

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

Before the commencement of business the Chair read a letter of resignation from Cllr Anne-Louise Morgans. Cllr Williams will write a letter of thanks to Anne-Louise who has served both the Council and the community for many years.

1. **Present:** Cllrs H. Williams (Chair), T. Griffiths, R. Jeremy, J. Jones, County Cllr C. Jones.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs C. Atkins, A. Evans, D. Roberts.
3. **Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed correct by R. Jeremy and seconded by T. Griffiths.

4. **Matters Arising**

2804 – Footpath 25/03 – Rhydlydan to Ystrad Walter – Cllr Griffiths reported it is now clear.

2838 – Noticeboards – Cllr Williams reported a short delay due to the fact that the council logo for the noticeboards is required in the form of a Vector file due to the lack of clarity in the existing format. Also, the Chair explained and stressed that the accompanying Insignia handbook containing the original image which would have provided a higher resolution and other important legal and historical documents has not been available for over 20 years. Jamie King has agreed to produce this file at an estimated cost of approximately £200. **It was resolved to proceed with this.**

2844 - Red kiosk at Smyrna crossroads needs painting both inside and outside. Some concern was expressed about the potential cost which could escalate quite easily. It was agreed to set a limit of £300.

2859 – Headed council stationery – Printing is awaiting new Vector file of insignia.

5. **Correspondence**

Society of Local Council Clerks - The Clerk magazine

Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

Letter of thanks from Llangain Bowls Club

Letter of thanks from Wales Air Ambulance

Letter of thanks from Carmarthenshire Young Farmers

Letter of thanks from Ysgol Llangain

Email of thanks from Llangain Players

Email of thanks from Capel Smyrna

Email of thanks from Memorial Hall and Llangain Hwb

Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

6. **Planning Applications**

PL/05314 – Change of use, Green Castle, Llangain SA33 5BG – no objections.

PL/04746 - Application for approval of reserved matters, land south of Dol-y-Dderwen – granted 16th February 2023.

7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2862 – The following payments were approved:-

Llangain School	£400.00	
Capel Smyrna	£300.00	
Memorial Hall	£500.00	
Bowls Club	£150.00	
Air Ambulance Wales	£150.00	
Young Farmers Club	£100.00	
Llangain Hwb*	£150.00	
Llangain Players	£150.00	
S. Holmes	£796.86	Salary & expenses January/February
One Voice Wales	£106.00	Annual membership
Audit Wales	£200.00	2020/21 external audit fee
Carmarthen County Council	£161.66	Election expenses 2022/23

***Note:** previous minutes resolved to donate £150 to Llangain Gardening Club. The club has now combined their resources with the coffee morning group and formed the Hwb. They still plant and maintain the flower planters in the village plus help subsidise a couple of the Hwb events throughout the year.

2863 – External Audit (Audit Wales) 2021/22

This has now been completed with the following qualifications:-

- Notwithstanding that the clerk has declared his salary from the Council on his self assessment tax return, the Council does not operate PAYE as it is required to do under the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.
- When setting its precept, the Council is required to calculate its budget requirement in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Act requires the Council to take into account its level of income and of reserves when setting its budget requirement. My audit identified that the Council did not prepare a budget for the year.

Also, as part of the audit process, it was identified that we did not have a copy of our Financial Regulations available on our website. In correcting this, it was realised that it was time for these regulations to be updated and adopted by the Council.

In order to comply with the above points **it was resolved to operate PAYE as soon as is reasonable** given that it will take a little time to investigate and set up the scheme. The Clerk will write to Audit Wales for clarification of the point about not preparing a budget as this document was emailed to them when requested and it would not have been possible to set the precept without a budget. Finally, **adoption of NALC 2019 model Financial Regulations was proposed by Cllr T Griffiths and seconded by Cllr J. Jones.**

8. County Councillors Report

- Carmarthenshire County Council agreed **at** 6.8% increase on Council Tax for 2023/24 which is about middling for Wales
- CCC adopted a policy to add a premium to the Council Tax of empty properties. Details to be finalised but will impact second homes and some holiday businesses.
- CCC Local Development Plan is out for consultation until 14th April and Councillors were encouraged to read and comment as appropriate.

- Permission has been granted for 12 affordable (local authority) homes in Carriers Lane in the centre of Llansteffan plus 4 plots available on the open market for executive homes.
- The £300k grant application for works to Llangain Memorial Hall is now through to the second round but in the meantime an application will be made to the Social Prosperity Fund for £200k which stands a good chance of being approved.
- Funding from Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to the new the development south of Dol-y-Dderwen will be aimed at education with Ysgol Llangain benefiting as well as the two local secondary schools. There is £24k available for outdoor recreation facilities which could be used to restore and improve Llangain Park.
- There will be a BBQ at Llansteffan Boat Club, date to be confirmed in June, to raise money for the three Federation schools to help with the cost of coach transport to and from swimming lessons.

9. Any Other Business

2864 – White Village Gateways - were discussed in an attempt to slow down traffic on entering the village. County Cllr Jones will investigate if these could be erected as part of the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit when the new signage is erected. Previously, the Clerk had forwarded an email from JACS(UK) Ltd, a company in Wiltshire which produces such products. www.jacsuk.com

2865 – Coronation of King Charles III, Monday 8th May 2023 – **It was resolved to give a £500 donation to the Village Hall Committee for a village celebration of the Coronation.**

2866 – Coronation of King Charles III – Discussion took place about a commemorative gift for the children of Ysgol Llangain. Suggestion of printed drawstring polyester backpack bags. Cllr. Williams will make some enquiries with the Hotline Branded Merchandise company in Christchurch, Dorset that provided the aluminium sport bottles for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. www.hotline.co.uk

2867 – Council Insignia - Cllr. Williams has received 2 quotes for repairing the damaged enamel. Going forward, both Fattorini of Birmingham (£35), the original manufacturers and A.W. Matthews of Gillingham (£70), the name bar suppliers, suggest to have a printed badge format as opposed to painted enamel as a centre replacement. The difference in quotations is due to Fattorini not having done this task previously. **it was resolved to go ahead with the repair using the most suitable company.**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th May 2023.