

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANARTHNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2020 AT LLANARTHNE VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: **Councillor P. Bowen**
Councillor S. Broome
Community and County Councillor C. A. Davies
Councillor G. Jones
Councillor H. B. Jones
Councillor M. Jones

In attendance: **Mrs Tanis Ann Cunnick (Clerk to the Community Council)**

The meeting commenced at 19.05

LCC 20/01 1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a. Current Issues

Councillor P. Bowen welcomed colleagues to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.
The Community Council extended their condolences to County Councillor A. Davies for the loss of her father prior to Christmas.
Councillor P. Bowen welcomed the new clerk to her first meeting, asked colleagues to introduce themselves and provide a summary of their background.

b. Apologies

Councillor E. Jenkins
Councillor D. John

c. Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Subject to a number of corrections on pages 1 and 2 the Minutes **were approved** as a correct record. (1.To defer the discussion on lorry traffic until January. 2. Haymeadow will sow wildflowers on the meadow below the park. 3. Mynach to be changed to Gat. 4. Add - further discussions would be held on the public right of way.)

Proposed by County Councillor Ann Davies and seconded by Councillor Steve Broome.

d. Matters arising from the above mentioned Minutes

Councillor G. Jones and Tegid Dafis had met and reviewed the issue of public footpaths. Tegid would then assign to take this forward.

Councillor G. Jones confirmed that he had agreed to undertake the role of Vice Chair at the previous meeting but was conscious that a number of colleagues had not been able to be present. He asked if Councillor H. Jones and Councillor S. Broome agreed with the appointment. This was confirmed.

e. Declarations of Personal Interest

Councillor G Jones noted that he had prepared a paper relating to Heavy Lorries using Swansea Road which would be discussed under Any Other Business.

LCC 20/02 2. AREA MATTERS

Councillor P. Bowen had received an email from Councillor E. Jenkins highlighting a number of issues.

- a) The give way sign in the village had not been repaired
- b) Roads were in a perilous state due to tree debris as a result of recent poor weather conditions.
- c) Cwmfelin Gat had rotten timber which needed to be removed.

County Councillor A. Davies noted that we needed to write a thank you letter to the staff who had cleared the fallen trees. County Councillor A. Davies would also ask the Council to arrange for a road sweeper to attend the village. It was also noted that a BT wire had fallen down as a result of high winds which had been made safe but was not considered ideal to be just left in its current condition.

Councillor S. Broome also expressed his concern about a further BT line which had come down on the junction of the B4310 and the corporate entry to the Botanic Gardens. It was also noted that the current pot holes had deteriorated further and needed to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

Action: Clerk to contact BT and ask them to attend to the damaged lines

Action: Clerk to write to the Council and request road repair work to be undertaken.

Councillor H. Jones expressed his concern regarding the poor condition of the bus shelter adjacent to the Y Polyn road. The glass was covered in green mould for example.

Action: Clerk to contact Tony Caruthers and ask him to clean the facility.

Councillor G. Jones was unhappy with the condition of the drain near the Old School which needed to be cleared. Councillor P. Bowen felt that the Capel Dewi roads also needed sweeping.

Action: Clerk to write to the Council and request work to be undertaken

Councillor P. Bowen and Councillor S. Broom would be meeting colleagues from the Parks Department the following evening to discuss the estimated costs for maintaining Community Council facilities.

LCC 20/03 **3. MEMBERS REPORTS**

There were no issues to report.

LCC 20/04 **4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

County Councillor A. Davies reported that the County Council's budget consultation process has been completed and agreed. Budget meetings were held during the previous week and austerity measures had been undertaken. Social Care and Education had been ring-fenced but as the Highways Department was not a statutory budget it would come under financial pressure. This would have obvious implications for all communities.

Colleagues had asked for a statement on the amount of compensation derived by the County Council as a whole in order to compare the total income with the costs of repairing the highways.

County Councillor A. Davies also attended the Chamber recently where the categories of schools had been discussed. Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn, Ysgol Rhys Pritchard, Ysgol Llys Hywel and Llangynnor Primary Schools will become Welsh Medium Schools.

County Councillor A. Davies felt that it was vital that all children had the opportunity to speak Welsh and acquire the language naturally. This included children who had special educational requirements.

The Estyn Inspection of Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol Llanddarog had been undertaken and would be published in the forthcoming weeks.

LCC 20/05 **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no objections to the following planning application.

Planning Application Number: W/3990 Removal of condition 10 on W/38186.

Applicant: Lewis Whittall

LCC 20/06 **6. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

- i. Dynevor Tree 7 Grounds Maintenance – Footpath maintenance.
9.12.2019 = £355
- ii. SLCC Membership Renewal – Copies of The Clerk Magazine etc.
03.01.2020 = £60

Precept

The Precept amount needed to be set for the forthcoming year. It was currently £20,000, the current bank balance was £9,150.23. Councillor P. Bowen reminded Council members that there was also a large electricity bill due in March totalling approximately £5,000.

Councillor P. Bowen also highlighted the fact that the Community Council had not claimed the VAT return in 2 years from the 1st April 2018 to date and this would need to be done as a matter of priority.

Councillor H. Jones expressed his concern about making a decision immediately without having had an opportunity to consider the issues beforehand.

County Councillor A. Davies noted that the decision had to be made prior to the end of the month and that it was also a challenge recently because the accounts had to be audited prior to making any decisions to raise the precept. It was suggested that if the precept was increased by 5% in line with recent County Council policy this would provide the Community Council with an additional £1,000 and be set at £21,000. It was envisaged that some of this funding could then be ring-fenced for Park inspections and payment for the Memorial Stone for example.

This course of action was proposed by County Councillor A. Davies and seconded by Councillor S. Broome.

Action: Clerk to complete the precept form and forward to Carmarthenshire County Council.

LCC 20/07 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

| Writer | Subject | Outcome |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Nantgaredig Primary School | Request received to elect an additional Community Governor on the Governing Body of the school. | Councillor M. Jones nominated County Councillor Davies. |
| Eirwyn Bennett | Request to attend Remembrance Sunday Service at Llanarthne Village. | Clerk to confirm that colleagues are committed to attend future events. |
| One Voice Wales | Proposal to enter a community project for the One Voice Wales Innovate Practice and National Awards. | Council to consider this opportunity in the future. |
| Carmarthenshire County Council | Invitation to attend Scrutiny Forum to act as a critical friend. | Information received. |
| | | |

LCC 20/08 **8. CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

Councillor P. Bowen asked colleagues to confirm that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting convened by Llanarthne Community Council held on Monday 18th November 2019 at the Llanarthne Hall were correct.

Proposed by Councillor H. Jones and seconded by Councillor S. Broome.

The full council meeting agreed the hours and salary for the new Clerk.

Proposed by County Councillor A. Davies and seconded by Councillor H. Jones.

Councillor P. Bowen informed members of the Council that it was essential for the new clerk to purchase an annual subscription of Microsoft Office single user and also access Cysill in order to undertake her role effectively.

Proposed by Councillor G. Jones and seconded by Councillor S. Broome.

LCC 20/09 **09. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Heavy Lorries

Councillor G. Jones distributed a copy of his short paper relating to heavy lorries using Swansea Road, a three mile minor road passing through Llanarthne Village.

Councillor S. Broome asked if there was a forum where colleagues could share their concerns. Councillor H. Jones highlighted the existence of a Quarry Liaison Forum where management and members of the public could share ideas and air their views.

Councillor H. Jones suggested that there were three main issues involving this area of concern which had to be dealt with individually.

- a. Speeding – this needed immediate attention but evidence was required.
- b. Road access
- c. Engagement with Tor-Coed

Councillor H. Jones noted that it was a public highway and that the Lorry Companies pay road licence which means that in law they have the right to utilise whichever road they feel is appropriate.

It was suggested that a survey could be undertaken on the speed of the traffic which would provide the evidence that was required.

Councillor P. Bowen asked colleagues to identify a positive way forward.

Action: Clerk to write to the Quarry Liaison Forum and request membership.

Action: Liaise with Mike Jacobs from Go Safe who could raise the speeding issue with the Police.

Memorial Stone

County Councillor A. Davies asked if Memorial Stone could be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to include memorial Stone on the agenda of the February meeting.

Breakfast

Councillor G. Jones promoted the Charity Breakfast to be held at the Village Hall on Friday 24th January at 8.00am. The proceeds would go toward the JDP Mental Health cause.

Quiz

Councillor G. Jones also promoted the Quiz night scheduled to be held at the Village Hall on the 7th February at a cost of £8.00 per team.

Invitation

It was decided to invite Hugh Francis to attend one of the Community Council meetings.

Action: Clerk to provide a series of dates.

Storage

Councillor P. Bowen expressed concern for the number of boxes and Community Council files that needed to be stored or archived. He suggested that the Community Council seek to locate a filing cabinet either in the Llanarthne Village Hall or the Old School. Councillor H. Jones suggested that the Old School would be ideal and if the clerk needed to source any documentation quickly it would be easily accessed in Capel Dewi.

Action: Clerk to seek permission from the Old School Committee to store documentation.

Carmarthenshire Archives

County Councillor A. Davies informed colleagues that the new Archive facility would be opening in April.

LCC 20/10 10. Date, time and location of next meeting

11TH February, 2020 at 19.00 in Llanarthne Village Hall

The business of the meeting terminated at 8.50pm.

Councillor P. Bowen

Chairperson

Tanis Ann Cunnick

Clerk to the Council