

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

1. Present: Cllrs T Griffiths (Chair), H Williams, D Roberts, C Atkins, S Altman, County Cllr C Jones.

2. Apologies: Cllrs R Jeremy, J Jones.

3. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed as correct by Cllr H Williams, seconded by Cllr C Atkins.

4. Matters Arising.

2838 – Noticeboards – Cllr Williams reported that they have now been delivered and we are now waiting for them to be sited. Availability of the contractor and a suitable break in the weather mean it is likely that the one sited on the wall of the Memorial hall will be in place before Christmas but the other one may take a little longer.

2859 – Headed council stationery – Cllr Williams brought the new headed paper and printed envelopes to the meeting to hand over to the Clerk. The new design met with approval from all present and a vote of thanks was given to Cllr Williams for the amount of work he has put in to the production of the vector file, which is already proving invaluable in saving time and effort with any items requiring the Council logo.

2863 – Cllr Roberts reported that contact had now been made with Audit Wales and a conversation had taken place between Deryck Evans and the Clerk, followed by an email to clarify the documents required to prove the correct procedure for budget setting had been followed. It is impossible to prove if this documentation was supplied at the time of the audit but County Cllr Jones was able to provide a copy of the document to the Clerk and she will forward this to Deryck Evans.

2864 – White village gateways – County Cllr Jones reported on her meeting with Mike Jacob from Carmarthenshire County Council, saying that there would be a very long delay in any help they might be able to offer and this could not be relied upon. Discussion took place about the suitability of the verge coming into the village from Carmarthen and concerns were expressed about the ditch and the fact that there is a field gate immediately in front of the LLANGAIN village sign. Both Cllr Atkins and Cllr Griffiths mentioned the very noticeable improvement in traffic speed through the village since the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit. It was agreed to monitor the situation and revisit the issue next year.

2866 – Cllr Griffiths has now presented the commemorative Coronation mugs to the children of Ysgol Llangain. Both he and Cllr Williams were made very welcome by the school and the mugs were gratefully received.

2867 – Council Insignia – Cllr Williams reported that other priorities had delayed this being sent away to Fattorini in Birmingham for repair work besides the fact the it was needed by the Chair in his official duties for the mug presentation and on Remembrance Sunday.

2869 – Sports and Recreation Committee (Park Committee) – Cllr Roberts reported that a meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council had determined that no signed agreement can be found between the committee and the council. The County Council are asking the Education Department if they would like to take back the land or sign such an agreement.

The committee met to discuss their position and it was felt that the land is of no particular use as a football pitch due to its size and lack of changing facilities. Any funding would require the village to demonstrate a need, and this may be difficult as excellent sports facilities, including all weather surface tennis courts, are available at the Leisure Centre, just three miles away. The ongoing discussion about the redevelopment of the Memorial Hall may also impact the future of the park as it is possible that some facilities, for example a children's play park, might be incorporated into that project. The other issue with any community facilities in the park would be their ongoing maintenance which the Community Council may wish to consider as a future responsibility. In conclusion, Cllr Roberts agreed to update the Council whenever there are any further developments.

5. Correspondence

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Letter from IRPW regarding Councillor working from home allowance
- Letter from Carmarthenshire County Council about publishing a training plan
- Email from Roger Van Praet, treasurer of Hall Committee, regarding flags
- Letter from Carmarthenshire YFC asking for financial support
- Email from Zero Hour asking the Council to support Climate and Ecology Bill in parliament
- Email from OVW detailing the NALC agreed pay rates for 2023/24
- Wayleave cheque from National Grid for £5.93
- Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

2881 – Clerk to write a training plan, in consultation with the Councillors, establishing their training needs and ensuring compliance with legislation.

2882 – Council discussed the request from the Memorial Hall Committee to contribute to the cost of purchasing both a Ddraig Goch and Union flag in advance of the Remembrance Day service as the existing flags were in a poor state. **It was resolved (Cllr Williams proposed and Cllr Atkins seconded) that the Council pay the full amount as these are seen as community assets.**

2883 – The Council noted the letter from Zero Hour but decided they did not wish to support this initiative.

6. Planning Applications

2884 – **PL06751** - Variation of Condition No. 8 of Approval of Reserved Matters Permission PL/04746 (Land south of Dol-y-Dderwen, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5BE). To permit access to the site for a temporary period during construction work via Church Road. **Council supports this application without reservation.**

2885 – PL/06878 – Proposed conversion of redundant shop and post office into auxiliary accommodation to the main dwelling and all associated works, former Llangain Post Office, 1 Coedmor Avenue, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5AF.

Council supports this application but there was some concern at the general trend towards turning public amenity buildings into residential properties. **Councillors noted that they would not want to see this application used as a precedent for any future applications.**

7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2886 – The following payments were approved:-

Susan Holmes	£1000.56	Salary & expenses, Sept/Oct 2023 plus backdated increase from April 2023
Royal British Legion	£ 30.00	Wreath
Clear Insurance Management	£ 303.29	Insurance renewal premium
Llangain & District Memorial Hall	£ 50.02	Draig Goch and Union Jack flags
CCC Christmas Toy Box Appeal	£ 100.00	Donation

8. County Councillor's Report

- Councillors were encouraged to complete the Carmarthenshire County Council road safety consultation questionnaire
- Councillors should be aware that Carmarthenshire County Council are £120 million worse off, in real terms, than they were ten years ago and with priority given to statutory requirements of education and social care it should be expected that there will be inevitable cuts in services.
- Carmarthenshire County Council have, once again, launched the Christmas Toy Box Appeal which provides gifts for local disadvantaged children. County Cllr Jones asked if the Community Council would like to contribute. It was unanimously agreed to make a £100 donation.

9. Any Other Business

2887 – Cllr Williams stated that 5 pavement areas needed attention by county council because of hedge growth encroaching significantly over pavement as well as weeds along the kerbs both at pavement and road levels. There is a need for manual brushing too.

- Pwntan Pavement. The long stretch fronting Arwel, Towy Lodge, Pwntan Bach, Green Acres and Pwntan Mawr. SA31 3QU.
- Pavement between main crossroads and Haulfryn. SA33 5AH
- Pavement between pub and main crossroads. SA33 5AE
- Bus standing area at top of Rhydlydan hill. SA33 5DN.
- Pavement in lower Llangain opposite Min yr Afon. SA33 5AH.

2888 – Flooding problems along Heol Lletyrneuadd and Church Road from Yr Hen Eglwys to Colomendy.

2889 – The grass verge at entrance to Dol-y-Dderwen had been badly damaged by a heavy vehicle.

2890 – Cllr Williams reported some cracks in the cement rendering of the bus shelter by the memorial hall need attention as well as painting the interior.

2891 – There had been a request for a contribution for the village New Year's Eve party in the hall either towards the raffle prizes or a monetary donation. **It was resolved not to do so at this time.**

2892 – Cllr Griffiths reported on a conversation with Cllr Jones regarding damage to local roads and the impact of mud and slurry on the roads, causing a danger to road users. This is a widespread issue with particular mention, once again, of Church Road.

2893 – Cllr Griffiths referred to the unclassified road from Llangain to Llangynog via Fernhill with lots of water surface and passing places being very muddy. He also mentioned the annual surplus of leaves problem at Green Castle corner in the autumn particularly in the carriageway driving in the direction of Llangain which a council sweeper normally resolves.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th January 2024.