



Pembroke 21C Community Association Ltd

Minutes of a General Meeting of the Members

Held on Tuesday 11th December 2007 at 7.30pm
Foundry House, Pembroke

Present:

Cllr Gareth Jones	Linda Asman	Stuart Asman
Gloria Dryden	Pat Hay	John Hayes
Jan Chapman	Irena Kruszona	Margaret Leach
Gwen Griffiths	Brian Griffiths	Nicki Anderson
Rosie Mitchell	Christelle Medwell	

In attendance: Elizabeth Gossage – Pembroke 21C Development Officer
Alison Jones – Administration Assistant

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Val McInally, Fleur Lewis and Ken Jones

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and read. Proposed by Gareth Jones and Seconded by Linda Asman.

3. Matters arising not on the current agenda

No matters arising

4. Report from the Board of Trustees

Gareth reported that Acanthus Holden the Architects have applied for planning permission for the Foundry and that the Quantity Surveyor has given the costs for the renovation and new build to be £500,500. Gareth also reported that he had been approached by the Western Telegraph to ask if they could run an article with details from our website about the proposed works.

He reported that at the Trustee's meeting last week they were able to vote two new Trustees to our board, Cllr Rose Blackburn and Mrs Val McInally.

Pembroke 21C CIC has been overseeing the completion of the car park at Holyland Wood as well as the Bicycle Scheme with the hope that the Coppicing project will be soon added to its responsibilities. They have invited a Mr Nigel Adams to be a Director and have written to him recently and hope to have a response soon.

He reported that the trustees were sad to hear that Elvira Adams had resigned from the festival committee but were heartened by the turnout and response from the public meeting.

5. Report from the Development Officer

Elizabeth informed the meeting that Fundraising Applications to the value of £158,773 have been submitted since the start of the financial year. The core funding for the Development Officers post runs out in September 2008 which may be extended but not guaranteed. Sources of unrestricted funding are therefore a priority.

The new build costs for the Foundry have doubled the estimated cost and the PCC's new Development Director has put all grant application schemes on hold indefinitely

pending a review. Elizabeth is looking to look for funding from The Big Lottery People and Places Fund.

Membership renewal forms were sent out with all the notices of the meeting and a recruiting drive planned for the new year.

Network with sponsorship from Chevron and some new advertisers has covered its costs although delivery remains a problem and asks if anyone can deliver or can recruit volunteers to help this would be greatly appreciated the area in need is St Mary's North although a local community group has been approached and in exchange for some meeting time at the Foundry then they will be happy to deliver for us in this area.

Pat Hay and Alison Jones have successfully completed their Food Hygiene Certificates which means they can now when necessary serve refreshments for the Farmers Market or any function we run.

Linda Asman continues to improve the website. The Computer system is having a review by PAVS's Phil Perry who is coming in this week to give it a overhaul and update as appropriate. Linda was asked about hits to the website and she suggested we ask Phil Perry when he came.

6. Reports from Sub-Group Chairs

Environment and Heritage – Nikki Anderson

Nikki reported that their was to be a Litter Clean of the Commons Stream in January which was a joint effort between the Wildlife Trust, Environment & Heritage Group, Millponds Subgroup and the PCC with the help of Rosalie Lilwall.

Little Gates has not been resolved despite the ruling. There is to be an organised walk over the Christmas Holidays.

A letter has been sent to the Railtrack and the PCC with regards to the state of the local bridges at Eastend Square and at the Millpond. This was sent in partnership with the Civic Trust.

The group are concerned about the planning applications that have been submitted for high density housing at Tudor House and Rocky Park.

Dolly Mixtures Open Day on the 17th November was a great success they are very happy with the turnout and delighted with the feedback received from the public.

Sculptures/Nest The group are planning a leaflet for the community to raise awareness of the project and its objectives.

Nikki and members of the group have had a Site Meeting with Peter Howells of the PCC at the Castle Pond Footpath to look and discuss the state of disrepair. He has informed them that the Council has a long term plan to procure funding worth half a million to improve the existing wall and pathway. Temporary repairs to the path such as holes will be dealt with as soon as possible due to their severity. They also will try and incorporate some low key enhancement to some of the bare and stagnant areas with the help of the Wildlife Trust.

Irena Kruszona reported that there has been Otter sightings at the Mill Ponds on a number of occasions and John Hayes has had evidence of Otter activity in the Holyland Wood.

Farmers Market

Elizabeth reported that there had been a drop in producers attending the Market. A survey had been conducted to establish what we could do to further enhance our appeal to both the producers and the customers

The following arrangements were agreed - Alternate the Market with Haverfordwest Market which is held on a Friday. Although this does then clash with Fishguard not such a problem customer wise but for the producers. Work with Pembrokeshire County Council's Food Officer under the banner of Pembrokeshire Farmers Markets.

This will cover promotion and marketing and membership of FARMA, while maintaining independence. This will set some limitations on suppliers.

There was some confusion with regards the booking of the Town Hall for the 15th December. Alternative accommodation at the Haven Christian Centre had been arranged with 10 stalls loaned from the PCC for use on the day. Unfortunately we were unable to convince our producers that this would not be a problem and were only able to confirm 3 of our regulars to attend and was forced to cancel the event. Instead we are going to promote as widely as possible the 22nd, have Castle Brass, Hot Chestnuts, Mince Pies and generally do as much as possible to make it a resounding success. The markets will re-launch at Easter next year and then implement the change of dates and timings.

Foundry Fundraisers – Elizabeth reported that the *Buy a Brick* campaign has raised over £1,000 so far and Gift Aid has risen to £420.00.

Museum – Linda Asman reported that Elizabeth has submitted the Heritage Lottery Application. The project is low key while the outcome is awaited. They have wonderful ideas for the Website and the Oral Project is progressing well.

Nikki and Linda visited Scolton Manor to see the items that have been donated from the Museum of the Home which has been stored there for us. They both said that they have had help from the Pembrokeshire Museum service and were looking to attend training courses run by them.

Linda and Nikki would like to thank all those who helped with the with the Dolly Mixtures event, from John Russell for the talk, Rosalie, leaflet deliverers, tea people all contributed to making it a success.

They hope that they will be able to perhaps get Art Council funding for example to assist with the costs of the projects such as the Sculptures and the Town Trail regeneration scheme. Brian Griffiths reported that a recent talk given by Mr John Russell for the Civic Trust was the best attended event they have held and it was good to know that the personalities and characters from the Street and Town have now been recorded for the project.

Pembroke Mill Ponds Action Group -

Salix will now carry out the work instead of the Environment Agency, who will fund the work. They have checked the sediment levels on the pond.

there is a tree down on the Upper Mill Pond just off the Tunnel, Railtrack has been informed but as it is no hindrance to the wildlife and no threat to anything there is no rush for the work to be done.

The bat monitoring is going well we have an abundance of a number of different species using the Mill Ponds and nesting at Barnards Tower. The group is looking to catalogue the rest of town especially the town wall and surrounding areas. He has a report from Melissa Howells stating the intention to remove trees which are endangering the town walls. Some of the trees are housing bats and where possible the least disturbance will be implemented.

The webpage for the group is coming along. There are a record number of birds using the area such as Kingfishers and coot. The water quality has recorded as good.

The Holyland Wood carpark is nearly complete and we have been given some Topsoil for spreading. There is hope that tree planting will commence in the nursery in the new year and that local schools and youth groups can get involved. Pat and Karen have sourced the trees and he asks that anyone who knows of anyone who would be willing to come and volunteer to plant some trees then to let Karen or Elizabeth know.

The car park will need to have a height restrictor put in place which will be opened to admit mini-buses etc to enter. The gentleman who lives next to the Car Park has offered to open and lock the gate at night which will assist in preventing fly-tipping etc. Little Gates is still on going Mr Francis is still unwilling to allow free access to the Footpath. The Crown Estates owns the land but the Wildlife Trust leases the Upper Mill Pond from them. The Reserves Officer and PCC still have issues with regards to the designated area, and all that can be done is to leave it in their hands for now.

John Hayes Boxing Day Walk is at the Holyland Wood at 2pm.

Sustainable Energy Group – Gareth reported on the Coppicing Project which will be run by the CIC. The land has been offered by Chevron, trees from the International Tree Foundation and the customer would be Salix. This should in the long run help to make us self sustainable.

There has been a response from Ireland with regards to the Interreg project proposal. Elizabeth and Gareth have an initial conversation with a group who may be interested in partnering us in this initiative. Some ideas which could be investigated would be Energy Audits, Reducing Carbon Footprints and Transition Town status such as Totnes. The groups would look into local energy sources such as windmills and water turbines and the feasibility of a Community funded project which would benefit everyone.

There is a seminar in Llanelli on Sustainable Energy in January which some of the members are hoping to attend and Training Courses being run in Totnes to help raise awareness of the need for Sustainable Energy.

A few of the members are forming a BioDiesel club to produce for home use their own Diesel as the Government have put in place some very good incentives for this practice such as no tax. Gareth will report on their progress.

Rose Blackburn informed the group that Priory House in Milford Haven have incorporated an alternative energy source and is now selling back to the National Grid. Gloria raised the point that water turbines could be an advantage over windmills as we have some good areas which could be viable such as Pointmill. Suggestions as to other types of alternative energy sources such as Light Tubes/pipes, Gas from Sewerage where all hailed as possibilities to consider.

Francesca Dufresnoy is still looking at the waste glass idea.

Green waste collections and Community Composting Centres are now being implemented in other areas and the meeting considered this a better alternative to the composting bins being currently distributed by the PCC as some people do not actually have gardens or are unable to use them as they are for example housebound.

Another idea which was suggested that could be implemented as a town was a Banning of Plastic Bags.

John Hayes was keen for us to have a tree shredder in the new year for the recycling of Christmas Trees.

7. Reports from Affiliated

Country Markets, were sorry they could not lend their support for the market 15th but felt their products are not ideally suited to an outside venue.

Wildlife Trust were sad to report the passing of Olwen Deibert who was a keen and long standing member of the group who will be sorely missed.

They reported that they visited West Williamston Reserve to check the Brown Hairstreak Butterfly progress.

Historical Society reported that they had had a talk from Pembrokeshire Prospector John Evans. He gave an interesting talk on the Sunderland Aircraft Engine which they

raised out of the Haven and are restoring. He also showed pictures of the craft itself on the bed and stated how they were hoping to raise it.

8. Any Other Business

The progress of the South Quay development was broached and Elizabeth informed the meeting that the County Council had appointed a Developer, Allied Land. The question was raised as to despite reassurances and letters from Mr John Turberfill that we would be consulted and kept up to date with developments that we had not been informed but had to find out from various sources such as the Western Telegraph. The meeting agreed that a letter should go to the new Head of Development Dr Jones asking why we were not informed although a County Councillor from a different district had the information forwarded to him when we were assured that we would be kept in the loop. We also would like clarification as to the current position.

Castle Gate Garage site had planning permission re-submitted and Gareth Jones reported that the Town Council would be holding a Special Planning meeting this week to voice their objections. The developers are believed to be the same as the North Quay. The Civic Trust has placed an objection. John Hayes confirmed that bats used this area and the County Council are obliged to take this into account. The Bat County Organiser is Annie Haycock.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

This is scheduled for **7.30pm on Wednesday 12th March 2008**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm