

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

**20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

**Chairman** Councillor DB Davies

**Present** Councillors C Jones (Vice Chair), G Howells, A Perrett, A Cooper, M James, B Charles, EI Davies, B Ryder and Dr D Hunter (sat with public and left after Public Participation item)

**Apologies** None

**Attending** Approximately ten local residents

**Clerk** L Dutch

**1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

County Councillor Davies as Carmarthenshire County Council Chairman and County Planning Committee Vice Chairman; Councillor Howells as Church Warden, Member of the Parochial Church Council and Llansteffan School Governor Chairman and Council Rep; and Councillor Cooper in the event that Plas fields might be discussed, being a friend of Plas Farm tenants who store his caravan on their property.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Resolved**

**That the meeting be temporarily suspended for public participation.**

The following statements were received by the Council:

Pentowyn resident – The community felt let down by Cllr DB Davies and failed to understand why he had supported the contentious wind turbine proposal overlooking the River Taf.

Cllr Howells – Certain councillors had been criticised for staying in council meetings with the present Chairman. On the basis that the council serves the needs of over 1,000 people living in Llansteffan and Llanybri Wards, should the majority of members choose not to attend meetings under the present conditions, the council would fail to be quorate, could not transact business or be heard in County Council circles and beyond.

Cllr Jones – Whilst Cllr DB Davies's refusal to stand down as community councillor and chairman was a lawful decision, it continued to make the position of co-members potentially untenable. Duty to the community was the only reason that Cllr Jones remained on the council. Cllr DB Davies should concede that it would be usual for a member in his position to do the honourable thing and withdraw voluntarily to enable the council to continue effectively with its business. Cllr Jones wished her statement to be fully minuted.

Cllr Cooper – The wind turbine matter was being dealt with, views had been expressed and the meeting should be re-convened.

Cllr Hunter (from the floor) – The point was reiterated that the council had no confidence in Cllr DB Davies as community councillor and chair.

The Plas resident – The point was reiterated that Cllr Davies's actions had been morally wrong.

Cllr DB Davies brought Item 3 to a close.

**Resolved**

**That the meeting be re-convened to consider the business on the October agenda.**

**3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to the replacement of the councillor's name in Minute 188 with the title 'member'. On a point of information, the Vice Chair noted that the relevant authorities had approved the revised wording of Draft Minute 188 during the previous seven days.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

Electric fence crossing 23/30 in Plas Field

Cllr. Perrett maintained that British safety regulations must be adhered to and that the minimal gap in the electric fence to permit public access was wholly inadequate. 255

Morfa Management Committee meeting

The next quarterly meeting should be held in the near future. 256

Hen Gapel tree removal

A letter of thanks would be sent to the three Llanybri residents who kindly volunteered to remove the fallen tree from the grounds surrounding Hen Gapel. 257

Morfa drainage and beach outfall pipe works

The temporary pump and flexible pipe running out to the river had been removed by the County Council, arousing fears that the County Council drainage scheme might have been shelved due to budget cutbacks. Concerns were also expressed about the amount of taxpayer's money being used to finance the on-going clearance of sand which the tides brought in to cover the deteriorating beach outfall pipe. A report was needed from the Flood Defence Officer. 258

**5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

It was noted that 365 staff had applied for severance, including the Chief Executive on medical grounds. 259

**6. HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTS**

Morfa Playground

The Parks and Play company had recently supplied a comprehensive annual inspection report. No major issues to discuss at present. 260

**Resolved**

**That the comprehensive annual inspection report produced for the Morfa playground be presented to Council for consideration at the November meeting.** 261

Carrier's Lane

It was noted that deteriorating fencing and verge encroachment remained problematic, together with the on-going need to sweep leaves gathering near the top of the lane to maintain a safe path surface for pedestrians. 262

Morfa

The report congratulated the Sports Club for maintaining the Morfa playing fields in an excellent condition. The only concerns were that the doors to the old pavilion remained unlocked and the pond and folly bridges had become masked in weed and brambles respectively. 263

Cllr DB Davies thanked Cllr Cooper for his report and wished him a steady recovery after recent surgery.

**Resolved**

**That a letter of thanks be sent to Llansteffan Sports Club for maintaining the Morfa playing fields in an excellent condition in 2014, adding that the only concerns related to the Old Pavilion doors to be locked and the pond and folly bridges to be kept clear.** 264

Croft

The Rangers had trashed the footpath verges which had been far more effective than the wasteful and ineffective application of herbicide earlier in the year. The flower displays remained attractive, there was less dog fouling and the bench still needed re-painting, having been delayed due to work and family commitments. 265

### Sticks/Headland Path to Scott's Bay

It was frustrating to note that there had been virtually no improvements since the July report. 266  
The missing and damaged mesh panels at First Steps had still not been replaced; increasing numbers of overhanging branches beyond Second Steps needed cutting back; the warning sign at Second Steps needed cleaning and bushes cut back to be fully legible; footpath 23/35 needed clearing particularly prior to being way-marked. The stile access to Plas field footpath 23/30 needed clearing and the stile made easier to negotiate; the minimal gap of 32 cm still had to be negotiated next to the post of the electric fence crossing Plas field; new notices advising "Bull in field" and "Cows and Calves in field" had been installed, both of which were misleading and illegal on the basis that at the time of inspection, no bulls, cows or calves were present. On a final note, Lan Farm road or green lane had been re-surfaced and fully appreciated by horse riders, apart from when youths on motor bikes "spooked" the horses. Whilst it was legal for motor bikes to use the green lane, it was dangerous driving to "spook" the horses.

### Hen Chapel

The situation of the missing roof slates remained outstanding. The local builder would attend as soon as time permitted. In addition, the problem of ivy, bramble and buddleia protruding from the higher reaches of the chapel persisted and must be controlled before winter. A fallen tree in the grounds had been removed. 267

### Resolved

**That a letter of thanks be sent to the three Llanybri residents who kindly volunteered to remove the fallen tree.** 268

## 7. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

### Resolved

**That the following accounts be approved for payment:-**

SE Dutch	Clerk's Oct salary/expenses	511.98	269
A Williams	Bell House/Taf Estuary heritage panel	2,095.00 *	270
Audio Trails Ltd	iOS and Android Phone Heritage Trails Apps	4,500.00 *	271
Parks and Play	Annual Morfa playground inspection 2014	90.00	272
EI Davies	2 x postcrete bags to install Bell House finger post	8.00	273
Melley's Supplies	30 x way-marking posts & 30 x postcrete bags	336.24 *	274

\* These RDP Cultural Heritage projects are 100% grant funded due to the significant input of volunteer hours' contributed to provide the necessary 20% match-funding. Sincere thanks to Cllr Jones, Clerk, Miss Eiluned Rees and a number of local residents. 275

The Clerk advised that whilst the grant scheme paid for way-marking posts and postcrete, there was no allowance for the labour required to install the posts. 276

### Resolved

**That the Clerk be authorised to employ a local approved contractor at an hourly rate of £10 per hour to install the Llanybri Heritage Trails way-marking posts.** 277

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

### Resolved

**That the following items of correspondence be noted:** 278

Welsh Government Planning (Wales) Bill [Draft]  
Welsh Government Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales  
Welsh Government Independent Remuneration Panel Wales Draft Annual Report  
National Botanic Garden 'Yr Ardd' magazine

Carms County Council - Draft Llansteffan leaflet

An email was received containing proofs for a new tourism leaflet with a Dylan Tomas theme. 279

**Resolved**

**That Cllr Jones be authorised to liaise with the County Tourism Section regarding an acceptable design for a new Llansteffan leaflet on a Dylan Thomas theme.** 280

**Canolfan Tywi Centre - Celebration of the Carmarthen Landscape & Heritage Grant Scheme**

An invitation was received to attend a celebratory event on 3rd December. 281

**Resolved**

**That the Clerk and Julia Griffith-Jones be nominated to attend the celebration of the Landscape & Heritage Grant Scheme in Llandeilo on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.** 282

**Carmarthen County Council - Seasonal Decorations**

A letter was received but was not considered relevant to either Llansteffan or Llanybri in 2014. 283

**Helen Parry - Commemorative seat for Harry 'The Stores' and Mary Jones**

An email was received expressing a keen desire to install a seat along the sea wall in memory of her parents who would have reached 100 years in age this year. Harry was born and lived in Llansteffan all his life and was very much part of village life especially when running the Stores and delivering milk and papers. Whilst members were supportive in principle, concerns were expressed relating to the waiting list in operation and the need to seek further permissions from the County Council. 284

**Resolved**

**i) That a letter be written to Helen Parry advising that the request for a memorial seat along the sea wall was under consideration;** 285

**ii) That an enquiry be written to the County Council asking whether permission might be granted to re-site additional public seats from the sea wall, in order to vacate existing plinths for new memorial seats.** 286

**The Royal British Legion – Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

Cllr DB Davies advised members that due to his responsibilities as County Council Chair, he would be unavailable for official duties on Remembrance Sunday in Llansteffan Ward. 287

**Resolved**

**That Vice Chair Cllr Jones be authorised lay the local poppy wreath/s in Llansteffan Ward on Remembrance Sunday as directed by The Royal British Legion Llansteffan Branch, due to the unavailability of Cllr DB Davies.** 288

**Requests for financial assistance**

Young Farmer's Club Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire 289  
Carmarthen & District Youth Opera  
Urdd Gobaith Cymru

**9. PLANNING MATTERS**

**Resolved**

**i) That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 16th October represented an accurate record of discussions and conclusions relating to W/30795 and W/30942;** 290

**ii) To note that no objection be raised to the following planning applications:** 291

W/30795 Installation of a maximum tip height of 48m Wind Turbine at Trefforis Fawr, Ferryside (near the Orange mast to the NW of the village)

W/30942 Extension and alteration of existing dwelling at New Cottage, Old Road, Llansteffan

**iii) To note the following planning decision:** 292

W/29907 GRANTED Three family dwellings on an infill site along Heol Faen, Llanybri

**iv) That a working party be authorised to meet to discuss issues associated with a farm gate that was installed across the Black Scar Byway Open to All Traffic 23/39 in 2013;** 293

Note: Cllr DB Davies declared a personal interest at the start of the discussion on the grounds that the Countryside Ranger who had installed the gate was his son. 294

Cllr James declared that he had never witnessed a farm gate at this location during the last 40 to 50 years. 295

**v) That enquiries be made with the County Council regarding the seemingly unauthorised concrete footings that had been installed on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in a field owned by Mwche Farm, opposite the quarry near the end of Laugharne Ferry Road.** 296

## **10. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS**

A task group comprising of Cllrs Howells and Jones and the Clerk (Cllr Cooper sent apologies) had met on 6<sup>th</sup> October to examine the 'Model Standing Orders' that had been produced by the National Association of Local Councils and circulated by One Voice Wales in 2014. Whilst many sections included statutory requirements that could not be altered, there were other provisions which needed consideration and minor amendment to suit the circumstances of a small community council. Members thanked the task group for their endeavours. On the basis that Standing Orders constitute the written rules of the council, it was generally felt that a separate briefing cum consultation session was warranted. 297

### **Resolved**

**That a separate council session to examine and consider the Draft Standing Orders as proposed by the task group be organised on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with the onus being on all members to make a concerted contribution to the event.** 298

## **11. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- Hedges had dangerously overgrown the main road from Plas Hill to Parc y Ficar reducing visibility for road users. 299
- Raw slurry, believed to be the responsibility of Cwrt Malle, Llangain, had been photographed entering a road ditch near Maen Melyn and the photographs would be forwarded to Natural Resources Wales. 300
- The local Fisheries Officer for Natural Resources Wales had contacted Cllr Howells expressing an interest in meeting members to discuss the local cockle industry. 301
- Heavy leaf fall had caused dangerous road conditions on Pendeggy Hill (a police car had been pulled out of the ditch) and in the vicinity of Dolau, requiring the services of the County road sweeper. 302
- As Council representative on Llansteffan School Governing Body, Cllr Howells advised that pupils will lose their entitlement to free swimming lessons from 2015 and suggested that consideration may be made in the January meeting to a budget allocation of £700 to cover annual costs. 303
- Superfast fibre Broadband will be installed in Llansteffan, Llanybri and Llangain in 2015. 304

The meeting closed at 21:40

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 in Llanybri Community Hall**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Llanybri Community Hall at 7 pm**

Signed..... Chairman/Vice Chairman Date .....

