

SULLY AND LAVERNOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Since the last meeting of the Council it has been a very busy time and my report to the Community Council is as follows:

1. Village Green Application at Sully Sports and Social Club – Members will be aware of the joint application for Village Green status at the Sully Sports and Social Club. An independent barrister has been appointed from a Chambers in Bristol who specialises in such matters. I have discussed the dates that are best suited to us with Steve Thomas of the Saving Sully Group and we have opted for the available dates at the end of January 2018. There is a lot of administrative work to be done and I am grateful for the help and assistance given to us by members of the Saving Sully Group in going through all the residents who filled in forms to try and ascertain who may be the best persons to give evidence at the inquiry. I have indicated to The Vale of Glamorgan Council that up to 15 witnesses may be called.
2. Machinery Maintenance – The only problem that we have had with any of the machines is that the blade needed replacing on the tractor. In addition the line marking will need replacing in the near future as the container that holds the white marker paint is rusted inside and is affecting the colour of the marker paint.
3. Defibrillators – The plaque is being prepared in respect of the unit in memory of Roger Dykes and then I shall arrange for it to be officially commissioned. I still have to arrange for training in the use of the units and I shall try to arrange for this to be done by the end of September. Sully Sailing Club have donated £100. I have also been trying to arrange a meeting between the Sully and Lavernock Hearts Matter Group and the Lavernock Ward Councillors with a view to finding a suitable site to locate the defibrillator in Lavernock. The unit itself has already been acquired and is currently in the Council office. All the other defibrillators have been installed and connected to the electricity supply. The group is also in the process of preparing a flyer to be delivered to every household in Sully and Lavernock with \ map showing where the units are sited. I have written to The Harvester restaurant and Taylor Wimpey in the hope that they may make a donation.
4. Sight Screens – The ground staff have reported to me that one of the sight screen moorings has been damaged/vandalised and this has been conveyed to the cricket club representatives. I understand that Cllr Thomas has also contacted the Chair of the cricket club, Mr David Sylvester. Hopefully, repairs will be carried out in the short term especially as the cricket season is nearly over.

5. Damage to Sailing Club fence by sight screens – I understand that the work to repair the damaged sailing club fence will be completed in the very near future
6. Jubilee Hall Maintenance – The pull cords on the recently installed blinds have been replaced and a plug moved to enable the blind to fit tight to the top of the ceiling. Two further blinds have been ordered and fitted to cover the windows of the doors
7. Fly Tipping – I have recently reported 2 incidents of fly tipping, one on Hayes Road and one on Lavernock Road.
8. Coastal Path – I sent an email to Gwyn Teague of The Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the outstanding work on the coastal path some 3 weeks ago but have not received a response. I have also left messages on his voice mail asking him to contact me. The matter was discussed with Cllr Penrose and he got an instant response from Mr. Teague advising the work that was still waiting to be undertaken.
9. Land adjacent to play area at Jubilee Hall – Since my last report I have spoken to the joint owner regarding the land. This was in the presence of Cllr Thomas. I have since telephoned the owner again and left a message for him to contact me and I have also written to him but there has been no response to either form of communication.
10. Lights at the Jubilee Hall – The lights at the Jubilee Hall have been replaced. The target date for this work to be completed was 1 September 2017 and the work has been completed within that time scale. There are no users in the Jubilee Hall during the summer and the nights did not get dark until after 9pm and there was plenty of light from the street light in the lane.
11. Lights at the Pavilion – The lights at the Pavilion together with appropriate signage and camera have been installed.
12. Welsh Water – The leak has been identified as being between the corner of the bowling green fence and the old sailing club shed. Following further investigation work by Welsh Water and a gas test being carried out the leak has been specifically identified and the work to replace the pipe will be carried out this weekend.
13. Dog Bins/ Litter bins – Three new bins have been acquired recently. One bin has been placed in the car park area and another has replaced the bin adjacent to the all weather strip. The third bin has been placed in the bowling green. Draft signage has been obtained but I have reservations as to how these notices can be implemented especially in view of the threat of a fine. There is no Council by-law in place to cover this situation.

14. Pavilion Guttering and exterior work – The cleaning of the Pavilion guttering and the painting of the outside walls of the Pavilion will be undertaken as part of the autumn/winter work undertaken by the ground staff.
15. Bank Mandate – At the time of writing these notes I have still not received the bank mandate from Cllr Sylvester. This means that two Council resolutions have been ignored by Cllr Sylvester. Cllr Baguley has signed one of the forms and I am waiting for the return of the form confirming his personal details and as soon as I get this form back then I shall submit them without Cllr Sylvester's form being present.
16. Members Register of Interests – Once again I have to report that I have received all members Register of Members Interest Declarations forms with the exception of Cllr Sylvester. As part of last years audit the external auditors require sight of a copy of all such forma and the details should also be shown on the Council's website.
17. Annual Return – 2016/17 – Members will be aware that the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been returned from the external auditors, Grant Thornton with a 'clean' audit report and not observation to be made either. The Annual Return has now been published on the Council's website. In formation was supplied in accordance with the request made my Grant Thornton and there were no subsequent request for any further information.
18. Bowling Green Benches – As I have previously reported six benches were acquired by the bowling club and the Council contributed 50% of the cost. The Club would now like to buy another 6 benches to compliment the existing ones and would request the Council's assistance again in acquiring them.
19. Service Level Agreement – Councillors will have received the charge out rate comparison in relation to firms of solicitors. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that any firm of solicitors could match the charge out rates being sought by the local authority and I would therefore recommend that this Council agree the contract with The Vale of Glamorgan Council.
20. Phone/Email System – The phone and email system in the Council office are working.
21. Coffee Shop Proposal – I have met with a young lady regarding her proposal for a coffee shop at the Pavilion. The first meeting discussed proposed sites and she felt that the Pavilion itself was not an option because the building itself would need a considerable re-furbishment to get it to the standard that she would require. The Jubilee Hall and Playing Fields Working Group met and discussed the proposal. I prepared a financial feasibility study based on a break-even point. The working group agreed that I should contact the lady again and ask her to prepare a business plan to be considered by the Council. I met with her again this morning and we

- discussed the matter further based on siting a unit on either the field below the school or the car park. We discussed a number of issues including the installation of mains services and also the various overheads that could be incurred by her. I had already passed onto her the links to the Food Standard Agency.
22. Sully Library – The library has just past its 1st anniversary as a Community Trust and thanks must go to all the hard working volunteers for making it such a success. Numbers are up since it has been operating as a Trust.
 23. Website – I have updated the website for Councillors details to include changes to the composition of working groups etc and I have also added the additional aims of the Council to the website.
 24. Community Survey – The Community Survey is progressing very well and we have received approx 270 responses which is about 15% of the households in Sully and Lavernock. Responses are still continuing to be submitted.
 25. Fort Road Car Park – Councillors will be aware of the recent media attention to the ongoing anti-social problems at the car park at Fort Road, Lavernock and I met with Andrew R T Davies AM with the residents who live adjacent to the car park. The matter has been referred to the Welsh Assembly Government and I am monitoring the position. A number of possible solutions were discussed to combat the anti-social behaviour that seems to exist there particularly in the evenings. There is also a fly tipping problem and although the land belongs to the Welsh Assembly Government I have personally removed several bags of rubbish from the car park
 26. Ground staff – I am pleased to be able to report that the ground staff have worked hard this summer to maintain the grounds in an excellent condition. I recently met with staff from Bridgend College in connection with Richard's college course and he now embarks on the 2nd year of the course. His attendance at the College has been excellent. Don Sylvester will be finishing for the winter season.
 27. Sully Bowling Club – The bowlers from Sully Bowling Club have been very complimentary about the current state of the bowling green. In fact, they consider it to be the best bowling green in South Wales and visiting sides have been equally complimentary.
 28. Biodiversity – Section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act places a duty on every public authority to maintain and enhance biodiversity, to prepare a plan to say how it will do that, and to report on what it has done. This is something that I believe that this Council should consider.
 29. Bowling Green Fence – The north side of the bowling green fence has been repaired.

30. Remembrance Day Service – I have been in contact with the Rev Jon Ormrod and the date for the Remembrance Day Service this year is Sunday 12th November 2017 at 10.30am.
31. Autumn Work on Bowling Green and Cricket Square – The autumn work has been schedule in for the middle of September and the materials required are on site. This work will be undertaken by Peter Villars Sportsground Maintenance.
32. Playing Fields Grant – I have applied for the playing fields grant from the local authority and a sum in excess of £6k has been received.
33. Guides – I met with the new Guide leader and discussed matters. I also suggested that we would undertake a joint project of bulb planting and this is going to take place on Monday 18 September 2017. They will also be attending the service on 12 November 2017 and participating. I will be contacting the other groups, i.e. Scouts and Brownies asking them to attend as well.
34. Sully Girls Football – I met with Steve Gunney regarding football and discussed arrangements for the coming season.
35. Police Visits to the area – I met with Steve Gunney regarding police presence in the area and he is going to ask the PCSO to contact me.
36. Working List – I discussed my priority working list that I keep on a monthly basis with Cllr Tatt last Friday. The list was for the tasks etc that I had undertaken for August 2017. It also serves as a reminder list for me in respect of jobs to do over the coming months. On my list were 43 items of which I have completed 27 of the items listed. The list is not complete as it would be in excess of 60 tasks because the normal monthly tasks are not included e.g. preparation of accounts and salaries.
37. Fire Alarm Sounder – The fire alarm sounder outside the Jubilee Hall was faulty and I have arranged for this to be replaced.
38. BT – I have re-negotiated the contract with BT and achieved considerable savings, which include 100 free minutes of calls per quarter. I have requested the detailed telephone bills from BT for the landline at the Pavilion but I have not received them as yet.
39. Playground Posts – I have arranged for the missing playground posts on the fence surrounding the playground to be replaced.
40. Showers – The grills on the shower floor have been replaced and the taps in each of the dressing rooms have also been replaced as they were leaking.

41. Cess Pit – The ground staff and I inspected the cess pit and it requires emptying and I have arranged this for next Monday, 11 September 2017.
42. Meeting with Sully Centurions Cricket Club – Representatives of the Council met with 3 representatives of the cricket club to discuss a number of matters and it appeared that matters would be discussed again at the end of the season.
43. Meeting with MD of The Vale of Glamorgan Council – A meeting has been arranged with Mr Rob Thomas to discuss the site at Hayes Road. The meeting has been arranged for 29 September 2017 and William Richards of Aspinalls will be also attending.
44. Big Lottery Fund Grant Application – Cllr Tatt and I have completed the application for the Big Lottery Fund to apply for a grant for the allotments and this will be submitted shortly.

David Roberts
Clerk

5 September 2017