

## LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held by Zoom on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

1. Present : Cllrs R. Jeremy (Chair), H. Williams, A. Evans, A-L. Morgans, C. Atkins. Also present County Cllr C. Jones.

2. Apologies : Cllrs T. Griffiths, J. Jones, A. Freeman, R. Morgans.

Note. It is noted that some members either cannot join the Zoom meeting because of long term ill health, or are not comfortable in doing so. Therefore, in order to protect their membership of the Community Council, it was resolved to suspend the requirement to attend during the Covid19 limitations until the AGM in May 2021, when it will be reviewed. Agreed.

3. Minutes of the AGM and the October 'Update' meetings. Proposed correct by H. Williams and seconded by A. Evans.

4. Matters Arising. None.

5. Correspondence.

Hywel Dda. Help to reshape future Pharmacy Services – consultation.

Letter from Mrs Pam Stokes thanking the Community Council for the card and flowers to her mother May Vowles on her 95<sup>TH</sup> Birthday.

Auditor's report and invoice.

SLCC membership renewal.

Various updates from CCC and WAG regarding the coronavirus outbreak.

6. Planning Applications.

PL00951. Penhen. Reinstatement of dwelling and barn conversion. Approved.

7. Finance.

a. 2788. 2019/20 Annual Return. The report has been received from Wales Audit giving a qualified approval and state that no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

They did, however, point out some anomalies in the completion of the final statement which the Clerk has noted and also they advise that the unrepresented cheques over 6 months old should now be written off, which means that the expenditure did not, in fact take place. The net effect of that is that the Council's reserves are now increased by the written off amount of £585.

**The Council approved the accounts and asked the Clerk to amend the final accounts in accordance with the Auditor's recommendations and to reflect this in the completion of the 2020/21 accounts.**

b. 2789. Approval of Payments.

Audit Wales 327.25 Audit Fee

SLCC 95.00 Membership

I. Griffiths 972.69 Sal/Exp. Sept–Nov

Roger Hunt 60.00 Christmas Tree

H. Williams 20.00 Christmas Tree accessories / Card / Flowers

c. 2790. Precept 2020/21

The Clerk circulated a report showing present spending with an estimate for Footway charges not yet received from the County Council, and potential spending in 2020/21. The reserves for 2019/20 was £8,010 and adding the written off expenditure of £585 as recommended by Audit Wales means that the reserves now read as £8595. However, there was an overspend of £245 in the 2019/20, leaving an estimated reserve of £8350.

**After discussion of some options, the Council resolved to set a precept in line with estimated actual spending of £10,110 which means an annual community rate for band D properties of £35.36. This is a reduction of £1.57 from the previous year.**

The Clerk pointed out that the advice regarding reserves is that a substantial part should be earmarked for future projects. Councillors, therefore, resolved to move on with the proposed Milestone heritage project which has been discussed previously and also, the probable need to renew the existing noticeboards. This will be discussed during the new term. The Clerk also noted that monies would have to be retained to fund the new lighting scheme, the financial effects of which are not yet known. Agreed.

8. County Councillor's Report. See attached below.

9. Any Other Business.

Woodland Trust Car Park. There were concerns regarding the number of people using the car park and walks and also walking around the village during the Lockdown. It was resolved that the matter should be reported to DPPA. County Councillor Jones will make the necessary arrangements.

Church Road and Lletyrneuadd Road. There have been complaints regarding the state of these roads. Clerk to report to Mark Thomas of Highways, CCC.

There was also a report regarding the state of some parts of Heol Smyrna which a member of the Community Council is personally pursuing with the County Council. Noted.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### COVID-19 - ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUNDING

Small businesses and hospitality/leisure establishments are encouraged to apply for the latest round of Welsh Government Economic Resilience Funding, delivered via the county council. This fund is intended to support businesses in Wales and assist with recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and future sustainability. The county has, to date, delivered £80million in funding to businesses across all sectors. Go to:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/restrictions-business-fund-sector-specific-grant-faq> or please contact me if you need any information.

### COUNTY BUDGET SEMINARS

I am participating in ten Budget Seminars this week to express our priorities as a community in the determination of the 2021-22 county budget. Despite the devastating financial impact of Covid on the council's income and expenditure, the County Council's Executive Board agreed this morning to cut the proposed council tax rise for the coming year from just under 4.9% to less than 4.5%. This is in recognition of the way so many in our county have been adversely affected, while maintaining services and ensuring the care and support needed by individuals and communities remains a priority over the coming year.

### COMMUNITY POLICE MEETINGS:

I am now meeting regularly with our CPSOs - every six weeks or so - so please let me know if you have local issues you wish me to raise.

### FFERMIO FORUM

This forum is a joint platform between representatives of three Community Councils to plan methods of addressing some of the issues associated with industrial farming across our

area. It is not an opportunity to complain, but to devise and execute positive action plans.

The Forum has met twice recently and will meet on a monthly basis in the new year.

Minutes of meetings are provided to respective Community Councils.

#### SKY FILMS

Two Sky Films are due to be filmed in the Carmarthen and Ferry Point, Llansteffan area during February, and cast and crew will be staying in local accommodation. Film production is currently permitted under Covid-19 regulations, and will be heavily regulated.

#### NEW YEAR 2021

During 2020 County Council activities were driven in diverse directions as a result of Coronavirus. Some committees were suspended during the first phase of the pandemic, but, as soon as the technology permitted, members were back in a virtual County Hall to carry out our responsibilities. Many officers were redeployed to emergency services, and remain so during this current phase, and we all have to work in a different way. So, albeit a year with a difference, it has been a very busy year and my attendance on committees can be scrutinised, as usual, on the county website. Training opportunities for members were also suspended for some time, but in recent months I have completed 26 training courses or seminars which inform my work. I hope 2021 will be a little more predictable and that this remoteness from the community will end. Interaction is crucial to my role, so I wish everyone all the best for 2021, and remind you that my 'virtual' door is always open.