

CYNGOR Y CYMUNED – LLANFERRES – COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING Held Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

**Present:** Cllr. John Almond (Chair), Cllrs Bob Barton, Amanda Curtis, Jac Armstrong, Allan Morgans, Michael Cordiner, Rob Jones, Ivy Watts, Isla Watts and the Clerk, Mrs. G Dillon. There were Members of the public present.

**1 Apologies:** Cllr Martyn Holland

**2 Meeting Open to the Public** – the Chair of the Village Hall Committee, Mrs. Siobhan Gothorp was present and raised the concerns with regard to the erection of the white railings to provide a safe access to the School. The railings, however, were causing some difficulties for the public who access the Hall during the School Term Time. These had already been discussed at the February Meeting of the Community Council in which the Community Council felt very strongly that a 'Right of Way' could exist as the pathway through the School had been used over a period of many years. Mrs Gothorp outlined a number of options for discussion and to forward to the County Council who had erected the railings without any consultation with the Village Hall Committee, School or Community Council. The Community Council were unanimous and gave full support to the Village Hall options. The letter would be sent to the County Council for their attention and it was hoped to avoid the lengthy process of pursuing a legal Right of Way. We await the response.

Mr. Dan Hurst was present from the Llanferres Playing Field Association and the Community Council confirmed that they could take over the insurance commitment for the field. The Community Council's renewal is the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The LPFRA will hold their Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May, when clarification of the way forward and a new Committee will be announced.

**3 Declarations of Interest** – the Councillors were reminded that they should declare an interest at the commencement of the Meeting, or as soon as the Councillor affected becomes aware that they have a personal or personal and prejudicial interest in today's business. Any member declaring an interest are required to state clearly what that interest is.

**4 Declarations of Interest** – none raised.

**5 County Councillor Martyn Holland's Report** – previously circulated but the Chairman read out the Report for the public present.

1) Cllr Holland reported that the Gullies on the Maeshafn Road have been cleaned.

2) The DCC Drainage team have been out once again to inspect the surface water issues in Tyn Llan which occur after heavy rain. They have confirmed once again that the underground pipe that runs from the corner of the school and down the rear of Tyn Llan and Cae Derwen is blocked by roots. They have identified the tree in the corner of the children's play area as the culprit and they have recommended that the tree is removed. The pipe will then be cleaned by a machine that is sent down the pipe to cut away the offending roots.

Currently, there is a debate as to which department should foot the bill but hopefully, we can now see light at the end of this particular tunnel!! Cllr Holland would like to thank John Almond for his support on the day while Cllr Holland attended another meeting with the Clerk from Llanarmon and DCC highways over Village signs.

3) Officially there is no public footpath or right of way through the school grounds from Rectory Lane to Tyn Llan. There is an excepted access to the village hall outside school hours and when the hall is used by the community. The school's priority is the safety of their children during school hours. If agreeable the Governing body would like to come and talk to the community council about this issue in April.

Date ..... Signed .....

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4) Currently, Cllr Holland is still trying to resolve the issue of the two open spaces owned by the builders of the original homes in Cae Derwen. Sadly, there are no contact numbers for Allen Homes or e-mail addresses and so Cllr Holland has had to resort to pen and paper. To date there has been no reply.

We have received complaints from residents about the height and width of the conifers and although the builders still cut the grass it would be useful if these small parcels of land could be transferred to the county council or even sold to the neighbouring householders.

5) Cllr Holland would like to congratulate Allan Morgans, Amanda Curtis and the North Wales Wildlife Trust on the Fruit Tree planting day in Maeshafn. John Almond and Cllr Holland joined them with their spades and a good day was had by all. The Freshly Crushed Apple Juice was an added bonus especially as the Miners was closed on the day for refurbishment!!

6) Aberduna Farm has now been sold and Cllr Holland has been contacted by the architects who are acting on behalf of new owners of the farm house as part of a pre planning consultation. They are looking to construct two reasonably large buildings for livestock in front of the farm and more information has been requested about the amount of land to be farmed in relation to the size and number of the buildings required. Keeping in mind that there are several older farm buildings already on site.

7) As you will have all read in the local press DCC has agreed its council tax for the coming year which will include an increase of 6.35%. This is the highest increase in council tax since Cllr Holland became our councillor. Although Denbighshire received a flat contribution in the funding from the Welsh Government this year they are still having to find money for the annual staff pay awards which should be around 2% this year and which are agreed nationally, increases in teachers' pay and pensions again agreed nationally and DCC have also put an additional two million pounds extra into Child and Adult Care. This is to cover an increasing demand for resources for our ageing population and home care and to cover increasing child care costs for those children looked after by DCC. Cllr Holland said 'If I were to tell you that some children in our care cost up to £5000 pounds a week to look after you will understand that only a small number of such cases costs hundreds of thousands of pounds'. In addition to the rise in council tax DCC, still had to find savings of 3.5 million pounds to produce a balanced budget. Sadly, although Central Government gave the Welsh Government an additional 1.2 billion pounds this year none of that came to the majority of local Councils in Wales.

7) Cllr Holland went into hospital on Monday for a minor operation and will therefore be out of circulation for the next seven days.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Holland for his report in his absence and on behalf of the Community Council, wished him a speedy recovery. *The Clerk will send a 'Get Well' Card.*

- 6 **Big Covert Wood - Report from Cllr Morgans** – Cllr Morgans and Mr A King have drafted a very detailed Report and highlighted ten tracks (well used in the area) for possible adoption. A letter has also been sent to the Footpaths Officer of Denbighshire, Mr Adrian Walls for his attention. Cllr Morgans wished to thank Mr. King for his invaluable input into this exercise. There was a need to link the southern part of the woods to form coherent walks. *\*Agenda Item for April*
- 7 **Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14th February 2019** – Together with a minor spelling correction, these were accepted and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record.
- 8 **Matters Arising** – 1) The Zig, Zag lines – vehicles are still parking illegally on the zig zag lines within the school hours. You must not stop, wait or pick up during school term times.

Date ..... Signed .....

**9 Reports from Other Meetings** – Cllr Barton attended the ‘**Planning Wales**’ Meeting where the Section 106 was discussed.  
The Clerk attended the Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony in County Hall, on behalf of the Community Council.

**10 Maintenance in the Community** – the Millennium Fountain the repair will be carried out during May, when the danger of frost is over.

**11 Planning Issues** - none received

**12 Risk Assessments**

Maes Ysgawen – grass cutting will take place shortly. With regard to hedge-cutting, the level will be determined during a walk of the perimeter.

Maeshafn – awaiting update for the Playing Field ownership. Cllr Bob Barton raised the issue of the legality of using the balance of funding (County Councillors Fund) for Maeshafn Playing Field, if it is not used for legal fees.

Defibrillator in the Telephone Kiosk – power connection has been done.

Dog Poo Bin – the Clerk has ordered the bin – still awaiting its arrival.

Llanferres Memorial – nothing to report.

Financial Risks – No risks were raised.

**13 Training & Finance Issues**

**Training Issues** - Cllr Barton is organising a Training Course, through ‘One Voice Wales’ inviting Councillors from all local Community Councils to attend with a shared cost.  
Date to be advised (previous date of 4<sup>th</sup> April is not confirmed).

**14 Budget for 2019/2020 Finance Issues** – the Budget for the new Financial Year is now confirmed.

**15 Bills – Payment Schedule**

Clerk’s Salary (March 2019) & PAYE	£245.33
LawnOrder Maintenance	£70.00
A J Electrical (Invoice)	£330.00
‘One Voice Wales’ Membership	£112.00
<b><u>Received</u></b>	
Bank Interest	£0.92

All payments approved by Community Council with Schedule of Payments signed by Chair.

**16 Correspondence** – items of correspondence were discussed as above, plus a notification of the Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Report for 2019/2020.  
Copy of the ‘One Voice Wales’ March Bulletin.

**17 Other Matters Brought to Councillor’s attention:**

- a) There appears to be a blocked drain in Tafarn-y-Gelyn.
- b) There now appears to be more water in the Tafarn-y-Gelyn Pond
- c) Ditching has been carried out near Cornerways.

**18 Date of next Meeting:** The General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at **7:30** pm in the **Village Hall** in Llanferres.

Date ..... Signed .....