

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

20th JULY 2015

Chairman Councillor C Jones

Present Councillors G Howells, DB Davies, B Charles, A Cooper, Dr D Hunter,
B Ryder and E Davies

Apologies Councillor M James

Clerk L Dutch

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

County Councillor Davies as Carmarthenshire Planning Committee Vice Chairman, Llansteffan and Llangain School's Governor & Llanybri Hall Committee Chairman; Councillor Howells as Llansteffan Church Warden, Parochial Church Council Member & Llansteffan School Governor Chairman and Council Rep; and Cllr Dr Hunter as Llansteffan Memorial Hall Chairman.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June were confirmed and signed as a true record. Min
No

3. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Pet memorial

The pet memorial adjacent to the Croft footpath in Llansteffan had been removed. 128

Morfa maintenance contract

No tax-related problems identified at this stage and hence no need for a meeting to-date. 129

Llanybri Ward vacancy

County Council Electoral Services had advised that local electors had not requested a bye-election and therefore the Council should publicise its intention to co-opt a councillor. 130

DMMO/Footpath Creation Agreement Wharley Point The Pheasantry

The Countryside Access Manager had stated that Mrs Rhys wished to resolve the footpath issue amicably via the Creation Agreement process and had asked him to draft an Agreement on the basis of the National Trust boundary currently registered. Mrs Rhys appeared to accept that the path could be recorded as 2 metres in width up to the gable end of The Pheasantry and then 1.2 metres as it ran past the building to the road to the north-east. The National Trust had already indicated that a footpath of 2 metres width on their land was acceptable. 131

Llanybri village roads

Cllr DB Davies had had discussions with the Assistant Area Manager who had confirmed there were a few roads which were in a very poor condition. Two roads had been 'surface dressed' within the current surface dressing programme. However, the U2127 Llanybri Village and C2081 Lanmartin to Coombs Cross needed to be fully resurfaced using tarmacadam and had been included in the programme of future resurfacing schemes. It was hoped there might be some surplus funds available at the end of the financial year, which could be released to carry out several resurfacing schemes across the county on a needs assessment basis. 132

PSOW Report

Cllr Cooper raised a point of order regarding the inclusion of the item: 'PSOW Report and Lessons of Good Practice' on the July agenda without prior discussion within the June meeting. He concluded with a request to delete the item from the agenda. The Clerk reminded members 133

that prior consent had been given for annual leave to be taken from 12-22nd June due to participation in a Help for Heroes cycle challenge. June agendas had therefore been printed and distributed prior to the receipt of the Report, and hence any reference could only be made under Matters Arising for Information. For clarification, the Chair drew attention to the fact that as the September 2014 Council minutes had recorded that a Code of Conduct complaint had been submitted to the PSOW, it was right and proper that Council minutes should record that the Report had been received. In sum, the item would be retained on the agenda.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members were informed that the wind turbine planning application at Mwche Farm would not be pursued by the applicant for the reason that the feed-in tariff paid for electricity generated had significantly dropped and the turbine no longer represented a cost-effective investment. 134

5. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTS

Morfa Playground

It was reported that new springs had been fitted to secure the two access gates and a key had been obtained to enable the square litter bin to be emptied. Carnival weekend on the Morfa would attract more usage and more discarded rubbish. Painting of equipment where required would be undertaken before the autumn/winter. 135

Carrier's Lane

Cllr Howells had met with a service supervisor who organised the annual cut of Carrier's Field and had given assurances that the Safe Route to School behind Glan y Mor would be regularly trashed. Overgrowing private hedges towards the bottom of the lane had been cut back. 136

Morfa

The folly bridges had been trashed and cleared by Sports Club volunteers in response to the Council's written request. The annual letter plus public liability schedule (£5 million cover) had been received from the Sports Club requesting permission to use the Morfa for carnival weekend 31st July to 2nd August. Cllr El Davies, Council Rep at Sports Club meetings, raised concerns about potential use of barbed wire and herbicides on the Morfa. 137

Resolved

- i) That permission be given to Llansteffan Sports Club to use the Morfa for carnival weekend 31st July to 2nd August;** 138
- ii) That the County Council as landowner be requested once again to carry out a public health and safety risk assessment on the Morfa pond;** 139
- iii) That a letter be written to Llansteffan Sports Club stating that neither barbed wire nor herbicides should be used on the Morfa for public health and safety reasons.** 140

Croft

The verges had been trashed which controlled all types of weeds and grasses, unlike in recent years resulting from the ineffective application of herbicide. Both the public seats and flower pots looked attractive despite days of inclement weather. 141

Headland Path

It was reported yet again that clearance was still required of the encroaching bramble and overgrowth at both First and Second Steps and on the downhill section to Scotts Bay. The clerk had been informed that contractors were now responsible for maintaining the Wales Coast Path and works should be done in the near future. On a positive note, the accesses to footpath 23/21 from Old Road to Llanybri Road, and the kissing gates had been cleared. 142

Hen Gapel

Cllr El Davies had taken over the monthly inspections from ex-Cllr Perrett. The missing slate to 143

the front of the chapel tower, and the loose slate to the rear remained an issue. Cadw's Field Inspector had visited on 7th July and noted the need for roof repairs and routine maintenance. The Council had been informed that (i) removal of the encroaching vegetation would release the final Maintenance Agreement payment; (ii) an Ancient Monument Grant could potentially cover 50% of the costs of roof repairs, but the next round did not open until November; (iii) horizontal slates needed to be re-fixed to cap the low stone wall opposite The Farmer's and local stone mortared in at intervals to deter the problem of slates being stripped which allowed water penetration to the structure.

Resolved

- i) That a public notice be displayed inviting quotations in accordance with a Schedule of Repairs required at Hen Gapel Llanybri; 144
- ii) That delegated authority be given to the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr Charles and the Clerk to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to repair the chapel tower roof and undertake routine maintenance in accordance with the Schedule of Repairs, subject to a maximum outlay of £1500. 145

6. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved

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

SE Dutch	Salary/Expenses	784.09	146
BDO LLP	Annual Return external audit 2014/15	354.00	147
Red Kite Law	Llanybri Playground legal fee	600.00	148
Carms County Council	The Green lantern refurbishment (final install)	131.40	149
CPA Horticulture	Morfa Playground play chip	220.00	150
EI Davies	Memorial seat contract 2015	710.00	151
EI Davies	Nant Jack cut	50.00	152
Robert Davies Plant Hire	Llanybri Playground ground works	1,689.00	153

ii) That a letter of thanks be written to Robert Davies Plant Hire to acknowledge the generous discount of £300 from the playground ground works invoice. 154

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved

That the following items of correspondence be noted: 155

PSOW	Public Services Ombudsman Annual Report 2014/15
Western Power	Brechfa Forest Connection Project
Botanic Garden	"Yr Ardd" magazine Summer 2015
Wales Co-Op Centre	£3,000 voucher for charities, social enterprises to install broadband

Pensions Regulator - Automatic Enrolment Legal Duties

A letter was received advising that the Council had new duties to automatically enrol eligible employees into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it by the prescribed date of 1st July 2017. The Clerk was the nominated contact to receive communications. 156

Citizens Advice - Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

A letter was received advising that new pension freedoms came into force on 6th April 2015 for accessing Defined Contribution schemes more flexibly. The Pension Wise Guidance Service provided free, impartial and confidential guidance to help understand the new options. 157

Welsh Government - "Protecting Community Assets" consultation

An email was received seeking views on how assets were run and services were delivered. 158

Resolved

That the Chair, Cllrs Howells and Cooper and the Clerk be given delegated responsibility to make an informed written response to the Welsh Government "Protecting Community 159

Assets” consultation by the 11th September deadline.

Carms County Council - Safe Routes in Communities Grant

An application form was received inviting projects that reduced congestion, improved road safety, reduced reliance on the car and improved the health and well-being of children and adults. This was an annual grant which required a long lead up period of partnership-working. 160

One Voice Wales - Annual Conference “Local Government Reform.”

An email was received regarding the conference in Pontrhydfendigaid on 3rd October. 161

Requests for Financial Assistance

Macmillan Cancer Support SW Wales 162

8. PLANNING MATTERS

To note that an objection be raised to the following application on these grounds: (a) Loss of three residential units from the original application (W/18740), namely from a block of six apartments to a terrace of three executive-style houses; and (b) The current application bore no resemblance to the original approved application (W/18740), the latter having resulted from a lengthy 2-3 year negotiation process and the loss of an historic building. Post-planning consent negotiations which secured one amendment after another to change an original approved scheme were not favoured by the Council. 163
W/32215 Construction of three houses in replacement to the planning permission for a block of six apartments under planning consent W/18740 at Llys Steffan Llansteffan

9. LLANYBRI PLAYGROUND GRANT SOURCES

The Community Bureau had informed the Council that registered charities were eligible to apply for funding from the Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley and Morrisons Foundations. In consequence it would be advantageous if Llanybri Community Association, Reg. Charity No. 1090695 could apply for the balance of £26,530 required to develop the playground at Heol Fain. Cllr DB Davies, an Association trustee, confirmed his support for this plan of action. 164

Resolved

- i) That the Clerk be authorised to explain the Llanybri playground grant funding situation to Llanybri Community Association trustees and treasurer and seek their approval to submit grant applications to private charitable foundations;** 165
- ii) That, subject to securing the consent of all parties, the Clerk be authorised to submit Llanybri Playground grant applications to private charitable foundations on behalf of Llanybri Community Association.** 166

10. PSOW REPORT AND LESSONS OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Chair asked members whether they wished to consider this item. 167

Resolved

That Council should consider the item on PSOW Report and Lessons of Good Practice at the July meeting. 168

The Chair explained the two reasons for including the item on the agenda as follows:- 169

- (a) A Council minute needed to be recorded that the PSOW investigation had been completed and the Report had been received by the Council;
- (b) Council needed to determine whether Standing Orders had to be re-visited and possibly added to in the interests of effective governance.

Cllr Howells moved that the Council received and accepted the Report and took no further action. Cllr Cooper proposed that Cllr DB Davies deserved a public apology in the press; this proposal was seconded by Cllr DB Davies. 170

Resolved

That the Council did not support the proposal for a public apology to Cllr DB Davies to appear in the press on the basis that negative personal and community feelings would be inflamed once again (6 votes = not in support of the proposal; 2 votes = in support). 171

Cllr Cooper stated that he reserved the right to publish the matter in the press at the earliest opportunity. On the grounds that the PSOW had decided to take no action with regard to the Code of Conduct complaint, Cllr DB Davies asked Cllr Cooper to withdraw his proposal. 172

Resolved

That neither a public apology to Cllr DB Davies nor the PSOW Report would be publicised in the press in accordance with Cllr DB Davies' wishes (8 votes = in support). 173

In conclusion, the Chair stated that the Council had acted in a professional and ethical manner throughout what had proven to be a difficult year for all members and the local community. All agreed that the issues surrounding 'twin-hatted' councillors and their involvement in county and local council sectors were problematic. The clerk would produce a summary of lessons of good practice for the benefit of both present and future clerks and councillors. 174

11. DRAFT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk informed members that a first draft had been produced based on the Model Financial Regulations advocated by the National Association of Local Councils and One Voice Wales. 175

Resolved

i) **That a sub-group comprising of the Chairman, Cllr Cooper and the Clerk be authorised to prepare a final draft of the Council's Financial Regulations for consideration by full Council;** 176

ii) **That Council's Financial Regulations be itemised on the October agenda.** 177

12. ANNUAL RETURN 2014/15

Resolved

That the Annual Return 2014-15 be accepted and approved by the Council on the basis that no issues had been raised by the external auditor, BDO LLP. 178

13. PUBLIC HEALTH (WALES) BILL – PART 6 TOILET STRATEGY – DRAFT RESPONSE

Members considered the draft representation prepared by the Clerk for submission to the National Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee. A proactive stance was advocated to build upon the success of West Carmarthenshire and South Pembrokeshire cross-party action in ensuring that public conveniences in five tourist villages in Carmarthenshire remained in the ownership and management of the County Council. The Clerk was thanked for producing a comprehensive document. The Chairman requested the addition that the toilets on The Green Llansteffan had been closed several years ago - an action which had resulted in on-going complaints and environmental health issues. 179

Resolved

That the Council's draft response to the Public Health (Wales) Bill Part 6 Toilet Strategy be accepted and submitted to Welsh Government for the attention of the National Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee. 180

14. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- The Head of the National Botanic Garden had given a presentation to the County Council and the latter was undecided about supporting the Garden to the tune of £75k. 181

- Cllr Dr D Hunter declared an interest in the National Botanic Garden as regular volunteer and supporter and reminded members that the Garden had to source 70% of its annual funding, whilst Edinburgh National Garden was fully funded and Kew National Garden 182

- only had to source 30% funding.
- The County Council trashing of verges regime was focusing on the minor country roads first, followed by the main roads in each locality. 183
- Residents in Church Road Llansteffan requested a timescale for double-yellow line removal. 184
- Wharley Point footpath remained overgrown, a popular bench needed replacement on Wharley Point path by the Scotts Bay viewpoint and the Bell House interpretation panel was surrounded by vegetation. 185
- The growing number of holiday homes in Llansteffan needed to be itemised on an agenda in the near future. 186
- The deadline for the County Council Older People and Independence consultation was imminent. 187
- Speaking in her capacity as local councillor, Cllr Jones stated that she felt deeply disappointed with the quality of the PSOW Report. 188
- Cllr Cooper conveyed his apologies in advance for the September meeting. 189

The meeting closed at 21:25

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 19th October 2015 in Llanybri Community Hall

Monday 16th November 2015 in Llanybri Community Hall

Signed..... Chairman/Vice Chairman Date

