

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.

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

2. Apologies: Cllr S Altman

Before the meeting commenced, the Clerk informed the Councillors of the resignation of Cllr S Altman, with immediate effect. The Clerk will write a message of thanks for her time given to the Community Council.

3. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed as correct by Cllr C Atkins and seconded by Cllr H Williams.

4. Matters Arising

2903 – Sports & Recreation Committee update – Cllr Roberts reported on the meeting with representative trustees of the Memorial Hall Committee and correspondence with those who had tried to form a new Sports & Recreation committee, regarding the Llangain Sports and Recreation land issues (as presented to the Community Council in November 2024).

Neither group felt best placed to take on registration of the land, with both feeling that the Community Council would be the most appropriate body to take this matter forward.

A short discussion included a suggestion to seek advice from One Voice Wales, the need for community consultation on what to do with the land, once registered, and the need to bear in mind the potential increase in number of children in the village as a result of the new housing development.

The Chair asked for this decision to be deferred until the March meeting, to which Cllr Roberts and Cllr Starzewski will present a formal proposal for consideration.

2909 – Gas pipeline at Coed Dylan – marker was replaced on 21st January 2025.

2912 – Christmas tree lights – the new lights worked well. Cllr Williams had to send one set back but kept the other two. The third set will be replaced in time for next Christmas.

2915 & 2925 – Draft budget – *to be dealt with under Precept*

2822 – Insignia storage case – Cllr Griffiths thanked Cllr Williams for his work in replacing the case which is now large enough to accommodate the insignia for many years to come.

2926 – Tarmacadam work along Heol Smyrna from Ystradwalter to Wauncorgam Fawr junction – an email was sent, also detailing the severe damage to Church Road on the S bend between Yr Hen Eglwys and Clunmawr farm.

2930 – Councillors allowances – The Clerk asked Cllr J Jones if he wished to accept or decline his £152 allowance. He declined and duly signed an opt out form.

2931 – Safety inspection of play park equipment – the Clerk reported that there had been no further updates from Liam Cole at Carmarthenshire County Council. She and County Cllr C Jones will follow up with another email but if this was not acted on promptly a formal letter of complaint should be sent to the County Council.

Cllr Roberts also raised the question as to whether the Community Council had made a reasonable attempt to make the play equipment inaccessible. The Cllrs all agreed that by taping off the entire area and displaying a sign warning people to keep out the Council had taken all reasonable precautions.

2932 – Request for financial assistance from Llangain Memorial Hall Committee – *to be dealt with under Precept*

5. Precept

2935 – The Clerk presented the previously circulated budget, as prepared by the sub-committee, updated to include the most up to date spending and this year's Tax Base figure.

There followed a lengthy discussion which showed broad support for the need to increase the precept to enable the Council to fulfil both its current and potential future duties but there was concern that the proposed 91% increase was too much, particularly when added to the 10% increase in council tax expected from the County Council.

The conversation included the need to consider potential legal costs in relation to the acquisition of the Sports & Recreation land, the £2.5k annual maintenance grant requested by the Memorial Hall committee and the need to understand what the community actually wants.

The sub-committee had distinguished between statutory and discretionary costs and stressed, once again, the need to have a plan going forward.

Whilst there was some disagreement about whether or not the hall should be financially supported, and whether there was a need for quarterly newsletters, there was agreement that some money be added to the budget to support community assets.

Cllr James asked County Cllr C Jones about the Section 106 money, available for recreation in the village, and was informed that this had been applied for by the Memorial Hall. The remaining Section 106 money was specifically for education and this had already been allocated.

At the end of the discussion Cllr Griffiths proposed to accept the proposed budget with the following amendments.

- Remove the £6,000 for a 'Masterplan'
- Reduce the amount for Corporate Support Needs from £3,000 to £1,500
- Include £2,500 to support community assets

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Atkins.

A vote followed which agreed to this proposal, with six votes for and one against.

The councillors then discussed the Reserve and agreed that the council should plan to maintain it at its current level.

It was therefore resolved to adopt the budget as presented but including the above amendment, and to set the precept as suggested in option 1, which will involve a 52% increase to £19,639.00 which equates to £65.26 per annum for a band D household. (Appendix 1)

6. Donations

2936 – The Clerk presented the previously circulated list of donations from previous years for discussion, including suggestions for 2024/25, in line with the amount budgeted, that is similar to the amounts given in 2023/24.

It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Atkins that we accept the suggested amounts. A vote followed which unanimously agreed to this proposal.

It was therefore resolved to make donation payments as shown in the 2024/25 column of Appendix 2.

7. Correspondence

- Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk Magazine
- Clerks & Councils Direct magazine
- Request for support from Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Request for support from Radio Glangwilli
- Other items of correspondence sent to Councillors since the last meeting, for information.

8. Planning Applications

2937 - **PL/08669** The Grange, Heol Smyrna, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5BH

Occupancy of property known as The Grange as a residential dwelling (C3) without compliance with an agricultural occupancy condition (Condition 5 of Outline Planning Permission Ref No. D4/1715/15 & Condition 3 of Reserved Matters Approval D4/1901/15)

2938 - **PL/08679** Gilfach, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5AU

Construction of concrete store for slurry storage in line with SSAFO regulations

2939 – **PL/08739** Hendy, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5AU

Erection of agricultural building to cover existing cattle yards and associated works.

Cllr James commented on PL/08739 that the applicant had answered that none of the land to which the application relates is, or is part of an agricultural holding. Whilst this has no material bearing on the application, it was agreed that the Clerk make the planning office aware of this mistake.

9. Finance/Approval of Payments

2940– The following payments were approved:-

Susan Holmes	£ 903.95	Clerk salary Nov/Dec
Susan Holmes	£ 20.37	Tape & sign for closing off the playpark
Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 110.00	Annual membership
Cllr Haydn Williams	£ 220.00	Dennis Halpin for work on the bus shelter
Cllr Haydn Williams	£ 24.97	Christmas lights
Llwyndu Farm Ltd	£ 78.00	Village Christmas tree

10. County Councillor's Report

No report this month

11. Any Other Business

2941 – Carmarthenshire County Council's 'Call for Evidence on Dog Fouling Issues Affecting Sports Fields' - Cllr James proposed we respond to the recent request from Carmarthenshire County Council to take part in a dog fouling survey. The Clerk will email CCC to request a tool kit.

2920 – Cllr Williams raised the issue of a long narrow pothole and the adjacent passing place at the bottom of the Penycoed hill. Some remedial work was carried out previously but both now need appropriate gravel aggregate filling.

2942 – Cllr Starzewski raised the issue of two more road condition issues, as follows:

1. The Moorings (SA33 5AT); pothole developing on road edge approximately 15M north of road sign (grid ref. SN3963 16595).
2. Green Castle bend; road surface is deteriorating (grid ref SN 37464 14315).

2943 – Cllr J Jones raised the issue of the blocked ditch on the cut through road between Llangain Church and The Beeches which is causing the road to flood. This was reported to Carmarthenshire County Council before Christmas.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th March 2025.

Appendix 1

LLANGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL					
Draft Budget 2025/26					
Produced 19th January 2025					
	Budget 2024/25	Actual spend to date	Estimated spend for the year	Difference	Budget 2025/26
Expenditure					
2a. Statutory Activities					
Street lights/Loan repayment	£ 2,300.00	£ -	£ 2,300.00	£ -	£ 2,300.00
Insurance	£ 310.00	£ 323.29		-£ 13.29	£ 350.00
Clerks salary/expenses	£ 5,400.00	£ 4,495.33	£ 903.95	£ 0.72	£ 6,500.00
Audit	£ 360.00	£ 672.00	£ -	-£ 312.00	£ 450.00
Chairmans allowance	£ 200.00	£ 19.74	£ -	£ 180.26	£ 200.00
SLCC membership	£ 115.00	£ 110.00		£ 5.00	£ 120.00
One Voice Wales membership	£ 120.00		£ 120.00	£ -	£ 130.00
Grass cutting	£ 650.00		£ 650.00	£ -	£ 650.00
Rent for meeting room	£ 70.00		£ 247.50	-£ 177.50	£ 275.00
Comm's with Community - Website	£ 110.00	£ 381.00		-£ 271.00	£ 180.00
Estimated cost for elections	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ -
Councillors Allowance	£ 300.00	£ -	£ -	£ 300.00	£ -
2b. Discretionary Activities					
Donations	£ 1,200.00	£ 1,630.00	£ 670.00	-£ 1,100.00	£ 1,500.00
Seasonal decorations	£ 100.00	£ 118.75		-£ 18.75	£ 110.00
Chairmans chain	£ 35.00	£ 91.99		-£ 56.99	£ 40.00
Miscellaneous	£ 500.00	£ 540.39		-£ 40.39	£ 500.00
Transformer for Christmas lights	£ 175.00	£ -	£ -	£ 175.00	£ -
Bench replacement Heol Smyrna	£ 400.00	£ -	£ -	£ 400.00	£ -
Lease County Council Play Park					
Joint Consultation Memorial Hall					
Community Consultation Playing Fields					
Communications Plan					
•Outsource plan creation					£ 75.00
•Produce & Dist. Qtrly Newsletter					£ 600.00
•Communicate one off hot topics					£ 150.00
Maintenance programme					
•Clean Play Park Equipment					£ 60.00
•Bus Shelter on Square					£ 40.00
•St. signs, interpretative boards etc					£ 200.00
Safety Item - Play Parks self closing gate					£ 1,524.00
Safety Item - Renew "dogs on Lead" sign					£ 95.00
Support for Community Assets					£ 2,500.00
3. Corporate Support Needs					£ 1,500.00
Total Expenditure	£ 12,345.00	£ 8,382.49	£ 4,891.45	-£ 928.94	£ 20,049.00
Income					
VAT refund					£ 360.00
Bank interest					£ 50.00
Other e.g. s106					
Net budgeted expenditure					£ 19,639.00
Tax base for 2023/24	300.95				
2023/24 Reserve		£ 2,606.50			
Income for 2024/25		£ 13,790.84			
Est reserve for 2024/25		£ 3,123.40			
Precept for 2024/25 Band D		£ 42.80			
Option 1- maintain 2024/25 reserve at estimated £3		£ 65.26	£ 22.46	increase	52.47%
Option 2- reduce reserve by £500 to £2600		£ 63.60	£ 20.80	increase	
Option 3- reduce reserve by £1000 to £2100		£ 61.93	£ 19.13	increase	
Resolved at LCC meeting on 22/01/25 to adopt Option 1					

Appendix 2

Donations	2023/24	2024/25
Recipient	Amount	Amount
Llangain School	£100.00	£100.00
Capel Smyrna	£225.00	£225.00
Memorial Hall	£375.00	£1,500.00
Bowls Club	£110.00	£110.00
Air Ambulance Wales	£50.00	£50.00
Young Farmers Club	£75.00	£75.00
Llangain Hwb (Gardening Club)	£110.00	£110.00
Royal British Legion	£30.00	£30.00
CCC Toybox Appeal	£100.00	£100.00
Total	£1,175.00	£2,300.00