

## LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**1. Present:** Cllrs. T Griffiths (Chair), H Williams, J Starzewski, C Atkins, W James, County Cllr C Jones

**2. Apologies:** Cllrs S Altman, J Jones and D Roberts

**3. Minutes of last meetings:** Proposed: Cllr H Williams. Seconded: Cllr C Atkins

### **4. Matters Arising**

2899 – Oak tree – Cllr Williams reported work likely to be carried out in November/December.

2902 – Welsh Government review of the 20mph speed restrictions – Clerk distributed a copy of the email sent to Carmarthenshire County Council which was met with approval.

2903 – Sports & Recreation Committee update – Cllr Roberts not present, so no report this time. Carry forward to next meeting.

AGM item 10 – Llangain Community Council policies and procedures review – Clerk reported this has not yet started but she plans to have started this before the scheduled November meeting.

2908 – Memorial Hall website – Cllr Starzewski reported the site is now live (<https://llangainmemorialhall.wales> or <https://neuaddgoffallangain.cymru>), with just the populating of events to be completed. He suggested a potential link between this new site and the existing [www.llangain.org](http://www.llangain.org) site, which would need to be bi-directional. This can be revisited at a later date.

2909 – Damage to high pressure gas pipeline marker near the entrance of Coed Dylan – Cllr Williams reported that this work has not yet been carried out.

2911 – 95th birthday of Mr David Rees, MBE of 3 Dol-y-Dderwen on the 10th September 2024 – Cllr Williams reported that he had presented flowers and a letter on behalf of Cllr Griffiths and the Community Council, which were gratefully received.

2912 – Christmas Tree Lights at Smyrna crossroads – Cllr Williams reported that Roger Jones from Carmarthen Lighting no longer supplies this type of lighting so he will make enquiries elsewhere.

### **5. Correspondence**

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Letter to CCC 20mph Team regarding the review of 20mph speed limit on B4312
- Letter to Mr David Rees, MBE of 3 Dol-y-Dderwen for his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Letter from Linda Weaver asking for a donation and an invitation to MacMillan coffee morning

### **6. Planning Applications**

None

## 7. Finance/Approval of Payments

2913 – The following payments were approved:-

|                 |          |                                                                    |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Susan Holmes    | £ 855.06 | Salary & expenses, July/August                                     |
| One Voice Wales | £ 80.00  | New Councillor Induction training for Cllr Starzewski & Cllr James |
| Jamie King      | £ 281.00 | Councillor emails and migration of website to .cymru               |
| Audit Wales     | £ 280.00 | Audit fee 2022/23                                                  |
| Haydn Williams  | £ 10.00  | Flowers for Mr David Rees                                          |

2914 – The Clerk presented spending vs budget spreadsheet. Cllr James asked for timing of projected spends to be added for next time, in line with best practice as suggested on recent OVW Finance training.

2915 – The Clerk reminded Councillors that she would be preparing a draft budget for 2025/26, to be presented at the November meeting. She asked that Councillors consider spending requirements and email her with potential projects/budget suggestions.

Cllr Starzewski recommended that we produce a written plan for spending, in line with best practice. Cllr Griffiths explained that, as a very small Community Council, the budget itself has always been, in effect, this plan.

Cllr James asked about maintenance of the bus shelter at Smyrna crossroads. Cllr Williams stated that this was the responsibility of the County Council.

It was agreed to hold a meeting in October to enable further discussions to take place before the draft budget is produced.

## 8. County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Jones reported that she has been appointed as Cabinet Member, responsible for Rural Affairs, Planning and Community Cohesion. As cabinet members are not allowed to sit on committees, she is no longer a member of the planning committee. She has started working with the Nutrient Management Board regarding phosphorus levels in the River Tywi. The area covered is soon to be extended down from Abergwili to include the lower Tywi (SSSI).

The Local Development Plan assessment is under way and the budget consultation starts in December. It is expected that there will be difficult decisions to be made, especially regarding education and social care.

Pobl Group Ltd have launched a consultation regarding at £17k Community Benefit Fund which is available as a result of the new housing development. This could be delivered as a direct financial contribution or could include benefits in kind e.g. building work. She has arranged a meeting with Pobl, to include key stakeholders. These will be Cllr Starzewski (Community Council), Cllr Roberts (Sports & Recreation committee) and Wyn Gruffydd (Memorial Hall committee). It isn't yet entirely clear what this money can be spent on and whether it is coming from Pobl (the developer) or Jones Brothers (the contractor), but this should be clarified at the meeting. Cllr James suggested a 'village plan' was required and that perhaps it should be spent to employ consultants to produce this. Cllr Griffiths expressed concern about this being value for money.

## 9. Any Other Business

2916 – Councillor email addresses and [www.llangain.org](http://www.llangain.org) website – The Clerk presented a proposal from Jamie King regarding the migration of the current Llangain.org website over to Llangain.cymru and, at the same time, provide Councillors with official Council email addresses, as identified as best practice by Cllr Starzewski. The proposal was accepted and the process will begin immediately, with

a period of cross over between the two domains to enable time for the current [clerk@llangain.org](mailto:clerk@llangain.org) email address to be migrated successfully.

2917 – In the absence of Cllr Roberts, the Clerk brought the information requested by him at the last meeting regarding Community Council options for involvement in managing community assets. One Voice Wales provided NALC (National Association of Local Councils) guidance which gave some clarification about how the Community Council might be involved with both the Park and the Memorial Hall. She will distribute these papers to Councillors via email and further discussion can take place at a future meeting with Cllr Roberts leading the conversation.

At this point Mrs Claire Sell, attending as a member of the public but also as a member of the Memorial Hall committee, said that the current committee is struggling to keep the hall solvent and help from the Community Council would be very much appreciated. The Clerk suggested that a formal approach needs to be made from the Memorial Hall Committee, for consideration by the Council. County Cllr Jones cautioned that there are many things to consider when attempting to bring all assets under Council responsibility and that potential conflicts of interest can arise if each asset is not protected individually.

2918 – Cllr Starzewski presented his paper on Community Engagement (attached). Key points are

- Consultation; building upon the previous community survey
- Identification of priorities
- A plan of action
- Identification of funding opportunities
- Implementation; a mechanism to ensure project delivery
- Feedback
- Measuring outcomes; quantifying impact and how objectives were met

County Cllr Jones suggested, and all agreed, that we wait for the response to the Pobl consultation, which should be available before the end of this year.

Discussion took place around the struggle to engage the community, effective communication and the geographic area we should be targeting. The Clerk suggested setting up a mailing list of residents to enable direct communication. Cllr Griffiths cautioned that not everyone is comfortable with electronic communication.

2919 – Cllr Williams reported that the sign, a short distance up from Church Road junction had been damaged when the hedges were cut but an email to Ian Thomas at Carmarthenshire County Council had resulted in a prompt repair.

2920 – Cllr Williams reported that there is a large pothole behind the house at Penycoed requiring attention.

2921 – Cllr Williams reported that he will pursue the remedial work and painting of the bus shelter by the Memorial Hall with Mr Dennis Halpin as resolved previously (Minute 2890, November 2023).

2922 – Cllr Williams reported that a new storage case had been delivered from Fattorini in Birmingham for the Council Insignia but he had not yet been able to check if it is suitable.

2923 – County Cllr Jones reported that the All Wales Ploughing Match will no longer be held at *Cwrt Malle* due to the fields being too wet.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.