

Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 11th February 2021

Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair
John Almond
Isla Watts
Amanda Curtis
Paul Sheldon
Graeme Davidson
C Cllr Martyn Holland
Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

Apologies:

Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair
Ivy Watts
Michael Cordiner

Members of the Public:

Roy Kendrick
Julie Lawton
Andrea Strong
Julie Wynne
David Wynne
Gaynor Hannibal-Woods
Rupert Hannibal
Andrew Edwards
Michelle Edwards
Richard Haggerty
Michael Phillips

176. Agenda Items

The Chair opened the meeting and proposed bringing item 11 *Scoping opinion request – Burley Hill Quarry* to the top of the agenda. Cllr Curtis seconded and the proposal was accepted.

177. Councillor Vacancy

Only one candidate had put themselves forward to fill the vacancy. Mr Graeme Davidson's CV had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair proposed he be co-opted onto the Council, Cllr Isla Watts seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

Action: Cllr Davidson and the Clerk to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form

178. Meeting open to the Public

Members of the public were invited to speak individually. All expressed concerns over the Scoping opinion request and possible re-opening of Burley Hill Quarry. In summary their concerns relate to:

- Why the study had to be done at all, given one had been done many years ago
- Why were Grosvenor Estates considering re-opening the quarry again now when they had had 15 years to extract the aggregate but not done so
- Why had the quarry closed in 2005 with the loss of jobs if there was still work there
- Objections to any planning application to re-open based on the high levels of noise, dust, pollution and vibration that would result
- Why had residents in the immediate vicinity not been told of the plans by the quarry owners
- The adverse effect on local businesses including holiday accommodation, local pubs, mountain bike hire and other tourist activities
- The increased risk of road traffic accidents with the added volume of HGV movements
- The adverse effect on school buses travelling along the road between Llanarmon and Mold

179. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Almond declared a possible personal interest in planning appeal 21/2020/0292. Cllr Sheldon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning appeal 21/2020/0292

Action: Clerk to forward Declaration of Interest forms to both for completion

180. Scoping Opinion Request 21/2021/0052 Burley Hill Quarry

The Chair stressed this was a Scoping Opinion request on an Environment Statement submitted to Denbighshire CC by Grosvenor Estates. It was NOT a planning application and so the Council could only comment on the document in front of them.

County Councillor Martyn Holland explained Environmental Impact Studies should be done every 15 years and one should have been completed in 2017 but had been missed for some reason. The owners are therefore obliged to go through this process now because the original planning permission to quarry at Burley Hill is still in force until the end of 2021. The request for opinions on the Scoping of the EIS have been sent out to Natural Resources Wales, AONB, Llanferres CC, MADRA, the Archaeological Society and many other bodies but he himself had not been made aware of it until the Chair of this Council contacted him. Other omissions were neighbouring Llanarmon and Nercwys Community Councils and residents along the Pant Du road.

C Cllr Holland stated that anyone could comment on the scoping of the EIA and he himself would be focusing his comments on the major changes that have occurred during the last 15 years particularly, the drive to re-cycle old building materials for aggregate rather than quarrying new; changes in UK, Welsh and County policy in relation to pollutants; the potential adverse impact on local businesses, the local economy and tourism; changes in society following the impact of Covid-19.

He then outlined the process stating

- The EIA could be done to comply with existing planning requirement and go no further or
- It could be used to go ahead with the submission of an outline planning application. If this did happen it would trigger a Public Consultation and public meetings after this
- A full planning application could be submitted and people could submit their comments or concerns to the re-opening of the quarry

He has also spoken to Hannah Parish - the Aggregates Offices within Denbighshire planning dept – and she has offered to attend the next community council meeting on 11th March to answer any questions. She has also agreed to extend the deadline for comments from 18th February until 17th March to give everyone more time to consider how they wish to respond. [Tarmac lease Llanarmon quarry from the Duke of Westminster estate and are currently operating under licence until 2032. Tarmac own the land at Hendry and Halkyn and have planning permission to extend quarrying at the Hendry site.](#)

Action: Clerk to liaise with C Cllr Holland and invite Hannah to the next meeting

Councillors commented that the scoping study should include:

- the effect on local businesses
- the impact on the rare butterfly habitat at the entrance of Burley Hill quarry
- the dangers associated with people swimming in the water at the bottom of the quarry
- the increased risk of road traffic accidents

and leave out points that were no longer relevant given the passage of time.

Action: Clerk to draft letter responding to Scoping Opinion request and circulate for comment before submitting to Denbighshire CC

181. Approval of Minutes on 14th January 2021

Cllr Sheldon proposed they be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting subject to amendments in minutes 167.3 and 170, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

182. Matters Arising from Meeting on 14th January 2021 ref minute:

- 163 the post office has not yet responded to C Cllr Holland request for a tripod sign notifying the public when the mobile van would not be coming. Cllr Almond printed and posted his own signs as a temporary measure.
- 164.2 completed 15.1.21
- 164.3 completed 17.1.21
- 165 completed 15.1.21
- 167 completed 15.1.21
- 167.1 completed 17.1.21
- 167.2 chair contacted Keith Gould and is waiting for quote – on agenda for next meeting
- 167.3 still outstanding – on agenda for next meeting
- 167.4 Cllr Holland waiting response from Highways Dept – on agenda for next meeting
- 167.5 noted by Clerk for September meeting agenda
- 170 outstanding until weather improves– on agenda for next meeting
- 171 completed 9.2.21
- 172 completed 15.1.21
- 173 completed 15.1.21
- 174 completed 31.2.21
- 175.2 Cllrs Morgans and Almond cannot find the layby referred to – Chair to speak to Cllr Cordiner
- 175.4 bottom of Maeshafn did not flood during recent heavy rains but Cllrs not sure what Highways dept have done to stop the flooding

183. Correspondence List

The Clerk had circulated correspondence to Councillors as appropriate during the course of the month. Five items needed considering:

1. Charlotte Riddick asked if the Council would fund £40 to replace the battery in the defibrillator at the Llanferres Village Hall. Cllr Almond proposed approving the payment, Cllr Curtis seconded and all other councillors voted in favour. **Action: Clerk to arrange payment**
2. Both the Monitoring officer and One Voice Wales have confirmed the Council should make a pro-rata payment of the Councillors Allowance to Cllr Barton's estate. **Action: Clerk to arrange payment**
3. North Wales Wildlife Trust had asked the Council to canvas residents in Maeshafn re planting a tree nursery on land they own adjoining the playing field in Maeshafn. The Clerk circulated a note and has had 6 responses. These residents support the initiative. **Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with NWWT to discuss best location**
4. Mr & Mrs Hannibal-Woods expressed concerns over siting of the outdoor shelter in the Maeshafn playing field. 2 meetings were held with them and Cllr Almond has circulated notes from the meeting for consideration during item 13 on the agenda
5. Mr & Mrs Hannibal-Woods asked for clarification re dogs in the park and this will be considered under item 13 on the agenda

184. Planning Appeal 21/2020/0292 Erw Las Eryrys

Cllr Sheldon left the meeting whilst this was discussed and Cllr Almond did not comment. After due discussion Cllr Morgans proposed continuing to support the application, Cllr Curtis seconded and all other Councillors voted in favour.

Action: None required original comments will be forwarded to the Inspector automatically

185. Planning Application 21/2021/0045 Cefn Cregog Maeshafn

After due discussion Cllr Morgans proposed supporting the application, Cllr Curtis seconded and all other Councillors voted in favour

Action: Clerk to write to Denbighshire Planning Dept

186. County Councillor Martin Hollands Monthly Report

Affordable Housing

Some good news. At a recent County Council meeting about affordable housing, I raised the question again about the delay in building the two affordable Housing Association properties on the old Glebe field. There has been a delay due a legal dispute with contractors which I believe has now been resolved. Hopefully, we should therefore see some movement in the building of affordable housing on that site.

People who are looking for affordable housing should ensure they register via the Counties Website because this helps the County assess the demand when preparing such things as the LDP and the type of housing in any development.

Tafarn y Gelyn Pond Restoration

A grant has been received for the restoration of the village pond in Tafarn Y Gelyn and a further £500 has been raised as match funding. Well done to all those involved.

Grid Cover Tafarn y Gelyn

I reported another gully in Tafarn Y Gelyn that needed attention and I am pleased to confirm that the County have reset the grid cover and they have sealed the road around it.

Grit Box Tafarn y Gelyn

An extra grit box has been delivered in Tafarn Y Gelyn to help with icy conditions around the Cilcain road junction.

Flooding on Maeshafn Road

Cllr Alan Morgans pictures of flooding on Ffordd Maeshafn near Silverwood have been sent to Highways. They have already agreed to undertake work to resolve the flooding at this point which the County acknowledge is a priority.

Speeding Traffic through Loggerheads

Our SM Darren Millar has asked a question in the Senedd about the speed of traffic through Llanferres on the A494 Trunk Road. The Minister has confirmed that speed measurements will be undertaken as part of a wider review of speed limits on all Welsh Trunk roads. We have pointed out that this has already been done and that the average speed was approximately 54mph in a 40mph speed limit and that we do not want to wait until 2023/24 for an answer.

Water on Forestry Road

During the recent heavy rains, a large amount of water was once again flowing down Forestry road. I did report this to the County and a local resident did clear the drain that runs under the road into the pond in the caravan park. This has resolved the flow of water from the top of the field on the right-hand side but water is still flowing onto the road further down. As you know the County did put in additional drainage at the bottom of Forestry road by Wayside two or three years ago but most of the current water is coming off the neighbouring farm land. I have asked the County to approach the land owner to try and resolve this problem.

Sledging

Sadly, we had our fair share of snow over Christmas and New Year. Fortunately, due to the presence of the Police, Rangers and the DCC Enforcement team we have not had the usual sledging and damage to the field in Cadole or bad parking on the A494. On the one occasion people started to arrive in that area but the police responded quickly and people were moved on and a number of Covid fines were issued.

An old picture of sledging two years ago on the field in Cadole was posted on Facebook in Ruthin with the caption come and join the Sledging fun in Cadole. This was Fake News and I am not sure what the motive was for placing this on Facebook other than to encourage others to break the covid lockdown!!

Tyn Llan

Again, during the recent heavy rains, I received some concerned calls about a large pond forming at the rear of the pensioners bungalows in Tyn Llan.

The drains at this point failed due to the huge amount of water that was flowing underground via the old stream along the backs of these properties. I reported it on the night and asked the county to look for a solution to resolve this problem in future. The drain takes the stream under the A494 and down to the River Alyn.

Attempted Break in at Loggerheads Garage

There has been another attempted break in at the Loggerheads Garage but the thieves may have been disturbed.

Parking on A494

I have asked the County to investigate turning the A494 through Loggerheads into a Clearway. This would stop all parking on the A494 not matter what the weather is like. Snow can hide the double yellow lines which makes it difficult to get successful prosecutions for illegal parking in that area.

Burley Hill Quarry Scoping Exercise

Many of you will have seen the reports about a Scoping Exercise for the Burley Hill Quarry which has raised concerns about it reopening and the Quarries life being extended for another fifteen years.

The exercise is being undertaken by the Westminster Estate and the process is in three parts.

Firstly, the Scoping involves contact being made with all official bodies such as NRW, AONB and the Community Council. We are all asked to comment on what is an Environmental Impact Assessment.

This will cover such things as noise, dust, visual impact, screening and Ash Die Back. It will also ask if the Quarry meets modern Quarrying Standards, location, etc.

If the owners then decide to proceed they will have to go out to public consultation with briefings, public meetings, etc.

Only then can they submit a formal planning application and at each stage the Community and others will have their chance to comment.

Although the Quarry has been mothballed for the last fifteen years there are reserves there and this activity is taking place because the current planning permissions expire in September this year.

I am happy to arrange a meeting with the Aggregates officers in the future if that would help

187. Projects Update

1. Maeshafn Playing Field – the NO DOGS ALLOWED sign has been fixed to the entrance gate. Cllr Morgans explained to Mr Hannibal & Mrs Hannibal-Woods that Denbighshire CC had banned dogs from all playing fields in 2017 and he had been waiting for a sign for the gate since early 2020. When it came, it was wrong and had to be re-ordered. The signs arrival coincided with their e-mails regarding the siting of the outdoor shelter and was not aimed specifically at them. Another Maeshafn resident had seen them walking through the park with dogs and asked if this meant they could do the same. The sign now makes it clear.
2. Maeshafn Playing Field - Siting of the Outdoor Shelter. Cllr Almond circulated his notes from the meeting with Mr Hannibal & Mrs Hannibal-Woods following their concerns that it would attract anti-social behaviour. A number of sites were considered and they chose the bottom left-hand corner furthest away from their property. The Council acknowledged their concerns and agreed to putting a sign on the entrance gate to the orchard area stating the area is closed at 7 pm or dusk whichever was the earliest. Also, to revisit the matter should their concerns be realised
3. Maeshafn Orchard Area - 8 fruit trees have arrived from Keep Wales Tidy and have been planted temporarily near the compost bins until work in this area is completed.

188. Right of Way through Maeshafn Playing Field

Right of Way through Maeshafn Playing Field – the Chair stated that the Council were happy for Mr & Mrs Hannibal-Woods to enter the park from the gate on their property even though this is not an official right of way. The Council reserves the right to block this access if needed in future to prevent it being claimed as a right of way through the passage of time.

189. Maintenance in the Community

1. Cllr Morgans is still waiting for date from electric contractor for Pat testing of the Telephone kiosk and feed to Christmas tree lights.

Action: Cllr Morgans to chase the contractor

2. Keith Gould has agreed to have a look at repairing the Millennium water fountain when the weather improves.

Action: Cllr Morgans to arrange date

3. Cllr Morgans has arranged for a carpenter to look at repairing the bench between Tafarn y Gelyn and Loggerheads when the weather improves

Action: Cllr Morgans to arrange date

190. Banking

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

191. Schedule of Bills for Payment

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW - payment of Clerk salary, backpay and admin fee for February	£315.90
2. Allan Morgans - GoTo meeting fee January	£13.20
3. Allan Morgans – No Dogs Allowed sign	£17.49
4. Use of debit card to purchase stationary	£5.00
5. Cllr Barton’s Estate – Councillors Allowance	£100.00
6. C Riddick – battery for Llanferres Village Hall Defibrillator	£40.00
Total	£491.59

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

Action: Clerk to pay all bills on schedule

192. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

1. Cllr Almond had been asked by residents in Rectory Lane if the Council could help with having the potholes repaired. **Action: Cllr Holland agreed to speak to Denbighshire CC about this and make enquires about the road being adopted**
2. Cllr Sheldon asked if there was any news re the Youth Hostel because a resident has noticed a number of caravans have appeared towards the back of the property. Cllr Holland stated that there were a number of planning enforcements outstanding at County and they were considering appointing a 2nd officer as they did not want a reputation for not dealing with planning breaches and this leading to a free for all of unapproved building works
3. Cllr Isla Watts has received complaints about dog fouling at Tafarn y Gelyn and asked if a poo bin would be installed. Cllr Morgans stated the one planned at the entrance to Big Covert had still not been actioned due to cost. **Action: Cllr Morgans to progress**

4. Cllr Morgans has received a complaint that the bus could not get into Maeshafn due to a skip being parked on the main road into the Village. The Clerk has spoken to the contractor who apologised and agreed to be more mindful of traffic in future.
5. Cllr Morgans received a complain that a large number of bottles and cans were littering land near the S bend on the road into Maeshafn. Cllr Morgans has notified NWWT who will arrange for them to be cleared.
6. Cllr Curtis reported 7 or 8 cars and vans parking in the passing place near Big Covert causing disruption to traffic. Cllr Morgans has seen this and recognised some of the vehicles as belonging to people working in Big Covert.
7. Cllr Morgans reported that work had started in Big Covert to fell some of the beech trees and 2 horses are being used to drag the logs out. An area approx. 250m x 20m will be replanted with oak and other broad leaf trees and a thicket planted under the trees. The owners have written an article on this for the next issue of News & Views.

The Chair thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 11th March 2021
starting at 7.30 pm by Video Conference**