meeting.

Note: Councillor Emma Davies left the meeting for item 12 at 7.12 pm and returned for item 13 at 7.24 pm. Councillor Martin Williams did not take part in the discussion on this item and declared an interest as a member of Coity Higher Community Council.

66/23-24 ITEM 12 LIBRARY SUPPORT

Councillor Walton-Davies raised the question that if the librarian was attending and providing book/reading events to schools outside the St Brides Minor CC wards that those councils should be approached to contribute towards the library funding. It was noted that when the librarian attends these events, there is a temporary librarian provided, in her absence, for Sarn Library

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to request further information from Awen to facilitate a further discussion at the October meeting.

Note: Councillor Mark John left the meeting for item 13 at 7.24 pm and returned for item 14 at 7.42 pm.

67/23-24 ITEM 13 COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

Unfortunately, we don't yet have any final advice from the solicitor. I've recently provided her with a copy of a tenancy provided by the Chair of Community Gardens. It says that it's signed by the council, but to my knowledge in the time I've been Clerk no signature has been requested or given. She has advised that the council doesn't submit a planning application for the container or accepts any rental income until this matter is resolved.

Resolved: The Clerk has been asked to find out if the Community Garden is included in its insurance cover as the tenancy agreement refers to this in the agreement.

68/23-24 ITEM 14 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Clerk had prepared a draft annual report which had been sent out to members prior to the meeting. This was discussed.

Resolved: The report was approved and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

69/23-24 ITEM 15 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. The Clerk requested authority to make the payments listed for July and August 2023 of £4,735.11 and £ 4,084.32 giving an unaudited balance carried forward to September of £78,460.88.

2. There had been no contact and therefore no update regarding the 2022/23 External Audit.

3. The Clerk had engaged the services of David Prosser solicitors to look at the lease offered by Dunraven Estates for Bryncethin Memorial Hall car park and they suggest that the fees for this service could be up to £1,250.

Resolved: The information was noted. Authority was given to make the payments listed totalling £8,819.43. Authority was given for the Clerk to engage the services of the solicitor to check the lease at the rate quoted.

70/23-24 ITEM 16 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair has accepted and invitation from Maesteg Town Council to attend their civic service on 17th September 2023 and to visit the new children's unit built on the site of the old Brynmenyn Primary School.

Resolved: The information was noted.

71/23-24 ITEM 17 MEMBERS/WARD REPORTS

Councillor John said he'd been dealing with a local incident and that he'd attended many meetings including one with V2C. Referrals continued regarding many issues. He noted that the grass cutting carried out by SBMCC's contractor was far better than other contractors.

Councillor Thomas had also attended the meeting with V2C and many others. Hybont plans continue to be a public concern. Reports of a fast food outlet at McArthur Glen disposing of oil waste via the drainage system had been received and he had written to shared regulatory services about the alleged practice. Parking issues have also been a concern over the summer months.

Councillor Ford had received complaints about many of the same issues as Councillors John and Thomas, particularly in relation to hedges being overgrown, the quality of the grass cutting and housing issues. She informed the meeting that the Care and Repair waiting list is very long and that she'd accepted an invitation to visit the new children's unit built on the site of the old Brynmenyn Primary School.

Councillor Walton-Davies also mentioned concerns regarding drainage and gave an update on past attendance at a Pethau Bychan meeting, where she said some information was misleading. She said that she'd been informed that BCBC would no longer remove ragwort, which is a worry.

Councillor Davies had received complaints regarding applications for blue badges, benefits etc to BCBC. Councillor John had assisted with a blue badge matter.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to thank the grass cutting contractor for his work.

72/23-24 **ITEM 18 CLERK'S REPORT**

Summer Activity Scheme:

This has been a great success over the 5 weeks of the school holidays, with the Bryncethin rugby club venue having higher attendance figures than previously at Rowan's Lane.

The Clerk provided the attendance figures:

Week 1 Sarn 38/Bryncethin 17

Week 2 Sarn 16/Bryncethin 34

Week 3 Sarn 18/Bryncethin 28

Week 4 Sarn 25/Bryncethin 29

Week 5 Sarn 12/Bryncethin 7 (poorer weather conditions)

Land at Vale View:

Pier Management has contacted the Clerk to say they are looking into their legal documents to see if the leaseholders within their freehold buildings hold obligations to make fair and reasonable contributions towards maintain the land which sits within their client's freehold title.

However, in the meantime they've asked if SBM CC would have an interest in adopting or purchasing the land from them for a nominal sum?

Wifi at Sarn Centre:

It was noted that since the Centre changed its wifi that the signal is intermittent and was not sufficient to hold hybrid meetings.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to respond to Pier Management asking them what nominal sum they have in mind for the adoption or purchasing of the land to aid further discussion. The Clerk was asked to contact the Corporate Landlord at BCBC to ask them to install a booster to enable the council to hold hybrid meetings with good internet signal.

73/23-24 **ITEM 19 CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence had been forwarded by email to Members. With the Chair's permission some additional correspondence had been included in the papers as they had been received after the papers had been distributed.

The Clerk highlighted some items:

- Wales Audit Office - consultation on fee scales 2024/25
- BCBC Notice of Matters Arising Changes (MAC) Consultation
- Dr Paul Davies - request to speak at a future meeting (October agenda)
- Maesteg Town Council - invitation to the Chair to attend their civic service (Chair accepted)
- OVW Conference and AGM
- OVW and SLCC event 8th November 2023
- Bridgend Carers Centre - financial support request

Resolved: The items of correspondence were noted. The actions of the Clerk were noted. The financial support request would be deferred to the November meeting.

Note: Councillor John did not take part in the item 20 discussion and Councillor Tiltman chaired this item. Councillor John left the meeting at 8.10 pm and returned at 8.14 pm for item 21.

74/23-24 ITEM 20 PLANNING MATTERS

4 planning requests had been sent out in the month and 1 decision and 0 appeals.

0 Planning Aid Wales event details had been sent out in the month.

Resolved: The information was noted, the Clerk was asked to object to planning application P/23/412/OUT.

75/23-24 ITEM 21 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

The agenda will be kept open for any other items that may arise during the month.

- Paul Davies
- Finance Committee Recommendations (BT)
- Quiet Lanes (YW-D)

The next meeting of the St Brides Minor Community Council will take place on Monday 9th October 2023 at Sarn Life Long Learning Centre and via zoom at 6.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

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Chair of Council
2023

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11th September