

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANARTHNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 AT LLANARTHNE VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present:** Councillor H. Bryer  
Councillor P. Edwards  
Councillor D. E. Jenkins (*Vice Chair*)  
Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones  
Councillor H. B. Jones (*Till 20.00*)  
Councillor D. D. Morgan (*Till 20.40*)  
Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick  
Councillor Mrs J. Roberts  
Councillor K. Thomas (*Chair*)

**In attendance:** County Councillor W. J.W Evans  
Mr Gethin James (Clerk to the Community Council)

The meeting commenced at 19.00

**LCC 16/149 PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**a. Apologies**

Councillor J. Williams.

Chair advised the meeting that Councillor J. Williams wishes to tender his resignation as community councillor due to work commitments, the clerk agreed to contact him to obtain this instruction in writing before the replacement vacancy is formally advertised. Members wished to thank Councillor J. Williams for his contribution to the community council over the last two and a half years.

**b. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
(Min. No's 135 – 147).**

The Minutes **were approved** as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Roberts.

**c. Matters arising from the above mentioned Minutes**

**[Min No 136(i)]** Clerk has placed an order for 6 No 150 x 200mm self-adhesive dog waste bin stickers. These will be placed on bins around the village as soon as they arrive. It was suggested at the meeting that dog owners in the village receive a notice advising them that dog fouling will not be tolerated, and that dogs on the Margaret Bowen playing field be kept on a lead at all times.

**[Min No 142].** Chair has provided the clerk with signage dimensions for planter provision as requested. Clerk confirmed that the wild flower seed pack has arrived, and was handed over to Councillor Mrs J. Roberts.

It was agreed not to purchase planters for installation below the Llanarthne village signage, but to create a planting area in lieu, Councillor P. Edwards and Councillor Mrs J. Roberts to oversee this work, and purchase planting compost/shrubs as required.

**d. Declarations of Personal Interest**

*Councillor H. Bryer and Councillor Mrs M. Tobias Quick declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest on Min No 153(c).*

*Councillor Mrs J. Roberts declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest on Min No 158.*

There were no other formal declarations of interest recorded.

**LCC 16/150**

**AREA MATTERS**

1. Clerk has received a request from Mr & Mrs Daymond to have a bin installed at the former picnic site near Ffynnant Bridge. Clerk will write to them and thank them for recently collecting and bagging the rubbish left by users there.
2. Clerk has received a report of a verge road defect between Saron Chapel and Pistyll Dewi, Llanarthne on the B4300 from the Highway Authority.
3. Lamp near Saron Chapel is flickering and needs attention – *reported 14.03.16*
4. The cycle route (Route 47) has a number of potholes, clerk to establish what the current highway maintenance policy is for this cycle route.
5. Despite submitting concerns (November 2015) about the Biodigester Septic Tank installed near Hafan-deg, Llanarthne, members request a response as to why this tank is being emptied so frequently.
6. Overhanging branches leaning onto the highway and overhead lines remain a problem especially to power and telephone distribution lines from Pont-Felin-gat to Dolau-Gwynon and requires immediate attention.
7. Garden waste is being tipped over the Hafan-deg boundary fence onto the common area of land.
8. Overhanging trees and branches leaning onto the highway and overhead lines on the B4300, Llanarthne to Golden Grove.
9. Reported again that the highway lighting on the slip road at Porthyrhyd roundabout is sometimes out of order.

**LCC 16/151**

**MEMBERS REPORTS**

Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones attended the South African Veldt - a new exhibit celebrating plants from South Africa in stitch and fabric, designed and created by the Stitching Botanical Volunteers at the National Botanical Garden of Wales, she commentated that the work was “impressive”

There were no other reports from members who had attended meetings as representatives of the council.

**Resolved to** note the following general correspondence onto the minutes:-

Writer	Subject
Institute of Welsh Affairs	Will host a hustings (three weeks before 05.05.16) in the Principal Lecture Theatre of Swansea University's Bay Campus. The panel will consist of: Julie James AM. Deputy Minister for Skills, Welsh Labour Suzy Davies AM. Shadow Heritage Minister, Welsh Conservatives. Bethan Jenkins AM. South Wales West , Plaid Cymru Sheila Kingston-Jones, Candidate for Gower, Welsh Liberal Democrats Gareth Tucker, Candidate for Swansea West, Wales Green Party UKIP Representative, TBC
Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service	Their Strategic Plan for 2016-21 and their Annual Improvement Plan for 2016-17 are available on their website <a href="http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk">www.mawwfire.gov.uk</a> .
Welsh Government	The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) has been published on the Welsh Government website <a href="http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/reports/public-health-framework?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/health/publications/health/reports/public-health-framework?lang=en</a>
Welsh Government	Are seeking your views on the proposed changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6 setting out their national planning policy for consideration of the historic environment through the planning system. For further information <a href="http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/proposed-changes-to-planning-policy-wales-chapter-6-the-historic-environment/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/consultations/planning/proposed-changes-to-planning-policy-wales-chapter-6-the-historic-environment/?lang=en</a>
Walk for Life	Request financial assistance, it was agreed to agenda this request at the annual meeting of the community council
Carmarthenshire YFC	Invitation received for the Chairman and Clerk to attend the Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Annual Rally to be held on Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Nantyci Showground
The Electoral Commission	Forward booklets and posters on the forthcoming National Assembly for Wales and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections. (5 <sup>th</sup> May 2016).

a. There were no objections to the following full planning applications:-

- (i) **Planning Application Number W/33497.** Change of use from home office to ancillary habitable accommodation, at Ty Newydd, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, SA32 8JG  
**Applicant:** Mr Robert Davies
- (ii) **Planning Application Number: W/33539.** Side extension to the existing building and internal alterations. Proposed rear decking area and masonry front wall facing road, at Glyncoch, Llanarthne, Carmarthen SA32 8HJ  
**Applicant:** Mr Shone Hughes.

- b. There were no objections to the following discharge of planning condition(s):
- (i) **Planning Application Number W/33575.** Discharge of Condition's 12 & 14 of W/32683 (full) Capel Elim Parc, Capel Dewi, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, SA32 8AH  
**Applicant:** Mr James Tucker.
  - (ii) **Planning Application Number W/33576.** Discharge of Condition's 12 & 14 of W/32684 (LBC). Capel Elim Parc, Capel Dewi, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, SA32 8AH  
**Applicant:** Mr James Tucker.
  - (iii) **Planning Application Number W/33592.** Discharge of Condition's 4 - 9 of W/32683 (full). Capel Elim Parc, Capel Dewi, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, SA32 8AH  
**Applicant:** Mr James Tucker.
  - (iv) **Planning Application Number W/35593.** Discharge of DOC's 4 – 9 of W/32684 (LBC). Capel Elim Parc, Capel Dewi, Llanarthne, Carmarthen, SA32 8AH  
**Applicant:** Mr James Tucker.

**LCC 16/154**

**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

- a. Gethin L. James.3 months postages as itemised to 31.03.2016.  
**£39.96** **Cheque No. 102343**
- b. Gethin L. James - 3 months broadband £54.98 + £10.97 VAT = £65.95 and 3 months line rental £33.72 + £6.74 VAT = £40.46; Totals £106.41 (1st January 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016).  
**£106.41** **Cheque No. 102344**
- c. Clerk read out a letter received from the working group of Nantgaredig Primary School. The pupils are to compete at the Llangollen International Music Festival in 2016, and are seeking financial assistance towards the costs associated with this educational event. Councillor H. B. Jones proposed, Councillor P. Edwards seconded and all agreed that the community council make a financial contribution of £250.00 towards the expenditure to be incurred.  
**£250.00** **Cheque No. 102345**

*Note: Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick and Councillor H. Bryer declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest on the above matter [Min No 154(c)]; it is confirmed that both Councillors did not at any time take part in the decision; neither seek to influence the decision process of the Council.*

**LCC 16/155**

**TO REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015/16**

Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated copies of the Annual Return 2016 together with the Receipt and Payment 2015/16 Schedule to members.

To date the clerk is unable to produce the audit timetable because no external audit correspondence has been received, and no Annual Return pack has arrived, upon making enquiries it is understood that BDO UK are no longer provider of audit services for community councils. The clerk believes that Grant Thornton has been appointed by the Welsh Audit Office as external auditors, but no documentation or correspondence has been received.

There were no issues arising from the Receipt and Payment 2015/16 Schedule. Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick proposed, Councillor H. Bryer seconded and all agreed that the accounts as prepared for 2015/16 be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

The accounts will be forwarded to the internal auditor (Mr Lyn Llewelyn) for his observations and approval in due course.

Chair thanked the clerk for preparing the end of year accounts to 31.03.2016

**LCC 16/156**

**MAINTENANCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH STREET LIGHTING**

The recent maintenance and energy charges associated with street lighting in the community of Llanarthne were discussed between Mrs Elaine Hanking, CCC and the clerk.

Seventy two community councils currently remain and get their maintenance and energy for street lighting with Carmarthenshire County Council. If we as a community council choose to remove the maintenance element from the Authority and be directly responsible for this maintenance work, then we will also need to find a new energy provider as well.

The Authority provides insurance cover and would pursue a third party claim on our behalf should a pole and lantern be accidentally damaged, a typical cost for a new pole and lantern is currently £2,500

All existing damaged lamps are replaced by the Authority using the latest light-emitting diode (LED) fittings which are more efficient, durable, and versatile and longer lasting.

Our existing incandescent street light could be made dimmable at a cost of circa £15.00 per lamp, the clerk will investigate matters further to establish if the money invested in dimmable lamps offers an energy saving in the long term, the typical life span of the existing lamps will also need to be considered if we were to proceed with dimmable lamps.

**LCC 16/157**

**COMPLETED SCHOOL ROAD JUNCTION ONTO THE B4300**

The community council is pleased to note that the recent road junction improvements undertaken at the School Road onto the B4300 has been satisfactory completed, and that visibility issues at this junction is much improved.

The clerk will write to Mr John McEvoy at the Highway Authority to express our appreciation to have this long awaited highway improvement undertaken at the said junction.

**LCC 16/158      SPEEDING ISSUES**

Clerk agreed to contact Mr Mike Jacob of the Highway Authority to establish if he is agreeable to attend the next meeting of the community council to agree an action plan to try and resolve speeding issues through the village of Llanarthne.

**LCC 16/159      TENNIS COURT**

In a recent letter to the community council the Hall Committee will not accept direct responsibility for the management and upkeep of the proposed multi use play area at the Margaret Bowen playing field if installed; furthermore they question the need for a proposed tennis court at this location when a tennis court already exists at Capel Dewi.

The clerk agreed to visit and inspect the tennis court at Capel Dewi and report back to the community council at the next meeting.

**LCC 16/160      CLERK'S ADMINISTRATION MATTERS & SALARIES REVIEW**

The following was agreed:

- Council members to have the meeting agenda and minutes in paper format as opposed to electronic copies.
- Due to the high number of emails received by the clerk pertaining to community council matters, the clerk to forward copies of emails which are of significance to members on a once weekly basis.
- Paper copies of planning application drawings to be made available as before by the clerk when discussing planning matters at council meetings.

**Salaries**

The rates for the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage from 1 April 2016 are £7.20 (per hour).

Councillor P. Edwards proposed, Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones seconded and all agreed that the hourly rates for Mr G. G. Griffiths and Mr T. R. Carruthers be increased from £6.50 to £7.50 which is above the National Minimum Wage

The clerks last pay review was undertaken in April 2003 when the clerks salary was increased from SCP 19 to SCP 21 (currently 10.261 / per hour) for a 5 hour week.

Councillor H. Bryer proposed, Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick seconded and all agreed that the clerk's salary be increased from SCP 21 to SCP 27 (currently £12.317 / hour) with the hours worked increased from 5 hours to 7.5 hours per week.

Clerk thanked members for their consideration.

**LCC 16/161      ANNUAL DINNER**

Clerk confirmed that invitations to the annual dinner have been sent out to the following:

Mr Simon McCall and partner (Youth Award 2016).

Mr & Mrs Goronwy Griffiths (Certificate of Merit 2016).

Ann & Gwenllian Davies and partners (Environment Award 2016).

Certificates for the above recipients are currently being prepared for presentation at the annual dinner.

Menu choices will be made available quite soon.

**LCC 16/162**

**Date and time of next Annual Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 19.00 at Neuadd Llanarthne

The business of the meeting terminated at 21.06.

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**Councillor K. Thomas**  
**Chairperson**  
*(Min No's 148 - 162)*

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**Gethin James**  
**Clerk to the Council**