

Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 11th November 2021

Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair
Ivy Watts
Michael Cordiner
John Almond
Isla Watts
Amanda Curtis
Paul Sheldon
Martyn Holland
Margaret Narburgh - Clerk

Apologies:

Graham Davidson
Jac Armstrong

Members of the Public:

Tony King
Hugo Watts

The Council was unable to facilitate requests to join the meeting via video conference, due to Open Reach and BT not having completed work to install a broadband connection in the Village hall.

309. Apologies

Cllr Armstrong sent his apologies due to personal commitments. Cllr Davidson did not respond.

310. Meeting Open to the Public

Nothing raised.

311. Declaration of Interest Statement

Circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

312. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Ivy and Isla Watts both declared an interest in item 17a on the agenda and signed the declaration form at the meeting. Cllr Sheldon declared an interest in planning application ref 21/2021/1021 and signed the declaration form at the meeting.

313. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting on 14th October 2021

Cllr Cordiner proposed the Minutes be accepted, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors present accepted the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

314. Matters Arising from the Meeting on 14th October 2021

- 167/4 Still awaiting a response from DCC regarding the dropped kerb at the entrance to Maes Ysgawen park. Action Cllr Holland to speak to DCC and Council to review again at December meeting
- 259/1 New cork on noticeboard at Pant Du still needs replacing. Action: Chair to arrange
- 283/a Operation London Bridge – Cllrs Curtis and Almond agreed to meet with the Chair to discuss what could be put in place in the event of HMR Queen Elizabeth's passing. Action put on agenda for December meeting
- 283/d Maeshafn playing field road signs – DCC have agreed to put signs on all 3 entrances to the village when 20 mph speed limit comes into force in 2023
- 296/c Chair unable to fix sign at Maes Ysgawen due to lack of space
- 296/e Darren Miller will be attending the January 2022 meeting. Action: Clerk to let him know meeting will be via video conference
- 296/g Completed 12/10/21
- 297 On agenda for this meeting
- 298 Completed 15/10/21
- 302 Completed 15/10/21
- 304 Completed 26/10/21

305	Completed 15/10/21
307	Completed 15/10/21
308/4	Completed
Part II/1	Completed 15/10/21
Part II/2	Completed 27/10/21

315. Correspondence List

The Clerk had circulated correspondence to Councillors as appropriate during the course of the month.

1. Mr Mulraney has made a formal complaint to Denbighshire CC following the response he received regarding Rectory Lane. He has copied the correspondence to the Council for information.
2. The request to review the Councils response to an alleged data breach was circulated to Councillors during the month and responded to on 20/10/21.
3. Darren Miller has confirmed he will be attending the January 2022 meeting.
4. Tarmac have notified the Council of their Virtual Public Exhibition re Burley Hill Quarry.
5. Denbighshire CC have installed a number of electric car charging points throughout the county.
6. Rebecca Evans AS/MS has responded regarding multi-access to meetings and praised the Council for its efforts in complying with the new legislation. She considers the Council has done all it can to facilitate this and acknowledges we can only comply when broadband is available in the village hall.

316. LPFRA

The Chair proposed moving this item down the agenda in case Cllr Armstrong arrived. Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

317. Amendment to Standing Orders – Multi Location Meetings

Cllr Curtis stated she had researched what equipment would be needed to facilitate remote attendees hearing and being heard at meetings. The Council would need to buy speakers and a microphone and connect to the Clerks existing laptop which would cost around £200. Cllr Morgans proposed leaving amending the standing orders until broadband was available in the village hall and the Council could connect to the facility, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for review at December meeting.

318. Remuneration Board Publication

Llanferres CC is now in Group 5 due to there being less than 1000 electors in its area. The Councillor payment of £150 has changed from being mandatory to being optional. The Chair proposed leaving the decision on whether to maintain the current system of opting out of payment until after the election in May 2022. Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

319. 2022-23 Precept

The Chair went through the draft precept in detail and after due discussion a number of changes and additions were agreed. Action: Clerk to amend and present to December meeting.

320. Commuted Sum

Llanferres CC does not qualify for a Commuted Sum in 2022-23.

321. Burley Hill Quarry

Nothing new to add following public meeting with Tarmac. Cllr Holland will arrange a meeting with residents when the planning application has been submitted.

322. Planning Applications

21/2021/1021 – Erw Las, Eryrys. After due discussion Councillors had no objections to the application.

21/2021/0903 – Land adjacent to the Paddock Llanferres. Cllr Morgans stated Denbighshire's PSE12 Caravan, Chalets and Camping Advisory notes states in section 3.3 that '*lodges, chalets, pods and other similar structures which cannot be lawfully moved on a highway when assembled will be treated as static caravans*'. Section 6 states that '*proposals for new static caravan sites will not be permitted*'. Cllr Cordiner stated the drawings submitted were misleading as they did not show the public footpath; extent of flood risk; lack of mains water and lack of sewage disposal on the site. After due discussion Councillors agreed they could not support the application. Action: Clerk to notify Planning

323. County Councillors Report October 2021

Grit Boxes

As winter approaches I have been asked to contact DCC about an additional two grit boxes for the back road to Moel Famau (Pen Y Waen Rd). I met with residents to discuss the sites for these bins.

Burley Hill Quarry

Tarmac have arranged their virtual exhibition for their proposals to extend the life of the Burley Hill Quarry and residents were able to view it until the 7th November.

Once the formal planning application has been submitted I will call a public meeting (allowing for any covid restrictions at that time) to allow residents to raise their concerns and to confirm the planning process.

Forestry Road Parking

The public consultation on the proposed parking restrictions on Forestry road is coming to an end and I have asked to meet with officers to discuss any concerns raised.

PTA Fund Raiser

I attended the PTA fund raiser which was well supported and an excellent evening. Our thanks go to all involved and their support for Ysgol Bro Famau.

Llanarmon Bonfire Night

The event was unusually well attended and raised over £1000 on the gate

324. Projects Update

- a. Tafarn y Gelyn Bench - Michelle Gudgeon has not responded to the Clerks letter and it is now assumed DCC has no objection to a bench being installed. The Chair proposed going ahead with the work, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Cllr Morgans to meet Cllr Cordiner to make the arrangements.
- b. The new noticeboard at Loggerheads was installed during October.

325. Maintenance in the Community

- a. Maes Ysgawen – repair to culvert is still outstanding. White Oak Properties have confirmed work will be completed within the next month.
- b. Millennium water fountain – Cllr Morgans has spoken to the plumber who confirmed it would be a difficult and costly job to repair the existing fountain even if he could source the parts. Cllr Morgans proposed replacing it with a new cast aluminium fountain of similar design at a cost of £120 plus installation. Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Cllr Morgans to arrange with plumber.
- c. Llanferres noticeboard – Cllr Morgans has inspected it and found the doors cannot be repaired and the posts are rotting and moving in the ground. Cllr Morgans proposed it be precepted for replacing in 2022, Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Cllrs Morgans to obtain quotes.
- d. 2022 Grass cutting - quotations have been received for grass cutting and general park maintenance in 2022 for Maes Ysgawen, Maesahfn village green and the War Memorial. Cllr Morgans proposed accepting

them, Cllr Cordiner seconded and Cllrs Almond, Curtis and Sheldon voted in favour. Cllrs Ivy and Isla Watts abstained due to their declaration of interest. Action: Clerk to write to contractor formally accepting the quotes.

- e. Maeshafn playing field and orchard area – Cllr Morgans stated he has been the only volunteer to cut the grass for the last 2 years and will be unable to continue in 2022. Other volunteers are no longer able to help due to work and family commitments. Cllr Morgans proposed employing White Oak Properties to cut the grass at a cost of £720. There would be a saving of £400 as the existing ride on mower would not need servicing or fuel, giving a nett cost increase of £320. Cllr Cordiner seconded and Cllrs Almond, Curtis and Sheldon voted in favour. Cllrs Ivy and Isla Watts abstained due to their declaration of interest. Action: Clerk to write to contractor formally accepting the quotes.

326. Banking

The Clerk had sent Cllr Ivy Watts the October Bank Statements and accounts for checking against the Internet banking transactions. Cllr Watts confirmed all were correct.

327. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for November 2021	£315.90
2. White Oak Properties – grass cutting July to October 2021	£795.00
Total	£1110.90

Cllr Almond proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Curtis seconded, and all Councillors present voted in favour. Action: Clerk to pay all bills on schedule

328. LPFRA Lease Agreement

Cllr Armstrong has been able to edit the original lease agreement to extend it until 2051. He has responded to the Chair of LPFRA's questions regarding the break clause and query over the temporary footpath marked on the drawing dated November 1994. The cost of registering the extended lease with the Land Registry is £40. LPFRA have confirmed they are happy to sign the extended lease as drafted. After due discussion Cllr Morgans proposed going ahead with signing and registering the extended lease, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to arrange for the document to be signed by the relevant parties and speak to Cllr Armstrong about registration.

329. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

1. Queens Platinum Jubilee - The Chair had spoken to Celtic Stone and machinery would be needed to manoeuvre a stone into place which would result in severe damage to the ground. After due discussion Councillors agreed to mark the occasion by just planting a tree with a commemorative plaque in Maes Ysgawen park. Action: Clerk to include £200 in precept to cover the cost.
2. Mary Barton has agreed to lay the wreath and Cllr Almond agreed to do the reading on Remembrance Sunday.
3. Cllr Cordiner stated he had been contacted by Rob Jones regarding the hedges near Pen y Gris and Bryn Ffynnon overhanging the road and traffic having to swerve around them.
4. The bench on Maeshafn village green is rotting and past repair. Action: Clerk to include £250 in precept to replace.

5. Cllr Morgans stated Denbighshire CC had contacted him to say the 30mph speed signs at the 3 entrances to Maeshafn village would not be installed until 2023 when the limit would be reduced to 20mph.
6. The Clerk has reviewed and circulated the Document Retention and Disposal policy following further training. Cllr Morgans proposed it be accepted, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

The Chair proposed closing the meeting at 21.15 to move onto **Part II** of the agenda, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. The Chair thanked members of the public for attending and asked them to leave.

Part II

330. Councillors considered the Clerks change in circumstances. Cllr Cordiner proposed the following:

1. Meetings for the foreseeable future would be held by video conference
2. Some meeting dates be re-arranged to facilitate the Clerk
3. The Chair and Vice Chair be given delegated powers to employ someone and take whatever steps they felt necessary to continue the business of the Council if the Clerk was temporarily unable to continue her duties
4. The Clerks working hours be increased from 20 to 30 hours per month from April 2022

Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Cordiner proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded, and the meeting was closed at 21.50 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 9th December 2021
starting at 7.30 pm by GoTo Meetings Video Conference**