

St Florence Community Council		
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023		
St Florence Village Hall – 7 pm – 8.30pm		
<p>Those present: Rachel Ruff (Clerk), Cllr Sian Hughes (Chair), Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Margaret Littler, Andrew Miles</p> <p>1.Apologies : Cllr Del Evans, Cnty Cllr Rhys Jordan</p> <p>In attendance: Rachel Ruff (Clerk and minute taker).</p> <p>Public Participation: None</p>		
No.	Detail	Action
2	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
3	<p>Signing of Minutes from Previous Meeting:</p> <p>Minutes for June 2023 Meeting were signed off</p>	none
4	<p>County Councillors Report: Cllr Jordan reported on:</p> <p>County Councillor Jordan’s report is attached at the end of these Minutes</p>	
5	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>5.1 Hall Cleaning Quote from Maid in Pembrokeshire – A quote was sent in for £50 a week to clean the hall, this included 2 hours, 2 cleaners, equipment and products and travel expenses. The Council thought £50 a week was out of the budget. But if Maid in Pembrokeshire could do a fortnightly clean that would be affordable. Clerk to write and ask.</p> <p>5.2 New Council Members to discuss – Five members of the community had kindly put their names forward to be considered as new Community Council Members, only three new members are required. A vote was taken, the three new members that were decided upon were:</p> <p>Michael Anderson Nadia Probert Alan Jones</p>	Clerk

	<p>The Clerk will write to them all offering the position as new member. The two unsuccessful candidates will also be written to and informed. It was a very close decision. Current council members wish to extend thanks to all that have expressed an interest.</p> <p>5.3 Sunshine Gym Equipment – Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant applications have been changed, once the new paperwork in place and we have confirmation from PCC an application will be sent to try and raise money to have this equipment at the far end of the playing field.</p> <p>5.4 Village Signage – Some old village signs are in the garage at the hall. The members would like to get them replaced and put back in the village. Some questions arose to where they would be best suited. Cllr Littler will have a look and let us know.</p>	Cllr Littler
6	<p>Village Hall Matters:</p> <p>6.1 School Sports Day use of Football Equipment – This matter was discussed in length, the Chairperson will write to the football club and ask them to attend the meeting in September, various items need discussion with them.</p> <p>6.2 Tractor Repairs – The tractor is very old in the garage and currently doesn't work well to cut the playing fields, it would cost a lot of money to get it fixed. A discussion was had that the best course of action would be to sell the tractor as is and rent equipment needed (ride on mower) for the playing fields at an agreed rate. Cllr Davies does know a local company who offer this service currently to other village halls and cricket clubs. The number was given to the Chairperson for her to make contact with them.</p>	Cllr Hughes Cllr Hughes
7	<p>Local Planning St Florence:</p> <p>Red Roof, St Florence – Proposed alterations and extensions – no objections</p> <p>Wydelock, Gumfreston – Alterations to first floor and extension – no objections</p> <p>West Hall, High Street, St Florence – Provision to existing planning – Sun room and Garage changes – More details have been asked for from PCC on this planning application. Clerk will email.</p>	Clerk

<p>8</p>	<p>Accounts & Finances:</p> <p>8.1 Bank Reconciliation as at 3rd July 2023 was presented and signed off by non-signatory member.</p> <p>8.2 Invoices were passed for payment.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Meeting closed at 8pm, next meeting Monday 11th September 2023 @ 7pm Village Hall</p>	

County Councillor Rhys Jordan Report for July Meeting St Florence Community Council

Dear St Florence Community Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am sorry I am unable to attend the meeting in person, but I want to assure you that I am always available should any member of the Community Council need to contact me at any time.

Great Wedlock Farm Update

I received an email last week from Mr. & Mrs. Evans of Great Wedlock Deer Park, informing me of their plans to open the park starting Monday, July 10th. They originally hoped to have a formal opening day, but due to some unforeseen issues, they have decided to opt for a soft opening instead, to allow them to gradually build into the season and address any potential issues. This is a completely new venture for them, so this approach seems practical. They extended their apologies for not being able to invite community councillors and St Florence residents to the opening event, which was supposed to feature drinks and a VIP tour. However, they have promised that this will still take place, likely in September.

Changes to Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund

As many of you are aware, each ward historically had its own allocated funds from the additional 100% council tax charged to second home owners. Going forward, this will change; instead of individual allocations, there will be one large fund for the whole county. Community organisations can now apply for smaller grants up to £15,000 or larger grants up to £100,000. While I anticipate that the application process will remain largely unchanged, there will be some differences in administration and allocation. It's crucial that bids are made early, as there will no longer be funds ring-fenced for individual wards. You should receive full correspondence detailing these changes soon. While I am disappointed about the loss of ring-fenced funds, the potential for community organisations to apply for larger grants could prove to be a positive development.

Litter Picking Initiative

I would like to commend our team of dedicated daily litter pickers who tirelessly work to keep our village clean. Should any resident wish to join this noble cause, I can arrange for the necessary equipment and bags, which can be collected with the regular household waste or dropped off at Crane Cross Civic Amenity Site. A few Saturdays ago, I managed to pick up two bags of litter on a

small section of the road between St Florence cross roads and Carew roundabout. Studies show that people are more likely to fly tip if they see litter in the area, so our collective effort can potentially help decrease this behaviour.

Pembrokeshire County Council Budget

I would also like to address the budget for the financial year 2022-23. The County Council ended the year approximately £3 million under budget. It is disappointing that the full budgets were not used, particularly when we have witnessed service reductions, public toilet closures, and a council tax increase of 7.5%. Together with 28 other councillors, I voted to use this underspend during the March budget setting to keep the council tax increase to 5.5% for the this financial year, given the current cost of living crisis. We believed it was only fair to support our residents in this way.

As always, your views and concerns are my utmost priority. I look forward to continue serving you and the village of St Florence.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Rhys Jordan