



St Brides Major
Community Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

www.stbridesmajor-cc.gov.uk
clerk@stbridesmajor-cc.gov.uk

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CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Welcome to the first annual report of St Brides Major Community Council.

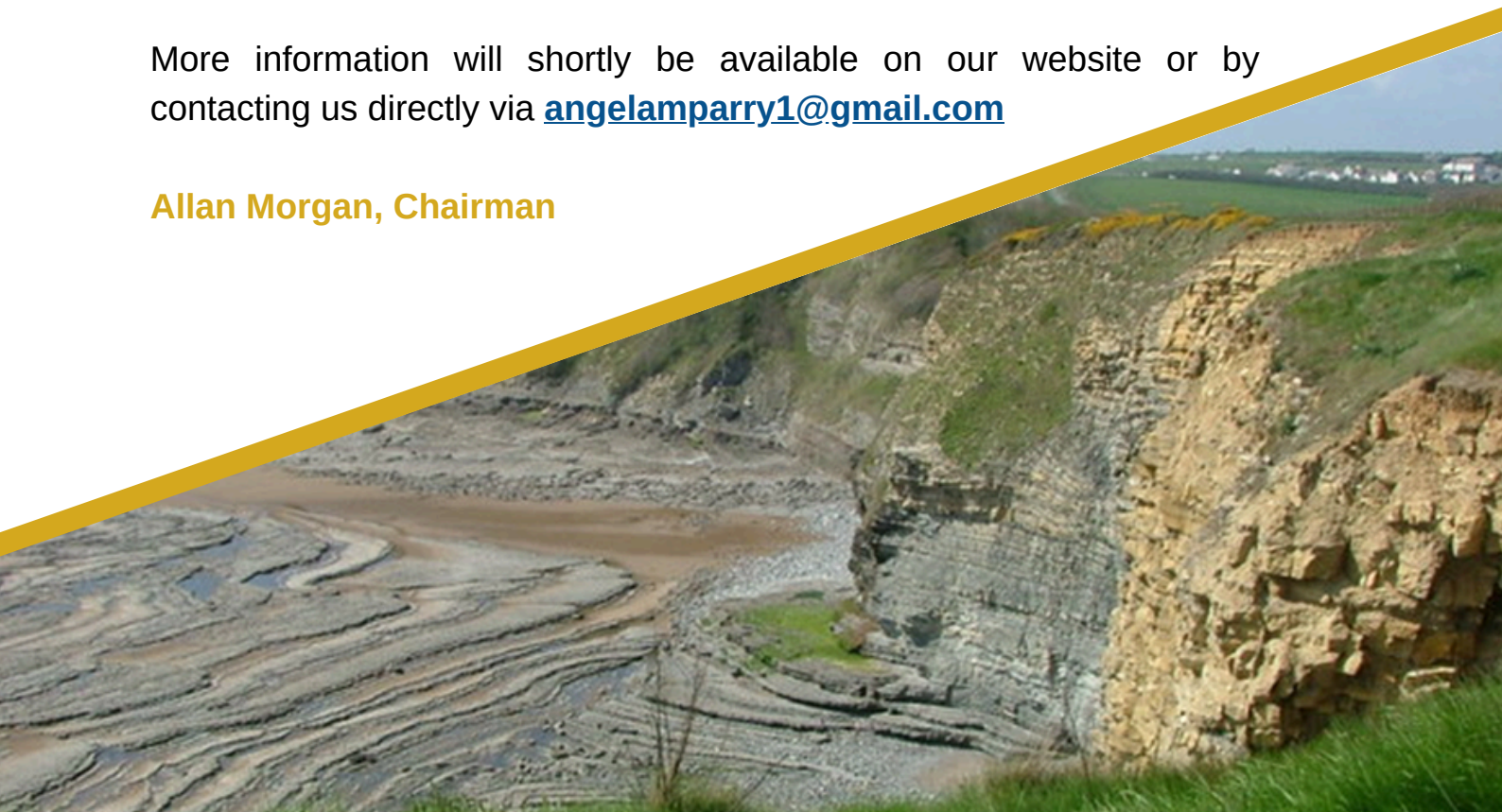
This report is intended to provide you with information on your local Council and what it does for the community. This is a snapshot of our work, and I look forward to developing our reports in future years.

Having lived in the area all my life I see it as a huge privilege to have the role of Chairperson and to be able to support our community in this way. I encourage you to read this annual report and to consider attending our meetings either in person or by joining remotely.

We currently have vacancies for two Councillors to represent the Ogmore by Sea ward. These are voluntary positions. The position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer role is also vacant. This is a paid part-time role overseen by the volunteer Councillors. Please consider joining us!

More information will shortly be available on our website or by contacting us directly via angelamparry1@gmail.com

Allan Morgan, Chairman



ABOUT THE COUNCIL

St. Brides Major Community Council (the Council) covers the areas of [St Brides Major](#), [Castle Upon Alun](#), [Southerndown](#) and [Ogmore By Sea](#). Our Community Council comprises one of twenty-three electoral wards within the Vale of Glamorgan unitary authority. It is a semi-rural coastal community which proves popular with tourists in the summer months and walkers all year round. It is the western limit of the Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

Representing our 2,607 electors, there are five councillors for the Ogmore by Sea ward and six covering St. Brides Major, Southerndown and Castle upon Alun district. Councillors undertake a voluntary role with reimbursement for expenses of £156 per year. The council meets on the second Monday of the month with meetings held in All Saints Church, Southerndown at 7pm where press and public are invited to attend.

Community councils were established under the [Local Government Act 1972](#) (LGA 1972) and replaced the previous system of parish councils. Responsibility for the Burial ground at St Bridget's Church and all War memorials in the ward remain a key responsibility of St Brides Community Council.

More detailed functions of a community council are set out in LGA 1972 and associated legislation. For our Council this includes open spaces, seats, shelters, and footpaths. Under the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011), community councils have power to do anything they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being, social well-being or environmental well-being of their area (see page 22).

THE COUNCIL MEETING

All matters are covered in the meetings with monthly reports received from the appointed Police Constable / PCSO regarding the crimes in the area, correspondence received within the month, finances for the month, and an action list to track progress of concerns. Planning applications are also discussed, and concerns received by the Community Council are passed to the Planning Department of the Vale Council. A typical agenda is shown on page 5 and highlights the attendance of guest speakers to address areas of concern or interest.

Various councillors are appointed at the annual general meeting in May to individual positions for example, Burial Ground, Finance, Quarry Liaison and are responsible to attend meetings related to their area and report back to the main meeting.



St Brides Major Community Council

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Council will be held on (date) at 7pm in All Saints Church,
Southerndown

The public are invited to attend.

Example agenda

1. Apologies
2. Police Matters
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes
6. Correspondence
 - o Invitations
 - o Donation requests
 - o VoGC and OVW communications
 - o Transport issues
 - o Community concerns
7. Planning
8. Finance
 - o 8.1 Finance Report
 - o 8.2 Budget Review
 - o 8.3 Approval of Payments
9. Staffing and payroll
10. St Brides Major Sports Pavilion
11. Burial Ground
12. Bathing water review
13. Council Website
14. Biodiversity Plan
15. Training Opportunities.
16. Rivermouth Car Park
17. Guest speaker, Vale of Glamorgan Council; Guest speaker Environment survey
18. Updates from Members
 - o 18.1 St Brides Major
 - o 18.2 Southerndown
 - o 18.3 Ogmore by Sea
19. Questions for the Chair

YOUR COUNCILLORS

The Vale Councillors and the Neighbourhood Policing Team



Allan Morgan (St Brides Major) Chair 2024-5

I have lived in the community all my life, originally in Heol y Mynydd and now St Brides Major with my wife Jeannine and our eight year old daughter. I work for an agricultural machinery dealer in Llandow. In my spare time I enjoy supporting the Cardiff Devils ice hockey team and playing darts for the Three Golden

Cups team. I first became a Community Councillor in 2008, although I had a short spell off the council between 2016 and 2018. I have the honour of being chair of the council for 2024-25, a position I also held in 2011-12.

Heidi Morris (Ogmore by Sea) Vice Chair 2024-5

Hello, I have lived in Ogmore by Sea since 2013 and a Community Councillor since September 2017. One of my main reasons for becoming a Community Councillor, is the importance of developing a community which has a keen sense of belonging and supports each other. Living in such a beautiful part of Wales, it is important to look after our environment and keep it safe for future generations.



Stewart Edwards (St Brides Major)

I joined Community Council in 2022 after standing down as Ward Councillor for five years. I have lived in St Brides Major for 40 years, my three children all went to the school in the village and my wife Angela and I have voluntarily looked after the Sports Pavilion for the last seven years!



Adrian James (St Brides Major) Burial Ground lead

I have been a Councillor since 2008 and have lived in the St Brides Major since 1962, virtually all my life. I am an ex-Royal Navy submariner serving on ballistic missile submarines in the engineering dept, having completed the Nuclear Engineering course and as a ship's diver. I joined Ford Motor Co Bridgend Engine plant in 1980 and

worked there in various positions including the chemical and metallurgical labs and ending in the Engine laboratory. I retired in 2014. I have a degree in Environmental development awarded from the Open university. I have a keen interest in environmental matters from a practical point of view. In other words what can be achieved at a small community level. I am currently the lead Councillor for the church yard which is the responsibility of the Community Council, covering maintenance and the allocation of grave spaces. I deal directly with the undertakers. My hobbies include boating, I have a motor cruiser in Neyland Pembrokeshire and spend as much time as I can cruising out of the Milford Haven waterway.

Sharon Evans (St Brides Major)

I was co-opted to the Community Council in 2022. I am a happily retired hospital consultant and have lived in Southerndown for 25 years. Before that, I lived in St Brides Major for 10 years where our two children attended the primary school. I am keen to promote biodiversity awareness, recycling, reduction of waste and litter, and cleaner air. I'm kept busy volunteering in the 3rd sector. I enjoy hiking, playing the piano, visiting gardens, travelling and reading (geopolitics, ancient history and historical novels).



Rhodri Stephens (St Brides Major)

I am from a local family whose ancestry can be traced back in the St Brides Major area for generations. I have been a Community Councillor for over 10 years and take a keen interest in voluntary work for the upkeep of the surrounding areas.





Barry Lewis (St Brides Major) Finance lead

I have lived in St Brides Major for 30 years, having moved from the Isle of Wight with my wife Sue and two sons, Mark and David. For 24 years I worked at Spectrum Technologies in Bridgend, initially as a Systems Engineer and finally as a Product Manager before retiring in 2016. In 2007 our son, Mark, became the Landlord of the Fox and

Hounds, something that we as a family enjoyed and all contributed to. In 2017 I joined the Community Council with a present focus on ensuring that the Sports Pavilion and Field comes under the ownership of the local community. I am an avid golfer and have served on the Board at Coed y Mwstwr Golf Club since 1998.

Angela Parry (Ogmore by Sea) Personnel lead

Married to a Welshman, we moved to this area on retirement from the NHS in England where we had both worked for nearly 40 years. I have returned to work twice, most recently during the pandemic. I became a Community Councillor in 2018, keen to understand more about our local rural community and how it can be maintained and enhanced. I undertake a range of other voluntary roles and enjoy playing golf.



Martin Wynne Jones (Ogmore by Sea)

A quietly spoken professional, practical man; a proud Welshman who has lived in Ogmore by Sea for some 55 years-a period of great change. Once a small, thriving community where people knew and cared for one another, Ogmore has become much different with development. Although concerned in every aspect of local politics, his particular focus on the council is the environment and water quality-which is of no surprise

given his interests in marine archeology (sometime Chairman of the Marine Archeological Survey), diving (a qualified diving instructor), and sailing (member of Aberaeron Yacht Club). You may find him swimming locally at Bwlch Gwyn (Hardee's Bay), or Bwlch y Gro, else Traeth Bach. Keen to promote local interests and local community he openly expresses his irritation at the failure of the Vale to have adequate regard to the locality.

YOUR VALE COUNCILLORS



Carys Stallard

I have been living in Southerndown for almost 19 years, raising two boys here. I have represented the St Brides ward on the Vale of Glamorgan council for over two years. I am a Labour councillor. I led a successful campaign to ensure that cricket is still played on the cricket field in Southerndown and am still involved with Vale Cricket Club in Corntown, where I encourages women and girls to enjoy

the sport. I speak Welsh as my first language and am passionate about environmental issues –often to be seen on my bike or on the bus!

Jo Protheroe

Jo lives in Ogmore by Sea, has two daughters who went to school here and loves this place. She grew up in Llantwit Major where her parents still live. Jo's great passions in life are Art and Music and she has a great retirement plan that involves a studio with spectacular sea views. Unfortunately, there is much to be done before that dream can be realised. Jo works as a Public Sector

Procurement Specialist and is passionate that Public Sector Organisations should lead the way with Sustainable Procurement, and ensuring that where possible they buy local. Jo likes to be kept busy and since becoming a County Councillor for St Brides Ward she sits on a number of committees and chairs Corporate Performance and Resources. She is leading on a Procurement Task and Finish Group for VoG and Nationally sits on a Procurement Climate Change Board. She is proud to have set up a Food Hub for the Ward and is looking forward to working with Atlantic College and Food Vale to develop this initiative further.



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM



Jamie Williamson (right) is our local Community Police Officer. He works closely with Angela Stone (left), our Police Community Support Officer. You'll see them in the villages from time to time, either on routine patrols, answering calls, or attending meetings.

Jamie would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that you live in stunning rural villages, with extremely low levels of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. That being said, our local officers understand that every community has different challenges. Every community deserves a Police presence, be it a busy city environment, or a quieter rural village.

With that in mind, if anyone reading this Newsletter has any issues, they want to bring to the police's attention, then please contact Jamie either in person, or via phone / email as below.



PC 239 Jamie Williamson
Llantwit Major Police Station
Llanmaes Road
Llantwit Major
CF61 2XD



07584 771110



jamie.williamson@south-wales.police.uk

FINANCE

AND THE

ANNUAL ACCOUNT

SUMMARY

The main source of funding for community councils are the funds raised through the Precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. A community council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. This is paid in three instalments: April, August and December. A summary of our 2023-4 accounts is shown below.

Towards the end of 2023/4 financial year, the Council was contacted by Audit Wales regarding the non-submission of required documents over the last four years by our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). Rather than participate in an investigation our longstanding Clerk and RFO chose to resign. Whilst Councillors have now worked hard to provide necessary evidence to Audit Wales it is likely that a charge for additional work will be levied. The Council would like to apologise to the residents for this and provide reassurance that the accounts for 2023/4 were submitted in a timely manner. Many lessons have been learnt including the move to online banking, oversight of all emails to the Clerk and additional training for Councillors on all financial matters. It is important that residents are aware that they can request to view the accounts for the Community Council normally in the August of each year, and of course may attend any meeting and raise financial queries.



Community and Town Councils in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of body: St. Brides Community Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	33,582	40,112	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	26,920	30,530	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	37	8,262	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	3,000	4,228	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments			Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	17,427	44,115	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	40,112	30,561	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal $(1+2+3) - (4+5+6)$.
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors			Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	40,112	30,561	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors			Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	40,112	30,561	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of $(8+9-10)$.
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets			The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing			The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	✓		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	✓		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	✓		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	✓		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	✓		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	✓		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	3, 6
			Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 was £9.93 per elector.

In 2023-24, the Council made payments totalling £_____ under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

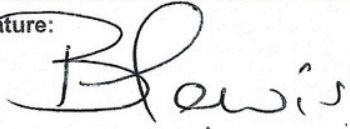

2.

3.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council/Committee approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.	Approval by the Council I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Minute ref: 5.8.24 2.1
Name: BARRY LEWIS Date: 25/7/2024	Chair signature:  Name: A MORGAN Date: 5.8.24

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: St. Brides Community Council

The Council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				Clients cash book checked against bank statements
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.		✓			Not all purchase invoices have been checked against bank statements. 19% of purchase invoices were not available to verify.
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.				✓	
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.				✓	
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				Income reconciled to bank statements
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.		✓			No petty cash provided
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				minutes of clerks salary agreed to client records and bank statements
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.				✓	

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				Bank reconciliations prepared and agreed to bank statements
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				Please note 19% of purchase invoices were not made available to verify this year
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.	✓				

For any risk areas identified by the Council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					
13.					
14.					

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council are included in my detailed report to the Council dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit:

STEPHEN A. GRIFFITHS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit:

SAGWFL

Date:

18.07.2024

Community and Town Councils in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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TRAINING

The Council is a member of One Voice Wales (OVW). OVW is the principal organisation for community and town councils in Wales and provides a strong voice representing the councils' interests and a range of high-quality services to support their work.

Councillors in St Brides Major have accessed a range of remote training provided by OVW. A training plan has been established whereby the needs of the Council are assessed and then training undertaken by individual Councillors to ensure a broad range of expertise is available.

This has built on the transferable skills we bring from our professional working lives and our local area knowledge. As it is imperative the Community Councillors uphold exemplary standards of behaviour, all Councillors have attended Code of Conduct training and Equality and Diversity training. Additionally, as the management of public monies is a key to Council business all have undertaken financial training. All Councillors must submit Declaration of Interest forms and any updates to these are noted at the start of each meeting.



BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

We live in an area with a rich and varied wildlife supported by an outstanding and varied habitat. We also have many environmental experts amongst our residents.

Town and community councils are subject to the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty under section 6 (7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This Act means all public authorities must publish information every three years (since 2019) on what they have done to comply with the section 6 of the Duty. In consultation with local groups and residents we are actively working on our Biodiversity plan and hope to publish this on our website soon.

The Community Council was instrumental in obtaining Bathing Water review status for the Rivermouth estuary of the Ogmore River. Whilst regrettably due to pollution in the Ogmore River this has recently restricted bathing, the Council is working with local groups and national organisations to undertake river cleans and reduce the littering and pollution that harms our local rivers.



MARK STEVENS



An annual report is an opportunity to highlight the work of individuals who work with the Council to maintain our community.

Mark Stevens is the person many residents will have seen but may not know. Indeed, in response to a recent event when his authority to undertake work was challenged, he has the contact details of Councillors with him when working so his role can be confirmed to residents. A notable proportion of the Precept is spent on the work that Mark completes as directed by the Community Council.

Mark is the man who keeps the burial ground looking neat and tidy, who cuts the hedgerows throughout the Ward where these are not the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and mows the grass where appropriate to do so. Mark has been working locally for nearly 50 years.

Grateful thanks to Mark who goes over and above!

THE BURIAL GROUND

The Community Council is responsible for the Burial Ground. This responsibility includes not only the maintenance of the area but liaison with families and funeral directors regarding the burial of loved ones and the internment of cremated remains. Records for the burial ground go back to the 1700s. Our burial ground has many generations of family graves which continue to bring comfort to many.



SMALL GRANT PROJECTS

The Community Council regularly provides donations to support local groups. For example, in 2023-4 Ogmores by Sea Village Hall, the playgroup in St Brides Major and Trees And Flowers For Southerndown (TAFS) all received monies. However, we were conscious that a reduction in requested precept monies had accrued during the pandemic. Therefore, we went out to the community via social media to seek local community or environmental projects that aimed to benefit the life and wellbeing of community members. Grants for between £500 - £3,000 were available. A rigorous application form, assessment and monitoring process was established. Five grants were awarded with each project having an assigned Community Councillor to support and / or advise. These projects are outlined below with further details available on our website.

Ogmores by Sea art project

Ken Rogers successfully bid for a grant for the art project, which he leads and manages enthusiastically and efficiently. The first meetings of the art group started in January 2024. Thirty people have expressed an interest in attending and on average 16 people attend weekly on a Wednesday



afternoon in the Ogmores by Sea village hall. Art is taught or facilitated by Ken and invited professional artists and multimedia techniques are encouraged, including sketching, watercolour and mono printing with acrylics. Emphasis is placed on depicting seascapes, landscapes and nature. Portraiture seems popular as well. The Art group has been a welcome community initiative and has harnessed artistic talent and creative ideas to good effect with great satisfaction and increased wellbeing.

Southerndown Cricket and Social Club (SCSC) Croquet Project

This project is focused on local people who could benefit from further social activities and gentle exercise to help their wellbeing. Croquet was identified as a significant opportunity to help meet this unmet need, further combat social isolation for the people of Southerndown, and give incentive to undertake gentle exercise. Friendly social events and organised competitions are arranged to bring people together and develop community spirit. Additionally, this scheme brings in a sustainable source of income that will contribute towards the cost of the running of the Cricket ground and maintaining the Pavilion for the benefit of local people and cricket players. Liaison with Merthyr Mawr Tennis and Croquet Club, proved valuable, together with a successful Sports Wales bid suggested by the Community Council. Information and engagement sessions were very popular, and the first season is now underway.

High Brown Fritillary Project

The High Brown Fritillary conservation project led by Dot Williams is aimed at preserving and restoring the habitat for this butterfly and many other species of plants and animals that live in Oldcastle Down within the St Brides Major ward. Dot has also been awarded a small grant from Arts Council Wales to employ an artist to work with the project in the local community. This conservation project relies largely on volunteers and the Community Council grant was to ensure volunteers have the appropriate first aid training and equipment to carry out their role safely and effectively.

Southerndown Life Savings Club

This is a charity organisation with members from the ages of 7 – 60+. The project focused on training materials for the junior members and aimed to improve retainment, gain qualification and give back to the local community following the pandemic.

CaminoH Pilgrimage Walks

This grant was to support the ministry team at St Bridget's Church St Brides Major and All Saints Church, Southerndown with welcome materials and resources as part of a wider Pilgrimage route between the 12 churches in the Heritage Coast Ministry Area.

OGMORE BY SEA RESIDENTS GROUP

During fiscal year 2023\24 St Brides Major Community Council provided £500 to support the setting up of community events at the Village Hall, Ogmores by Sea. In partnership with the Village Hall Trustees the first community event was held on the 24 th of June 2023. This event was well attended by Ogmores by Sea residents. It provided an opportunity for the Ogmores by Sea Community Councillors to engage with residents to discuss the future community events they would like to see.

Following this engagement, the community events below were scheduled:

21st October 2023	Community Harvest Supper and Maharaja Blues
27th January 2024	Community Supper and Family Quiz
20th April 2024	Community Supper and Local History Talk
13th July 2024	Twmpath

Community events held so far are well attended by residents and feedback positive. Funds raised through raffles at each event, has enabled the events to be self-funded.

Below are details of events scheduled to take place during 2024/25:

28th September 2024	Harvest Supper and My Kinda Choir
11th January 2025	Community Supper and All Aloud Choir
26th April 2025	Community Supper and Family Quiz
5th July 2025	Summer Party and Bridgend Male Voice Choir

Flyers advertising the events for 2024/25 will be hand delivered to each household in Ogmores by Sea. Another benefit from these events, is the formation of an Ogmores by Sea Residents Group. This Group is currently being initiated with a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer in the process of being appointed.

HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP YOU

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects, please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs our attention, please do let us know. If you are interested in standing as a Community Councillor, please also get in touch. Please email: clerk.sbmcc@gmail.com

Please note that the following matters fall under the County Council and as such the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly or to insist something happens.

County Council matters are:

- Highways
- Road Signs
- Education
- Refuse and Recycling
- Verge Grass cutting
- Social Services
- Planning

For these matters please do get in touch with:

Carys Stallard: cstallard@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Jo Protheroe: jprotheroe@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk





St Brides Major
Community Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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