

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

16th MARCH 2015

Chairman Councillor DB Davies

Present Councillors C Jones (Vice Chair), G Howells, A Perrett, A Cooper, B Charles,
E Davies, M James and B Ryder

Attending Mr and Mrs Hood, Mr B Williams and Ms S Jones, Mr and Mrs Cook

Apologies None received

Clerk L Dutch

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

County Councillor Davies as Carmarthenshire County Council Chairman, County Planning Committee Vice Chairman and Llansteffan School Governor, and Councillor Howells as Church Warden, Member of the Parochial Church Council and Llansteffan School Governor Chairman and Council Rep.

The Chairman requested members to stand for a minute's silence in respect of the recent sad passing of former County Councillor Osi Rhys Osmond, former Community Councillor Dr Guy Evan's wife and Community Councillor Adrian Perrett's brother-in-law.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February were confirmed and signed as a true record.

Min
No

3. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Sunken paving slabs by Castell Rhingyll Llansteffan

The County Council had replaced sunken paving slabs on two occasions due to the premature removal of warning bollards and the unanticipated parking of a heavy vehicle on the site in question.

529

Dogs on the beach

The County Council had prepared a press release reminding dog owners to exercise their pets in a responsible manner and be aware of local byelaws in operation.

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4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Carmarthenshire council tax increase would be restricted to 4.85% for 2015/16.

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5. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTS

Morfa Playground

It was noted that minor maintenance tasks would be undertaken in the near future. A delivery of play chip should be laid before Easter. One application had been received for the post of part-time grounds maintenance.

532

Resolved

- i) That two pallets of softwood playgrade chip be ordered for the Morfa playground from CPA Horticulture for the quoted price of £363.00 plus VAT;** 533
- ii) That Mr M Evans be appointed to undertake the part-time post of Morfa playground grounds maintenance;** 534
- iii) That the Council's insurance policy be checked to ensure that the post of Morfa playground grounds maintenance was fully covered.** 535

Carrier's Lane

Repair of the loose fencing and damaged paving stones was still on hold whilst the County Council focused on amending the housing planning application for Carrier's field. 536

Morfa

It was reported that the following issues had still not been addressed by the Sports Club:- (i) the door to the wooden shed remained unlocked, despite the fact that it appeared to house machinery and fuel; (ii) the chain-link fencing at the corner of the cricket pitch opposite Coedmor remained trampled-down; and (iii) the two folly bridges were still masked in bramble and the pond was masked in reeds, both of which could put an exploring child at risk of injury. 537

Resolved

That the unaddressed issues on the Morfa regarding security, fencing and grounds maintenance be brought to the attention of Llansteffan Sports Club once again. 538

Croft and Headland Path

Cllr. Dr. Hunter had supplied reports in advance of the meeting. Regular dog fouling along the Croft verge as well as in the centre of the path remained an issue. The bench at the top of the path still needed repainting. 539

Regarding the headland path, the following issues still needed to be addressed:- (i) missing mesh panels at First Steps; (ii) clearance of bramble and overgrowth; and (iii) persistent boggy patches between First and Second Steps. On a more positive note, the Scott's Bay rubbish collection point had been cleared and the SOS phone was operational. 540

Hen Gapel

The local builder would undertake roof repairs in the spring on condition that the Council purchased the necessary materials. No evidence of slates at risk of slippage. Vegetation growth on the walls still needed to be controlled. 541

6. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved

That the following accounts be approved for payment:-

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--------|-----|
| SE Dutch | Clerk's salary/expenses | 797.22 | 542 |
| HMRC | Employer's NI quarterly payment (Feb, Mar, Apr)* | 26.98 | 543 |
| Llansteffan Sports Club | Morfa annual maintenance grant 2015 | 750.00 | 544 |
| Llanybri Hall | Hall Hire 2014 | 90.00 | 545 |
| SWALEC | Castle lighting Nov 2014 to Feb 2015 | 98.79 | 546 |
| One Voice Wales | Understanding the Law training (50% bursary) | 17.50 | 547 |
| Ben Harries Committee | Room hire 2014 | 30.00 | 548 |

* Please note – the HMRC cheque signed at Feb meeting had been destroyed. The Clerk had now installed 'Bright Pay' - SLCC-recommended payroll software that calculates employer's NI quarterly payments and produces P30s (employer's pay slips). The HMRC cheque above therefore replaced the one signed in February. 549

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved

That the following items of correspondence be noted: 550

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Play Wales | "Play for Wales" magazine spring 2015 |
| Nat Botanic Garden | "Yr Ardd" magazine spring 2015 |
| Welsh Government | Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales |
| Carms County Council | Review – Private Sector Empty Properties in Carms |
| One Voice Wales | Consultancy Services for Member Councils |

Carms County Council - Traffic Order including Church Road Llansteffan

An email was received containing a copy of the Traffic Order public notice that would be publicized in the local press. 551

Carms Local Access Forum

A letter was received inviting new members to attend forum meetings. 552

Llansteffan School - Pupil's thank you letters

Letters were received from the pupils thanking the Council for its generous S.137 donation to cover the costs of school swimming lesson in 2015. 553

Llansteffan School - Pupil's letters of support for Llanybri Playground project

Letters were received from the pupils thanking the Council for its efforts in applying for funding to create a playground in Llanybri village. 554

Requests for Financial Assistance 555

Cruse Bereavement Care West Wales
Kidney Wales Foundation
Theatr Troedyrhiw

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Resolved

i) To note that the following planning application be supported, with a note of disappointment in the fact that this represented a 'retrospective' application: 556

W/31620 Removal of chicken and dog sheds. Addition of two small dormers on rear elevation of derelict cottage to replace metal profile sheet roof structure at Castle Hill Farm, Llansteffan

ii) To note that the following planning application be supported: 557

W/31633 Internal alteration works and external repairs at The Sticks Hotel, Llansteffan

iii) To note the following planning decision:

W/31276 GRANTED Removal of Condition 5 on W/20173 (Buffer zone to be kept free of development) at Plot 2 Parc Clomendi Llansteffan 558

9. WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION – REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Based on his recent experience in County Hall, the Chair suggested that a special meeting would be required to provide a detailed response to the consultation. Regarding timescales, the clerk advised that reform of the principal authorities was scheduled to take place by 2020 and reform of the local councils by 2022. Members expressed grave concerns about the potential loss of local representation and local identity – key attributes of the lowest tier of local government. 559

Resolved

That a special meeting of full council be convened on 23rd March in Llanybri Hall to consider the Council's response to the White Paper consultation entitled "Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People." 560

10. LLANYBRI PLAYGROUND – LEGAL DOCS AND JOB ADVERT

The clerk reported the welcomed news that the Kysant Charitable Trust had awarded the Council's playground project the sum of £8,750. Furthermore, Red Kite Law had supplied a comprehensive written review of the three draft legal documents associated with the land transfer, which had proved to be useful. 561

The draft ground works advert was circulated for comment, having been based on a job specification supplied by Sunshine Playgrounds. Cllr. James informed the clerk that an application form could be sourced from County Highways to widen a gateway. 562

Resolved

- i) That Cllr. Howells and the clerk be authorised to formulate and forward a list of preferred amendments to the three land transfer draft documents to Lewis and Lewis Solicitors, on the grounds that the list was based on the Red Kite Law review; 563
- ii) That the Playground Sub-committee be given delegated authority to publicise the Llanybri playground ground works advert and select the preferred quotation on the basis that it did not exceed the £1500 remaining in the allocated budget line; 564
- iii) That an application form be sourced from County Highways to widen the gateway; 565
- iv) That a letter of thanks be written to the Kylsant Charitable Trust in respect of its generous donation. 566

11. FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS, PARKS & AMENITY AREAS

Resolved

That the item on Future Management of Playgrounds, Parks & Amenity Areas be postponed to the April or May meeting. 567

At 20.12 the Chairman noted that a member of the public wished to speak. 568

Resolved

That the Council meeting be temporarily suspended at 20:12 for a member of the public to speak. 569

Mr Harrison of Pentowyn wished to emphasise to the meeting that, following the Judicial Review decision to quash the planning permission granted for the Mwche wind turbine, it was time for the Chairman to step down. Criticisms were levied at members for attending meetings as normal. Cllr. Cooper informed members of the public that they could participate in strict accordance with Standing Orders. No further public comments were received. 570

Resolved

That the Council meeting be re-convened at 20:16. 571

12. MEMORIAL SEAT QUOTATIONS

Cllr. E Davies declared a prejudicial interest having submitted a quotation and left the hall. 572

Resolved

That the public be temporarily excluded from the meeting whereupon publicity of the item could prejudice the public interest by reason of the financial nature of the business to be transacted. 573

All remaining members of the public left the hall. 574

The clerk reported that one quotation had been received for the works. The suggestion was made that the two existing seats along the sea wall could be re-sited at the top of the Croft footpath – one on a new plinth facing the Castle and one on the existing plinth. The Chair temporarily left the room and was replaced by the Vice Chair. Members approved this suggestion and acknowledged that a revised quotation would be needed. 575

Resolved

That, subject to the two benches being adequately accommodated at the top of the Croft path and a revised quotation being supplied, delegated authority be given to the clerk to give the go-ahead to the approved contractor to undertake the works. 576

The Chair returned and took over the running of the meeting. 577

13. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Badly rutted roads caused by heavy agricultural vehicles created regular highway hazards – a horse rider was badly injured near Smyrna crossroads, having been thrown from her horse which had taken fright. Appropriate planning conditions must be attached to planning consents for farm developments. 578
- Llansteffan castle lighting was flashing on and off. 579
- Residents wish to view a completed council website. This remains work in progress. 580
- The resolution of long-standing highways issues in Llansteffan and Llanybri had appeared to have ground to a halt, with particular reference to Church Road, High Street traffic speed surveys and enforcement and Llanybri 20 mph speed limit request. 581
- Pupils leaving the school bus on the Pantyrathro blind bend faced the risk of accidents. 582
- Council was legally and morally obliged to have approved policies in place. To be itemised on the April agenda. 583
- The Carrier's Field housing application was still being amended. 584
- The Italianate house on the former golf course near the end of Laugharne Ferry Road may be used to host small scale arts, operatic, craft events. Planning was queried. 585
- To meet the requirements of Wales Audit Office, an annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit had to be considered by Council at the April meeting. 586

The meeting closed at 21:07

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 18th May 2015 in Llanybri Community Hall (includes Annual Meeting)

Monday 15th June 2015 in Llansteffan Memorial Hall

Signed..... Chairman/Vice Chairman Date

