

**LLANSTEFFAN AND LLANYBRI COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF (remote) MEETING HELD**

**at 7pm MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

**PRESENT:**

**CHAIR** CLLR CERIAN LODWICK

CLLR BRIAN HARRISON

**VICE-CHAIR** CLLR RHYS SCHELEWA–DAVIES

CLLR HELEN JOHN

CLLR BETHAN RYDER

CLLR SUE ROBINSON

CLLR ZOE WOODRUFF (Acting Responsible Finance Officer)

CLLR ANTHEA EVANS (Acting clerk, Proper Officer)

CLLR BRIAN CHARLES

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARYS JONES

**1. APOLOGIES**

CLLR MEL JAMES (unable to access Zoom)

In attendance, a member of the public.

The meeting started at 7.00pm

**2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were no Disclosures of Interest or Dispensations for this meeting but it was noted that Cllr Ryder, Cllr Evans and Cllr Harrison had previously disclosed interest in relation to 2 planning issues that had arisen during the period the Council had not been meeting.

**3. AGM**

**It was resolved** to delay the decision as to when to hold the AGM until we are better informed about indoor meetings. Under Covid-19 regulations we are required to have one before December 31st 2020.

Proposed Cllr Schelewa-Davies Seconded Cllr Lodwick

**It was resolved** that the officers remain the same until the next AGM.

Proposed Cllr Ryder Seconded Cllr Charles

**4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 16<sup>TH</sup> March 2020 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Robinson Seconded Cllr Ryder

*Standing orders were suspended at 19.17pm*

*In response to a query from AW it was confirmed that the challenge he had made in regard of the accuracy of the minutes would be responded to in correspondence.*

*Standing Orders were resumed at 19.19pm.*

**5. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION**

**(item 4) Tourist Association**

The clerk informed councillors that the tourist association had paid for two of the historical panels to be repaired and the work is now complete.

**(item 5) Benches**

The benches are now all in place and three of the owners are very happy. One lady

is unhappy about the puddles on her plinth and is considering having a new plinth. It was clarified for councillors that the Council charges a standardised price for the benches which includes the cost of a new plinth either for the new bench or the re-sited bench.

**(item 9) Standing Orders**

It was agreed that the draft Standing Orders would be put on the website as they cannot be formally agreed until the AGM and it would be remiss not to have them available. They will be clearly marked as Draft Orders.

**(item 11) Fencing - the Croft / Headland path**

Both the Croft footpath and Carriers Lane have very loose fence posts which need to be secured and the sides of the Croft are in need of cutting. County Councillor Jones will chase up the maintenance department at County to get these done.

County Councillor Jones also updated the council regarding the issue of the Headland Path. There is no obligation on the part of the county Council or the landowners to repair the broken fence, the County Council are responsible for the maintenance of the surface of the path only. Signage re the dangers may be a consideration.

County Councillor Jones also reported that the fence around the Bottle Bank which is in need of repair may not be repaired as the County will be introducing doorstep glass collection soon.

**(item 13) Appointment of a new clerk.**

Interviews will take place (via Zoom) on Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**(item 14) Pursuing legal Advice**

Cllr Lodwick informed the Council that a solicitor has been instructed to provide the Council with legal advice.

**(item14) Pheasantry**

Cllr Lodwick has contacted Caroline Ferguson regarding a 'fast track' route to a solution and is awaiting a response from county. Mrs Eynon has requested an update.

**6 AUDIT UPDATE**

The Internal Audit is complete and all files have been collected. No significant problems were identified in the report, A date needs to be set for the Councillors to receive the accounts before they go to the External Auditors. August 17<sup>th</sup> was suggested, the Clerk will check the timescale and confirm. The documents have to be available for public scrutiny by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

**7. CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING COCKLING IN THE THREE RIVERS ESTUARY**

Councillor Lodwick outlined the issues that had arisen on the first day of cockling in the estuary and what had happened subsequently. The following points were raised and noted.

1. No arrangements had been made for the cocklers to access the beach, park or unload on the northern end of the Green.
2. The Community Council was unable to partake in the annual multiagency meeting regarding access due to the ongoing complaint regarding use of the Village Green. This, combined with failure by the cockle gatherers/buyers to make suitable arrangements and one processor changing his arrangements at the last minute, led to the problems on the first day.
3. The Marine and Fisheries and Police agreed that allowing them to unload on that area was the safest option.
4. Other possible routes to the beach were down Coal Road or through the main carpark. A small number of cocklers had used the Coal Road route.

5. These options mean that the cocklers enter the beach at the busiest points for holidaymakers, and the Coal Road option means access through the main street of the village.
6. County Councillor Jones reported that both the police and Marine and Fisheries representatives deemed that access through the northern end of the Green was the safest option.
7. One of the Processors has made a private arrangement with a landowner to unload on his land and the County Council will allow access to the beach from their area on the northern end of the Green
8. Double tide fishing causes difficulties and the Marine and Fisheries are seeking to limit cocklers to a single tide.

*Standing orders suspended at 19.48pm*

*AW said that the situation on Wednesday was a shambles and that no consideration was being given to the fact that it was a Village Green. He stated that health and safety was a major issue and suggested that there were other places that could be used, e.g. Ferryside and the caravan park near Kidwelly.*

*Standing Orders were reinstated at 19.51pm*

9. The Ferryside and Caravan Park access points are at full capacity. The problems were exacerbated by the lack of involvement in discussions regarding the management of the cocklers. Councillors felt that public safety was of paramount importance and that it should be managed in such a way that a solution to ensure public safety should be found.

*Standing Orders suspended at 19.54pm*

*AW stated that if we haven't given permission then they have no right to access, it is supposed to be green sward and the cocklers are taking heavy vehicles across.*

*Standing Orders reinstated at 19.55pm.*

10. Councillor Lodwick invited Cty Cllr Jones to give her opinion on the situation and the way forward. County Councillor Jones stated that in her opinion the priority should be safety and that enforcing the cocklers off the land would also enforce all other vehicles off the land and that would put a large number of additional vehicles onto the village streets. This was also the opinion expressed by the Police Authority and the Fisheries.

*AW interjected to say "and that is the County Councillor's opinion not fact?"*

11. The northern end of the Green has been used for parking since before it was a Village Green in 1981 and has been used continuously for more than 40 years, it has never been green sward.
12. Some discontentment has been expressed by a few residents regarding the disturbance on the first day of cockling.
13. A police presence can't be guaranteed as it is resource dependent.

*Standing Orders suspended at 19.59pm*

*AW stated that there are restrictive covenants on the land and that the LLCC has owned the land since 1980 and have neglected the covenants and ignored the fact that it is a Village Green.*

*Standing Orders resumed at 20.00pm.*

14. It was proposed that, as things had gone smoothly in previous years, the Community Council should allow access across the northern area of the Green.

*Standing Orders were suspended at 20.08pm  
 AW contested that things had gone smoothly in previous years, stating again that it was illegal to park on the Green and asked what legal advice the Council was seeking.  
 Standing Orders were reinstated at 20.13pm*

15. A vote was taken and **it was resolved** that the cocklers would be given access across the northern end of the Green to the County Council land and the beach.  
 Proposed Cllr Ryder Seconded Cllr Charles  
 Cllr Charles requested a recorded vote.

8 Votes for the motion: Cllr Lodwick / Cllr Woodruff / Cllr Schelewa-Davies / Cllr John / Cllr Charles / Cllr Evans / Cllr Robinson / Cllr Ryder.  
 1 Abstention: Cllr Harrison

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING ISSUES

Details of planning applications that were received during the period that the Council was not meeting were circulated to Councillors and their opinions gathered and reported to the appropriate authority. No objections were raised to any of the proposals received.

A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Harrison for W/40691

Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Ryder and Cllr Evans for W/40803

The applications received during this period were:

W/40374 / W/40472 / W/40588 / W/40691 / W/40803

## 9. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

- Councillors had received copies of income, expenditure and the budget monitoring sheet prior to the meeting.
- Cllr Woodruff (acting RFO) explained that the budget form has been updated and some additional expenditure has been incurred due to items that had not been paid previously. Some of the clerk's salary, which has been saved, has been used to provide additional accounting support.
- An amendment is needed to the income sheet as one amount is incorrect.
- The correct amounts are:

### INCOME MARCH 2020 – JULY 2020

April 29 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Carmarthenshire County Council- bank transfer	£7,500.00
May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Tourist Association – bank transfer	£1000.00
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2020	VAT– bank transfer	£1,322.00
July 11 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Cockle processor's donation for 2019 – cheque from 'Below High Water' Llanmorlais	£2,500.00

- The lights at the castle, which are owned by the owners of the castle, are paid for by the Tourist Association through the Community Council. They had not been invoiced for the electricity but will now receive an invoice each year. The Tourist Association are considering reintroducing the sponsorship scheme for the lights. It was suggested that they could also ask for a contribution from the castle owners.
- The donation from the Cocklers was for 2019.

## 10. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cllr Evans (acting clerk) explained that some expenditure that was incurred was due to overdue accounts. The separate expenditure sheet, circulated to all councillors, details all the cheques that have been paid whilst the council has not been holding meetings. The Councillors were informed of all expenditure during this period.

*Standing orders were suspended at 20.28pm*

*AW queried Llansteffan Hall expenditure and the Audit payment shown on the sheet and cancelled cheques. Cllr Woodruff and Cllr Evans responded to his questions.*

*Standing orders were resumed at 20.30.*

## 11. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTS

- **Cllr Charles, Llanybri** – everything fine, grass cut and slates done. Signage needed for play area before reopening. Cty Cllr Jones has signage available.
- **Cllr Robinson, Morfa playground** – signage has been taken down and there is now only one picnic bench as the others were deemed to be unsafe. Cllr Evans has ordered new bark. There have been problems contacting the suppliers of the swing seats but they are now ordered. Councillors agreed that parents would have to take responsibility for the safety of their children using the play area so the signage regarding health and safety in relation to Covid-19 are crucial. There is also a recommendation that food and drink are not taken into the play areas.
- **Cllr Robinson, Ferry Point** – there is an issue about the bins at Ferry Point which Cty Cllr Jones is aware of and discussions have taken place between County and the Ferry Point Management Group. Absent landlords are not ensuring that the procedures regarding the bins are being carried out appropriately. Fly tipping has been reported on social media, Cty Cllr Jones will report this and check where the discussions with the management Group have reached.
- **Cllr Woodruff, Headland Path** – The bins are fine at present and the phone working. Consideration needs to be given to the phone and need for sanitising. Signage may be the solution, the same will apply to Ferry Point phone. The fence remains broken, this was discussed under matters arising.
- **Cllr Shelewa-Davies, the Croft** – The repaired information panel looks good but the grass is in need of cutting. The bins at the bottom of Coal Road are filling up very quickly and rubbish is piling up on top of the bins.
- **Cllr Evans, Carriers Lane** – Elgan Evans due to cut next week. **It was resolved** that Elgan Evans be asked to continue with the clearing and tidying of Carriers Lane at the rate of £10 a month.
- Proposed Cllr Charles Seconded Cllr Ryder

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

- A list of correspondence received during the lockdown was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Amongst the emails received from AW were two emails challenging the accuracy of the minutes of January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 and February 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- **It was resolved** that an amendment to the January meeting would record the attendance of AW at the meeting and also record the verbatim report that he gave from the *“Financial Regulations adopted by the Community Council in respect of Budget setting and Forward Planning*.
- **It was resolved** that the February minutes would be amended to show that the amendment regarding the precept should have been raised in matters arising. The minutes of the confidential meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> show that the Councillors had discussed the setting of the precept and decided to resubmit as it had not been submitted by the previous clerk.

Proposed Cllr Charles Seconded Cllr Woodruff

- Several emails have been received expressing concern about the unsafe situation on the Green due to excessive traffic and problems caused by insufficient car parking space. Some people have requested that the area next to the northern end of the Green be opened again for car parking.
- A letter was received from AH regarding repairs needed to Folly Bridge and a tree affected by ash dieback. It is recorded in the minutes of Nov 2018 that the Sports Association wrote to the Community Council to say that the bridge did not need to be repaired. The clerk will contact the tree conservation officer regarding the tree and respond accordingly to AH on both matters. The tree is on the cricket pitch side of the fence and will be the responsibility of the Sports Association.
- A lot of correspondence received from the County Council, Audit Wales and OVV during the previous 3 months was related to changes in regulations due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 13. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- County Councillor Jones informed the meeting that filming will be taking place on the beach during the next month. Car parking has been arranged nearer to the Boat Club
- The Playgrounds can reopen when all safety measures and signage have been put in place.
- Community Halls can open but will need to carry out risk assessments and be sure that activities can take place safely with social distancing measures in place.
- A multi-disciplinary meeting will take place on the County car park to look at parking and traffic issues. This is a meeting organised by Cty Cllr Jones as an opportunity to familiarise officers with the area and the issues relating to the Green from the Council car park to the northern end.
- *AW interjected three times to ask if this was to be a public meeting, when it was and if he would be informed of date and time. His ability to speak freely in the meeting was challenged.*
- Cty Cllr Jones reiterated that she wasn't sure of the details yet and that it was not a meeting for making decisions.
- A quad bike pulling a jet ski has been seen on the beach. This is a matter for the police and should be reported.
- The kiosk in Llanybri is in a very poor state. Two residents of Llanybri have offered to repair the kiosk. Cllr Evans to liaise with Cllr Charles to clarify what they will do. Repairs have been budgeted for.
- Someone blocked the road in Llanybri as heavy tractors were going through at night. This led to hedges being damaged. This is a highways issue.
- The acting clerk to continue to make payments as has happened since March.

County Councillor Jones was invited by the Chair to update with County matters.

- No activity in County Hall, all meetings are being held remotely.
- Full Council has resumed.
- Planning has restarted but there are no site visits and applicants are advised to submit as much information as possible, with priority going to those that will lead to employment. County Councillor Jones is happy to be contacted with any queries.
- Local businesses are finding things very tight and we should support where we can to help them survive.

The meeting closed at 21.21pm

Signed...Cllr Lodwick..... Date 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020