

## LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

1. Present. Cllrs. C. Atkins, A. Evans, J. Jones, A-L Morgans. Also present was County Councillor C. Jones.

2. Apologies. H. Williams, A. Freeman and T. Griffiths.

In the absence of Cllr. Haydn Williams, Cllr. Carl Atkins (Vice Chair) took the Chair.

3. Minutes of last meeting. Proposed correct by Cllr. Anne Evans and seconded by Cllr. John Jones.

4. Matters Arising.

2803. Footpath 25/9 through "Castell Gwyrdd". The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Mr Jason Lawday, Footpaths Department and he has replied that he will contact the landowners regarding its condition and if they don't cut the path as they should, then the County Council will do so.

2804. Footpath 25/3 from Rhydlydan to Dolaumeinion. The Clerk has contacted Mr Jason Winter from the County Council regarding a follow up to a site meeting in 2019. Mr Winter has apparently been redeployed to a Coronavirus Support Department and as such, has not worked on footpaths since that time. An answer has been received from Caroline Ferguson, section head who states that the footpath will be cleared but needs more information regarding signage etc. Clerk to discuss with Cllr. Terry Griffiths.

5. Correspondence.

Electoral Reform Newsletter

Remote Training Sessions offered by One Voice Wales - any member wishing to take part to contact the Clerk.

**It should be noted that other items of general correspondence have been sent to members on line for information only.**

6. 2805. Planning Applications.

Application PL/1863. Sunroom at Cysgod y Deri approved by County Council.

Application W/40285. Conversion of stone barns into self contained holiday lets at Wauncorgam Fawr. Refused.

## 7. Finance / Approval of Payments.

2806. The following payments were approved.

I. Griffiths	662.88	Clerk's salary / expenses x 2
J. King	100.00	Website hosting
LHP	162.00	Audit Fee
A. W. Matthews	30.30	Chair's Insignia bar

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

2807. Boundary Review. Cllr. Jones stated that despite objections, Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, announced the Carmarthenshire changes without most alterations. This would mean that Cllr. Jones's Llansteffan Ward would be amalgamated with the St Clears Ward, with two County Councillors. It is felt that the changes, adding a town ward would be unfavourable to the rural areas. Cllr. Jones continues to fight against the changes and will report back.

## 2808. Memorial Hall refurbishment.

The committee is at present applying for grants and new committee members being recruited. The Community Council needs to have a representative on the hall committee. It was resolved to have another discussion at the next meeting.

## 9. New or Any Other Business.

2809. It had been reported that the Sports and Recreation now have no committee with all members having resigned. The secretary, Helen Scott had informed the Clerk and Chair of the situation. Since that time Cllr. Williams had contacted Mrs Scott who gave him available details.

The main concern was that the insurance for the park was due to be renewed in September and the annual inspection was overdue.

Since that, and to avoid any danger to users and potential claims, Cllr. Williams had visited the park and had done what was needed in terms of health and safety in the short term.

The Clerk reported that he had asked the County Council to arrange an inspection of the facilities etc.

Having regard to the fact that it is in fact a community facility, a decision had to be made by the Community Council as to the future of the park and its administration. After discussion, the Council resolved to take over the responsibility in the short term viz. paying for the inspection and the insurance renewal and thereafter attempting to form a new committee.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

### ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales have completed the final stage of their review of the electoral arrangements for Carmarthenshire.

The Commission has published and presented all 22 electoral reviews to the Minister for Finance and Local Government who will now make a decision about each boundary review by the end of September 2021, so that changes can be made in time for the 2022 local government elections.

In order to give local authorities as much time to prepare for the 2022 elections, the Minister will make the decisions public as they are made, this means that, from the week beginning 21 June, the Minister is announcing the first set of decisions on the reviews. Firstly, a letter will be issued to the County Council Leader and Chief Executive, Welsh Local Government Association, One Voice Wales and the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and this will be followed by a written statement to the Senedd of each decision.

The current ward of Llansteffan has a projected 1,736 electors which is 12% below the proposed county average. The existing ward of St Clears has a projected 2,585 electors which is 31% above the proposed county average.

In its Draft Proposals the Commission has proposed to combine the wards of Llansteffan and St. Clears to form one electoral ward with 4,195 electors which, represented by two councillors, would result in a level of representation that is 10% above the proposed county average. The name of the new ward will be Sanclêr gyda Llansteffan / St. Clears with Llansteffan.

The proposal claims that *"This recommendation combines three communities, which already form the existing electoral ward of Llansteffan, with the Town of St. Clears, promoting the desirability to maintain community ties, and will be able to utilise existing community, communication, and social ties to form an effective electoral ward."*

All voters from Llansteffan and St Clears will vote for two councillors. However, there will be a projected 849 more voters living in St Clears than in Llansteffan, so the maths suggests a likelihood that two St Clears candidates could be elected - and no Llansteffan candidates.

I made a strong representation on behalf of the Llansteffan Ward at the consultation stage, and again when the recommendations were published. The Final Recommendations have been published again with no time-window for further representations. I wrote to the Minister for Finance and Local Government, Rebecca Evans MS, in an attempt to initiate further dialogue - as has happened in other wards where the proposals were challenged.

This proposal will leave the current Llansteffan Ward disenfranchised, which is contrary to the duty of ministers to ensure "effective and convenient" local government across Wales.

On Thursday 8th July, the Minister announced the Carmarthenshire boundaries with no changes to the Final Recommendations, and no appeal procedure. I am now engaged in challenging the decision itself and the basis on which the decision has been made. That the Local Democracy Commission has by-passed local democracy is ironic and unacceptable.

#### LLANGAIN MEMORIAL HALL

Llangain Memorial Hall is in need of wide-scale repair and refurbishment. The committee is in the early stages of a Big Lottery grant application to fund re-modelling and re-purposing of the building and provide a community centre fit for the 21st century. The public consultation stage is in progress, and I would be grateful if all the residents of Llangain would contribute by responding to forthcoming community surveys and lending their support to the project. The committee is recruiting new members to build an enthusiastic team to see this project to its end - please contact me if you would like to be a part of this venture for the community.

#### LORD'S PARK FARM

Lord's Park Farm in Llanybri is owned by the National Trust and has been farmed for many years by the Williams brothers, who have recently retired to Llangain. The National Trust is considering not re-letting the property as a farming enterprise and dwelling, and may be looking at the site "as a place where people and nature can thrive" - woodlands, walks etc. The National Trust has launched a consultation exercise which requires community groups and individuals to register an interest in being consulted. Due to the scarcity of opportunities for young local farmers to establish themselves in the farming industry and provide a home for their families in their community, it is important that everyone has their say. Please register your interest on: [lordspark@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lordspark@nationaltrust.org.uk)

#### CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - FORWARD WORKING METHODS

Consultations are underway to develop and establish new ways of working for staff and local members of the council. As some pandemic regulations are eased there needs to be a thorough assessment of how home-working/office-based working will be structured in the future. It is anticipated that the new ways of working will better accommodate work/life balance while also improving productivity. County meetings are still being held remotely, although there may be plans shortly to accommodate hybrid meetings.

#### COUNCILLOR TRAINING

I have recently attended a Training Seminar on the Circular Economy and a Task and Finish Seminar on New Ways of Working.

## COUNTY NEWSROOM

Please visit the Carmarthenshire County Council Newsroom for all the latest local news: <https://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/>

Ewch i Ystafell Newyddion Cyngor Sir Gâr am y newyddion diweddaraf yn ein hardal:

<https://newyddion.sirgar.llyw.cymru/>