

St Florence Community Council		
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023		
St Florence Village Hall – 7 pm – 8.15 pm		
<p>Those present: Rachel Ruff (Clerk), Cllr Sian Hughes (Chair), Cllr Rob Davies, Cllr Margaret Littler, Cllr Del Evans, Cllr Rhys Jordan, Alan Jones, Michael Anderson, Nadia Probert</p> <p>1.Apologies : None</p> <p>In attendance: Rachel Ruff (Clerk and minute taker).</p> <p>Public Participation: One member of the public attending the meeting to discuss their and neighbours concern about the Japanese Knot weed growing on the riverbank on the Common. Natural Resources Wales have been contacted about this problem – they emailed to say that because the common is un-owned land they don't think they can help. They did offer to send someone down to have a look at the site. We will await the outcome of that meeting – in the meantime the Community Council will get a quote just to find out the cost of the removal of the Knotweed. Member Alan Jones said he knew a company – 2 separate quotes will be obtained.</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 October 2023 Meeting were signed off, no alterations were made</p>	
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 Football Team Payment – Clerk confirmed the payment for the annual fee for use of changing rooms and playing field was received by the football club (season 2023)</p> <p>5.2 Bonfire Night Celebration – Cllr Rob Davies confirmed that bonfire night was again a huge success for the community and lots of money was raised for FOSS. Approximately 1100 people attended the event. Cllr Davies would like to give thanks to George Rhys for building the bonfire this year and all of the helpers and volunteers.</p>	

	<p>5.3 Common land – The Community Council will look at what grants are available to help with some renovations on the land e.g. new benches, tree and hedge trimming, land clearance. The members all agreed that a high-level plan was needed to work out what was best for the up keep of the common land area. It is noted that Community Council do not own the common land – it does not have an owner – but in the best interests of the village residents; would like to keep the area looking cared for and attractive</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Village Hall Matters:</p> <p>6.1 Project Funding – new benches, ground clearance – As above Minute point 5.3 and also some funding needed for some replacement windows in the Village Hall – Cllr Jordan made reference to a grant that Milford Haven Port Authority provided each year. He said he would send a link to the Clerk.</p> <p>6.2 Village Hall – Funding for repairs to village hall – see 6.1 above</p> <p>6.3 Flemish Chimney – The Chair confirmed that she had cleared out around the chimney, some weeds still in the top to do.</p> <p>6.4 Hedge Cutting – The Rhys Brothers have been booked to cut the hedges around the playing fields.</p> <p>6.5 End of year newsletter – discussed and thoughts went towards maybe taking a page on the FOSS School newsletter for the Community Council. This will be discussed again next year.</p> <p>6.6 Knotweed Ritec – as above in public participation</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>Local Planning St Florence: Bumpers Cottage, High Street, St Florence – single storey extension – Whilst the members did not have any objection to the single storey extension – they did object to another planning application from the same property which was to try and extend their letting period from 21 days – all members agreed that they thought 21 days was sufficient. Clerk to email planning department.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Accounts & Finances:</p> <p>8.1 Bank Reconciliation as at 1st November 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 8.15pm, next meeting Monday 11th December 2023 @ 7pm Village Hall</p> <p>Closing comment - member Alan Jones said he would contact Nolan Windows to provide a quote for the new windows needed in the Village Hall</p>	

Monthly County Councillor Report for St Florence

Dear Members,

This month has been a proactive one with several significant developments and engagements to report. On the 18th of October, I had the pleasure of facilitating a meeting between Pembrokeshire County Council's Tree Officer and our Community Council. The discussions held were enlightening and provided a clear direction.

On the 23rd of October, we welcomed Pembrokeshire County Council's Common Land Officer to deliberate on the stewardship of the common land. While neither Pembrokeshire County Council nor St Florence Community Council are obliged to maintain the land, we are jointly responsible for its preservation. It was heartening to find unanimous agreement on enhancing the land for the benefit of our community. The Commons Officer is investigating potential grants that could support such improvements, and a map of the common land has been included for reference.

Regarding transportation, there have been notable changes to the bus stops for the Greenhill School route and the Pembrokeshire College route. The modern buses' inability to safely navigate the village has prompted an urgent search for a viable alternative to the current mass pick-up and drop-off point at Parkland, which is proving unsatisfactory. I am diligently working with the Pembrokeshire County Council Transport Manager and the service provider to find a new solution.

Looking ahead, I have arranged a meeting with the Pembrokeshire Highways team and St Florence Community Council to address a variety of concerns including road safety, maintenance, and design within the village. This meeting is planned for the 22nd of November, and I will provide a comprehensive update at the subsequent community council gathering.

The Ritec water levels, thankfully, they have dropped, and the severe flood warning has been lifted. However, I am acutely aware that the automatic flood warning signs have been malfunctioning, either remaining on continuously or not activating when needed. This is an unacceptable risk, and I am actively advocating for a more reliable and efficient warning system. Additionally, I will propose a "notice of motion" at the next full Pembrokeshire County Council meeting to commission a feasibility study on how we can improve or elevate the causeway in Gumfreston to alleviate the frequent flooding that disrupts access to Tenby from the west.

Finally, a positive note to end on: the St Florence annual bonfire night was nothing short of brilliant! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who work tirelessly every year to put together one of Pembrokeshire's finest bonfire events. Through your efforts, a significant amount of money has been raised for our remarkable village school. I extend my immense gratitude to all residents who showed their support.

As always, I am accessible and eager to engage with you all. Please feel free to reach out to me via phone, text, email or Facebook. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,

Cllr Rhys Jordan