

CYNGOR Y CYMUNED – LLANFERRES – COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING Held Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Present:** Cllr. John Almond (Chair), Cllrs Allan Morgans, Bob Barton, Michael Cordiner, Amanda Curtis, Ivy Watts, Isla Watts present. Also, Cllr Martyn Holland and the Clerk Mrs Gwyneth Dillon. Members of the public were present, including those from the Woodland Owners Trust in Maeshafn

**108 Apologies:** Cllr Jac Armstrong.

**109 News & Views – Current position** Mr Paul Gorthop was at the meeting and introduced the proposed new Editor of the News & Views – Ms Sandrine Autissier, (main contact) who introduced herself to all Councillors present on arrival. Also, Mr Dominic Maher of Maeshafn. Mr Gorthop went on to explain the current position. The contribution from the Community Council has been £450 per annum. No contribution has been requested for this current year. The website used by the Community Council will be separated from the News & Views (with just a link to access). For the time being, Mr Gorthop will keep it running for the time being, funded by the Community Council. The website will then be the responsibility of a Webmaster and serviced by that individual according to the legislation. Ms went on to clarify the plan to continue. There may have to be a rise in the cost of advertising in the News & Views to cover the printing expenses, which amount to £280 per year for six issues. There may be a charge introduced for special advertisements for Village Groups but this is under discussion. *Agreed: the Community Council were happy to contribute each year but would need a formal request for the Precept.*

The Chairman, on behalf of the Community Council, thanked Paul and Siobhan for the effort and dedication over eleven years they have made, to keep the Village magazine in circulation. The Community Council wish the new Editor all the very best for the future and look forward to a continuing partnership.

**110 Meeting Open to the Public** – Dr. Kate Davies from the Woodland Owners Trust raised the issue of the Public Rights of Way through Big Covert. The Chairman read out the Community Council's response to the three questions raised by the group.

*QUESTION 1 – Why do the Community Council feel that there is a need for the adoption of public rights of way?*

*ANSWER – There are many paths in the wood that have been used by the public for many years in the belief that they are public footpaths, and many are marked on Ordnance Survey Maps. Now that the wood has been sold in smaller lots, people are sometimes being challenged by the new owners who object to people walking through what is their private property. This is causing strife and resentment on both sides, so the Community Council felt that the only way to resolve it, is to establish exactly what paths are officially public rights of way.*

*Once that is established, owners will know whether or not they have the right to close the paths.*

*QUESTION 2 – Why haven't the owners of the woods been involved thus far in the discussions.*

*ANSWER – It has been difficult to involve the owners because in many cases we do not know who they are and even when we find an owner, not infrequently they have been unwilling to co-operate.*

*QUESTION 3- How are the Council going to ensure going forward, that the good relationship between local people, people who regularly walk in the woods and the owners is promoted and maintained?*

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*ANSWER – We feel that the only way to promote good relations between owners and the public is to establish the legal position so that everyone knows and understands the situation. Once this is established, such as which are public footpaths, have felling licences been obtained and are the terms of the licence being adhered to, and, in fact, are all legal requirements being met regarding any other developments, we feel that harmony can be achieved. Unfortunately, in some cases, owners have been carrying out activities for which planning permission is required and which they have not obtained.*

*It is such a delicate and controversial area that I would suggest that owners consult Denbighshire Planning department before they do anything and also enquire whether their land is covered by a National Trust Covenant.*

Cllr Holland spoke about the erection of sheds etc and Denbighshire County Council's role. It was agreed by all parties that we can now work together for the benefit of all and the preservation of the woodland.

- 111 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.
- 112 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Morgans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 – Big Covert Wood – personal interest. Item 12 – The Clerk's Vacancy, being a close family member.
- 113 Minutes of the Community Council Meeting Held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019** - These were accepted and signed by the Chairman as being a correct record subject to the following amendment:  
***Cllr Barton requested that the following be deleted from the Minutes as being repetitive. Cllr Barton has requested to attend the Annual 'One Voice Wales' Conference to be held in Pontrhydfendigaid on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019. As the cost is to be shared (£25.00 for Llanferres). Cllr Barton has been authorised to attend.***
- 114 Matters Arising** – a) The Community Council have not received an informative response regarding the purchase of a dog poo bin to be situated in Maeshafn. Cllr Holland is to pursue the matter.
- b) With reference to the poor condition of the road to Cae Derwen and the Church, reported previously, a repair was carried out at the entrance to Cae Gwyn, but not Cae Derwen.
- c) Cllr Morgans raised the question of the arrangements should the community have snow falling in Cadole, Loggerheads etc. Cllr Holland confirmed ongoing discussions with all the relevant partners i.e Countryside Services, Highways and Police. It was agreed that the 'No Parking' in Loggerheads/Cadole would be enforced. Discussions were taking place regarding 'halving' the field where sledging takes place and a possibility of 'No sledging' signs being erected. Enforcement Teams will be present if a heavy snowfall arrives, to warn motorists with regard to parking on the verges and to move their vehicles.
- d) There was a Meeting of the Llanferres Playing Field Association but to date no firm decision on the Insurance aspect.
- e) There was an excellent response to the call for the 'Clean Up' at Tafarn y Gelyn Pond.
- f) No repair has been carried out to date, on the raised grid in Tafarn-y-Gelyn. Cllr Cordiner has placed a bollard in place to warn motorists.

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**115 Big Covert Wood** – following on from the public interaction earlier, it was agreed that all parties should move forward in a positive and co-operative way to ensure the protection of the public and the conservation of the woods. Darren Miller AM had contacted Natural Resources Wales and further investigation was being carried out on the suggestion that an unauthorised ‘forest road’ was being constructed.

**116 County Councillor Martyn Holland’s Report** – previously circulated.

1) The responses to the LDP consultation on the Candidate sites are now being collated and a report will be sent to all County Councillors by the end of November. As the local member Cllr Holland will comment on the sites then and brief the Community Council asap.

2) Since the closing date for the candidate sites there have been a further thirty-three sites submitted which will have to go out to public consultation again!!  
Cllr Holland raised concerns about the way this is extending the LDP process and how he believes it is also making a farce of the process. It appears that this is a Welsh Government directive and that new sites can be submitted up until the final draft of approved sites next year. Currently there are no new sites for the community of Llanferres.

3) The pothole around the manhole cover in Tafarn Y Gelyn was repaired promptly but the repair has since disappeared, and Cllr Holland has asked for it to be done again and completed correctly this time.  
He has also requested that the two blocked gullies are also cleaned in the same section of road.

4) While Cllr Holland was in Tafarn Y Gelyn he noticed that the pond was full again and that two pairs of mallard ducks had taken up residence.

5) Once again, the pothole near Valley Lodge was repaired but the tarmac has again disappeared, and Cllr Holland asked for it to be looked at again.

6) Cllr Holland had asked for the hedges around the school and the housing car park to be cut which was completed promptly. Sadly, the hedges around the school were stripped rather than cut and slabs in front of the War Memorial were damaged.  
John and Noel kindly pruned the offending branches to tidy them up and make them safe and Cllr Holland has reported both the state of the hedges and the damage. The County Council will replace the slabs and revisit the way the hedges are cut around schools.

7) The County has appointed a new company to deal with people who drop litter and who do not pick up after their dogs have fouled public areas.

8) A new list of commuted sums has been circulated and there is a further sum for the Community of Llanferres. Cllr Holland sent the details to the clerk and it is open to all bodies within the area who must apply before the closing date at the end of the year.

9) Already circulated, are the details of two temporary road closures on the 23/24 of January in Maeshafn and on the Forestry Road.

10) A resident of Tafarn Y Gelyn has brought to Cllr Holland’s attention, the poor state of the Tafarn Y Gelyn/Cilcain Road. The whole section requires cleaning and preferably resurfacing. It will be requested that the road to be included in next year’s roads schedule and asked, if there is any money left over this year if they could consider this road as a priority.

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11) The County are currently looking for two Gypsy/Traveller sites. One permanent resident site and one transit traveller site. These will be included in the new LDP and are requested/dictated by the Welsh Government.

12) Did you know that there is a section on the Counties Website called residents information? This is extremely interesting and well worth viewing. Cllr Holland used it recently to see if a resident had any trees with preservation orders in his garden.

*Look at the DCC home page, click on the 'resident' tab and under 'popular' click on 'my property'.*

Cllr Holland also reported a recent accident in the area closed the road to Moel Famau for a time.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Holland for his comprehensive report.

**117 Reports From Other Meetings** – Cllr Almond circulated a Report from the Chairs & Clerk's Meeting with the Denbighshire County Council.

**Budget Position:** Presented by Steve Gadd – Chief Accountant.

Outlined the current financial position. DCC had expected another cut in funding and had asked all services to make savings of 5-5%. However, the government awarded an extra £600 Million for Wales as a one-year settlement which made it difficult to plan long term. For Denbighshire it represents a 4% cash increase of £5.744 million but in real terms it is only 2.3% which is £3.3028 and the government insisted that Health must be given priority.

A 0.5% increase in Rates raises approx. £0.266 million so the 3.8 increase raises about £2.0216. By taking some money from reserves they should be able to avoid cuts to services.

**Introduction to the Household Waste Model:** Presented by Tara Dumas – Waste and Recycling Manager.

For the last 3-4 years Denbighshire have hit its recycling target of 64% but at present will not attain its target of 70% by 2024/25 so a new system of collection will be put in place. This will be in the form of a trolley box collection with separate boxes for Paper, Glass and Cans. These will be emptied into special multi-service vehicles and will be checked and sorted by the operatives. If anything is in a wrong box it will be returned to the householder so that people will gradually learn. At present, most people do sort very well but there is room for improvement in some instances.

Re-cycled materials will be collected weekly as will food waste. Black bins with waste for landfill will be collected monthly but the bins will be larger. There will be two weekly collection for Nappies etc and textiles every two weeks. The system will be rolled out in 2020 and 2021.

For further information go to the website <https://myrecyclingwales.org.uk>

**Update on winter Maintenance arrangements:** Presented by Tim Towers – Risk and Asset Manager.

Winter maintenance Arrangements – Denbighshire grit 35% of roads, mainly A class roads and roads needed for access of emergency vehicles such as Ambulances etc. Each run takes 3 hours with the salt needing 1 hour to work but if there is snow it needs vehicles to mix the salt with the snow for it to work. Gritting is activated when the ROAD temperature reaches 1°. All vehicles are monitored for route and whether salting or not. The cost of road gritting in most years is £800,000. In an emergency a member of the public can call customer services and they will see the message gets to the appropriate department.

**Draft Planning Compliance Charter:** Presented by Paul Mead – Development Manager and Adam Turner – Planning and Compliance Manager.

This Charter was adopted by Denbighshire in 2019 is contained in a 20 page document too lengthy to cover here but can be seen on their web site at [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning)

Date .....

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**Register an Enquiry / Requests for Council Services:**

If a member of the public has a complaint about the Council Services, they can go to **Denbighshire Council Website** then to **Denbighshire County Council Complaints procedure** then to **Making a Complaint about the Council**. Here will be found a list of items to complain about. Choose which topic concerns you and you will be able to fill in a complaints form - simple if a bit laborious. Your complaint will be recognised, and you will be given a reference number in case you want to refer to the complaint again.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session which could be addressed to the Leader, Cllr Hugh H Evans; Chief Executive, Judith Greenhalgh; Cabinet Lead Member for Housing and Communities, Cllr Tony Thomas; or previous presenters.

- 118 Community Councillor Vacancy** – no interest reported. Continue with the advertisement.
- 119 ‘Place Plan Concept’** – Cllr Barton attended the ‘Planning Aid Wales’ Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> June the report from this meeting has now been circulated prior to this meeting. As the Report has only just been sent, the item was postponed. *\*Agenda Item for New Year.*
- 120 Maintenance in the Community** – the Millennium Fountain – repair is still outstanding. The Clerk will contact Mr Healy for an update.
- 121 Planning Issues** – None raised
- 122 Risk Assessments**
  - Maes Ysgawen – the hedgerow which borders the school will need attention. Consideration will be given to re-siting one of the picnic tables. Hopefully, all the spring bulbs planted earlier in the year will grow, giving a splash of colour. Perhaps, we can introduce native bluebells in the damp areas to extend the flower colour.
  - Maeshafn – the official paperwork for the Playing Field ownership has been received which includes the additional land. Progress can now be made in applying for a further grant from a further Commuted Fund (Ty Isaf), to install the additional fencing and gate in the area. It is all looking extremely attractive. *\*Agenda Item in January to plan the future of the Playing Field. Resolved: The Clerk will complete the Grant Form.*
  - Dog Poo Bin – no update. The Clerk and Cllr Holland are continuing to chase this item following a response from Denbighshire County Council.
  - Llanferres Playing Field – LPFRA – Cllr Barton reported on the LPFRA Executive Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The LPFRA are currently covered by both their own Insurance and that of the Community Council.
  - Llanferres Memorial – nothing to report.
  - Financial Risks – No risks were raised. A copy of the Final Audit Report has been received and with the updated Financial Orders, already circulated, will be an *Agenda item in February\**

**123 Training & Finance Issues**  
**Training Issues – none reported.**

**Finance Issues** – the outcome of the External Audit as reported above.  
 It was agreed to amend the Financial Orders as reported above.

**124 Bills – Payment Schedule**

Clerk’s Salary (November 2019) & PAYE	£236.78
LawnOrder (Maeshafn Green)	£35.00
Cutting Maeshafn Field (Fuel Costs)	£20.58
NewsQuest Media – Advert for Clerk	£280.00
Bank Interest received	£0.92

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

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

- 125 Correspondence** – items of correspondence were discussed as above and received as noted below:
- a) Ruthin Hospital League of Friends had invited the Council to send a representative to their next meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm. *Cllr Barton could not attend. The next meeting would be held in January.*
  - b) Llywelyn Jones Solicitors sent a copy of the Title Plan for Maeshafn Plying Field.
  - c) Village Hall Management AGM is to be held in the Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm.
  - d) Notice of the Super Broadband Information Workshop from Denbighshire County Council to be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December in Canolfan Cae Cymro Clawddnewydd from 9.30am to 1pm.

- 126 Standing Orders** – The Clerk sent out an updated copy to each Councillor for this Meeting. **It was agreed to update the following:**

**Extraordinary Meeting – must consist of three (3) members.**

It was agreed that each Standing Order can be discussed if a member should raise an issue, but it must be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion into the Agenda.

- 127 Other Matters Brought to Councillor’s attention:**
- a) The hedgerow in Tafarn-y-Gelyn has been cut but ‘butchered’ would be a better description. The Community Councillors feel that the hedgerow should not have been so severely cut.
- 128 Date of next Meeting:** The General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at **7:30** pm in the school **Ysgol Bro Famau** in Llanferres.

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