

# St Brides Major Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of St Brides Major Community Council held at All Saints Church, Southerndown on 22nd April 2024 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr A Parry (Chair), Cllrs B Lewis, A James, S Edwards, S Roberts, H Morris & A Morgan.

**Also:** Vale of Glamorgan Cllr C Stallard & three members of the public

## 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs S Evans & M Wynne-Jones.

## 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2024

**Resolved** to be a true and accurate record.

## 3. Matters Arising

**3.1 Memorial Plaque on Bench:** Cllr Parry is **Actioning**.

**3.2 Resignation of Cllr Steve Roberts:** Cllr Roberts will remain a member until the AGM. The Vale of Glamorgan have been informed of the forthcoming vacancy..

**3.3 Proposed removal of barriers:** Cllr Carys Stallard is in discussion with the school.

**3.4 Finance Training:** Members are asked to book their preferred date with the Chair.

**3.5 Bathing Water Quality:** Cllr Roberts gave a report on the the Vale of Glamorgan Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16th April. Ogmore by Sea and Watchtower Bay, Barry are the only two beaches rated as "Poor" in Wales. Representatives of Welsh Water and Natural Resource Wales will be attending a meeting at the Heritage Coast Center, Southerndown, date to be confirmed. The public will be able to attend.

## 4. Finance

### 2.1 Finance Report

Presented by Cllr Lewis:

#### OPENING BALANCE

8th April 2024 £10,499.97

#### INCOME

£0.00

Total Balance £10,499.97

#### EXPENDITURE

Cowbridge ChristmasTrees £625.00

Eon Next Direct Debit £18.23

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St Brides nursery £1,000.00

Coland Systems £165.00

Butterfly Conservation £153.35

TAFFS £64.95

Microsoft Licence (Cllr A Parry) £59.99  
 Welsh Water (Cllr B Lewis) £37.25  
 Mark Stevens-groundworks £290.00  
 HMRC (Income Tax re:D Brunsdon)£526.30  
 OBS Village Hall (Hire for Biodiversity Meeting 20/4/24) £50.00 **Approved**  
 Notice Board perspex (S Fortt) £100.00  
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £3,108.30

BALANCE 21st April £7,391.67  
 Pending payments approved at last Meeting (8.4.24):  
 One Voice Wales (Subscription) £458.00

Business Savings Account  
OPENING BALANCE £20,060.75  
 Expenditure £0.00  
BALANCE 21st MARCH £20,060.75

TOTAL FUNDS £27,452.42

#### 4.2 Approval of Accounts

Cllr Lewis presented the following accounts from the internal Auditor for Approval by the Council prior to submission to Audit Wales for external audit::

##### 4.2.1 2020-2021

**Resolved** to approve

##### 4.2.2 2021-2022

**Resolved** to approve

##### 4.2.3 2022-2023

**Resolved** to approve. It was noted that expenditure was somewhat lower during 2022-23 as a number of payments were not processed until the 2023-24 financial year. Cllr Roberts proposed a vote of thanks for Cllr Lewis in recognition of his work on the council's finances. This was **Resolved**.

#### 4.3 Allowances

Councillors were reminded that they must either submit their payment details or decline their allowance in writing to the chair by April 30th.

### 5. Burial Ground

#### 5.1 Update

Cllr James has begun work on regularising and updating the burial ground records. The records will now be entered on a spreadsheet and invoices raised will be referenced by grave number. **Action:** A site meeting will be arranged during May to ensure that graves have been correctly entered into the records. Concern was raised that there are very few available new graves in the burial ground. It was **Agreed** that this issue will be considered following the site meeting.

## 5.2 Review of Fees

It was **Resolved** to adopt the Church in Wales scale of Burial Fees for 2024:

### Table of Fees

#### **Burial Fee in Burial Ground**

- Body: £581

- Cremated remains: £194

#### **Memorial Fee:**

- Plain wooden cross £29

- Grave headstone £220

- Cremated remains tablet £117

- Additional Inscription £57

- Search of Burial Registers

£26 per hour (or part thereof)

## 6. St Brides Major Sports Pavilion

Cllr Edwards raised some concerns regarding the heads of terms document received from the Vale of Glamorgan: a) that the Community Council would be liable for the Vale's legal fees in the event of a dispute, and b) that the proposed 99 year lease did not contain any break clauses. **Action:** Cllr Parry will raise these concerns with the Vale (D Knevitt).

Cllr Edwards hopes to meet soon with a local architect to discuss options for updating/renovating the pavilion building. Cllr Lewis will liaise with Cllr Edwards to submit a grant application expression of interest.

## 7. Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Review.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission has published their Final Recommendations Report in relation to the community arrangements in the Vale of Glamorgan. The recommendation in this report is to combine St Brides Major Community Council with Ewenny Community Council. The new council would be called Ewenny and St Brides Major Community Council. The number of St Brides Major Ward Community Councillors will be reduced to 4; Ewenny ward will be represented by 3 members and Ogmore by Sea will be increased to 6 ward members. This is the preferred option of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the intention is that the new arrangements will result in contested community council elections. If implemented the new council will be formed following the May 2027 Local Government Elections.

The recommendations will now be considered by the Welsh Government.

**Action:** Cllr Morgan to write to the Welsh Government expressing our objections to this proposal.

## 8. Recruitment

It was **Resolved** to exclude the press and public from this section of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

A candidate for the position of Clerk to the Council was interviewed on 18th April by a panel composed of Cllrs Morris & Evans, along with Vale Cllr Stallard. It was the panel's recommendation that the candidate was appointable.

Following discussion it was **Resolved** to offer the position of Clerk to the candidate subject to the receipt of a satisfactory reference and a six month probationary period. The induction process for the new clerk was agreed and it was hoped that the employment would begin week commencing 6th May.

**The Meeting was closed at 9.15pm**

**The next meeting of St Brides Major Community Council will be the A.G.M. on 13th May 2024 in All Saints, Southerndown, at 7 p.m. The A.G.M. will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the council.**

**Cllr A Parry**

**Chair**