

**Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Present: Cllrs**

Allan Morgans – Chair  
Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair  
Isla Watts  
Michael Cordiner  
John Almond  
Ivy Watts  
Amanda Curtis  
Paul Sheldon  
Jac Armstrong  
C Cllr Martyn Holland  
Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

**Apologies:**

None

**Members of the Public:**

Mr Hugo Watts  
Mrs G Dillon

**139. Minutes Silence**

The Chair opened the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of Cllr Bob Barton who passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and ex Cllr Dave Twomey who passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**140. Meeting open to the Public**

Nothing raised.

**141. Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Ivy Watts and Isla Watts declared an interest in item 15b on the agenda – 2021 Ground Care Contract for Maeshafn and Maes Ysgawen

**142. Approval of Minutes on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Cllr Morgans proposed they be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

**143. Matters Arising from Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 ref minute:**

- 127/2 on agenda for this meeting  
127/3 on agenda for this meeting  
129 on agenda for this meeting  
130 completed 23.11.20  
131 completed 16.11.20  
132/1 waiting for date from contractor  
132/2 on agenda for this meeting  
132/3 C Cllr Holland reported he had sought advice from Denbighshire CC and anyone wishing to put anything on the land around Llanferres memorial should first seek permission from them in writing. He suggested it was time for LCC to discuss what they wanted their involvement to be and if they should officially take over responsibility for this area.  
**Action: Clerk to put on agenda for January meeting**  
Cllr Almond stated that the 2 metal soldiers that should have been taken down at the end of November had not been removed.  
**Action: Cllr Holland to notify Denbighshire CC**  
C Cllr Holland also reported that the Aggregates Levy was no longer available  
133 completed 14.11.20  
134 all completed 19.11.20

- 135 still outstanding – waiting for minutes of November meeting to be approved to go with documentation
- 136 completed 13.11.20

#### **144. Correspondence List**

The Clerk had circulated correspondence to Councillors as appropriate during the course of the month. 4 items needed considering and all are on agenda for this meeting

#### **145. External Audit**

Notice of completion of external audit was received during the month. The report raising 5 issues for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

1. The RFO failed to certify the accounting statements of the annual return before the approval of the Council. They were dated on the same day as the Chair signed them but should have been done before being presented to the meeting.
2. The Trust Fund Disclosure note box 11 had not been ticked
3. The internal auditor had recommended changes to how the bank reconciliation statement should be prepared to prevent errors
4. Additional fixed assets from previous year 2018-19 had not been included in box 12. This was an error in the calculation
5. The £40 retirement gift to Rob Jones when he retired in 2018-19 was deemed an illegal payment

Cllr Morgans proposed the External Auditors report be accepted, Cllr Almond seconded and all other councillors voted in favour.

#### **146. Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2020-21**

Cllr Morgans proposed JDH be re-appointed to complete the 2020-21 internal audit. Cllr Cordiner seconded and all other councillors voted in favour.

#### **147. Support for News & Views**

The Chair and the Clerk had a meeting with the publishers of News & Views to discuss how the £600 grant they had requested would be used. In summary they had found publishing the newsletter takes far more time than they anticipated, the income they receive only just covers costs and they feel they would like to draw a small wage for their efforts if they are to continue. After due discussion by Councillors, they concluded the magazine should be supported as it was a very useful means of communication locally. It has drifted away from its original brief to inform and update residents in the community, although this may be due in part to many events not having taken place due to Covid-19 restrictions resulting in long 'filler articles' being included. Cllr Sheldon proposed paying the £600 requested, on the understanding that this was a 'one off' payment based on the publishers agreeing to disclosing their financial position and discuss the continued viability of the magazine in 12 months' time. Cllr Curtis seconded, 5 Councillors voted in favour and 1 Councillor voted against. The motion was carried.

**Action: Clerk to write to News & Views and pay £600 if they agree to the conditions.**

#### **148. Green Flag Award**

Cllr Armstrong agreed to take over from Cllr Barton as Champion of the Green Flag Award. Cllrs Morgans and Almond agreed to assist in preparing the applications for Maes Ysgawen and Maeshafn for the 2021 award. The Clerk suggested LPFRA should now submit their own application.

**Action: Clerk to send application form to Councillors and write to LPFRA asking if they will submit their own application in future.**

## 149. County Councillor Martin Hollands Monthly Report

### Llanferres Village Hall

I am pleased to confirm that the Village/School Hall repairs are more or less now complete. The new insulated roof is working well and the hall is much warmer and the new replacement windows are also more effective when it comes to being energy efficient. DCC has paid for this work to be undertaken.

### Defibrillators

I attended the installation of a new Defib at the Saw Mills on Forestry Road with Tomos from the Ambulance Service. The Defib will be available to local residents and visitors in the case of an emergency and we are grateful to Mathew Davies and the Saw Mills for providing space and electricity for this equipment.

We now have defibs in the Loggerheads Country Park outside Café Florence, on the toilet block by the lower car in the Moel Famau Country Park, at the village hall in Llanferres and in the old telephone box in Maeshafn plus the new one at the Saw Mill.

Tomos from the Ambulance Service also confirmed that they are putting a defib unit near the top of Moel Famau early next year for the summer.

This will mean that the Community of Llanferres residents will be well served in the case of an emergency.

### Number of Pupils at Ysgol Bro Famau

I attended an Ysgol Bro Famau school Governors meeting on the 8th December via video link. They announced that school numbers were still falling and now stood at 25 in foundation and 42 in the Junior school.

They are looking to do more to market the school which has an excellent reputation and they are also looking to sign post the school to ensure people know where it is.

Llanarmon CC have agreed to offer financial support towards the signage and as the County Councillor I was wondering if Llanferres CC could consider doing the same.

### Mobile Post Office

The new Mobile Postal Service is being well received and well attended. Sadly, the Christmas postal rush has meant that you need to get there early but things should quieten down after Christmas. It is a good idea to take an umbrella with you and I have put up Mobile Post Office Posters around the ward.

### Loose Gully

I have reported another loose gully cover in Tafarn Y Gelyn.

### Grit Boxes

The new yellow grit boxes are now being delivered around the ward but piles of grit may still be used in some areas. The full roll out will not be completed until next year along with the numbering of the boxes which looks as if they will be numbered by village and County Ward. A thousand boxes in total.

### Accident

There has been another traffic accident on the Aberduna Bends where a car miss judged the road and turned over on its side. No one was injured.

The police have kindly given me the figures for accidents in that area which amount to five in the last four years. I hope this will prove the need for chevrons to forewarn motorist that they are approaching a set of bad bends. I have passed this important accident data on to the Counties Highways Team.

### Line Painting Maeshafn

I am pleased to report that the white lining at the junctions in Maeshafn has been completed.

### Councillor Bob Barton

I was extremely sorry to hear the sad news about Bob Barton's death in hospital after complications with his Leukaemia. Bob and I did not always see eye to eye especially about his approach to meetings but I did feel that he had the interests of his communities at heart. Bob sat on Llanferres CC, Llandegla CC, Llanbedr CC, Llanfair DC CC and Colwyn Bay Town Council. My thoughts are with his widow Mary and their daughters at this very sad time.

**LDP** – Denbighshire CC had extended the Local Development Plan to 2022

**Moel Famau** – There is a site meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to discuss how the £100,000 should be spent to improve access and reduce traffic congestion.

## **150. Planning Application 21-2020-0942 Aberduna Farm**

After due discussion Cllr Armstrong proposed not objecting to the application, Cllr Curtis seconded and all other Councillors voted in favour.

**Action: Clerk to notify Denbighshire CC**

## **151. Projects Update**

1. The grant application has been submitted to Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Fund for the improvement of Maeshafn playing field and orchard area. Total project cost is £23,095 – grant applied for is £18,476 with the remaining £4619 funded by LCC out of reserves. The Clerk will be notified before Christmas of the outcome.
2. The Butterfly garden has been built in Maeshafn orchard area and 1000 English bluebells and 100 daffodils planted around the tree in the playing field. The Chair formally thanked Cllrs Almond and Curtis and the Clerk for their help.
3. Phase 1 of the development of Maes Ysgawen is complete with the dog roses removed, 300 wildflower plants, 1000 bluebells, 300 daffodils and 1 kilo of wildflower seeds planted. The Chair formally thanked Cllr Sheldon and the Clerk for their help
4. Cllrs Cordiner and Sheldon had looked into registering the Councils land as village greens and reported that:
  - a. It would lock up the land forever and could restrict what activities the Council could undertake if they wished to continue improving the land in relation to Biodiversity
  - b. It would give everyone 'the right to roam' and would prevent the Council from restricting inappropriate access
  - c. It would seriously devalue the land and this would need the approval of Welsh Government
  - d. Registration is a long process, not easy and wouldn't stop developers, it would just make it more difficult for them to obtain permission to access the land if they needed to cross it with utilities
  - e. Housing developers would need permission from the Council as land owners before they could do anything thus the Council would maintain control over what happens

They concluded they think there is sufficient protection already in place with restrictive covenants and planning designations as 'protected open spaces'. Cllr Cordiner proposed maintaining the 'status quo' by not registering the land as village greens but review the position if anything changed. Cllr Sheldon seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

## **152. Maintenance in the Community**

1. Cllr Morgans is waiting for date from electric contractor for Pat testing of the Telephone kiosk and feed to Christmas tree lights.
2. 3 quotations have been received for the 2021 annual ground care contract for Maeshafn and Maes Ysgawen. After disclosed of the prices Cllr Almond proposed awarding the contract to White Oak Properties, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

**Action: Clerk to notify White Oak Properties**

## **153. 2021-22 Precept**

The Chair went through the potential precept in detail and noted comments made by Councillors.

**Action: Chair and Clerk to prepare proposal and circulate to Councillors for their consideration and further comment by 15<sup>th</sup> December so that precept can be finalised at meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January**

## 154. Councillor Payments

**Action: All Councillors to notify the Clerk ASAP if they will NOT be claiming the allowance for 2020-21 by completing and returning the form or sending e-mail**

## 155. Commuted Sum

It was agreed to apply for the 2021 commuted sum to replace the main gate at Maes Ysgawen park with something more suitable for disabled users

**Action: Clerk to submit application ASAP**

## 156. Banking

Cllr Ivy Watts had checked the November bank statements against the payments authorised at last months meeting and all Internet Banking transactions and reported all was in order.

The Clerk reported an invoice for £45.76 for Emorsgate wildflower seeds had been paid in error in November due to her not noticing a duplicate invoice had been sent. The money was re-claimed as soon as the error was seen.

## 157. Schedule of Bills for Payment

The following bills had been received during the month and presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW - payment of Clerk salary, backpay and admin fee for October	£315.90
2. Allan Morgans - GoTo meeting fee November	£13.20
3. White Oak Properties – grass cutting and weed spraying Maeshafn	£90.00
4. White Oak Properties – ground care Maes Ysgawen	£585.00
5. Margaret Narburgh – clerks’ expenses	£66.87
6. SLCC – annual membership fee	£49.00
7. News & Views – grant	£600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1719.97</b>

Cllr Cordiner proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

**Action: Clerk to pay all bills on schedule**

## 157. Review of Policy Documents

Deferred to next meeting due to lack of time

## 158. Dates of Meeting for 2021-22

The Clerk had circulated proposed dates of meeting for next year. No objections raised.

## 159. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

1. Cllr Cordiner proposed a donation be made to the Salvation Army in memory of Cllr Barton, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.  
**Action: Clerk to arrange £50 donation to be sent**
2. Cllr Holland asked if the Council could consider contributing to the cost of signage for Llanferres school to increase awareness. Councillors all agreed in principle and would consider in full when details of costs are available.
3. The Chair had been invited to help plant 50 broad leaf trees in Big Covert on land recently bought by someone from Bala. His plans are to remove invasive beech trees and replace with more native species. Thinning of the existing trees will hopefully start in Spring with horses being used to remove

the timber. NWWT and the Woodlands Trust were also helping. It was suggested the owner place an article in News & Views regarding his plans

4. Denbighshire's returning officer has sent the Clerk information relating to notifying the community of a Casual Vacancy to replace Cllr Barton.

**Action: Clerk to prepare and display the notice ASAP**

The Chair thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.04 p.m.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
starting at 7.30 pm by Video Conference**