

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023

1. **Present:** Cllrs H. Williams (Chair), R. Jeremy, D. Roberts, T. Griffiths, J. Jones, C. Atkins, County Cllr C. Jones

2. **Apologies:** Cllr A. Evans

3. **Appointment of Chair:** It was proposed by Cllr R. Jeremy and seconded by Cllr J. Jones that the present Vice-Chair, Cllr T. Griffiths appointed to serve as Chair for the year commencing May 2023. Cllr Griffiths accepted the office and signed the necessary declaration.

The outgoing Chair, Cllr Williams, in his speech, referred to the past year as unusually eventful. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee saw an excellent turn out for the village party and likewise at the Coronation event this month. Also, commemorative gifts had been presented to the local schoolchildren. In addition, there had been the retirement of the clerk and the subsequent presentation luncheon at the Falcon Hotel in Carmarthen. Since commencing her duties, Mrs Holmes had settled in extremely well to her work as the new clerk. Lastly, the Chair thanked fellow councillors for their support and especially to Cllr Carys Jones for her relentless hard work since being appointed county councillor in 2017 and re-elected in 2022. Cllr Williams extended his successor best wishes for the coming year and placed the Chairman's Insignia on Cllr Terry Griffiths.

4. **Appointment of Vice-Chair:** It was proposed by Cllr T. Griffiths and seconded by Cllr H. Williams that Cllr R. Jeremy be appointed to serve as Vice-Chair for the coming year.

5. **Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:** It was resolved that Susan Holmes continue in post.

6. **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** It was resolved that LHP continue as the Council's auditors.

7. **Appointment of members to attend Once Voice Wales meetings:** Any member, as available.

8. **Sub Committees:** It was resolved that sub committees be established for specific duties as necessary with membership and number resolved by a full Council meetings. Such committees would not normally have plenary powers but would rather report back to the full Council.

9. **Delegated Powers:** It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to ask signatories to sign cheques for expected payments at times when there is no monthly meeting with the expenditure subsequently reported back to Council for their information. It was also resolved that the Chair would have deciding powers if the issue or item is of a minor nature, particularly if such matters involve payment from the Chairman's expenses.

10. **Council Policies:** It was resolved that the existing policies are relevant for the present and updated in accordance with legal advice given to the Council by Government agencies and One Voice Wales.

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2. **Apologies:** Cllr A. Evans

3. **Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed correct by Cllr R. Jeremy and seconded by Cllr H. Williams.

4. **Matters Arising**

2838 – Noticeboards – Cllr Williams reported that he hasn't yet received the necessary vector file from Jamie King but he expects to receive it shortly and then the order can be completed. It is expected that the new noticeboards will be delivered and fitted over the summer.

2844 - Red kiosk at Smyrna crossroads – Cllr Williams reported that he is still awaiting confirmation of a start date for the work.

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

2863 – Cllr Roberts raised a query with the statement that “the audit identified that the Council did not prepare a budget for the year” when this was not the case and all documents had been provided to the auditor. The Clerk will send Cllr Roberts contact details and he will contact the Audit Wales to request that this statement be removed from the final audit statement.

2864 – White village gateways – were discussed again with mixed opinions about their usefulness. County Cllr Jones has said that there is no budget for the County Council to help with the cost but she will investigate if there is a police fund available. She will also find out how many other villages have the gates and how they are viewed by the County Council. Cllr J. Jones has spoken to another local Community Council and they had given him very positive feedback on their effectiveness. Cllr Roberts suggested we wait until the new 20mph signage is in place, due in September 2023, in case this impacts the decision. Further discussion will be had at future meetings before a final decision is made.

2866 – Commemorative gifts for Ysgol Llangain for the Coronation of King Charles III – Two options were considered, drawstring bags and mugs. Cllr Williams reported that the cost of 50 bags or 72 mugs (they come in boxes of 36) was similar at around £275. After some discussion **it was resolved to go ahead with the mugs**. Cllr Williams will go ahead and order them from Hotline company in Dorset.

2867 – Council Insignia – Cllr Williams will order the repair work with Fattorini in Birmingham once he has the vector file from Jamie King.

5. **Correspondence**

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Invitation to Chair to attend Carmarthenshire Young Farmers annual rally on 13/05/23

- Request for a donation from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association)
- Letter of support from Cllr Williams (Chair) for the Memorial Hall committee's grant application to the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)
- Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

6. Planning Applications

PL/05647 – Llwyn Y Celyn, Llangynog Road, Johnstown, Carmarthen, SA33 5BL

Change of use on an approximately 2 acre field from agricultural use to a secure area for safe off lead dog recreation. Field to be enclosed with 2m high fencing.

This had been previously emailed to Councillors on 11/04/2023 with one comment having been received. When discussed at the meeting, the suggestion was that we express some concern about an increase in traffic and that it might lead to further development.

7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2868 – The following payments were approved:-

Carmarthenshire County Council	£1225.66	Footway lighting charges
Llangain Memorial Hall	£ 500.00	Donation for Coronation celebrations
Llangain Memorial Hall	£ 64.50	Hall hire for financial year 2022/23
Susan Holmes	£ 796.86	Salary & expenses, March/April 2023

8. County Councillor's Report

- Sadly Mrs Trefina Jones is retiring as headteacher of Ffederasiwn Ysgolion Bancyfelin, Llangain a Llansteffan. No suitable candidate had applied, so the post will be re-advertised in the autumn and there will be a temporary headteacher until the post can be filled.
- Carmarthenshire County Council Education Department are to undergo an Estyn inspection.
- Forthcoming constituency boundary changes will most likely affect the next Senedd elections but not the next Westminster election in 2024. A new Carmarthen constituency will be formed from parts of both Carmarthenshire East & Dinefwr and Carmarthen West & Pembrokeshire South.
- Swimming lessons for local schools, including three weeks of tuition costs and bus transport to and from lessons, will cost £5760. To raise funds there will be a Family Fun Day and BBQ on Friday 16th June at Towy Boat Club in Llansteffan. The day will include demonstrations by the Lifeboat, Police and Coastguard.
- C. Cllr Jones enquired about requesting a separate donation to Ysgol Llangain specifically for swimming. There are approximately 25 children in the upper classes and it is estimated that the cost per child would be £30. She will write to the Clerk with a request but the Council was generally favourable to the idea of a donation for this purpose.

9. Any Other Business

2869 – Cllr Roberts reported on the re-forming of the Sports & Recreation committee (Llangain Park). There were more than a dozen people present at two initial meetings. A third meeting will take place on Monday 22nd May where it is hoped to elect Officers for a new committee.

2870 – Cllr Jones asked for the verges at both the Church Road and Smyrna crossroads junctions to be trimmed, as visibility was currently reduced. Clerk to contact Carmarthenshire County Council.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th July 2023.