

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024

1. **Present:** Cllrs D. Roberts (Acting Chair) H. Williams, J. Jones, C. Atkins, S. Altman County Cllr C. Jones
2. **Apologies:** Cllr T. Griffiths (Chair)
3. **Appointment of Chair:** It was proposed by Cllr D. Roberts and seconded by Cllr C. Atkins that, following the sad passing of the current Vice Chair, the late Cllr R Jeremy, Cllr T. Griffiths be appointed to remain as Chair for the year commencing May 2024.
 - a. Cllr Griffiths was unable to be present at the meeting but had previously agreed to accept the office and will sign the necessary declaration at the next meeting.
 - b. Cllr Griffiths, had written a letter of thanks (appendix A), which was read out by the Clerk.
4. **Appointment of Vice-Chair:** It was proposed by Cllr C. Atkins and seconded by Cllr H. Williams that Cllr D. Roberts be appointed to serve as Vice-Chair for the coming year.
5. **Appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:** It was resolved that Susan Holmes continue in post.
6. **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** It was resolved that LHP continue as the Council's auditors.
7. **Appointment of members to attend Once Voice Wales meetings:** Any member, as available.
8. **Sub Committees:** It was resolved that sub committees be established for specific duties as necessary with membership and number resolved by a full Council meetings. Such committees would not normally have plenary powers but would rather report back to the full Council.
9. **Delegated Powers:** It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to ask signatories to sign cheques for expected payments at times when there is no monthly meeting with the expenditure subsequently reported back to Council for their information. It was also resolved that the Chair would have deciding powers if the issue or item is of a minor nature, particularly if such matters involve payment from the Chairman's expenses.
10. **Council Policies:** It was resolved that the existing policies are relevant for the present, but agreed that a full review of all policies be undertaken at the July meeting. The Clerk will contact One Voice Wales for best practice advice.

Appendix (A)

Brynderi
Llangain
Carmarthen
Carms

13th May 2024

To Members of Llangain Community Council

Please accept my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the AGM and May 2024 meeting of Llangain Community Council. I would like to thank all members of the Council for their thoughts and support over this past 12 months. Also my thanks to our Clerk Sue for her assistance and diligent work.

It is with deepest regret that we have lost one of our long serving members, Mr Roland Jeremy. He has been a loyal and stalwart member of the Council for many years and has been the forerunner in many of the Council's projects that have been successful due to his unfailing dedication and support. As you all know he is survived by his wife, Linda and daughter Claudia who live in the village and son Simon who has a professional practice in Carmarthen Town.

Roland was an out and out Carmarthen boy who is sadly missed by all who knew him.

My thanks to Carys our County Councillor for her endeavors on behalf of our Council notwithstanding the personal loss she's had to deal with this last 12 months.

Finally with regards to the aim of restoring the hall, I have had discussions and due to time scale of grants available it look as if the restoration of the hall as opposed to a complete rebuild is the more attractive alternative and possibly easier to achieve.

My thanks to Mr Wyn Gruffudd, Mr John Starzewski and Mr Wayne James for the hours they have put into attempting to bring things to fruition on behalf of the community in general.

T B Griffiths

Chairman

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024.

1. Present:

Cllrs D Roberts (Vice Chair), C Atkins, J Jones, H Williams, S Altman and County, Cllr C Jones.

2. Apologies: Cllr T Griffiths (Chair)

3. Minutes of last meeting:

Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkins, seconded by Cllr Williams

4. Matters Arising

2896 – Tarmac repair work on the left at the lower end of the S bends at Penycoed double bend as you leave the village has now been carried out.

2899 – As the tree is on Carmarthenshire County Council land, permission is required for felling. Cllr Williams shared a Tree Risk Inspection (Appendix B) report produced by Jason Winter, Tree Safety Office from Carmarthenshire County Council which recommended that the Community Council carry out formative pruning as the tree has a high aesthetic value and poses no obvious risk. In his correspondence, he stated that “requests to remove trees from Council managed land will only be considered when it is necessary to alleviate an unacceptable risk to people or property, or to abate a legal nuisance”.

It was therefore resolved to follow these recommendations but to ensure that the pruning is sufficient to mitigate the nuisance to Mrs. Eileen Davies of 2 Ger-y-Capel. The Council will write to Mrs Davies explaining the situation. Cllr Williams will liaise with Cllr J Jones and engage the services of Teifi Tree Services to carry out the work.

5. Correspondence

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Email from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding Councillors Code of Conduct training
- Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

6. Planning Applications

None

7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2901 – The following payments were approved:-

Susan Holmes	£ 855.06	Salary & expenses, Jan/Feb
LHP Accountants	£ 192.00	2023/24 Internal Audit fee

8. County Councillor's Report

County Cllr C Jones urged the Community Council to engage with the Welsh Government review of the 20mph speed restrictions (see item 2902) and informed the Council that the wooden stile at the Coedlan Coedmor end on Footpath 25/10 is being removed by the county footpath team and replaced by a few wooden steps.

9. Any Other Business

2902 – Cllr J Jones had requested that the community be made aware of the Welsh Government review of the 20mph speed restrictions. The Clerk shared a document (Appendix C) that she had produced giving details of how to take part in the review which will be placed on the village noticeboards. County Cllr C Jones agreed to share this on the Pentref Llangain Facebook page.

2903 – Cllr Roberts presented a document regarding the Sports and Recreation Association (Park Committee) (Appendix D). It was pointed out that there are two distinct pieces of land that make up the park, the football field and the land beyond which is owned by the Association, although not registered at the Land Registry, and the play area and tennis courts which are owned by Carmarthenshire County Council. The Council discussed the two recommendations contained within the document and resolved the following.

6.1 That the Community Council takes responsibility for the future of the park including the tennis courts, football pitch and the land beyond, and liaises with Carmarthenshire County Council to effect this, including receipt of the Section 106 monies from the new housing development. This was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Atkins and it was resolved to accept this recommendation unanimously.

6.2 That the Council contacts the former officers and Trustees of the Association and asks them to meet to discuss the situation described in the document, and agree a sustainable way forward, if necessary taking legal advice. This was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Altman and it was resolved to accept this recommendation unanimously.

Cllr Roberts and County Cllr C Jones will meet with Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss a lease for the County Council owned land.

Cllr Williams, Cllr Roberts and the Clerk will arrange to meet with members of the old committee that are still in the area to begin the process of trying to secure the future of the park.

2904 – Cllr J Jones mentioned the condition of Church Road, with large potholes, damage to the hedgerow and large amounts of mud on the road. He also reported flooding along Heol Smyrna which County Cllr C Jones is aware of and is already following up.

2905 – Defibrillator damage - Mr Vincent Shambrook, the transport manager for Morris Travels Ltd., the bus company in Carmarthen, reported that the defibrillator cabinet had been damaged by one of the daily drivers while reversing into the bus bay on the hall frontage. The company wished to replace it and apologised for the incident and for any inconvenience caused.

Cllr Williams took up the issue by contacting Claudia Jeremy to retrieve the paper work and literature that the late Cllr Jeremy had, as the former guardian of the defibrillator. He then contacted Nick Ozzati, the person that had previously offered advice when the defibrillator had been bought in 2018. He strongly advised that a more robust and improved cabinet be acquired which was more user friendly. This advice was backed up by Marc Gower, the new Save A Life Cymru (SALC) Community Co-ordinator for South West Wales. Morris Travels Ltd have agreed and ordered the new cabinet.

There was further discussion regarding a new guardian for the defibrillator going forward. County Cllr C Jones explained how the Llansteffan & Llanybri had a contract with a company called Life Support Training and Safety in Gowerton to oversee their defibrillators. The Clerk will make enquiries including the possibility of having them to erect the new cabinet. Cllr Williams will ask Marc Gower regarding fitting too.

2906 – Cllr Williams referred to the funeral of Cllr Roland Jeremy on Tuesday 26th March at Elim Chapel, Ffynnonddrain, Carmarthen, where he had been a faithful lifelong member, holding the role of deacon for several years and the office of secretary in latter years.

The Council was represented by the Chair, wearing his official insignia, with both the Clerk and Cllr John Jones attending and Cllr Williams, who had the privilege of taking part in the religious service. County Cllr C Jones was also present.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th July 2024.

Appendix B

TREE RISK INSPECTION

Site: Llangain Cross SA33 5AQ

Date: 17th April 2024

Time on Site: 10 minutes

Inspector: Jason Winter DipArb. PTI

Weather: Sunny

Inspection Interval: 2 years

Habitat Potential: Low

Site Information	
Site Use	Grass verge adjacent to busy road junction. Land is showing as part of the highway network
Visitor Numbers	Unknown
Notes	Tree inspection required due to request by Community Council to remove tree. CC are concerned about the limited space the tree has and its proximity to the bus shelter and broadband cabinet. They are also concerned the tree is a danger to adjacent residential property. <i>This report is valid for the inspection interval timeframe specified above. It excludes deliberate and accidental harm, severe weather events such as damaging wind and pests and diseases which can all have a rapid detrimental impact. Trees are dynamic living structures so inherently are deemed to all pose a certain level of risk, a calculated approach measuring risk against amenity and environmental benefits has been adopted. Trees not included in this report are deemed to pose an acceptable level of risk during the survey interval period. Consult the Authorities Tree Management Strategy for further information.</i>

Tree / Tag No.	Intervention Work Required	Timeframe
T.1	Management Recommendations: Carry out formative pruning every 4-5 years to contain size.	12 months

Tree No.	Species	Comments	Failure Foreseeable Y/N	Risk Intervention Required Y/N	Timeframe
T.1	Oak <i>Quercus sp.</i>	Single stem young tree which has been planted in grass verge adjacent to road junction. Good buttress flare, surface roots extending from buttress on north side. Crown has previously been drastically reduced (pollarded), good reaction growth around pruning wounds. Healthy Crown with good bud density, no obvious tree risk features of concern were observed. Tree has a high aesthetic value being in a prominent location surrounded by residential properties. Target: Residential property	No Risk Rating: Low	No Management Recommendations: Carry out formative pruning every 4-5 years to contain size.	12 months



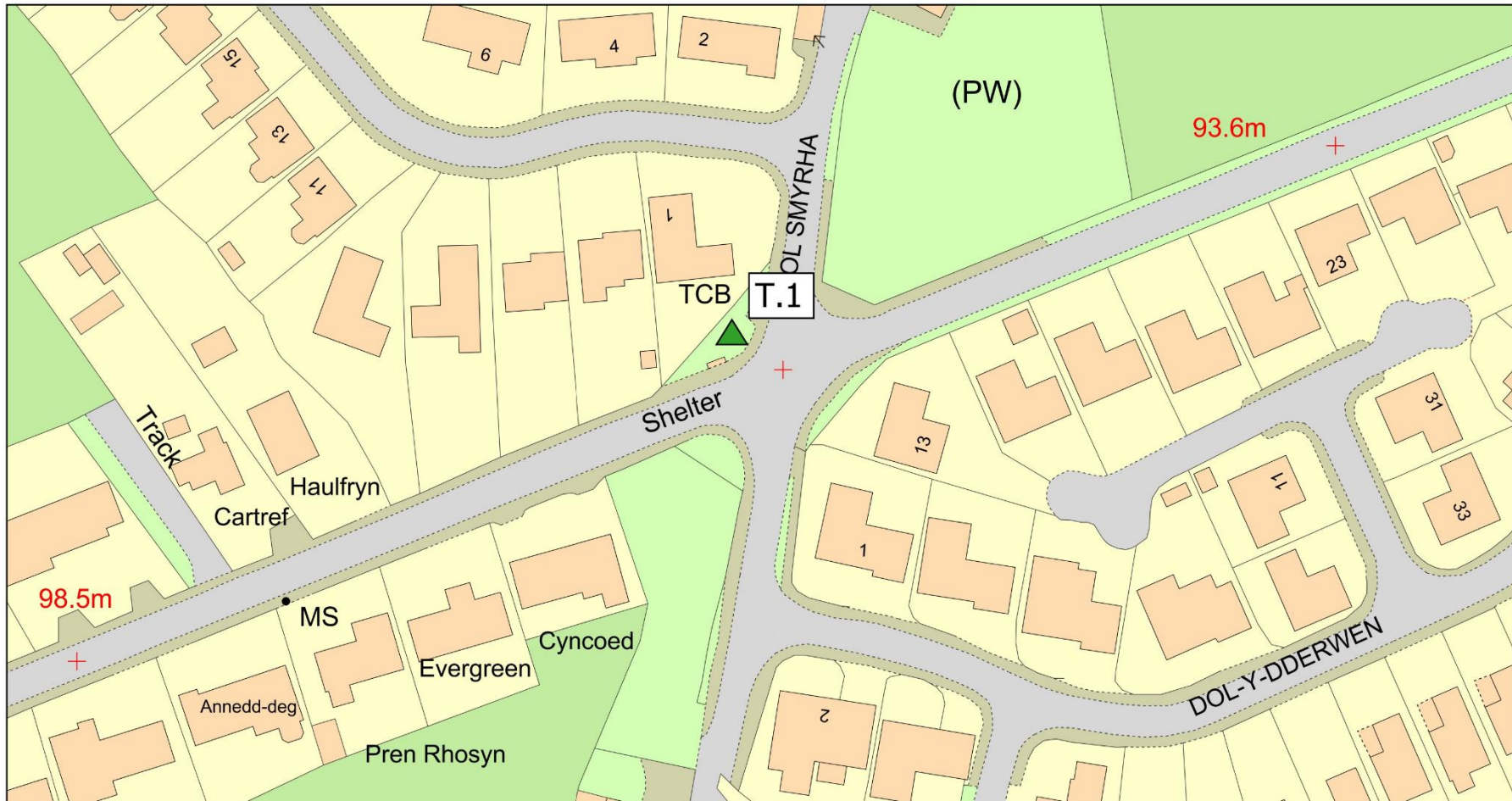
Llangain Cross

0 100 200 m



Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin,
Parc Myrddin, Waun Dew,
Caerfyrddin, SA31 1HQ

Carmarthenshire County Council,
Parc Myrddin, Richmond Terrace,
Carmarthen, SA31 1HQ





The speed limit on most roads in residential and built-up areas changed to 20mph in September 2023.

We are revising **the exceptions guidance that highway authorities use** to decide which roads should be 30mph. This should be ready by July 2024.

We want you to **let your highway authority know** if you think a specific road should:

- change from 20mph to 30mph
- change from 30mph to 20mph
- stay at 20mph

When giving feedback you must:

- be clear and precise about which section of road you are talking about
- give reasons for your views

They will review your feedback and the new exceptions guidance and consider if the speed limits on any of the roads (or section of roads) that they are responsible for should change. This is likely to take several months.

Let your council know where 20mph should be targeted by emailing 20mphspeedlimits@cararthenshire.gov.uk

Or go online and complete the following survey

<https://www.cararthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/road-safety/20mph-speed-limits/>

Appendix D

Update on Sports & Rec Association

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This paper has been compiled to inform Llangain Community Council on the current situation relating to the Llangain Sports & Recreation Society as at May 2024.

2.0 Legacy Position

2.1 The Association ceased to operate a number of years ago, and the Bank Account, operated by HSBC was closed.

2.2 The Association worked to a constitution that stated that if it ceased to operate its assets should be transferred to a local charity. It appears that the Association was not discontinued in line with the directions of the terms of reference.

2.3 The legal status of the Association is unclear, it is not registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners, but it appears to have run like a charity.

2.4 The land formerly operated as a football field is owned by the Association but it is not registered with the Land Registry.

2.5 A document existed between the Association and Carmarthenshire County Council to lease the land currently occupied by the children's park and the tennis courts (plus access to the football field). This document had not been signed or sealed, by either party.

3.0 Impact of Legacy Position

3.1 No legally defined trail exists between the Association and the body of volunteers who have recently attempted to recommence its work.

3.2 The new body is unable to create a bank account, because no legally defined trail exists and because there is uncertainty over the legal status of the Association.

3.3 Legal advice is required to assist in addressing points 3.1 and 3.2 above but the body of volunteers have no available funds or bank account to receive any funds that may become available. Informal discussions have been held with a member of a local legal practice and advised that no local firm would have such expertise, and it would be very costly. This fits with the experience of the Hall Committee who have faced a similar problem and have had to seek legal advice from Cardiff.

3.4 The Community Council are currently paying for the insurance of the park and football field to allow the facility to remain open.

4.0 Progress to date

4.1 Contact has been made with Carmarthenshire County Council who after some deliberation have agreed in principle to have a new agreement drawn up for the use of the park, tennis courts and access to the football field. A site meeting has been arranged with members of the Education Department, The School Head, Cllr Jones and Cllr Roberts. This will be held on Friday May 24th.

4.2. Section 106 monies of circa £24,000 are available from the new development adjacent to Dol y Dderwen to invest in leisure facilities within the village. These monies could be used together with funds available to Education to make improvements to the park.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 As no legally defined trail exists between the former Association and the group of volunteers, the latter currently have no legal status.

5.2 As the Group of volunteers have no legal status, they cannot set up a bank account, register the land, sign any agreements with third parties, receive section 106 monies or take responsibility for the facilities.

5.3 The Association was not properly discontinued, or powers transferred to new Officers and Trustees, then the former Officers and Trustees are responsible to ensure this occurs, as they are the only individuals with the legal powers to do so.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the Community Council takes responsibility for the future of the Park, Tennis Courts and access to the football field, and liaises with Carmarthenshire County Council to effect this, including receipt of the Section 106 monies.

6.2 That the Council contacts the former officers and Trustees of the Association and asks them to meet to discuss the situation described above and agree a sustainable way forward, if necessary seeking legal advice.