

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st of May 2015

1. Present : Councillors R.Morgans (Chair), A-L.Morgans, R.Jeremy, H.Williams, J.Jones, A.Evans, C.Atkins, A.Freeman and T.Griffiths. Also present was County Councillor D.B.Davies.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Anne Evans back to the meeting after her illness and wished her well in her recovery.

2. Apologies : None

3. Minutes of last meetings proposed correct by Cllr Freeman and seconded by R.Jeremy.

4. Declarations of Interest : Cllr Atkins, Local Government Officer, and County Cllr. D.B.Davies, Vice Chair of Planning Committee, both Carmarthenshire County Council.

5. Police / Neighbourhood Matters : PCSO Chris Taylor attended the meeting and reported that the car obstructing the road at the entrance to Dol-y-Dderwen had now been moved. He was thanked for his actions in the matter.

Councillors showed continued concern for the speeds of vehicles through the village and asked for further policing of the matter. PCSO Taylor will take the concern back to his senior officers.

6. Matters Arising.

2641 Horses on the field. It was reported that the number of horses had been reduced but there was still concern about the apparent lack of food. Matter to be monitored.

2644 Grass Strips in Dol-y-Dderwen.

Cllr. Jeremy reported that the residents had taken the grass away and replaced it with chippings. Cliff Cleaton of CCC had visited the site and reported that whilst the residents should have had a licence and approval to undertake the work, the kind of stone they had put down was of a flat consistency and would not spill onto the roadway. As such no further action will be taken by the Local Authority.

The Bus Stop pavement adjustment will be reviewed when finance is available.

2649 Pavement project near Smyrna Chapel

The Clerk reported that he had received estimated costings from the County Council viz.

Scheme A Dropping the pavement level to allow better access = £9000

Scheme B Replacing hedge with a wall and extending the pavement up to the chapel = £25000. The Community Council having realised that the costs made it impossible for them to implement, asked the Clerk to ask the County Council to include the improvements on their own project lists when finance became available.

2652 Reforming Local Government in Wales.

The consultation process is now over.

2654 Village Telephone Kiosk. Clerk to proceed to contact BT and the Insurance liability and cost.

2655 Traffic Strip in Dol-y-Dderwen. The Clerk has received a report from the County Council with the results of the speeds in the estate. The average speeds recorded was 17mph with the fastest being 20mph. Some Councillors were disappointed and suggested that the strip was wrongly placed - situation to be monitored.

2656 Oak Trees at Smyrna Crossroads.

It was reported that they had both been trimmed.

7. Correspondence

SLCC - "The Clerk" publication. The Clerk reported on the article outlining Local Government Transparency (see letter from Welsh Assembly below).

Hywel Dda Health Board - Lets Talk Health. Schedule of Local meetings to share views – Noted.

Collaborative Communities Pamphlet - Social Enterprises Celebrate Success of Project.

Carms County Council - Request for information re. Freedom of Information Act.

Carms County Council - Code of Conduct Training – Cllr. R.Morgans and the Clerk to attend on the 9th June and report back to the members.

WAG Statutory Guidance on Access to Information on Community Councils.

This is a statutory duties in accordance with section 55 of the Local Government (democracy) Wales Act 2013.

In summary the Act requires Community Councils to have a website, to publish notices and papers electronically and to publish a register of members' interests, meetings, minutes and other relevant information relating to the work and processes of the Community Council.

The Clerk stated that much of this information is already available on the Council's website but other information such as Minutes will now have to be published on the site - Clerk and Cllr.Haydn Williams to co-operate on this issue.

Some work has already been undertaken in that the Clerk and Cllr. Williams met Jamie King
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on the 19 May to discuss the further development of the website. Mr King was made aware
of these developments. Work will be done regarding links to local organisations and access
by the Clerk and Cllr. Williams to update the site. Another final meeting is anticipated during
the coming months. Cllr. Anne Evans is asked to assist in the matter.

Insurance Renewal. AON. The existing insurer has sent a renewal notice with a premium of
£294.00. It was resolved to renew the Insurance cover at that premium. Clerk to arrange.

8. Planning Applications - none.

9. Finance/Approval of Payments

2657 Annual Accounts. The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and Governance Statement
for the year ended March 2015 which have been audited and signed by Mr D.R. Davies, the
Council's Internal Auditor. The accounts show monies in hand of £8110 which is the result
of underspending in that year together with reserves from previous years. The Clerk stated
that such an outcome had been reported to members in the January meeting which had led the
Council to set a budget for 2015/16 to reduce this financial position. The Council approved
the accounts and governance declaration which were signed by the Clerk and Chairman as
required and the Clerk will now send the necessary documents to BDO, the Auditors for final
approval.

2658 The Clerk reported that he had purchased a new hard drive for his computer at a cost of
£134.99. He stated that the vast majority of its use had been for Community Council duties.

The Council acknowledged this and resolved to pay for the Clerk's costs in this matter. The
Clerk thanked the Council for their support.

2659. Approval of Payments

Chair's expenses £32.00 Annual Dinner guests

D.R. Davies £60.00 Audit Fee

I. Griffiths £588.76 Clerk's salary/Expenses x 2

AON £294.00 Insurance premium

C. Emms £25.00 Trimming Trees

I. Griffiths £134.99 Hard Drive

10. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Davies reported that after a reshuffle, the Independents and Plaid parties now lead the
Council with Cllr Emlyn Dole being the leader. Cllr. Davies has retained his responsibility as
Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

The higher management tier has been reorganised with now 4 main Directors.

Cllr. Davies finished his year as Chair of the County Council on the 20th May. It had been a busy but very enjoyable year with a substantial amount of money raised for charity.

11. New or Any Other Business

Church Road. Cllr. Freeman reported that overgrowth of foliage is causing difficulty when coming onto the main road from Church Road. Clerk to contact CCC.

Smyrna Crossroads. Cllr. Evans reported that there was difficulty in seeing traffic from the Llansteffan direction when coming to the junction from Heol Smyrna. The main obstacle seemed to be an overgrown hedge which is privately owned. It was suggested that a mirror could be placed on the lamp post on the opposite side of the main road to assist drivers, which the Community Council could pay for from reserves. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council for advice regarding the hedge and the mirror.

Penycoed Junction. The danger caused by the lack of vision at the junction was again brought up and the extra VMS sign placed near the Smyrna crossroads is not doing anything to slow traffic approaching the junction. It was stated by Cllr. Griffiths that in order for tractor drivers approaching from Penycoed Road to see what traffic was approaching on the main road, the front of the bonnet would already be on the white line, directly blocking one side of that road thus causing danger to vehicles approaching at speed. The Clerk was again asked to contact the County Council regarding the concerns and to warn them that the Community Council hold the County Council directly responsible for any future collisions and injury caused by the dangerous junction.