

DRAFT LLANSTEFFAN AND LLANYBRI COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE (REMOTE) MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st JUNE 2021 AT 7PM

PRESENT:

Cllr Brian Charles
Cllr Anthea Evans (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Mel James
Chair – Cllr Cerian Lodwick (Chair)
Cllr Rhys Schelewa-Davies

Clerk – Rhian Worrell

In attendance County Cllr Carys Jones and 5 members of the public.
The meeting commenced at 7.08 pm.

The Chair asked the Clerk to remind the Public of Standing Order 3(e and f) which relate to members of the public being able to speak on agenda items only. The Clerk also reminded all present of Standing Orders 3(l): Photography, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of the meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent.

Item 1 – Apologies

- There were no apologies.

Item 2 – Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations

- Cllr Evans declared an interest in relation to the planning application PL/02032 and PL/02075 which relate to the property adjacent to her home.
- Cllr Evans declared an interest in relation to Item 12 - Mr Evans has submitted a bid for the contract to build the shed for the wheelchairs.

Item 3 – To receive and confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2021 (Ordinary meeting), 24th May 2021 (Extraordinary meeting) and 12th April 2021 (Extraordinary meeting).

It was resolved that the Minutes of LLCC meeting dated 12th Apr 21 be signed as an accurate record of the meetings with the following amendments:

- Extraordinary in the title.

SOs suspended at 7.13 pm to allow CCllr Jones to speak.

- Item 4 - Should read: 'CCllr Jones invited to speak to members.' on both the Planning Appeal: APP/M6825/C/21/3267916 – Coed Tywi, Llansteffan and PL/01275 - Prior Notice Consultation - proposed alteration of an existing road or highway: Allt y Hendre, Allt y Coomb and Allt Tre-hyrn Woodlands, Llangynog. She informed members that she was not involved at County level, but at community level.

SOs reinstated at 7.13 pm

Proposed Cllr Evans Seconded Cllr Schelewa-Davies

It was resolved that the Minutes of LLCC meeting dated 17th May 2021 be signed as an accurate record of the meetings with the following amendments:

- Item 4 - Replace excreted with accreted.
- Item 17 - Should read 'A Cllr was approached by a MOP in relation to a potential planning breach within the village of Llanybri. The MOP asked that the matter be investigated.'
- Item 5 – This should include the Chair's response to the MOP and should read as follows: In response to a query from a MOP, the Chair clarified that she had made enquiries relating to the Llanybri Hall grant bid ahead of the meeting in relation to the

ACTIONS

<p>Clerk's email recommending an exercise of due diligence in relation to the Llanybri Hall grant bid.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Evans Seconded Cllr James</p> <p>It was resolved that the Minutes of LLCC meeting dated 24th May 2021 be signed as an accurate record of the meetings with the following typo corrected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4 – Correction: Cllr Schelewa-Davies. <p>Proposed Cllr Lodwick Seconded Cllr Evans</p> <p>Item 4 – Matters Arising/Review of Actions (From Previous Meetings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone kiosk: No progress, put for agenda item in July. • Complaints Policy: July agenda. • Wheel chair accessible surface – no update at present. • 'Carpark Full' sign issue – no update. • Hen Gapel – Clerk has contacted Cadw, who put her in touch with Nell Hellier at Listed Buildings CCC. She informed the Clerk that her department did not have the resources to send someone out to give advice and we should read the policy documents she sent in an email to the Clerk and then decide how we should proceed. The Clerk sent these on to Cllr Charles as Hen Gapel falls within his area of responsibility. Cllr Charles has been unable to get hold of Nell Hellier and as he explained we cannot proceed unless we have advice as it is a listed building. Cllr Charles will continue to pursue a response from Nell Hellier at Listed Buildings CCC. • Road sign at Down Farm – Fixed. • Dangerous trees at the edge of the cricket pitch – Clerk made enquiries with the Sport Club and they are having a meeting on 28th June 21 and the matter will be discussed. They will inform LLCC of the situation relating to those trees after this meeting. • No through road sign at Ferry point – In place. • Manholes – Ongoing. • Cricket Nets – Clerk spoke with Alun Howells on this matter and he stated the plan with regard to reinstating the cricket nets is not yet resolved. A decision to reinstate the old ones or buy new has not been made yet. They are fully aware that as per the court finding they are not able to play cricket without nets being in place. • Cllr Evans informed members that the task of collecting evidence relating to the use of the Green in times gone by was complete and had been sent to CCC. A copy has been retained. The Chair thanked Cllr Evans and ex Cllr Robinson for their work on the issue. • The Clerk informed members that she had not received the Internal Audit report yet but she would be getting it in the next couple of days. An extraordinary meeting would need to be convened to approve the report before it could go to Audit Wales. • Llanybri Playground donation working party – the working party have not yet met but intend to do so prior to the next meeting. • Roadside mirrors – Clerk contacted CCC in relation to the issue and no reply to date. • Item 12 – New signatory ongoing. • Broken grit bin full of rubbish on road to Llansteffan Castle – Now removed. <p>Item 5 – Public Participation</p> <p>SOs suspended at 7.44 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A MOP spoke to members in relation to the PL/02032 and PL/02075. In Summary his points were as follows: as only the ecological survey has changed since the 	<p>Clerk to action all amendments/ corrections</p> <p>Clerk to note for next agenda</p> <p>Cllr Charles continues to pursue this issue</p> <p>Clerk to monitor</p> <p>Clerk to pursue</p> <p>Working party to meet</p> <p>Clerk to monitor</p>
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original application the Community Council can feel confident that most of their reasons for objection originally stated can be reiterated.

- A MOP asked about the Green and stated that because many community members do not understand what the issues are or what LLCC are doing about it, would LLCC consider discussing the provision of a clear statement to the local community on what the situation is with the Green at the next ordinary meeting. The Chair agreed that this would be considered at a future meeting.
- A MOP wanted to know what was being done to protect the Green at Llansteffan given the heavy use in recent weeks and also raised a question over a potential breach of planning.

The Chair thanked the public contributors for their input.

SOs were reinstated at 7.28 pm

Item 6 – Annual Playground Inspection Reports (Morfa/Llanybri): Discussion of action required.

- LLCC have now received the inspection reports for the Morfa playground and the Llanybri playground. All risks identified are low or very low with the exception of two risks relating to the slide in the Morfa playground. Both these risks are identified as moderate risk and the Clerk advised that they should be addressed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the inspector of the play areas and Gareth Howells CCC to establish if the slide needed to be cordoned off and what options may be available for repair. In addition, the Clerk should price up a new slide.
- Llanybri playground gate - Cllr Charles is dealing with this issue. Cllr Charles also asked if LLCC could look into obtaining recycle bins for the playground area.
- The Chair informed members of a new issue with the gate post at the Morfa playground. It has come out of the ground and would need fixing.
- The Chair asked Cllr Evans to contact Ed Davies to let us know when he would be able to complete the various jobs he has been commissioned to do (e.g., benches, manholes etc)
- Cllr Evans said she would ask Mr Evans to look at the gate post in Llansteffan to see what needs doing.

Item 7 – Nomination of additional Governor for Governing Body of the Federation of Llangain, Llansteffan and Bancyfelin Schools required from 1st September 2021.

- **It was resolved Cllr Schelewa-Davies be renominated as Governor to the new Federation of Llangain, Llansteffan and Bancyfelin Schools.**

Proposed Cllr Lodwick Seconded Cllr Evans

Item 8 – Planning Applications:

• **PL/01275 - Prior Notice Consultation - proposed alteration of an existing road or highway: Allt y Hendre, Allt y Coomb and Allt Tre-hyrn Woodlands, Llangynog. Cllrs to consider a further response in support of neighbouring Community Councils**

- The Chair explained that a MOP had asked her if LLCC would consider producing a further response to this consultation. Members discussed the matter and it was decided that the original response was adequate.

• **PL/02032 - Proposed build of detached 3 bedroom house - Old Church Hall, High Street, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, SA33 5JZ**

• **PL/02075 - Demolition in a conservation area for proposed build of detached 3 bedroom house - Old Church Hall, High Street, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, SA33 5JZ**

Clerk to note for future agenda

Clerk to contact Inspector and CCC

Cllr Evans to pursue

- Discussions were held, however at 8.16 pm Cllr Schelewa-Davies left the meeting. The Chair pointed out that for the purpose of a vote on this matter LLCC was now non quorate, therefore this matter would be moved to the extraordinary meeting agreed upon for the approval of the Audit Report.
- **Enforcement: Information briefing to Cllrs:** The Clerk has been in contact with the Planning Enforcement officer at CCC to discuss how the Enforcement Dept would like to receive reports of suspected infringements. He stated that there were two methods, firstly via a form on their portal on the CCC website or secondly via direct email from the Clerk. LLCC should decide how they wished to approach these issues. It was agreed that Cllrs would look into the matter and agreement would be sought at a future meeting.

Clerk to send relevant information to Cllrs

Item 9 – Payment of Accounts

RECEIPTS		
Income received since 17th May 21		
DATE	DETAIL OF RECEIPT / PAYER	AMOUNT
28/05/21	Bank Interest	£0.34p
17/05/21	Receipt of payment for bench invoices x 2	£1376.90
PAYMENTS		
Expenditure incurred (paid and pending authorisation) since 17th May 21		
DATE	DETAIL OF PAYMENT / PAYEE	AMOUNT
11/06/21	Zurich Insurance (paid by Clerk via card, Clerk to be refunded)	£650.73
07/05/21	Refund to Cllr Evans for purchase of 2 x bench plaques from Brunel Engraving.	£156.90
07/06/21	SLCC ILCA training for Clerk (paid by Clerk via card, Clerk to be refunded)	£72.00
19/05/21	Files (stationery) for preparation of internal audit (paid by Clerk via card, Clerk to be refunded)	£6.78
21/04/21	OVW Invoice for training (Council as an Employer Module) for Cllr Woodruff	£30.00
28/6/21	Clerk salary (June) – R. Worrell	£486.33

It was resolved that the accounts be accepted for payment.

Proposed Cllr Evans Seconded Cllr James

It was resolved that a third signatory (Cllr Cerian Lodwick) should be placed on the LLCC bank account.

Proposed Cllr Charles Seconded Cllr James

Item 10 – Health and Safety Reports

- Cllr Charles – Llanybri playground possibility of recycle bins. Hen Gapel ongoing.
- Cllr Evans – Morfa knotweed issue ongoing. The grass on the Morfa is very long.
- Cllr Schelewa-Davies – No longer present due to technical problems.
- Cllr Lodwick – As previously mentioned the gate post in the Morfa playground needs fixing.
- Clerk – No issues with Coastal Path itself, however, the Scott's Bay phone is not working again.

Clerk to facilitate

Item 11 – Correspondence

- See attached sheet. The Clerk went through the key items of correspondence and highlighted the main points. See Correspondence list attached.

Clerk to sort out

SOs were suspended at 8.42 pm to discuss Items 12,13 and 14 because each would involve input from the County Councillor (CCllr Jones).

Item 12 – Beach Wheel Chairs – Service Users Agreement/To discuss and agree the management of the chairs

- CCllr Jones gave her update on situation with beach wheel chairs. The wheel chairs are in the possession of CCC, stored in Pembrey. There are several delays in getting them delivered to Llansteffan: *awaiting news on funding to build the storage shed; the daily management of the chairs will be discussed and negotiated with Florries; the SLA is not yet finalised and risk assessments are currently being confirmed.*
- CCllr Jones informed members that after establishing all the requirements of the SLA she will enter into discussion again with Florrie's to make sure that all implications have been considered and agreed. On completion of this step the County will offer LLCC a SLA which will require LLCC to support the delivery of the beach wheel chair service.
- Cllr Jones informed members that at present this might include taking responsibility for the maintenance of the storage shed, assisting with providing Florrie's with paperwork necessary for signing the wheel chairs in and out and possibly the collection of donations and forwarding to County. The role would be to support the delivery of the service that the County would be offering.
- CCllr Jones informed members that the details of all described above (in italics) will be brought to LLCC for discussion, negotiation, acceptance or refusal as and when they are complete. CCllr Jones hoped this would be very soon.
- CCC would be the owners of the beach chairs and would be solely responsible for the insurance and public liability. This pattern of partnership work is usual between two councils and is promoted as good practice.
- CCllr Jones stated LLCC had time to consider the matter. CCllr Jones stated that if the demands on Florrie's were deemed too high then then beach wheel chairs at Llansteffan beach would not happen because there is no one else to manage the chairs on a daily basis.
- CCllr Jones confirmed that the chairs were the type that could cover rough terrain and go in shallow water.

Item 13 - Use of herbicides on grass verges in Llansteffan in response to community concerns – Discussion and Agreement of use in the future.

- LLCC has received two formal complaints and a number of direct approaches about the use of herbicide in Llansteffan. In addition, CCllr Jones has been approached regarding the local authority's use of herbicides in controlling weeds in Llansteffan and Llanybri. The Clerk explained that the MOP who had approached her were frustrated and did not understand why this action had occurred when the grass, for example at the edges of the path along the Green, could just be mowed.
- CCllr Jones put forward all the information she had received from CCC in relation to this matter. In summary herbicides are used by the Grounds Maintenance team to treat weeds in hard surface areas such non-public highway roads and footpaths in housing estates and park areas, and by Highways to treat weeds that could cause tripping hazards to users such as pedestrians, mobility scooter users and disabled or elderly people, and also to prevent damage to the highway infrastructure. **CCllr Jones provided the LLCC with a detailed response from CCC which can be viewed on the LLCC website under the County Councillor's Report Tab and attached below.**
- CCllr Jones advised LLCC that if LLCC wanted to take action on this issue in a general sense (i.e., all the areas concerned) LLCC would need to make a representation to Highways before they do their Highway Asset Management plan, Darren King. If LLCC decided it was a specific concern to the Green, that would

need to be communicated to CCC. The decision would need to be made by LLCC as to how they wished to go ahead. The Chair suggested that the CCllr's report relating to the use of herbicides go on to the website and put it back on the agenda for a decision in July after members of the public and Cllrs have had time to consider the issue.

Cllrs to resolve on this matter before any representations can be made

Item 14 – County Councillor’s Report/Meeting with County Councillor

**Clerk to put on website
Clerk to note for next agenda**

- Before going through her report CCllr Jones informed LLCC that she had a request from CCC regarding overnight camping deterrent signage. CCllr Jones had sent images to Cllrs of examples of such signage that was being used in Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire. The signs are particularly restricted to overnight camping and make no reference to parking. CCllr Jones asked if LLCC could forward the legal advice it has received specifically regarding erecting signage on LLCC's own land to Steven Pilliner, Head of Transportation at Highways, so that he can proceed with planning signing for the Green without conflicting with the LLCC legal advice.

It was resolved that the Clerk would send the legal advice relating to specifically to signage to Steven Pilliner as soon as possible.

Proposed Cllr Lodwick Seconded Cllr Evans

Clerk to facilitate

- CCllr Jones went through her report, a copy of which can be found on the website. CCllr Jones spoke about the following issues:
 1. Electoral Boundaries Issue (Vital issue, direct impact on the Ward)
 2. Speeding on the Green
 3. Ash Die Back
 4. Use of herbicides
 5. Future of Lord's Park, Llanybri
 6. Second Homes
 7. Llansteffan Tourism Hotspot
 8. CCllr Training
 9. County Newsroom Link

SOs were reinstated at 9.21 pm

Item 15 - Review of the date of the July meeting – Delay the date in order to facilitate attendance by new Cllrs after the election on 22 Jul 21: Agreement

It was resolved that the July meeting could, if required, be moved to Monday 26th July 21.

Proposed Cllr Lodwick Seconded Cllr Charles

All Cllrs to note

Item 16 – Matters for Information

- Cllr Charles informed members that a MOP had approached him about the issue of 19 motor homes on the Green. He had informed the MOP that CCllr Jones was working on the issue.
- Cllr Charles complained about the lack of speed calming measures in Llanybri.
- LLCC location on Google Maps is now Llansteffan Memorial Hall.
- Clerk informed members she would be moving a load of hard plastic collected by members of the community from the beach at Ferry Point to a location where CCC would pick it up from. If the Clerk is seen doing this she is not 'fly tipping' she is trying to get it collected as CCC said they would not collect it from private land.
- There is a Foreshore Walk and Talk on Wednesday 30 th June at 7pm, meet in the CCC car park. All welcome. Clerk to put this on Pobl Llansteffan.
- Cllr Lodwick informed Members that a MOP had approached her about a stone in Old School Rd and the place name has come off. Clerk to put it on Fix My Street.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair informed the members that there have been visits by the Enforcement Officer (Dog Fouling). Their presence has been noted and is a positive step. <p>Chair closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.</p> <p>..... Date:</p> <p>Chair Cerian Lodwick</p>	<p>Clerk to put on Pobl Llansteffan Clerk to sort</p>
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RESPONSE REGARDING THE USE OF HERBICIDES IN LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS

(Following a request from myself and a forwarded enquiry from Mrs. Carol Sadler)

Following my initial enquiry, John Stockwell (Grounds and Cleansing) visited Llansteffan on the 21st May to inspect the limited areas recently treated. The herbicide used was Duel Nomix (see specification below) and he visited the grounds of Llansteffan School, The Green, Glan y Môr, Maes Griffith and Ger yr Eglwys. The maintenance team had only just cut the grassed areas, which, due to lack of rain, had turned brown. He surmised that the cut grass and treated areas had both turned brown which gave the impression that it had all been treated, which was not the case.

Ground Maintenance uses herbicide to treat weeds in hard surface areas such non-public highway roads and footpaths in housing estates and park areas.

Highways and Grounds Maintenance would be the main users of herbicide products within the authority. He referred to me Highways for further information.

Following my enquiry with Democratic Services, I received a response from the Housing Department stating that they did not use herbicides.

Following my enquiry with Highways, I received the following response from Darren King, Highway Services manager on June 16th:

"In terms of herbicide use by the authority then I can offer a response on behalf of the Transportation and Highways Division. Herbicide use in the public highway is intended to treat weeds that could cause tripping hazards and thereby affect safe passage of highway users such as pedestrians, mobility scooter users and disable or elderly people but also to prevent damage to the highway infrastructure. We primarily treat hard surface areas such as tarmac or concrete footways / carriageways which are not meant to bear vegetation. The primary herbicide product that we use is Nomix Dual which is applied via a Total Droplet Control (TDC) system, which is a low volume herbicide application system, combining pre-mixed herbicides which are easy to use and involve a targeted application, i.e. only applying herbicide to the weeds. The ready to use herbicide packs connect directly to the applicators which is a sealed system thus eliminating any risk to the operator from mixing chemicals and protecting the environment by avoiding spillages. This system significantly reduces the risk of contact with the eyes/face of our operatives due to its low volume application system. Furthermore, Nomix Dual is not classified as a skin or eye irritant and, as it's designed to be low drift, will not generate breathable droplets in a light breeze so safeguarding operatives and public alike. Nomix DUAL is applied by our operatives on hard surface areas only, i.e. tarmac and concrete, not soil, which are not intended to bear vegetation. Herbicide is applied directly to the weeds and this targeted approach significantly reduces the volume of product used as compared to 'blanket' spraying techniques which we do not undertake. Our supplier Nomix further advise that DUAL is not hazardous to operators, animals or the general public, making it a safe and effective product for use in public areas. Our operatives are given annual operator refresher training, by a BASIS qualified advisor and our TDC lance applicators are serviced annually to ensure they perform effectively and efficiently throughout the season.

As well as our annual treatment of weeds in hard surface areas we also have annual programmes of treatment of Japanese Knotweed which is primarily found in highway verge areas. Japanese Knotweed growing on private land can also affect adjacent highway land and our teams are vigilant of this and will

contact landowners if there is a threat of the invasive plant spreading into the highway. Again, our teams are fully trained in the application of this herbicide.

With respect to alternative methods of weed control, we have looked at alternatives, but these have proved to be impractical, ineffective, expensive, and present more dangers to operatives and general public. Use of Nomix DUAL enables us to reduce the number of applications per season, and achieve an overall reduction of Glyphosate applied per season up to 70% vs. conventional herbicides. Furthermore, I would advise that we have reduced our annual herbicide usage by 50% over the past couple of years and also actively minimise the use of herbicide. We have also trialled alternative herbicide products however DUAL has been the most effective means of controlling weeds in hard surface areas which are not meant to bear weeds.

In general terms on the use of glyphosate, I would draw your attention to the attached guidance we have been given by the Welsh Government and our supplier Nomix which confirms that this product meets strict regulatory standards and does not pose a threat to human or animal health and the environment. The regulatory authorities undertake ongoing scientific research to make sure such chemicals are safe to use and have no long-lasting effect on the environment. Glyphosate has been subject to safety reviews by the EU and the HSE, and all glyphosate products currently on sale within the EU are deemed safe to human health. The HSE has previously stated that "The UK has a rigorous approvals process for pesticides. The main aim of the process is to protect the health of people, creatures and plants and to safeguard the environment. All companies wishing to obtain approval for their pesticides are required to submit substantial data dossiers to support their applications. The extensive range of studies undertaken on pesticides is aimed at establishing acceptable safety for people, animals and the wider environment. This process has been applied to glyphosate which has been approved as safe and efficacious for a number of years now. In addition to the UK process, all pesticides are subject to the regular EU wide initial approval and review programme for active substances. The review programme makes sure that the data supporting their approvals meets modern safety standards. Neither the EU's assessment of glyphosate as an active substance nor the UK's assessments of applications for authorisation of products which contain it have found the substance unacceptable for use."

With respect to our operational policies these are due to be developed shortly in line with our Highway Asset Management Plan".

Carys Jones
20.6.21