

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024.

Before the meeting commenced, Cllr Griffiths welcomed John Starzewski and Wayne James as new Community Councillors and the necessary paperwork was completed for their official co-option.

1. Present: Cllrs T Griffiths (Chair), D Roberts, C Atkins, H Williams, S Altman, J Starzewski, W James and County, Cllr C Jones.

2. Apologies: Cllr J Jones

3. Minutes of last meetings:

AGM – 15th May 2024 – proposed as correct by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Atkins

Regular meeting – 15th May 2024 – proposed as correct by Cllr Atkins, seconded by Cllr Altman

Extraordinary meeting – 12th June 2024 – proposed as correct by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Atkins

4. Matters Arising

2899 – Oak tree – The Clerk has written 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 in the autumn, as now is not an appropriate time for pruning.

2902 –Welsh Government review of the 20mph speed restrictions – The Clerk displayed the document informing the community of the review has been displayed on the notice boards since the end of May. Comments on the review will be accepted until the end of July and it was decided that the Community Council should respond to the review as an entity.

A long discussion took place regarding the safety of the new speed limit. Cllr Roberts suggested that few people were adhering to the 20mph and more cars were overtaking unsafely, causing more danger to road users. Cllr James suggested the issue was around enforcement rather than the speed limit being unsuitable for the village. The majority of Councillors felt that a 30mph speed limit would be more appropriate but it was pointed out by Cllr C Jones that the review did not appear to allow for a choice of speed limit, rather a revocation of the 20mph which would result in the limit being returned to 40mph. Cllr C Jones also spoke of the planning condition that was imposed on the developers of the new houses to pay for the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. However, this condition was removed after the 20mph limit was introduced and planning rules did not allow for it to be reinstated.

Following a lengthy discourse, Cllr Roberts proposed that the Council write in support of removing the 20mph restriction and following **a vote which saw 4 in favour and 3 against it was resolved that the Clerk would respond to the review accordingly.** If there is an opportunity, the majority view that the limit be 30mph should be mentioned in the response.

2903 – Sports & Recreation Committee update – Cllr Roberts reported that he had attempted to make contact with the three known trustees but had only received a reply from one of them. He explained that the group required 5 trustees to be quorate and that, with only three, it's unlikely that the committee could be easily dissolved and ownership transferred to the Community Council. He asked the Clerk to make enquiries with One Voice Wales and possibly CAVS for advice about how we might take this forward. He also reported that he and Cllr C Jones had met with Andrew Owen, Assistant Valuer at Carmarthenshire County Council, on 20th June 2024 and it seem that they are willing to enter negotiations about a new lease for the play park and tennis court area. Cllr C Jones

reiterated the need to progress this project in order to claim the section 106 money, which should now have been released to the County Council as building work has commenced.

2904 – Condition of Church Road – temporary repairs have been carried out in Church Road with a longer term solution being scheduled for when the appropriate team is available.

2905 – Defibrillator damage – New cabinet is now in place and the defibrillator is now fully operational again. Cllr Williams has arranged with Tony Wall from Saundersfoot, who is a retired paramedic and who voluntarily manages a number of defibrillators in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. He was recommended to us by Mr Marc Gower of Save a Life Cymru (SALC), to take over as the nominated person responsible for the ongoing management of the defibrillator. There is no charge for this service but Cllr Williams suggested that since Mr Wall is a Community First Responder for Tenby and Saundersfoot, the Council might wish to consider an annual donation to either that charity or towards Tony Wall's fuel cost for travelling, as a gesture of goodwill.

AGM item 10 – Full review of Community Council policies and procedures – the Clerk presented a report (attached) which included a 'best practice' list from One Voice Wales. Cllr Roberts proposed that the Clerk works towards ensuring Llangain Community Council policies and procedures are in line with this list, concentrating on those considered essential and **it was resolved to increase the Clerk hours from 6 to 8 for a period of six months to enable this work to be carried out, at which point there will be a further review of our position.**

5. Correspondence

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Letter from Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport regarding 20mph speed restrictions
- Letter to Mrs Eileen Davies of 1 Ger-y-Capel regarding the oak tree at Smyrna crossroads.
- Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

6. Planning Applications

PL/05647 – Llwyn Y Celyn, Llangynog Road, Johnstown, Carmarthen, SA33 5BL

Outcome on change of use on an approximately 2 acre field from agricultural use to a secure area for safe off lead dog recreation – Full permission has been granted.

7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2907 – The following payments were approved:-

Susan Holmes	£ 855.06	Salary & expenses, May/June
Jamie King	£ 100.00	Website hosting
Emyr Morgan (Haydn Williams)	£ 50.00	Reimbursement for installing the new defibrillator cabinet
Haydn Williams	£ 19.74	Gift and card for centenarian celebration for Warrant Officer Geoffrey Harwood

8. County Councillor's Report

With a planned review of education services across the country about to take place, Carmarthenshire County Council has just appointed Mr Owain Lloyd as the new Director of Education.

9. Any Other Business

2908 – Cllr Starzewski reported that he had been in contact with Gwydion Wynne of Y Glyn in the Brook (lower Llangain), who is developing the new Memorial Hall website and that could be a possible merge of this new site with the community website (www.llangain.org) if desirable.

2909 – Cllr Williams reported that the high pressure gas pipeline marker near the entrance of Coed Dylan opposite Old Castle entrance has been damaged. He has reported it to the Wales & West Utilities based in Newport, Gwent and has been informed by the area manager that a replacement is being arranged.

2910 – Cllr Williams reported on the the birthday celebrations of the first centenarian in the village in living memory. Warrant Officer Geoffrey Harwood of the Beeches (Chweched – Six Roads cottage) was 100 on the 19th June, 2024. Both the Chair and Cllr Williams visited him to deliver a card and letter from the Council along with a gift of a boxed bottle of whisky. Geoffrey served in the RAF as navigator and wireless operator during the Second World War. It was a pleasant occasion with an official photograph taken which will appear in the Carmarthen Journal in due course. The Chair thanked Cllr Williams for making the necessary arrangements.

2911 – Cllr Williams reported on the upcoming 95th birthday of Mr David Rees, MBE of 3 Dol-y-Dderwen on the 10th September 2024. An official letter and gift will be given via a visit in line with the 95th Birthday recognition policy passed at the Millennium in the year 2000.

2912 – Cllr Williams reported on the Christmas Tree Lights at Smyrna crossroads. The transformer is now 20 years old, problematic and not user friendly. He has been advised to consider a move to LED lights with smaller transformers and significantly reduced running costs. He was asked to explore the potential costs of two sets of 100 clear lights and tw sets of multi coloured lights in preparation for Christmas 2024. Since Roger Jones of Carmarthen Lighting, living in Danyrhiw in the Brook area of lower Llangain donated the original sets of lights in 2004, Cllr Williams suggested asking his advice.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th September 2024.