**CAREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Community Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7 pm in Committee Room of Carew Memorial Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Simon Hosker-Hicks (Chair) Cllr Trevor Goodman

Cllr Marina Griffiths Cllr Madeleine Bland

Cllr Julia Williams Cllr Steve Williams

Cllr Marcia Allen Cllr Alison Folder

Cllr Sarah Benbow

**Apologies for absence** - Cllr Linda Dennis

**IN ATTENDANCE** PCSO Emma Hayward

**Requests for hybrid/remote attendees -**  County Councillor Vanessa Thomas attended via Teams Platform

**Declarations of Interest –** There were no Declarations of Interest from the correspondence sent to Councillors.

Chair welcomed all to the January meeting .

**Minutes of the December meeting -** It was proposed by Cllr Goodman and seconded by Cllr Allen that the minutes were a true record and they were duly signed.

**Matters Arising:-**

* Email received from Streetcare at PCC in response to the Community Council’s letter giving notice on the Service Level Agreement for the Public Conveniences in Carew. As there is now no funding available for the funding of the toilets PCC are closing the toilets with effect from 1st April 2025. Councillors noted this response with dismay and disappointment and despite the best efforts of all involved. An explanation for residents in the Parish and wider afield will be put on the CCC Facebook page.

County Councillor Thomas asked that PCC be asked for the details for decommissioning of the toilets including security and checks going forward, particularly with regard to the location of the toilets in close proximity to the play area in Carew. The area behind the toilets needs to be secured.

* Precept for 2025/2026 - Councillors reviewed the updated Community Council’s budget plan . It was agreed by all present with a show of hands that the Precept to be requested from PCC will be £30,000.
* Coopted Councillor - Councillors noted that Nicola Bearmand has decided not to put herself forward to be a Coopted Councillor at this time.
* Chip Van Carew Memorial Hall Car Park - Councillors noted that this would commence each Friday 10th January 5.30 -7 pm .
* Community Councillors Dinner - this would be in the Committee Room on Friday 17th January 2025 at 6 pm.
* Financial Review and Risk Assessment Policies - Clerk informed that she and Councillor Griffiths would meet to finalise these and for them to be presented at the February Meeting of the Community Council.
* Community Website - Clerk informed that the agreement with Easywebsites has been signed and process ongoing in creating the new website and the domain name will be carewcommunitycouncil.gov.uk. Further information will be provided when the changeover has taken place.
* Milton Marsh Walk Fence - Clerk informed that she had again made contact with Dwr Cymru regarding the repairs needed to the fence and will provide further information when available.
* West Williamston Phone Box - Cllr Julia Williams provided information and costings for the replacement door which had broken off during Storm Darragh. The cost is £1535.09 which includes VAT and delivery . Other quotes were for £1098 excluding VAT and delivery and £2076 . It was agreed to proceed to order from the former company X2 Connect for the K6 phonebox. This was proposed by Cllr Benbow and seconded by Cllr Griffiths. It was further resolved to claim on the Community Council’s insurance for this amount . All present agreed. Further update to be provided at the February meeting.
* VE Day 8th May 2025 - no further updates available from Carew Cheriton Control Tower Group as yet.
* Wildlife and Birds Carew Quarry - Chair confirmed that this talk will be held in Redberth Church at a date in February and he will communicate the date to Councillors nearer the time.
* Audit 2023/24 - Communication received from Welsh Audit that the return is in the process of being reviewed and when finalised the report will be sent to the Community Council.
* Clerk confirmed that PCC had been contacted to cut back the hedgerow between Carew phone box to layby opposite Kesteven Court.
* Shed at Carew Memorial hall - Councillors noted that the shed is now no longer fit for purpose. Currently the tools and litter pickers are located in the old toilet in the Hall and following discussion it was agreed that they remain in this location and the shed be disposed of. Further discussion ensued regarding securing the area to the left of the Hall and this was felt not now necessary as the tools and litter picking equipment were now securely housed in the Hall . However should the situation change then this would be looked into further.

**Planning -**  There were no planning applications received for January 2025.

**Grasscutting Contract 2025 -**  Clerk confirmed that she had sent the Contract to All The Seasons Garden Services. The area of biodiversity planting in Milton Play Park have been included in the Contract. Operative has confirmed that the cost will be the same as previous year. The costs have now been frozen for the third year. Councillors were more than happy with this arrangement particularly in view of the good quality work and attention to detail in the areas being cut in the Parish.

**Enhancement Grant for Milton Exercise equipment and 106 monies.** Clerk informed that she is awaiting the formal Grant offer from PCC and will chase this up before progressing with the order of the Exercise equipment. Councillors noted the need for a Working Party to oversee such things as location and timing of the siting of the equipment.

With regard to the matting at Milton Play area it was agreed to ask PCC to clean the matting .

Also noted is that the painting of play area in Milton is awaited and hopefully this will be done in the better weather.

Also Section 106 scheduled discussed as per diary schedule. Councillors will continue to review the options for in the Parish in line with the conditions of the Section 106 criteria.

**Correspondence & Invoices for payment**

Councillors had been sent the following communications: -

* Law Commission consultation on Burial and Cremation law reform from OVW. Clerk had raised concern regarding the short deadline on response to this consultation and had obtained an extension to 16th January 2025. Councillors noted this consultation and comments received are to be included in the response.
* Changes to local bus services in Pembrokeshire - January 2025. Councillors noted this information. Whilst discussing this it came to light an instance regarding the booking of the Fflecsi Bus service which County Councillor Thomas felt she would take up with PCC.
* Newsletter circulated by OVW from Llais Cymru on Silly Rules update . Noted
* Review of Senedd Constituencies Another short deadline with a consultation period over the Christmas holidays. Councillors noted this information.
* Well-being Action Plan - Free training available This training will be useful when putting together the Well-being Action Plan for the Community Council. Chair agreed to look into this further and there is training available on 14th January and Cllr Benbow would try to attend this .

Bank Account Balances Current £13,078.23 Business £776.11

West Wales Systems paid by DD £48.52. Clerk’s Salary £222.55 paid by SO .

There are no invoices for payment for January.

**Policing Matters -**  Clerk informed PCSO that the Streetsafe information from Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters has not yet been received and she will look into this.

Speed statistics - PCSO Hayward informed that the Go Safe camera van had attended areas in the Parish on 12th November and 9 offenders had been identified not adhering to speed limits.

She also informed that the issue of speeding along Birds Lane is a definite issue and has been in attendance with speed gun .

PCSO Hayward made Councillors aware of her negotiations with DPP to enable speed vans to visit the detrunked road in Sageston in light of the continued speeding of vehicles.

Electric Scooters - Both Chair and PCSO Hayward informed that the incidences of scooters on the highway has considerably reduced following FB pages information by Chair and frequent police presence.

PCSO Hayward continues with the joint patrols with County Councillor Thomas to various locations in the Parish.

**County Councillors Report**  - County Councillor Thomas informed that the hedgerow at the fence at Milton Play area has been cut back to enable better visibility when exiting the play area gate.

**What’s Been Happening, General Discussion and Items for Agenda for next meeting in February .**

Cllr Allen had observed voluntary litter picking in Carew Park Estate and Councillors were heartened to hear this. Cllr Allen stated she would personally visit to thank them for this act of community spiritedness.

Clerk informed that she had received communication from a Community Council regarding the inspectors used by CCC if different from the PCC play area inspectors. This information had been communicated.

In addition to the agenda items above - Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment Policies , along with West Williamston Phone box door replacement, items for discussion will be :-

* Carew Newton Cemetery Fees as per Church in Wales.
* Risk Assessment for Audit purposes.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting -**  Due to Clerk being unavailable on 12th February all councillors agreed to change the meeting date to Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7 pm in Committee Room of Carew Memorial Hall.

Chair thanked all of attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED:- ……………………………..

DATE:- ……………………………………

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