

St Brides Major Community Council
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025 at
All Saints Church, Southerndown

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Cllr H Morris (chair), Cllrs R Eccles, S Evans, M Howell, A James, B Lewis, A Morgan, A Parry. Vale Cllrs: C Stallard, J Protheroe. SW Police: PC J Williamson. 7 members of the public (MoP).

Apologies: Cllr S Edwards (vice-chair)

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Police Matters

PC Williamson provided an update on two months' worth of police activity for the ward. 20 crimes were recorded (13 in Ogmores by Sea, 2 in St Brides Major, 1 from Southerndown, remainder unspecified). This is not seen as a significant number. 5 were criminal damage (including the widely reported damage to the Steppingstones in Ogmores Village), 3 x antisocial behaviour (ASB) (possible underreporting), 2 x RTC (1 x bicycle and 1 x car) along with public order, domestic disturbance, theft (phone from handbag) and drug related offence.

Cllr Morris enquired as to whether the police were informed of incidents when the coast guards are called out. PC Williamson will obtain information regarding coastguard incidents. SWP have currently used twice the amount of helicopter time budgeted for this year.

A Member of the Public (MoP) enquired as to whether any ASB incidents involved dogs at the Rivermouth car park. PC Williamson clarified that this was not the case.

Cllr Parry enquired about the abandoned van on Norton Hill. The time period for vehicles to be determined as abandoned (28 days) is still in progress.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 15th July 2025

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Sports Pavillion

Cllr Edwards attended the public meeting. There has been a positive response from residents to constitute a group to save St Brides Pavillion. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

5.2 Annual Report

The draft will be completed once the financial report at this meeting has been accepted.

Cllr Morris proposed a community event to launch the Annual Report. Discussion took place as to whether there would be interest from the community in this.

It was **AGREED ACTION:** Cllr Morris

5.3 Recruitment to Clerks post update

11 Expressions of interest were received from which 4 applications were submitted. Shortlisting took place (Cllrs Evans, Morris, Parry) and 2 candidates have been invited for interview on September 12th, 2025

6. Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence received

Details of this had been previously circulated to Cllrs

- a) Email request from family to arrange headstone of David & Barbara Hopkin in St Bridget's Churchyard. It was **AGREED** Cllr James to contact the family to arrange.
- b) Email from Mr. G Gaen re: closure of Ogmre by Sea Shop and Post Office and request for the Community Council to act / keep residents informed. Community Council will respond to Post Office consultation and have provided details to residents re: this via Facebook post. It was noted that whilst the shop will reopen following refurbishment it is unlikely that the Post Office will be reinstated as it has been underused by residents.
- c) Email regarding publicity / consultation on Southwest Wales bus reform - publicity help from Lois Park (community and Stakeholder Engagement). Vale Cllr Stallard informed that Southwest Wales is the first area for bus consultation and that all areas will need to complete consultations prior to the Bus Reform Bill going before Senedd in May 2026. Vale Cllr Stallard also informed us that Welsh Government will be introducing hydrogen buses (to replace aging diesel fleet) to Swansea in 2027 but that the Hydrogen plant has yet to be built.
- d) Poor state of Footpath in St Brides approaching the School. Vale Cllr Stallard informed us that there is currently an impasse regarding who has budgetary responsibility for repair. Assessment by Public Rights of Way (PROW) team have identified that some non-urgent remedial works are required, however permissions from Landowner (most probably Vale Council as they repair the streetlights) may be required. There may also be funding from Education. It was **AGREED** that this is not a matter for the Community Council. **ACTION:** Vale Cllr Stallard
- e) Email from Roger Norfolk informing that the Bells and supporting frame at St Bridget's need major repair work costing more than £100,000. A donation from the Community Council was requested to contribute to fund raising. It was **AGREED** that further information was required. **ACTION** Cllr Stephens.
- f) Email regarding bench repairs. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the replacement of 4 benches will be made across the ward.

- g) Training. One Voice Wales has emailed through training dates for Community Councillors. Councillors were reminded they must undertake the New Cllr induction along with Modules 4 (Law), 6 (Finance) 9 (Code of Conduct) as a minimum. There are 27 modules available. A training plan / schedule is to be established **ACTION:** Cllrs to email Clerk to book onto relevant modules.

7. Ward Councillor update (Vale Cllr Stallard)

- a) Lady in the tent Rivermouth car park: The lady is known to all relevant authorities and has refused offers of help. Previously the lady was in Dinas Powys. She has recently been observed viewing apartments in Ogmores by Sea accompanied by Estate Agents. A legal notice is to be served to her to cease camping activity.
- b) Road resurfacing B4524: This was warmly welcomed. However, during the resurfacing work the route of the 303 bus was disrupted even though this did not need to occur.
- c) Complaints regarding new occupants / farming methods at Norton Farm: There has been considerable involvement of Ward Councillors and environmental officers. Residents have expressed concern / shared misinformation regarding the farming methods used by the new tenant. These are a change from those used when the David family were at Norton.
- d) 20mph speed limit: This is to be extended slightly in Ogmores by Sea but the road out of St Brides toward Wick will not be reinstated as 20mph despite local requests. One more volunteer is required for the speed watch group
- e) Degradation of the Common B4524: Posts are to be replaced.

A MoP enquired as to the role of enforcement and the police regarding public behaviour on the Common (fires, overnight camping, vehicles). Discussion followed. It was **AGREED** to invite Colin Smith (VoGC) to the next meeting. **ACTION:** Vale Cllr Protheroe

- f) Refuse bins: The bin in Southerndown which has been moved has now been returned to the correct place. The removal of 2 bins from Lon yr Eglwys is causing great upset. Vale Cllr Stallard advised that the aim is for residents (as this is a residential area) to take their own rubbish home. It was suggested that one bin is moved from the war Memorial of the Shiley to replace one of the bins previously in Lon yr Eglwys. **ACTION:** Vale Cllr Stallard.

8. Planning

8.1 Applications Received

Southern down Farm, B4524 Southerndown to Main Road, Southerndown

Proposal: Variation of Condition 1 (5 Year Time Limit) of Planning Permission 2014/01498/FUL-

Proposed change of use of existing barn to house and new garages at Southerndown Farm

No objections or observations made

Pitcot Farm, Wick Road, St Brides Major, Bridgend

Proposal: Construction of enclosed cattle feeding area situated between the existing cattle shed and the silage

No objections or observations made

Southerndown Golf Club, Ogmores, Bridgend

Proposal: New masonry office block for use by Director of Golf and office staff
(AP declaration of interest)

No objections or observations made

33 Crompton Way, Ogmores by Sea, Bridgend

Proposal: UPVC/Forx Exterior wall cladding will be added to the exterior walls and only to the upper half of the house.

No objections or observations made

The Lookout, Seaview Drive, Ogmores by Sea

Proposal: Retaining wall and associated engineering works

The Community Council raised and submitted objections to this as follows:

- Work to dig out the back was undertaken without planning permission.
- As this is common land Welsh Government Section 38 – Commons Act 2006 planning permission is required too.
- A request that this common is returned to its original state, and those who undertook this destructive work are penalised appropriately.

Location: 40, West Farm Road, Ogmores by Sea

Proposal: Ground floor rear extension, hip-to-gable roof conversion and a loft extension into the roof space above the new ground floor extension with an external balcony.

Changes to external fenestration

No objections or observations made

16 Crompton Way, Ogmores by Sea

Proposal: Loft conversion with rear dormer

No objections or observations made

Location: Westridge, Church Close, Ogmore by Sea, CF32 0PZ

Proposal: Retrospective Section 73a planning application to retain new garden room built in deviation from planning approval 2023/00679/FUL

The Community Council raised and submitted objections to this as follows:

- The new garden room was built without appropriate planning permission.
- We as a Community Council have raised concerns on previous planning applications regarding the over development of this plot.
- Request the garden room is removed.

8.2 Planning Applications Approved

Application No. 2025/00678/FUL

Location: **14, Heol Sant Bridget, St Brides Major** Proposal: Proposed ground floor extension to side and rear.

Application No. 2025/00459/FUL

Location: **Belmont, St Brides Major** Proposal: Proposed demolition of two storey extension and construction of new two-story extension linking main house with annex. Replacement of all windows and external insulation to all perimeter walls. Extension to roof eaves to match new external wall line

9. Finance

The annual return for 2024 / 25 has been completed. Grateful thanks extended to Mr. James Wynne who undertook the work as Internal Auditor. Asset register has been updated with relevant values. VAT has been reclaimed as appropriate.

It was suggested that a Barclays business credit card be obtained. This would avoid Cllrs making purchases on behalf of the Community Council and having then to reclaim the monies. It was also acknowledged that a different bank may be more appropriate, such as Unity bank. It was **AGREED** to explore these ideas further once the new Clerk has been appointed.

It was **AGREED** to note grateful thanks to Cllr Lewis for his diligent work on financial matters.

9.1 Financial report

Cllr Lewis presented the finance report from 13th August to 30th August. Total funds are currently £31,338.46 (see detailed report below).

Current Account £ Opening Balance 594.36

Income Bank Transfer from Bus Acct 2000.00 Precept Payment 11531.00

Balance **14125.36**

Expenditure

Scribe Software Management 61.2
Mark Stevens Groundwork Jul-Aug 338
Clerk Ian Hughes final salary 199.35
Clerk HMRC payment 49.8
Scribe Set up 25/26 coding 178.8
Vision ICT Website 252.9
Eon Next St Brides Major Christmas Tree 14.56
Clerk Home Allowance 6 months 120

1214.61

Closing Balance as per bank statement 12910.75

Business Savings Account

Opening Balance 20427.71 Transfer out -2000 -2000 Transfer in
Income (Interest) 0.00 0.00

Closing Balance as per bank statement 18427.71 Total Funds £ 31,338.46

The Audit Notice for 2024 /25 may now be issued for any interested person to inspect and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts etc. relating to them for 20 working days on reasonable notice. Requests may be made to Clerk@stbridesmajor-cc.gov.uk

9.2 Request for Payments

Payee		Description	Amount
JL Electrical		Replace and rewire Floodlights	£280.00
Yu Energy	DD	Ogmore Christmas Trees	£0.25
Welsh Water		Burial Ground Water	£20.26
All Saints Church		Meeting room hire (3 months)	£85.00

D Chedzoy	Groundwork	£786
Gladson	4 rep Benches (approved in minutes)	£2808
Total Requests for payment – Sept 2025		£3699.51

All payment requests were **AGREED**

9.3 Finance Working Group: Update on Audit Wales Work

The Community Council is to establish a financial risk register on the advice of the Internal Auditor. This is key to good governance.

The Banking mandate requires updating on the appointment of the new Clerk.

Scribe reports will be ready for the November meeting.

It was **AGREED** to update Audit Wales on compliance with agreed revised timelines **ACTION:** Cllr Morris

10. Grant Projects

All projects are now complete with evaluation reports included in the Annual report

11. Website

The website requires updating. This will be a key task for the new Clerk.

12. Burial Ground

No new requests have been received for burials or cremated remains

13. Biodiversity & Environment

The first meeting of the Biodiversity and Environment Working Group took place on 11th August.

The notes from this meeting are included below in italics:

Present: Councillors Ron Eccles, Sharon Evans, Angela Parry, Heidi Rosenberg.

An informal meeting was held:

- *to agree the purpose of the working group*
- *to agree a suitable name for the group*
- *to agree Terms and Conditions*
- *to agree the membership of the working group*
- *to agree frequency of meetings*
- *to discuss current biodiversity concerns and activities*

We agreed that the purpose of the group was to implement the St Brides Major Community Council (SBMCC) Biodiversity Action plan and comply with the requirements of the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, Section 6.

We agreed to name the group “Biodiversity and Environment Working Group” (BEWG).

We agreed that any actions or use of financial resource that arise from the group’s discussions must be ratified at SBMCC meetings.

We agreed to ask Vale Councillor Jo Protheroe and Cllr Adrian James to join the group.

We agreed to meet quarterly, and the Clerk will set and coordinate the dates of those meetings. We also agreed to ask members of the community with expertise on biodiversity to speak at the meeting and share their work/interest. We agreed 1 presentation per meeting.

We started discussions on dog litter and inadequacy of bins.

We discussed the pitfalls and immense potential cost of restoring the Pitcot (Pwll y Mer) Pool.

We discussed the unacceptable environmental consequences of motorcycle or car drivers racing through the villages.

ACTION: Vale Cllr Protheroe and Cllr James have agreed to join BEWG

Pitcot pool: It was AGREED to write to Mr. A Rose (representative Duchy of Lancaster) as to whether the Duchy would fund the testing of Pitcot Pool. **ACTION:** Cllr Evans

14. Reports from Members

14.1 Southerndown

There is a mini-fun day to be held on 21st September on the Cricket Ground.

14.2 Ogmere by Sea

A MoP informed us that the bus shelter opposite the Post Office is unsightly but not unsafe

14.3 St Brides Major

Cllr Morgan reported that in addition to gate handles mentioned in previous minutes one further handle has been removed from the gate by the cattle grid.

Cllr Stephens reported that residents are requesting a Zebra crossing be instated by the shop due to the number of school children crossing at that point. It was noted that previous requests of

this nature had both been suggested and vetoed by residents. It was also requested that the speed camera by the Farmers Arms be re-instated. **ACTION:** Vale Cllr Stallard.

The meeting closed at 21:04

15. Date of Next Meeting 13th October 2025

Agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. A. Morris', is written over a large, light grey diagonal watermark that says 'FINAL'.

Chair - Councillor H. Morris:

Date: 13th October 2025