



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

St Donats Community Council serves the three villages of St Donats, Marcross and Monknash in the rural Vale of Glamorgan. Community Council information including Minutes, Agendas of Meetings, Community Council's finances and some history of the villages can be found on the Community Council's website at: www.stdonats.cymru

St Donats Community Council Area



Council Information.

Town and Community Councils Elections are held every five years. The last Election took place on Thursday 5th May 2022. St Donats Ward, which has four councillors to represent the area, had no Election with Councillors Claire Barwell, Byron Cole, Tom Partridge and Jayne Thomas returning as unopposed. For Marcross Ward, which has three councillors to represent the area, Councillors Tony Evans and Gareth Halliwell were elected, with a vacancy occurring which was filled by co-option. Monknash Ward which has one councillor to represent the residents, elected Councillor Mary Jeffreys. In order to fill the vacancy on the Marcross Ward, Amy Taylor was appointed but resigned later in the year. In September 2022 Councillor Barwell resigned from the Council. This resulted in Dave Johnstone being co-opted to the Council, representing the St Donats Ward.

The Community Council meets once a month, usually on the first Wednesday, at Atlantic College, with the kind permission of the Principal of the College. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.



St Donats Community Councillors.

Members	Community Council Ward
Cllr Byron Cole	St Donats
Cllr Tony Evans	Marcross
Cllr Gareth Halliwell	Marcross
<i>Vacancy</i>	Marcross
Cllr Mary Jeffreys	Monknash
Cllr Dave Johnstone	St Donats
Cllr Tom Partridge	St Donats
Cllr Jayne Thomas	St Donats

The Members of the Community Council are summoned to attend meetings via the agenda which is issued by the Clerk at least three clear days before the day of the meeting. The agenda can be viewed on the Council's notice boards and the Council's website.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 legally requires Community Councils to make and publish arrangements for its meetings and to ensure that meetings can take place in a manner which enables people who are not in the same place to attend. Under the arrangements, councils need to take reasonable steps to allow meetings to be held from multiple locations. If the arrangements are revised or replaced the new arrangements must also be published. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others. Examples of this could include:

- All participants are in the same physical location;

- All participants are in the same physical location except one individual who joins from another location e.g. by video or telephone conference;
- Roughly equal number of councillors are present in a physical space and joining through remote means;
- Wholly through remote means where no physical arrangements have been made.

Whilst physical meetings in the same location are allowable under the 2021 Act, councils must note that the 2021 Act requires that participants (i.e. council members, members of the public and press) are able to join meetings remotely – even if physical meetings are the preferred mode. Access to join a meeting remotely, through ‘Zoom’ can be arranged through contacting the Clerk who can provide the information required.

The administration of the Community Council is carried out by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, the only paid officer of the Council.

The Annual Meeting of the Community Council is held in May when the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected by the members of the council. For 2022/2023 the Chairperson was Councillor Tony Evans and the Vice Chairperson was Councillor Jayne Thomas.

The current Clerk, Jackie Griffin, was appointed in May 2021.

Report of the Chairman Councillor Tony Evans May 2023.

Just before the Annual Meeting in May 2022, we signed our ‘Declarations of Acceptance of Office, following the Local Elections which had taken place the previous week. Those of us who had stood for Election were elected unopposed. Due to ex-Councillor Davis not standing, there was a vacancy which was filled by co-option.

Following the resignation of Councillor Barwell later in the year, we were pleased to welcome Councillor Dave Johnstone onto the Community Council.

As a consequence of a Boundary Review, within the Unitary Authority area, St Donats was taken out of the Llantwit Major Ward and became part of the St Brides Major Ward. This has resulted in our community now being represented by Councillors Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard who we have been very pleased to welcome to our meetings and I would like to thank them for their service and help to us on the Community Council.

I would also like to thank PC Jamie Williamson who attends our meetings to report on crime in the local area and also PCSO Rhiannon Cummings who occasionally attends on behalf of PC Williamson. We appreciate the time they give to report to us and the assistance they have given us to assist with residents’ concerns.

In June, the Country celebrated Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and in our Community, the residents celebrated too. UWC Atlantic welcomed the Community into their site on Thursday 2nd June with activities, entertainment and the lighting of a Beacon, all provided by the students and staff, for the enjoyment of the residents. Marcross celebrated on Saturday, 4th June with an event which included a ‘bring your own picnic’, evening entertainment and a treasure trail. On Sunday 5th, a Church Service was held in Holy Trinity Church.

Sadly, the euphoria of the Platinum Celebrations was overshadowed by the Queen’s passing on 8th September.

I represented the Community Council at a Church Service in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II life of service at All Saints Church, Barry on 18th September. The Service was organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

I also attended a Church Service in Marcross at which a minute’s silence was held in memory of the Queen.

In October, UWC Atlantic celebrated their 60th Anniversary at a special event to which I was pleased to attend with two Members of this Council.

In December, the Community Council received a tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I planted the tree in the Community Garden in St Donats.

The Vale Councillors Protheroe and Stallard held a Surgery in the Horseshoes in Marcross in February. The Surgery was very well received by the Community who were able to raise their concerns with the Councillors and I look forward to further surgeries in the future.

The Community Council has carried out their normal business of making observations on planning applications in our community and attending meetings of outside bodies including One Voice Wales and Glamorgan Heritage Coast. This important work will continue as it gives our community a voice in what's happening in our rural area.

The Community Council was pleased to welcome two students and two members of staff of UWC Atlantic to their meeting in February to discuss issues regarding litter and students out in the community without their recommended high-viz jackets. Residents have been concerned at students' safety on the rural roads that lack pavements and street lighting. Since that meeting, the students have carried out a litter pick and more students have been seen wearing the high-viz jackets. The Community Council is very grateful to UWC Atlantic for allowing the meetings to be held on the College site and will continue to strive to build on the close relationship that it has with UWC Atlantic.

The Community Council has continued to communicate with the Vale Council especially on current issues including the Channel View Effluent Plant which is still outstanding and the ever-increasing number of potholes on Splott Road. These issues will no doubt continue to be of concern and the Council will continue to pursue action on these and other relevant items in the future.

To those organising events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III this weekend, I wish them great success and thank the organisers for giving their time to entertain our community.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the Councillors and the Clerk, for your support to me over the last 12 months and I wish Councillor Jayne Thomas a very successful year as Chairperson of St Donats Community Council for the forthcoming year.

Review of Town and Community Councils in The Vale of Glamorgan.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is currently carrying out a review on the town and community council boundaries in the Vale of Glamorgan. The review is being carried out on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Community boundaries are being considered to ensure that they reflect local identity and if the capacity of the area is still relevant.

There are 4 steps to the review:

- (i) Initial publicity;
- (ii) Initial investigation and consultation which can take 6-12 weeks;
- (iii) Consultation on draft proposals;
- (iv) Final recommendation and a review of the representations.

The review could result in the creation, abolition or merging of communities and/or lead to changes to boundaries; ward names and ward members.

The relevant size of a town/community council is to be considered with reference to the elector to councillor ratio policy; population growth; new developments and whether the area is rural, urban or mixed.

The Members of the Community Council are anxious that St Donats Community Council should remain as at present in order to reflect the unique rural three villages which make up the Council.

Attendees at Council Meetings.

- A Representative of South Wales Police attends most meetings and gives an update on incidents of crime in the area since the previous meeting. This can be a very useful source of information which can be shared with residents to raise awareness of possible concerns and warnings of current crime being carried out in the local communities.
- A Vale of Glamorgan Councillor attends most meetings of the Community Council to advise on the work relating to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This can be very helpful to the Community Council as a way of sharing information relating to Vale matters and it is an opportunity for the Community Council to raise local issues which are the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Community Council Members are extremely grateful to Councillors Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard who have attended the Community Council's meetings during the year.

Council Representatives.

Representatives of the Community Council sit on a number of 'outside bodies'.

- Councillor Jayne Thomas is the Council's Representative at meetings of the Local Committee of One Voice Wales.
- Councillor Tom Partridge is the Council's Representative on the Community Liaison Committee.
- Councillor Tony Evans is the Council's Representative at meetings of the Local Footpaths Committee.
- Councillor Jayne Thomas is the Council's Representative at meetings of Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.
- Councillor Tom Partridge is the Minor Authority Representative (MAR) Governor for Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School.

United World College Atlantic, St Donats.

UWC Atlantic continues to play a part in the life of St Donats Community Council.

The College has continued to support the Community Council again in providing a meeting space and the Members are extremely grateful to the College for their assistance.

Councillors and Community Members have played a key part in helping the students in understanding how local life can be affected by student life. This has included talks and 'meet and greets'. The Pandemic halted community events which were taking place at the College but during the last year, following the lifting of restrictions, the College has actively engaged with the community and held a very successful event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and more events will follow in the future.

Councillor Partridge, who is also a staff member at UWC Atlantic, is able to keep the Community Council updated in real time of any pressing issues that can impact the community as well as inform them of how the college can support the local residents as well. This has included events such as litter picks, services and through the external events hosted by the college including open days, outdoor cinema and 'kids camps'.

After the restrictions introduced during the Pandemic were lifted, Councillor Gareth Halliwell and Mrs Sharon Evans were able to return to the College to present a 'welcome and introduction to our community and its expectations of the students' at the start of the year to whole assembled college.

Councillor Partridge had made the request for two community members to address the students a number of years ago prior to the pandemic and Councillor Halliwell and Mrs Evans had delivered two addresses before covid had prevented its continuation. Its pleasing that now this visit to the College has been re-introduced and the link with the College has been strengthened.

Council Business 2022/2023.

- The Community Council continues to be concerned at the condition of ‘Splott Road’. Another meeting was arranged with a number of Officers of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and some remedial work carried out to the road again. The Community Council will continue to monitor the condition of the road and refer concerns to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- The defibrillator situated on the road between St Donats and Marcross is owned and maintained by the Community Council. The Community Council monitors the equipment regularly and earlier this year the date-expired pads were renewed.
- The Community Council continues to question Officers at the Vale of Glamorgan Council with regard to the retaining wall damage at Marcross Brook plus the progress, if any, on the Channel View Effluent system, which appears to have come to a halt over the past few years. The Community Council will continue to raise their concerns and the concerns of residents with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. These points and questions have been put to Officers at the Vale of Glamorgan Council but, to date no response has been received. The Community Council will continue to press the Vale of Glamorgan Council for responses to the queries.

Council Finance.

Receipts & Payments Account.		
April 2022 to March 2023		
BUDGET	RECEIPTS	
2022/2023	2022/2023	
£		£
3,225.00	Precept	4,085.00
	Grants/Donations	
	Room/Hall Hire	
	Bank Interest	
	V.A.T. Reimbursement	
3,225.00	TOTAL	4,085.00
	EXPENDITURE	
2,300.00	Staff wages etc.	2,544.00
100.00	Subscriptions	171.00
300.00	Insurance	263.89
50.00	Grant Aid	0.00
	Community Events	90.00
50.00	Petty Cash Items	0.00
300.00	Audit Fees	800.00
100.00	Training	105.00
300.00	Administration	620.91
	VAT Reclaimable	199.10
	Council Elections	17.43
300.00	Councillor Allowances	450.00
3,800.00	TOTAL	5,261.33
	General Fund	
	Opening Balance 1 April 2022	3,688.76
	Add Total Income	4,085.00
		7,773.76
	Deduct Total Expenditure	5,261.33
	BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	2,512.43

CURRENT RECEIPTS

Category	Amount (£)
Precept	4,085.00
Grants/Donations	
Room/Hall Hire	
Bank Interest	
V.A.T. Reimbursement	

CURRENT PAYMENTS

Category	Amount (£)
Staff wages etc.	2,544.00
Subscriptions	171.00
Insurance	263.89
Grant Aid	0.00
Community Events	90.00
Petty Cash Items	0.00
Audit Fees	800.00
Training	105.00
Administration	620.91
VAT Reclaimable	199.10
Council Elections	17.43
Councillor Allowances	450.00

The Community Council's income is provided by a precept which is a part of the Council Tax, paid by each household and collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The precept is paid to the Community Council in three parts during the months of April, August and December. The expenses of the Community Council include the Clerk's salary; insurance, subscription to One Voice Wales and other items. The breakdown of the expenditure is represented by the pie chart above

Annual Audits.

Town and Community Councils are audited twice a year. The first audit is an Internal Audit carried out by an independent person appointed by the Council. The Internal Auditor does a thorough check of the Council's books and accounting procedures and produces a report. Following the Internal Audit, an external audit is carried out by the Wales Audit Office who select a particular item to specifically inspect as well as other checks on the Council's procedures. The 'Annual Return' containing the Council's accounting figures and 'Annual Governance' statement with the reports from the auditors are available to view on the Council's website.

Councillor Training.

Section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires Town and Community Councils to make and publish a plan detailing their training provision for its members and staff. The first training plan was published on 5th November 2022. The training courses undertaken by Councillors during the past twelve months are:

Councillor	Course Attended
Councillor Tony Evans	Introduction to Planning – 28.11.22 Chairing Skills – 19.1.23
Councillor Gareth Halliwell	New Councillor Induction – 11.10.22 The Council – 19.10.22
Councillor Mary Jeffreys	Council as an Employer – 23.1.23
Councillor Jayne Thomas	Chairing Skills – 12.10.22 Local Government Finance – 17.10.22

Planning Applications.

One of the objectives of the Community Council is to make observations on planning applications, details of which are provided by the Planning Department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Planning applications which the Community Council has considered in the past twelve months are listed in the following table.

Full comments made by the Community Council can be viewed in the Meeting Minutes:

Application No.	Location	Community Council Observation	Vale Council Decision
2020/00436/1/CD	Bryn Eglwys Barm, Monkash	No objection	Approved
2022/00248/OUT	Derelict Barns at Siop Newydd, Monkash	No objection	Refused
2022/00377/FUL	Splott Farm, St Donats	No objection	Approved
2022/00498/HR	Splott Farm, St Donats	No objection	Approved
2022/00566/FUL.	Fossil Cottage, Marcross	No objection	
2022/00570/FUL	7 Church View, Marcross	No objection	Approved

Biodiversity Report.

The Community Council is very conscientious of the importance of biodiversity within its community.

All documentation including correspondence; agendas; minutes and reports, are e-mailed to Councillors which saves on the expense of postage and assists the carbon footprint.

In December, a tree was gifted to the Community Council from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which was celebrated in June.



Councillor Tony Evans pictured with the tree which he planted in the Community Garden.

Community Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

At St Donats, a Beacon Event was held on Thursday, 2nd June, which took place in the grounds of Atlantic College. There was entertainment provided by the students and refreshments were available. A number of Beacons were lit, including one by Councillor Halliwell on behalf of the Community Council and one lit by the leader of the newly established Coast Watch Team based at St Donats.



Councillor Halliwell lighting the Community Council's Beacon.



Beacon at St Donats



Members of the local community gathered on the beach at Atlantic College to watch the beacon lighting from a different perspective.

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In Marcross, on Saturday 4th June, Village House Farm Barn was the venue for a 'bring your own picnic', evening entertainment and a treasure trail.





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The Celebrations culminated with a Church Service in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 5th June.



Holy Trinity Church, Marcross.

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Annual Report of St Donats Community Council completed 28th June 2023.

Website address: www.stdonats.cymru

Clerk to the Council: Jackie Griffin.

To contact the Clerk email stdonatscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

