

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

15th FEBRUARY 2016

Chairman Councillor C Jones

Present Councillors D Hunter, G Howells, A Cooper, M James, S Taylor & B Ryder

Apologies Councillors D B Davies, B Charles & El Davies

Attending Mr B Harrison

Clerk L Dutch

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; Cllr Dr Hunter as Llansteffan Memorial Hall Chairman; Cllr Cooper as Secretary of Llansteffan First Responders Association.

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2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January were confirmed and signed as a true record.

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3. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Pheasantry & Footpath Creation Agreements

County Council had received no response from Mrs Rhys and The National Trust.

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Llanybri road network

County Highways had confirmed that village roads would be re-surfaced during February and March; the mechanical sweeper had cleared Lon y Deri; an "Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles" sign had been installed at Heol Fain, and a constructive site meeting had been held on 9th February examining the poor state of repair of the road and verges between Pil Glas and Llanybri, caused by the passing of large tractors and heavy vehicles. Highways funds might be available for the creation of more passing places.

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4. MORFA DRAINAGE SCHEME & GREEN REINSTATEMENT

The letter written to the County Assistant Chief Executive on 31st January had emphasised the three issues of primary concern:

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- (i) the absence of a permanent pump and electricity supply from the current scheme;
- (ii) the importance of a flood defence bank being created in Cottage field by Natural Resources Wales (NRW); and
- (iii) the recommended reinstatement specification for the areas of The Green adversely affected by the scheme implementation, the need to take account of the County Ecology Officer's advice and the need for written guarantees.

The County Council response from the Flood Drainage Engineer comprised a brief email stating that the drainage system would work as a gravity system with the current beach profile. If in the future the beach appeared to revert to high levels, a scheme could be implemented to fit a permanent pump. "The design of the system is such that it has the flexibility to deal with the varying levels on the beach that affect the outfall and is an infrastructure asset that is capable of providing drainage for this part of Llansteffan for the foreseeable future for any beach profiles." The flood defence bank would be discussed with NRW "in the near future." Reinstatement of The Green would be discussed w/c 22nd February. "Any additional reinstatements after the contract maintenance period will be down to the County Council."

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Communications with Dwr Cymru Operational Manager had revealed the following issues 451
encountered by the company that needed to be addressed:

- (i) A permanent pump was needed on The Green to cope with the increasing extreme 452
rainfall events which had overloaded the sewers in January, causing sewage spills and
emergency foul water discharge on to the Morfa fields;
- (ii) An authorised Consent Discharge Point was needed for the storage tank at the Morfa 453
Sewage Pumping Station, which did not threaten the health and safety of the public and
wildlife; and
- (iii) Whilst Dwr Cymru was a statutory consultee in planning and development matters, it 454
was not a statutory consultee in County Council-commissioned flood drainage schemes
– an anomaly that must be addressed by putting a mechanism in place.

5. COUNCIL PROJECTS

a) Llanybri Playground

The Clerk provided a financial overview for the £35,000 playground project:- £19,790 of 455
external funding secured to-date from six sources; grant applications submitted to Santander
Bank and Awards for All Wales for £5,000 apiece were outstanding; People’s Postcode Lottery
and Greggs Foundation funding were due to open in April. A local fund-raising initiative was
welcomed, with the added advantages of demonstrating local commitment and shared
responsibility to external funders. Cllr James noted that the current road resurfacing in Llanybri
could supply planings to surface the path leading to the playground.

As the Council had previously agreed a deadline of 31st March 2016 prior to the start of Phase 456
1 of the project, members discussed the merits of meeting with Sunshine Playgrounds.

Resolved

- i) That the Playground Sub-group comprising of Cllrs Charles, James, El Davies,** 457
Taylor and the Clerk be authorised to meet with Sunshine Playgrounds to re-
consider play equipment priorities and produce a recommended Phase 1
playground scheme for Council consideration;
- ii) That a Llanybri local playground fund-raising initiative be welcomed.** 458

b) RDP Feasibility Study

Further to the December presentation by the RDP Grants Officer and the allocation of £1,500 in 459
the budget towards Asset Transfer Studies and Consultation which was agreed would
contribute towards informed decision-making.

Resolved

- i) That the Chair, Cllr Cooper and the Clerk be authorised to meet with a Corporate** 460
Property Officer to gather information, present the Council’s case that ‘tourist
assets’ should be treated differently to ‘community assets’ and introduce the idea
of commissioning an asset transfer feasibility study;
- ii) That RDP Feasibility Study be itemised on the March agenda.** 461

c) Village planning proposal

The Chair explained that a Village Plan was community-led and provided local solutions for 462
local issues (social, economic, environmental). Lessons of good practice were readily available
from both Wales, and many English Parish Councils. Village planning provided i) a process for
finding out the community’s needs and desires for the future; ii) robust evidence of the needs
and priorities to external agencies; iii) more informed, representative and transparent decision-
making at local council level; and iv) an opportunity for local people to become more engaged
with local council business and more interested in serving as a councillor.

The worthwhile local planning activities of parish councils in England had been experienced by 463

Cllr Hunter, with the proviso that full commitment was required across the community to push the process forward. The additional time and staffing resources required were noted as a concern, together with the likely onus falling upon retired members of the community. A Steering Group was suggested by the Chair as a model commonly adopted, which was more representative and removed the direct responsibility being placed on the local council.

Resolved

- i) That Village Planning be itemised on the March agenda for further consideration;** 464
- ii) That members be asked to review village plans that have been produced in England and Wales, as circulated by the Clerk and for general access online.** 465

d) Clerk's role

The Chair read out a letter from the Clerk which gave advance notice of her proposed resignation from the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on 31st March 2017. The heavy workload in helping to bring the Council up to speed with modern-day regulations and open the door to external funding and other opportunities had only been achieved at considerable personal and family cost. The Clerk was thanked for work undertaken since 2009. 466

Resolved

That the Human Resources Committee would meet with the Clerk to carry out an appraisal of the post and post-holder and report back to the Council. 467

6. S.137 DONATIONS

Cllr. Jones (Council Rep on Llansteffan School Governing Body), Cllr. Howells (Chairman and Community Rep on Llansteffan School Governing Body), Cllr. Hunter (Chairman of Llansteffan Hall Committee) and Cllr. Cooper (Council Rep on Llansteffan Hall Committee) declared a personal interest due to their involvement with local institutions and organisations. In consequence, they contributed to the discussion but not to the vote on the applications for funding submitted by those institutions and organisations. 468

Members were supplied with a list of 2015/16 applications that included three from the local community, six from Carmarthenshire and twelve from outside the county. The clerk reminded members that Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers, if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants, providing the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. The Council agreed that local requests would be prioritised in view of the limited allocation of £1,700 having been approved in the 2015/16 budget. 469

Resolved

That the following 2015/16 donations be made under Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972:- 470

- **£592 to Llanybri Community Hall for refurbishment;** 471
- **£400 to Llansteffan Memorial Hall for fire door purchase;** 472
- **£683 towards Llansteffan Primary School swimming lessons for 2016;** 473
- **£25 to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.** 474

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report was received in Cllr Davies's absence due to ill-health. The Chair welcomed the news that Cllr. Davies had returned home from hospital. 475

8. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTS

Morfa Playground

No basic maintenance duties had been undertaken due to prolonged wet weather. 476

Carrier's Lane

The damaged paving slabs and loose fencing remained matters of concern and were unlikely to be addressed by County Council before Carrier's Field housing application was resolved. 477

Morfa

No further issues reported since the January inspection. 478

Croft

Daffodils were in bloom by the seats. Minor littering and dog fouling an on-going problem. 479

Headland Path

A site meeting between Countryside Access Team, Cllr Hunter and the Clerk took place on 26th January to highlight seasonal priorities for the contractors maintaining the Wales Coast Path. Agreement was reached to scrape off long sections of accumulated mud and leaf litter, reinforce the concrete landing at First Steps and clear encroaching bramble and low branches in the vicinity of both First and Second Steps and the section to Scotts Bay. 480

Hen Gapel

The history panel frame had been repaired. No further report in Cllr Davies's absence. 481

9. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved

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

NAME	DETAILS	AMOUNT	
SE Dutch	Salary/Expenses	818.75	482
HMRC	Employers NI & Tax Payment (No, De, Ja)	78.39	483
One Voice Wales	Membership 2016/17	168.00	484
Carms County Council	Street Lighting charges 2015/16	2345.62	485
TOTAL:		3410.76	

ii) That the Chair and Clerk be given delegated authority to invite a renewal proposal and terms of reference from the Internal Auditor in accordance with requirements issued in December 2015 by Wales Audit Office. 486

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved

That the following items of correspondence be noted: 487

Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life 2015 - Sun 26th April
Carms County Council St David's Parade Invitation Sat 27th Feb

Welsh Government/Cadw - Hen Gapel: Award of 50% grant

A letter advised that an Ancient Monument grant of up to £2,251.50 (50% of eligible expenditure) had been awarded to undertake the comprehensive repairs and lead work renewal on the chapel tower roof as specified by DA Siggery Ltd. The funding had to be claimed in full by 18th March 2016. 488

Resolved

That the Ancient Monument grant of up to £2,251.50 to undertake the comprehensive repairs and lead work renewal on the chapel tower roof as specified by DA Siggery Ltd be accepted and the grant award form be signed by the Chair and Cllr Taylor. 489

One Voice Wales - Carms Area Committee 3rd Feb

Cllr Cooper, Council Rep, reported that an excellent presentation had been delivered by the County Trading Standards Team regarding how to avoid email and phone fraud. 490

Carl Sargeant AM - Impacts of large farms on rural communities

A copy of a letter written by the Minister for Natural Resources to A Burns AM was received explaining that mandatory pre-application consultation will be introduced for major agricultural buildings and operations. Furthermore, Natural Resources Wales was empowered to serve a notice requiring action to improve existing slurry installations where a significant risk of pollution has been identified. 491

Llansteffan Sports Club - Morfa Maintenance Grant 2016/17

A letter was received requesting the Council to consider increasing the annual maintenance grant of £750, on the basis that costs of maintaining and running mechanical equipment had increased over the years and the Club was heavily reliant on the goodwill of volunteers to keep the playing fields in first-class condition. 492

Resolved

That the Morfa Maintenance Grant 2016/17 be retained at £750 and Llansteffan Sports Club be advised that detailed accounts and quotations must be submitted in February 2017 should an increase in the annual maintenance grant be sought. 493

11. PLANNING

Resolved

i) That should the re-consultation of W/31230 be commenced between the February and March meetings, that the Chair and Clerk be given delegated authority to arrange a Planning Committee meeting open to the public to discuss the following application: 494

W/31230 Proposals to develop 19 houses on land to the rear of Maesgriffith, Llansteffan and public parking spaces

ii) That a second letter of objection be sent to the Local Planning Authority, making reference to the strong objection raised by The National Trust and the fact that the agricultural worker's dwelling had been permitted at Mwche Farm under Tan 6, Para 4.5.2 on condition that the original footings constructed in a field opposite to the Pentowyn Farmhouse entrance be removed, in relation to the following application: 495

W/32572 Proposed 3 bedroom farm dwelling at Pentowyn Farm Yard, Llansteffan

The Chair had suspended the meeting from 21:04 to 21:06 to allow Mr B Harrison supply the Council with information regarding previous planning permissions and the required removal of the original footings at the site under National Trust covenant. 496

12. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

• Cllr Howells had to prepare a Parish Profile for the Church in Wales by 14th March. 497

- Community meeting, A Burns AM, 19th Feb: issues to be raised included Llansteffan flood drainage scheme, second homes, called-in planning applications and industrial-scale farm impacts on local communities. 498
- Ffynnlbri, Llanybri, likely encroachment on to highway verge. 499
- Maesolbri, Llanybri, street lamp not working. 500
- Public Health Team had advised that spraying slurry from country lanes was a common and accepted agricultural practice in modern-day farming. 501
- Traffic speed monitors in High Street Llansteffan needed to be reinstated. 502
- Double-yellow lines in Church Road Llansteffan still needed to be removed. 503
- Evergreen trees in Llansteffan churchyard which were overgrowing Church Road would be cut back following a tendering process. A 17' 6" head clearance was required. 504
- County Recycling Officer will visit the beach car park re cold tap and more fencing. 505
- Noson Lawen in the Inn at the Sticks 5th March, donations towards school swimming costs. 506

The meeting closed at 21:30.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 18th April 2016 in Llansteffan Memorial Hall

Monday 16th May 2016 in Llansteffan Memorial Hall

Signed..... Chairman/Vice Chairman Date

