

## St Brides Major Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at

#### All Saints Church, Southerndown.

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Cllr H Morris (Chair), R Eccles, A James, M Howell, B Lewis, A Morgan, A Parry, R Stephens.  
Vale Cllrs: C Stallard, J Protheroe. Vale SW Police: PC J Williamson 0 members of the public (MoP).

**Apologies:** Cllr S Edwards (Vice-Chair), Cllrs S Evans

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

NONE

#### 3. Police Matters

PC Williamson is to remain our neighbourhood police officer.

There have been two crimes – theft of a mobile phone in a public place and theft of a battery from a ball dispenser at a golf range.

There has been one road traffic incident – a pedestrian knocked over by a car outside the Tusker Rock. NFA to be taken.

There have been two suspicious incidents – vehicles appearing out of place; children knocking on doors and running away.

There has been one incident of a dog out of control in Castle upon Alun.

It was reported that there are seven camper vans on Dunraven land by Southerndown beach. The toilets are not open. It would seem these are vans that have moved on from Llantwit Beach. JW to have a word with the occupants.

PC J Williamson left after giving his report 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

#### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Two amendments required: Cllr Eccles was at the January meeting. The cost of the plaque for the bench, and installation, is £200.

Once this amendment is made, minutes accepted as a true record. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs.

**ACTION:** Minutes to be amended, marked as FINAL and Chair to sign. Final minutes to be uploaded on website.

#### 5. Matters Arising

##### 5.1. Action Log – Please see separate document detailing actions agreed up to the February Meeting and progress made to date.

Funding should be in place for School footpath to be upgraded by Half term

The Council awaits the School active travel plan

Cllr Stallard to attend meeting later in February to agree new refuse route

Cllr Stephens has spoken with NRW and they will review Pitcot Pool in March

Improvements in the 303 bus route however it is likely that the route will revert to a single bus

Cllr Morris in contact with family re: plaque for Village Hall bench

There has been no advance in bus shelter repairs. It was agreed the priority is for Shane Fort to complete repairs on OBS bus shelter when wet weather ceases.

Annual report has been printed

Colin Smith to attend April meeting regarding enforcement activities

Defibrillators: the defibrillator previously at the Post office in OPBS has been relocated to the side of the post office. A grant has been applied for so that a defibrillator may be situated at the OBS Village Hall. Gradual replacement is required for the defibrillator boxes. The one by the Golden Cups requires urgent repair. **ACTION:** Cllr Stephens to lead on this work

Church bells: Cllr James attended recent meeting regarding the Church bells and Tower repairs. A structural engineer will be assessing the tower. It appears the tower ( in situ since 13<sup>th</sup> century) is cracked. Projected costs are as follows:

£70,000 to repair beams and cut out rust

£113,000 to replace beams

£74,000 for modified repair to beams

Of note the bells cannot be lowered directly, they need to be lowered and then slid out. Current access to the bells is not safe. Bells may be able to be refurbished. Cllr Lewis advised that the Council may be approached for funding to assist with the costs of the structural engineer's report. No date has been set for follow up meeting.

## 6. Correspondence

### 6.1. Vale Councillors' report

- 6.1.1 Mobile connectivity: Local Council measure shows our mobile connectivity is far worse than measured by the mobile companies and OfCom. EE very supportive of rural options. Cowbridge has also spoken with Eeand they have monies available to support better mobile connectivity from Placemaking. It was noted there may be a new initiative whereby a residents put in their postcode and is advised of the best mobile provider.
- 6.1.2 Bus service. A consultation is being proposed regarding the G1 service, for example would it be useful to have a bus to get to Cowbridge for appointments and / or to enable a group of young people to go to Cowbridge.
- 6.1.3 Vale Cllrs are to visit the water treatment plant on 18<sup>th</sup> February
- 6.1.4 A budget meeting is to be held on 11th February regarding budget proposals – 5.5% increase is being proposed plus and extra 1% for extra services
- 6.1.5 St Bride's Major footpath resurfacing - community councillors will be aware that the plan is to carry out this work during the February half-term.
- 6.1.6 St Bride's bin - we have a meeting with Colin Smith to discuss several ward issues on 19<sup>th</sup> February. The bin is on the list! He is already aware that the community council is proposing to buy a dog poo bin but would like the Vale council to empty it. Community councils usually pay the Vale for this service or empty the bin themselves. But we will ask the question.
- 6.1.7 Street lighting in Ogmre-by-Sea has been repaired at the bottom of Brig-y-Don Hill. This was on the 30th of January. Old overhead cables were removed, as were 3 failed lanterns. 3 new lanterns have been fitted opposite, onto existing posts and they are working!

### 6.2. Correspondence received – of note for consideration below:

Speed restriction amendment to be noted as applied to Ogmre by Sea and St Brides

Electoral arrangements: 6/52 consultation period. Comments to Cllr Morris by 1<sup>st</sup> March

Categories for OVW awards: no awards we are eligible for this year

Proposed Council budget: Comments to Cllr Lewis by 13<sup>th</sup> February

Replacement LDP: Cllr Morris to attend meeting in Cowbridge. Two sites proposed within the ward for additional housing.

## 7. Planning

Cllr Morris asked Vale Cllrs for clarification regarding the role of community Councils in the planning process. This is light of the work being undertaken at The Lookout (situated on common land) and Westridge. (Church Close). Residents' close to both these properties are upset at the disregard of the planning process. The Council was advised that fortunately most residents follow the planning process and unfortunately in both the above applications the residents have acted outside of the approval process. The Council were advised that Vale enforcement officers are involved in the work being carried out.

It was AGREED that Cllr Morris is to email the following VoGC personnel communicating the grave concerns that the community hold towards the building works at both properties: L Jones, I Robertson, M Goldsworthy, R Thomas.

### 7.1. Applications Received

BY EMAIL ONLY: [clerk@stbridesmajor-cc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stbridesmajor-cc.gov.uk)

{Please note declaration of interest raised for this item by Cllr Morgan as Trustee of the Commoners}

Dear St Brides Major Council,

#### **COMMONS ACT 2006 – SECTION 38**

We are applying to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for consent to construct works on Old Castle Down and Ogmere Common under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006. The Planning Inspectorate will determine the application on behalf of Defra.

We are required to give you notice of our proposals and are sending you a copy of the attached notice to comply with that requirement.

Under section 38, we need Defra's consent to carry out any restricted works on land registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 or the Commons Act 2006 (and on certain other land specified in section 38).

Restricted works are any that prevent or impede access to or over the land. They include fencing, buildings, structures, ditches, trenches, embankments and other works, where the effect of those works is to prevent or impede access. They also include, in every case, new tarmac (or similar) surfaces, such as for a new car park or access road.

Defra's decision will be based on the merits of the proposal, and will balance all the interests in the common, taking account of all views expressed. Regard must be given to the criteria set out in section 39 of the Commons Act 2006.

These are:

- (a) the interests of persons having rights in relation to, or occupying, the land (and in particular persons exercising rights of common over it).
- (b) the interests of the neighbourhood.
- (c) the public interest, which includes the public interest in:
  - nature conservation
  - the conservation of the landscape
  - the protection of public rights of access to any area of land, and
  - the protection of archaeological remains and features of historic interest.
- d) any other matter considered relevant.

These criteria will be viewed in the light of the overriding objective of protecting, maintaining or improving the common, and of ensuring that the overall stock of common land is not diminished. This will enable the diversity, variety, and overall extent, of common land to be safeguarded.

Any representations about the proposal should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by the closing date specified in the notice.

Yours faithfully

HCR LEGAL LLP

#### OLD CASTLE DOWN AND OGMORE COMMON

Butterfly Conservation has applied to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for consent under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Old Castle Down and Ogmere Common. The Planning Inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposed works are:

- (i) The provision of a water trough
- (ii) The provision of a handling pen by installing a 74m length of fencing. The fencing will consist of a timber post and 5 rail fences with net wire and a plain top wire. The pens overall dimensions are 12m x 25m (300m<sup>2</sup>)
- (iii) The installation of a new section of underground water pipe from existing water tanks to provide a secondary water tank location on the common to facilitate cattle grazing.
- (iv) Installation of a typical interpretation board, mounted on two posts.

The works and fencing will be located in a corner of the common, using an existing stone wall boundary of the common. The pen is north of the stone track which served access to Brynawel. There will be gated access within the fences on the two sections open to the common to help with the gathering of livestock. There is no plan to amend the vegetation within the pen and will continue to be available for grazing and access when not required as a handling facility. When not in use as a handling pen, the gates will be left open.

A copy of the application form and accompanying documents can be inspected at Cowbridge Library, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AH during normal office hours until 10 March 2026. A copy of the application form and accompanying documents may be obtained by writing to HCR Legal LLP, Suite 4a, Floor Four, 114-116 St Mary's Street, Cardiff CF10 1DY.

Any representations should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE that date to [commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). If you require a postal address, please telephone 0303 444 5625 or 5177

If you use artificial intelligence (AI) to create or alter any part of documents, information or data submitted with a representation, you should tell The Planning Inspectorate that you have done

No observations or objections made in respect of the above

#### **Planning Application No. 2025/01308/FUL (ED)**

Location: Glamorgan Heritage Coast Centre, Beach Road, Southerndown

Proposal: Refurbishment and internal alterations to the Heritage Centre, including new external doors, windows, slate roof, render and cast-iron rainwater goods. Removal of the rear C20th lean to WC and alteration of six external openings. Construction of a south extension with terrace for expanded café space. Reconfigured internal areas for relocated Ranger facilities and improved education/exhibition spaces, including partial change of use for new café provision. Landscaping works including new paths, upgraded picnic/play areas, a kitchen garden and relocated car park, plus replacement of foul and stormwater drainage and the existing cesspool

The above planning application has been received, and I should be obliged if you would advise me whether you wish to make any observations on the proposal.

You can view the proposals on-line and comment on the application at the following web address:  
<https://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2025/01308/FUL?cuuid=0903A79E-4D9E-4803-8AEB-A0518E68CD1F>. By pressing the documents tab you will be  
 In accordance with statutory requirements, it is necessary to determine the application within a specified period, and it is essential, therefore, that any observations should be submitted by 19 February 2026

No observations or objections made in respect of the above

## **7.2 Applications Determined**

**Application No. 2025/00701/FUL**

**Location: 5 Porlock Close, Ogmere by Sea**

**Proposal: Proposed garden pond and pergola to rear garden**

With reference to the above application for planning permission, I can advise that all representations received in respect of this application were considered in the determination of this proposal, and the application was **Approved on the 27 January 2026**.

**Application No. 2025/01240/FUL**

**Location: 40, West Farm Road, Ogmere by Sea**

**Proposal: Single storey rear extension with pitched roof and changes to external fenestration**

With reference to the above application for planning permission, I can advise that all representations received in respect of this application were considered in the determination of this proposal, and the application was **Approved on the 20 January 2026**.

DRAFT

## 8. Finance

### 8.1. Financial Report

31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

OPENING BALANCE

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 £14813.96

INCOME £0

Total Balance £14813.96

EXPENDITURE

Scribe Dec Account/Burial £61.20

Yu Energy Ogmore Energy £0.0

Yu Energy St. Brides Energy £0.0

DWA Payroll HMRC £12

Duchy of Lancaster Bus Shelter rental x3 £30

One Voice Wales Module 17 £42

One Voice Wales Module 8 £42

CLlr A Parry Reimburse Annual Report printing £625

Total Expenditure £812.2

Current Account £14001.76

31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Business Savings Account

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 £18547.83

Income £0

Business Savings Account £18547.83

31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

TOTAL FUNDS £32549.59

## 8.2. Budget Review

The receipt of the precept has been acknowledged and the budget updated appropriately.

## 8.3. Approval of Payments

Request for Payments February 2025

### Payee Description and Amount

Yu Energy St Brides Major £0

Yu Energy Ogmore by Sea £23.77 \*

Go Cardless Scribe account £61.20

DWA Payroll HMRC entry £12

Cross Farm Christmas Trees £576

D Chezoy Church Burial Ground Maintenance £704

Vision ICT Upload Documents and create new folder £42

Total Requests for payment £1418.97

\* There is an estimated reading for the 31<sup>st</sup> January of 66KW/H , usually 0.1 !

It is expected that we will see a credit to our next bill, this since the readings after the estimate are in line with expectations.

APPROVAL was granted to make the above payments.

### **Finance Working Group**

The finance group has not met this month.

## 9. Planning and parking on Common Land – details in separate email.

Colin Smith VoGC contacted the Council with photographs of areas of common land damaged by vehicles seeking the Council's view on the proposal of to line all this common area in posts in 1.5m spacing to restrict vehicle access. The Council APPROVED this recommendation and thanked Mr Smith for the information. It was AGREED that Cllr Morris will email Colin Smith this evening to meet the deadline set.

## 10. Website and Laptop

Vision ICT are to update the website with minutes and other associated documents. It was AGREED to purchase a new laptop with the necessary specification to run Co Pilot and associated AI features. The current laptop does not have this. Data on the current laptop will be archived and we will start afresh. This is required due to the absence of the Clerk.

## 11. Rural Western Vale Community Council liaison committee (Cowbridge and Llantwit Major)

This was attended by Cllr Morris who advised that the chair of this Liaison Committee shared a letter written to VoGC sharing concerns that Rural Vale needs are not being met. It has been proposed that a cabinet member has Rural Vale in their portfolio.

## 12. Readiness for merger with Ewenny Community Council.

Webinar attended by Cllr Morris, Cllr Parry and Cllr Evans regarding required employee processes to be followed for merger. The merger raised several questions amongst Councillors present however there is little guidance available. It was AGREED that Cllr Morris to write to Chair of Ewenny Community Council requesting a meeting.

### 13. Launch of Annual Report

It was AGREED to circulate the annual report as last year and not to undertake a formal launch as we were not currently able to update residents on the impact of the merger.

It was noted that the Annual report states Cllr Eccles represents St Brides Major however it should state Ogmore by Sea.

### 14. Burial Ground

Cllr James advised that there have been two internments of ashes

Scribe training is being undertaken on 10<sup>th</sup> February

### 15. Biodiversity and Environment

Dot Williams has sent an invitation to the CC to an “High brown fritillary” talk and film screening event on 12th February 7-8 pm at St Bridget’s Church. Cllr Howells is attending.

### 16. Reports from Members

#### 16.1. Southerndown

TAFFS will be planting (with permissions) about a dozen trees along the road up to Heol y Mynydd.

#### 14.2 Ogmore by Sea

Cllr Howells has been the Manager of the OBS Village Hall for one year. Congratulations.

Cllr Eccles asked where notices can be placed and was advised that the Village Hall is an appropriate place as there is not room for anything other than minutes in the Council notice boards.

#### 14.3 St Brides Major

The Darts Marathon raised £800 for charity. Congratulations given

A streetlight on the path around the school is not functioning. Cllr Morris to write to VoGC

There is considerable littering on the road by the Quarry leading into St Brides. This is a dangerous area for a litter pick. Cllr Morris to write to VoGC

### 15 Questions for the Chair

Cllr Parry advised that the School active travel plan had now been received and would be circulated to all.

### 16 In Camera session

Notes reported separately

### 17, Date of Next Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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

**Chair - Councillor H. Morris:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **St Brides Major Community Council**

**In CAMERA session held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at**

**All Saints Church, Southerndown.**

### **Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Cllr H Morris (Chair), R Eccles, A James, M Howell, B Lewis, A Morgan, A Parry, R Stephens.

**Apologies:** Cllr S Edwards (Vice-Chair), Cllrs S Evans

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the way forward following the resignation of the Clerk and the impact of the forthcoming merger with Ewenny Community Council.

Cllr Edwards has resigned due to ill health

It was AGREED to send Cllr Edwards a letter thanking him for his outstanding contributions to the Council

Cllr Morris AGREED to inform VoGC as there is now a vacancy for a St Brides Major Community Councillor alongside the vacancy in Ogmores by Sea.

It was noted that it is a challenging time without a Clerk alongside the imminent merger with Ewenny where there will be a new distribution of Councillors.

It was PROPOSED that Cllr Parry be Vice Chair and take up Chair for May 2026/7. This was proposed and seconded.

It was PROPOSED that Cllr Morgan be Vice Chair for 2026/7. This was proposed and seconded.

Cllr Morris suggested that she take on the formal role of Clerk for one year and resign as a Cllr. It was noted that there should be a one year gap between acting as Cllr and Clerk. It was noted that these are exceptional times (see above). Cllr Morris AGREED to write to VoGC to ask whether a dispensation could be applied to support the Council as it moves forward with the merger.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm