

St Florence Community Council		
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2023		
St Florence Village Hall – 7pm – 8pm		
<p>Those present: Rachel Ruff (Clerk), Cllr Sian Hughes (Chair), Cllr Margaret Littler, Cllr Del Evans, Cllr Rhys Jordan, Michael Anderson, Nadia Probert</p> <p>1.Apologies : Cllr Rob Davies, Alan Jones</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 November 2023 Meeting were signed off, no alterations were made – No Minutes for December meeting as Clerk was away ill</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 Budget 2024 – The budget was discussed and compared to 2023. Some notable changes prodimatey the income for the Village Hall which has more than doubled from 2022. Changes were made to the cleaner for the Village Hall which is now ‘Maid In Pembrokeshire. Two items were added to the capital expenditure projects; picnic bench for wheel chair users, some new windows to be replaced in the hall also the inclusion this year of the cuts from a professional company for the playing fields. The Clerk will submit the agreed figure to County Hall.</p> <p>5.2 Flooding Gurfreston Update – See councillor Jordans report at the end of these Minutes</p>	

6	<p>Village Hall Matters:</p> <p>6.1 Bank Collapse The Ritec – A message came in from a local resident about this bank collapse – this is the responsibility of National Resources Wales. The resident will be informed.</p> <p>6.2 Oil Tank Overgrown; oil delivery interruption – Cllr Rob Davies kindly cleared the vegetation which was blocking access to the tank. The Clerk called KP Thomas to let them know and also asked whether they could source a new lid for the tank; the original lid got broken.</p> <p>6.3 Any Other Business – The tractor belonging the Community Council needs to be valued so that it can be sold on – Cllr Jordan has a contact who he will ask to value for us.</p> <p>Terms of Reference to look over next meeting – Clerk gave accopy to the Chair for her to consider any changes for next meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Local Planning St Florence: None for January 2024</p>	

<p>8</p>	<p>Accounts & Finances:</p> <p>8.1 Bank Reconciliation as at 2nd January 2024 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 12th February 2024 @ 7pm Village Hall</p>	

Councillor Rhys Jordan January 2024 Report for St Florence & St Mary Out Liberty

A New Year's Greeting

First and foremost, I wish to convey my heartfelt New Year greetings to all residents in our community.

Concerning the River Ritec Flooding

Once again, our community has been adversely affected by the River Ritec's flooding, marking the second "risk to life" flood warning within a mere 60 days. The consequential closure of the B4318 at Gumfreston Causeway and significant inundation of Treflyone Lane and Marsh Road have isolated St Florence and its environs. I have proactively reached out to Councillor David Simpson, Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council, demanding prompt and decisive action. Unfortunately, with the shift in weather patterns, such events might become more frequent. I am scheduled to meet with representatives from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the 11th of January 2024 to deliberate on long-term countermeasures, which, though financially demanding, are critically necessary.

Collaborative efforts with Sam Kurtz MS are underway to ensure our residents' voices are heard in the Senedd.

Issues on Devonshire Drive and Eastern Lane

Residents have raised concerns over the damage to hedgerows and verges along Devonshire Drive and Eastern Lane, largely due to the increased traffic volume caused by detours from the flooding.

This issue has been reported to the highways team, and I am hoping for expedient repairs.

Persistent Flooding in New Hedges

The lane linking the village of New Hedges with the shared use footpath on the New Hedges bypass is subject to chronic flooding. Additionally, the persistent issue of dog fouling in this area cannot be overlooked. Discussions with the appropriate team at the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) are in progress to explore the installation of effective drainage systems and to request more stringent monitoring for dog fouling and littering.

10 JAN 2024

Cllr Rhys Jordan

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New Hedges Village Hall Play Park

The village hall committee has been relentlessly working towards establishing a new inclusive play park for the village and the broader Pembrokeshire community. I have recently endorsed their application to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant Team, which, if successful, will significantly accelerate the project. Nevertheless, the committee remains unwavering in its commitment to raise funds, should the grant not be awarded.

Supporting Our Village Halls

The Village Halls in our Ward are vibrant community centres, and their bustling nature is a testament to their value in our community. I strongly encourage the continued support of these integral spaces. A special acknowledgement is due to the dedicated volunteers who manage these halls; their efforts in organising events, maintaining cleanliness, and managing logistics are truly commendable.

Pembrokeshire County Council's Financial Challenges

The Pembrokeshire County Council is grappling with a considerable financial deficit, estimated at about £28.4 million. This predicament will likely necessitate substantial council tax increases. In my view, it is imperative that we refocus on providing statutory services such as education, social care, and housing, and reconsider our spending priorities. The impending increases in premiums for second and empty homes are a necessary measure, yet I caution against an excessive 300% premium

on second homes, which may be counterproductive.

Community Litter Picking Initiatives

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated litter pickers, who tirelessly work to keep our ward pristine. I plan to organise additional community litter picks as the days grow longer. I encourage everyone to participate and contribute to these communal efforts.

An Open Invitation for Communication

Please know that my door is always open for any residents seeking assistance or wishing to discuss community matters. Do not hesitate to reach out via call, text, email, or Facebook.

Looking Forward to February

Until our next update, take care and stay connected.

Warm regards,

RJ