

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANARTHNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
11th OCTOBER 2016 AT LLANARTHNE VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: Councillor P. Bowen
Councillor H. Bryer
Councillor P. Edwards
Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones (*Vice Chair*)
Councillor H. B. Jones
Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick
Councillor Mrs J. Roberts
Councillor K. Thomas

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

The meeting commenced at 19.00

In the absence of Councillor D. E. Jenkins. Councillor Mrs D. M. Jones assumed the chair for this meeting.

Chair welcomed public members to the meeting, and advised them that the Community Council meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday in every month, apart from August.

LCC 16/70

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a. Apologies

Councillor D. E. Jenkins
Councillor D. D. Morgan

**b. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th September 2016
(Min. No's 55 – 69).**

The Minutes **were approved** as a correct record.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs J. Roberts and seconded by Councillor P. Edwards.

c. Matters arising from the above mentioned Minutes

Clerk is awaiting a quotation for the removal of external gable end graffiti from bus shelters at Capel Dewi and Penyffin (A1 Sandblasting in Camarthen).

d. Declarations of Personal Interest

There were no formal declarations of interest recorded.

- i. A request has been received for the installation of a permanent grit box between Cwmforgan and Wernbongam. The bend at this location during winter months seems to attract surface water, which freezes over, and becomes an issue for road users.

Chair and Clerk attended the One Voice Wales' October 2016 Conference and Annual General Meeting held in Builth Wells, on Saturday 1st October.

Key note speaker at the conference was the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mr Mark Drakeford AM, who has set out a new way forward for local government in Wales.

Mr Drakeford in addressing the conference stated:

- Welsh Government will produce a toolkit for town and community councils taking on devolved services drawing on existing good practise.
- The General Power of Competence for local councils will be included in a Local Government Bill scheduled for next year.
- The Bill will include an obligation for local councils to have and regularly review a training plan for councillors and staff.
- The Bill will give the public rights to participate in local council meetings.
- To improve the relationship between the local council sector and Principal Councils the Cabinet Secretary will host a conference after next May's elections to re-energise that relationship.
- Modest funds will be made available for community council clustering pilots to build on existing limited examples.
- New rules for the Democracy and Boundary Commission will ensure that future boundary reviews are undertaken consistently.
- A democratic challenge to all councillors that they must improve on how they better represent the demographics of their area including engagement with young people.

Mr Drakeford is to address Assembly Members at the Senedd on 4 October, Mr Drakeford will outline proposals on how local authorities would work together to deliver key services. There would be no change to the existing number of local authorities, but the Welsh Government would support voluntary mergers.

The second speaker at the conference was Mr Stephen Mulholland – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, who outlined the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Clerk will agenda the items raised in his talk at the next Community Council Meeting

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
Grow Wild Team	Clerk agreed to provide feedback, since the wild seeds planted have grown successfully, and our Grow Wild experience was shared by the youth in our community.
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	25 years Celebratory Dinner to be held at the Strade Park Hotel on 14 th October 2016
Carmarthenshire County Council	Highway Authority consent is required to install and operate seasonal decorations.
Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales	Wales Draft Annual Report can be accessed on http://gov.wales/irpwsb/home/?lang=en
Welsh Government	Copies of the Update on Local Government Reform by Mark Drakeford AM circulated at the meeting to council members.
Welsh Government	Questionnaire on Community Asset Transfer/Assets of Community Value received, noted that this has no direct impact on our community council.
Planning Inspectorate	Development Consent for the Brechfa Forest Electricity Connection has been granted by the Secretary of State.
Welsh Government	Stamp Duty in Wales is about to change. To inform their scrutiny of this Bill, and to better understand the views of the people of Wales, They want to hear as many views as possible from across Wales. The Committee have launched an online discussion here: https://senedd.dialogue-app.com/stampduty Discussion will close on 21 November 2016

Approved Planning Application No W/31154

Clerk had received a letter from Mr S. K. and Mrs J. Hopkin, Paxton View, Llanarthne, who are not happy with the way planning applications have been handled, and the resultant development below Brynheulog, Llanarthne, which significantly affects the privacy of Paxton View. They advised that they were not made aware that the design had changed so significantly after the original planning application was granted.

Clerk has acknowledged receipt of the objection letter, and provided him with a copy of the member's response to the submitted planning application which was sent to Mr Ceri Davies the Development Officer on 12.11.2014.

The Carmarthenshire County Council website clearly indicates that they would have received written notification about this development within the 21 day consultation period; the clerk has advised them that if they were not in receipt of the letter, then they should consult with the Local Authority direct. Clerk has also advised them that Community Councils are only consulted as part of the planning process. Planning decisions are made by the Local Authority in accordance with Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires that, in determining a planning application the determination must be in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The clerk also advised them that the answers they require on granting planning permission on Application No W/31154 are best directed to the Local Authority.

In an email to the clerk, Councillor H. B. Jones fully supports Mr Hopkin's letter and questions, and would suggest that our local member intervenes with some investigative measures. Answers to his questions should be the very least that Mr Hopkin should expect, and a full explanation and justification should be provided by our local planning officer.

In order to allow Mr S Hopkin and Mr L. Merritt an opportunity to address Community Council Members, the Chairman suspended the meeting at 19.36

Mr S. Hopkin circulated an open letter to council members, and made verbal representations to explain the nature of his complaint regarding the current development adjacent to Brynheulog, Llanarthne.

Attached to the open letter was a copy of a letter of complaint sent to Head of Planning CCC, and a sheet showing a comparison of the elevations facing Paxton View.

His observations were duly noted by the Community Council Members present.

Mr L. Merritt requested if possible a copy of the Local Need Eligibility Criteria.

Chair reconvened the meeting at 19.48 **Resolved that:**

The answers they require on granting planning permission on Application No W/31154 is best directed to the Local Authority.

Clerk agreed to obtain and forward a copy of Local Need Eligibility Criteria.

Write to establish why Mr S. Hopkin has not had a response from the Authority on this matter.

Other Planning Matters

- i. There were **no** objections to the following full planning application:-

Planning Application Number: W/34420 Change of use of spring bottling plant (Granted Approval under D4/23667) to form ancillary residential accommodation. Alteration to existing dwelling to include the completion of the first floor extension also granted approval under D4/23667 Planning Permission on 11.08.1993. Penyfffin House, Nantgaredig Road, Carmarthen SA32 7LJ

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Mackay.

LCC 16/75**PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

- i. Gethin L. James. 3 months postages as itemised to 30.09.2016 = £36.13.
£36.13 **Cheque No. 102374**
- ii. 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 July 2016 to 30th September 2016).
£106.41 **Cheque No. 102375**

LCC 16/76**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

It was agreed to offer financial assistance to the following organisations:

Proposed by Councillor H. B. Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Roberts
and all agreed that the following organisations be awarded the following amount:

Y Lloffwr	Cheque No. 102378	£100.00
Carmarthenshire YFC	Cheque No. 102382	£100.00
Clwb fi a Fe, Dyffryn Tywi	Cheque No. 102383	£100.00

Proposed by Councillor H. B. Jones, seconded by Councillor K. Thomas
and all agreed that the following organisation be awarded the following amount:

Macmillan Cancer Support	Cheque No. 102376	£50.00
--------------------------	-------------------	--------

Proposed by Councillor K. Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs M. Tobias Quick
and all agreed that the following organisation be awarded the following amount:

Age Cymru Sir Gâr	Cheque No. 102377	£30.00
Shelter Cymru	Cheque No. 102379	£30.00
St John, Cymru Wales	Cheque No. 102380	£30.00
Carmarthen & District Youth Opera	Cheque No. 102381	£30.00

LCC 16/77**COUNCILS' FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

The clerk has updated the council's financial risk register for 2016/17. The risk register has been reviewed during the last month by council members. Councillor K. Thomas proposed Councillor Mrs I. M. Tobias Quick seconded, and all agreed that the financial risk register be complied with by the council as outlined.

A potential high risk element identified last year was the storage and possible loss of electronic data of council documents by the clerk. The clerk confirmed that all council documents are backed-up on a personal portable drive, and by the use of Google Drive – Cloud Storage and File Backup system.

PARKING OBSTRUCTIONS ON THE LLANARTHNE SCHOOL ROAD

Chair welcomed residents living along the School Road in Llanarthne to the meeting.

Chair advised the residents present that the Community Council held a site meeting on Monday 22 August 2016 at 12.00 noon at the Llanarthne School Road with Mr Andrew Morgan, Traffic Engineer, Carmarthenshire County Council. Together with four members of the public. It was resolved at that meeting that Yellow lines or 'Resident only Parking' signs were suggested as an appropriate way forward but subject to the affected residents reviewing this proposal by the next meeting of the community council.

In order to allow the local residents an opportunity to address Community Council Members, the Chairman suspended the meeting at 20.06 Their observations on matters were duly noted and the Chair reconvened the meeting at 20.13

Resolved that: 'Resident only Parking' signs (2No) be installed on the School Road in Llanarthne, together with white line resident parking markings on the carriageway to current highway specification and to the approval of the Highway Authority

Chair thanked the residents for their contribution on matters.

SPEEDING ISSUES

Despite repeated requests from the clerk for copies of the recent speed traffic counter, results there have been no developments from the Authority on speeding issues in Llanarthne Village.

Clerk to invite Mr Mike Jacob to attend the next council meeting and provide an update on developments.

MR HUW FRANCIS – DIRECTOR NBGW

Chair welcomed Mr Huw Francis the new director of the National Botanic Garden of Wales to the meeting.

A strategic manager, Mr Francis has strong commercial skills, financial acumen, and experience of working in the public, private and voluntary sectors. He has previously worked in Hong Kong, Turkey and France, and is also a published author of fiction and non-fiction books.

He outlined how he proposes to take the Garden forward into a bright new future. Some of the topics covered were making better use of the nature reserve. Bring "commercial opportunities" to the grant-cut Carmarthenshire garden. Increase visitor numbers to the Garden. Improved school links in Carmarthen and South Wales, etc. He looks forward to the challenge enormously and working with the talented team at the Garden.

Requested by members that the former liaison meetings be reinstated, and the first impression to the Garden needs addressing, and that Gorswen Farm is now becoming an eyesore.

Chair thanked Mr Francis for attending our Council Meeting.

LCC 16/81

Date and time of next meeting

8th November 2016 at 19.00 at Llanarthne Village Hall.

The business of the meeting terminated at 20.34.

Councillor D. E. Jenkins
Chairperson
(Min No's 70 - 81)

Gethin James
Clerk to the Council