

LLANSTEFFAN AND LLANYBRI COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN LLANSTEFFAN MEMORIAL HALL

18th APRIL 2016

Chairman Councillor C Jones

Present Councillors D Hunter, G Howells, DB Davies, A Cooper, B Ryder, S Taylor and E Davies

Apologies Councillors B Charles and M James

Clerk L Dutch

Attending Mr and Mrs N Cook and Mrs G Cole

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Jones as Llansteffan School Governor Council Rep; Cllr Howells as Llansteffan Church Warden, Parochial Church Council Member, Llansteffan School Governor Chairman and Community Rep, and Llansteffan School Governor Rep on Llansteffan Memorial Hall Committee; and Cllr Cooper as Llansteffan Memorial Hall Chairman and Chairman of Llansteffan First Responders Association.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st MARCH 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March were confirmed and signed as a true record. Min
No

3. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Llanybri roads

Cllr DB Davies had thanked Highways for the road resurfacing works undertaken in March. 562

Auditing Solutions Ltd

The independent company had been instructed to carry out the Council's Internal Audit '15-'16. 563

Ancient Monuments Grant

The process to claim the approved 50% grant for Hen Gapel roof repairs had commenced. 564

Llanybri WW1 History Exhibition

A letter of congratulations would be sent to the WW1 Working Group for an excellent event. 565

The Chair asked members whether the Planning Item could be brought forward.

Resolved

That the Planning Item be brought forward out of respect for the public attendees. 566

4. PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr E Davies declared a prejudicial interest relating to W/33629 and did not participate in the discussion or the vote. 567

Re W/33559, a letter raising concerns from a property in the vicinity was relayed to members; the applicant maintained during a brief suspension of the meeting that the planning site visit had not identified issues, and confirmed that the balcony height was above the height of tall vehicles. Re W/33629, the neighbouring school had made no comments and the rear extensions would not be visible from Glan y Mor road and Morfa playing fields. 568

Resolved

That no comments be made to the following applications: 569

W/33559 Proposed First Floor Balcony at Old House, Castle Hill Farm, Llansteffan

W/33629 Proposed single/double-storey rear extension at 1 Glan y Mor, Llansteffan

5. LLANYBRI PLAYGROUND PROJECT

Following valiant fund-raising initiatives at Easter and generous grants or donations made by Awards for All Wales, Llanybri Rangers, Llanybri Community Association, Waunygroes Caravan Park and Llansteffan Football Club, the total sum raised (including previous external grants) amounted to £33,000. Members agreed this was an excellent achievement. 570
The Playground sub-group had met with Sunshine Playgrounds and presented a revised quotation (option 2) for member's consideration, which included the Kompan play equipment. 571
The MUGA sports wall came from a different supplier. A Draft Contract had been prepared.

Resolved

- i) That the Sunshine Playgrounds quotation (option 2) totalling £32,972 be approved and the order be placed to guarantee an installation date in May/June 2016; 572
- ii) That delegated authority be given to Cllrs Charles, E Davies, Jones and Howells to examine, amend and approve the Draft Contract for Llanybri playground equipment supply and installation; 573
- iii) That the County Council be requested to save copy space in the June/July edition of 'Carmarthenshire News' for a Llanybri playground press release which would give due credit to the funders; 574
- iv) That many congratulations be extended to Cllrs E Davies, B Ryder and S Taylor for the local events which had raised significant funds for the playground. 575
- v) That letters of thanks be sent to Llanybri Rangers, Llanybri Community Association, Waunygroes Caravan Park and Llansteffan Football Club for their generous donations to the playground project. 576

6. THE GREEN REINSTATEMENT, LANDSCAPING & TRAFFIC

Members had received copies of a paper which summarised (i) the actions agreed at the meeting convened by Angela Burns AM on 29th March, (ii) Council's original reinstatement requests, (iii) local resident's requests and (iv) a recommended way forward. The Chair highlighted the horrified reaction of the County Rural Conservation Manager on inspecting the site of the concrete chamber on The Green, and the absence of inter-departmental working during the entire scheme. The Common Land Officer had commented by email that the County Landscaping Officer was considering various options for enhancing The Green, including the replacement of the palisade of posts and rope with a groyne-like structure which prompted a negative reaction from members. 577

The meeting was suspended at 8:05 and re-convened at 8:10 to enable local resident Mrs Cole to express her frustrations with damage to both her property and the visual amenity of The Green, together with the total lack of consultation and communication from the County Council. The Chair expressed gratitude to the local residents who had been most affected since October 2014 for their input, which had been coordinated and presented to Council by Mr Iorwerth. 578

Resolved

- i) That the paper on The Green Reinstatement, Drainage and Sewerage be received, accepted and forwarded to the County Council, subject to an adjustment to the wording of Cllr Cooper's comments on the Morfa sewage spills experienced in January 2016; 579
- ii) That Cllr DB Davies be requested to meet with the Rural Conservation Manager and Common Land Officer to emphasise the importance of full local resident's consultation and a sensitive enhancement of The Green which was likely to preclude the installation of further incongruous structures such as groynes; 580
- iii) That a further meeting be arranged with the Flood Drainage Officer, Rural Conservation Manager, Common Land Officer and Council Reps; 581
- iv) That the County Council be requested to take action with immediate effect on the installation of discrete fencing to allow the damaged area to regenerate naturally, plus explanatory signage. 582

7. LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) (WALES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016

This Order was introduced into law on 1st April 2016 and amends in part the 2008 Model Code of Conduct Order for local government members. A copy had been supplied to every member for filing and reference in the blue councillor file. In brief, the 2016 Order: 583

- a. Removed the obligation on members to report potential breaches of the Code to the Ombudsman (thus relying on local low-level complaint resolution processes);
- b. Transferred responsibility for maintaining the Register of Member's Interests to the Clerk;
- c. Clarified that all personal interests disclosed must be entered in the Register;
- d. Clarified the position in relation to member's participation in any business relating to constituency interests.

Resolved

That the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 be adopted, and filed for future reference by every Council member. 584

8. CLERK'S OFFICE, DUTIES & REPORTING LOCAL PROBLEMS

There were no members of the public present and therefore the power to exclude (Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960) did not have to be invoked due to the confidential nature of the item. 585

Cllr Cooper provided an overview of the Human Resources Committee meeting with the Clerk/RFO held on 18th April. The Clerk had previously expressed a wish to retire by 31st March 2017, and that consideration be given to the suggestions of (i) off-loading the more routine tasks to a temporary assistant to allow the Clerk to focus on the more challenging Council and mandatory priorities within contractual hours; and (ii) setting-up a part-time office and store in the Ben Harries Institute to allow the Clerk to reclaim Brig y Don as a home, rather than as a Council office, store and meeting place. Cllrs Cooper and Howells had proposed that the recruitment process for a replacement Clerk should begin in September, with a view to the new employee commencing duties from January 2017 and the existing Clerk retiring in March 2017. 586

The Chair then read out a letter from the Clerk which advised that having had time to reflect upon the Human Resources meeting outcome, her preferred retirement date was 30th September 2016 (on turning 60). Such advance notice gave the Council five full months to publicise, interview and appoint a replacement Clerk/RFO, whilst only a one-month period was specified in the Contract of Employment. 587

Resolved

- i) **That the SLCC National Employment Adviser be consulted on recommended recruitment good practice;** 588
- ii) **That a sub-group comprising of Cllrs C Jones, G Howells, E Davies and S Taylor be authorised to meet and report back to the May meeting regarding job adverts, job specifications and salary scales using the current NJC rates.** 589

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Davies thanked members and the clerk for their good wishes for a speedy recovery during his period of ill-health. His report included references to (i) The Dyfed Powys Police road safety campaign for drivers to lower their speeds; (ii) County Cllr Henry Irfon Jones who would become the new County Council Chairman in May 2017; and (iii) Cackle poachers on the Three Rivers Estuary who were reported to the Welsh Government bailiffs on 12th April. The Chair thanked Cllr Davies for his report. 590

10. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTS

Morfa Playground

It was reported that the grass had been cut and the play chip had been raked on 16th April. 591

Carrier's Lane

The long-term outstanding issues were the paving slabs at the lower end and the fencing posts at the field boundary, the repairs to which would be dependent on the outcome of the County Council housing planning application when it reached the re-consultation phase. 592

Morfa

No issues reported. 593

Croft

Whilst one loose plank edging the bank at the lower end of the footpath had been removed by the Countryside Access team, the remaining boarding needed to be properly repaired and re-fixed. Minor littering. 594

Headland Path

The sawn branch behind the shelter still required removal; the cliff path had not yet been scraped but better weather had helped underfoot; generally little progress made in addressing the outstanding issues raised with Countryside Access; a cyclist had been observed cycling along the cliff path, which posed the question as to whether the Council wished the path to be re-classified as a bridleway. No interest expressed in re-classification at the present time. 595

Hen Gapel

DA Siggery Ltd had completed the major repairs to the chapel tower roof. 596

11. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved

i) That the following accounts be approved for payment:-

NAME	DETAILS	AMOUNT	
SE Dutch	Salary/expenses	787.36	597
Vaughtons	Chain of Office brooch & engraving (ACJ)	23.87	598
DA Siggery Ltd	Hen Gapel tower roof repairs (pd 24/03/16)	5403.60	599
Pro Print	Copies (including playground sponsor forms)	19.16	600
TOTAL:		6233.99	

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved

That the following items of correspondence be noted: 601

Electoral Commission	National Assembly & Police Commissioner Elections
Kidney Wales Foundation	Walk for Life Fund-Raising Event 24.04.16
One Voice Wales	Carms Area Committee Meeting 26 th April
SLCC/One Voice Wales	Joint Wales Conference, Swansea 22 nd June

Sir Gar Young Farmers' - Invitation to County Rally 14th May and complimentary tickets

Resolved

That the free tickets to Sir Gar Young Farmer's Rally be given to Cllr D Davies. 602

T. Jarman – Proposed fund-raising wheelbarrow race on Morfa, Llansteffan

An email was received regarding the event in aid of Llanybri playground on 24th April. 603

Resolved

- i) That an email be written to the County Council as Morfa landowner to request permission for the fund-raising wheelbarrow race to be hosted by Mr Jarman of Llanybri on 24th April; 604
- ii) That an email be written to Mr Jarman, organizer of the fund-raising wheelbarrow race on 24th April, to advise that County Council permission was required and if granted, proof of adequate public liability insurance cover must be supplied to the Council, together with assurances that first aid cover would be in attendance during the event. 605

Financial Requests

None received

606

13. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- In Church Road, the wall fronting the pavement between Plas y Coed and the steps leading to the Plas field footpath was collapsing and will be reported to County Council. 607
- Neighbourhood Police Team should be invited to the May meeting. 608
- Members were asked to support the Llanybri fund-raising events on 23rd / 24th April. 609
- Community Foundation Wales might have funding for playground schemes. 610
- Registered footpath between Inn at the Sticks and Castle Inn was often blocked by the parking of a car and wheelchair users were unable to access the Sticks beer garden. 611
- Parents would be advised to warn their children about forthcoming playground construction in Llanybri at the Open Day in Llansteffan School. 612
- Rats had been evident under Florries Chip van and County Council had been alerted. 613
- Future of the BT kiosk on The Green was questioned. 614
- With forthcoming Local Government Reform by 2020-2022, members were asked to consider over the coming months what kind of Council would best meet the needs of their communities, and what workload priorities would need to be put on the table. 615

The meeting closed at 21:45.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 20th June 2016 in Llansteffan Memorial Hall

Monday 18th July 2016 in Llansteffan Memorial Hall

Signed..... Chairman/Vice Chairman Date

