

Minutes of General Meeting held on Thursday 8th July 2021

Present: Cllrs

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

Apologies:

Graham Davidson
 Martyn Holland

Members of the Public:

Tony King
 Hugo Watts
 Noel Headley
 Mr Mulraney

260. Apologies

Cllr Davidson sent his apologies.

261. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr Mulraney asked if the Council could support him and the residents of Rectory Lane in getting Denbighshire CC to clarify the legal status of the lane. He has information dating back to 1934 which suggests the road was once adopted before being declared a B.O.A.T. The Chair thanked him for his information and stated the matter was on the correspondence list for discussion later.

262. Declaration of Interest Statement

Circulated to the Councillors prior to the Meeting.

263. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Armstrong declared a personal interest in Rectory Lane. Cllr Morgans declared an interest in **Part II** re a complaint from a member of the public.

264. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting on 10th June 2021

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

265. Matters Arising from the Meeting on 10th June 2021

- 167/4 Still awaiting a response from DCC regarding the dropped kerb at the entrance to Maes Ysgawen Park.
- 192/1 Potholes in Rectory Lane – on agenda for discussion
- 220/a Complete outstanding works at Maeshafn playing field – on agenda for discussion
- 220/b Bench at Tafarn Y Gelyn – on agenda for discussion
- 221/e Dog fouling bin in layby at Plymog – on agenda
- 230 / 251 Review of Standing Orders – on agenda
- 240/5 Millennium water fountain - review in September meeting
- 250 Annual Return amended 17.6.21. Supplier fraud – on agenda for discussion
- 254 Completed 13.6.21
- 255 Aqua drain Maeshafn playing field – on agenda for discussion
- 257 Completed 17.6.21
- 258 Completed 17.6.21
- 259/1 New cork on noticeboard at Pant Du still needs replacing. **Action: Chair to arrange**
- 259/2 The fallen trees on the 'S' bends up to Maeshafn have been removed.
- 259/3 Faulty hinge on Llanferres noticeboard needs repairing. **Action: Cllr Davidson to investigate**

266. 1st Quarter Review of Accounts

Clerk reported income of £10572.95 and expenditure of £3053.32 for the first 3 months from April to end of June 21, giving an underspend of £7519.63. Nothing of significance to report.

267. Assets Risk Assessment

Cllr Almond agreed to accompany the Chair to inspect the assets and update the Risk Assessment before the end of July.

Action: Cllr Almond and Chair to agree date

268. Review of Standing Orders

Cllr Armstrong has reviewed Section 3(g) and proposed it should be left as it is i.e. participants can only speak at the discretion of the Council at a Meeting. Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors agreed.

From 1st May 2021 Councils are required to update the Standing Orders to reflect that 'participants' (i.e. council members, members of the public and the press) are able to join meetings by telephone or video conference. Cllr Holland is seeking clarification.

Action: Wait for Cllr Holland to respond

269. Update of Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment

The Clerk has reviewed notes from Internal Auditor regarding updating the Financial Regulation to reduce the risk of Supplier Fraud and suggested including 4 new sub-sections under Item 6 – Instructions for Making Payments (6.2, 6.18, 6.19 and 6.20), and including a section on 'Fraud' in the Financial Risk Assessment. Cllr Armstrong proposed accepting the inclusions, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors present voted in favour.

Action: Clerk to update and re-issue Financial Regulations

270. Correspondence List

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

- a) Chair has asked for clarification of 'other priorities' in response to Darren Miller stating it would be 2023/24 before the speed concerns on A494 were addressed.
- b) Clerk reported there were no breaches of the Accessibility requirements on the website. The scan had suggested improvements to the colour contrast in some areas and more descriptive labels on some of the photographs. **Action: Clerk to make changes as appropriate.**
- c) Rectory Lane – Councillors agreed that as Denbighshire had repaired pot holes in the past, it could imply adoption. Cllr Almond proposed sending strongly worded letter to Tony Ward in support of Mr Mulraney's request, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Cllrs voted in favour. **Action: Clerk to draft and circulation to Councillors for comment before sending.**
- d) Clerk has received timetable for submission of paperwork for 2020-21 External Audit. **Action: Clerk to send information required before end of July.**
- e) Old Peoples Welfare Newsletter – Chair proposed publishing this on Website and noticeboards as a means of communicating with residents. **Action: Clerk to complete ASAP.**
- f) 3 items of correspondence from members of the public to be considered under **Part II** of the agenda.

271. County Councillors Report June 2021

A494 Trunk Road Improvements

I have received further confirmation via Darren Millar our SM that the WG via the Trunk Roads Agency plan to improve the safety of the A494 through Loggerheads and Llanferres, at the junctions for Llanarmon and along the stretch of road up to the Clwyd Gate. When we have confirmed dates for the work involved I will let you all know.

Community Speed Watch in Llanferres

Some residents have asked about creating a Community Speed Watch in Llanferres to monitor and act as a deterrent against speeding through the village on the A 494.

At a recent meeting with the local police liaison team I have asked for further details which when received I will pass these on. This normally involves the Go Safe team.

Increase in Speed Cameras on A494

I recently met with our new local Police Sargent Richard Evans who has taken over from Sgt Martin Jones who has moved to a new role based in Denbigh. Sgt Evans was also joined by the local Police Inspector Andrew Kirkham. At the meeting with the police they confirmed that they will arrange for the go safe team to visit the village more often with speed cameras. During the meeting we discussed everything from fly tipping and rural crime to road traffic issues.

Forestry Road

The Forestry road consultation letters should be hitting the door mats soon !!

Weed Spraying

DCC have completed the first of two annual weed spraying events in our villages. These only cover the village centres, village roads and estates.

Road Repair Bryn Alto

I have asked the County to look at repairing the entrance from the Cilcain road to Bryn Alto. The surface of the road is breaking up as heavy vehicles turn into Bryn Alto and this is exposing the small utility stop cocks etc.

Maeshafn Bus Service

I have received a number of concerns about the bus service to Maeshafn and the bus company have also stated that they are having difficulties getting into the village and turning by the village green due to parked cars etc. The bus company have not entered the village on a number of occasions recently and therefore they may have left residents waiting at the bus stop!! The DCC public transport officer is arranging a site meeting with highways to try and resolve this issue.

Road Safety Rectory Lane

I have been contacted by a number of residents about the visibility as you leave Rectory Lane onto the A494. This junction is also the main route in and out of the Druids Inn Car Park and apparently there have been a couple of near misses.

One resident has kindly sent me a short video of cars emerging at the last minute from behind the grasses growing in the Bee Friendly area.

Although I firmly support these wildlife areas it is important that they do not impact on road safety and so I have asked the County to cut the verge back at the Rectory Lane junction to allow for greater visibility. This may mean cutting them back as far as the slip road to the church. This year warm weather and rain has encouraged the growth and the grass is a lot higher than in previous years.

Action: Chair proposed sending letter to Tony Ward asking for grass to be cut to reduce risk of accidents, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour, Clerk to draft.

Pot Holes in Rectory Lane

As you know from my recent monthly reports I have again been trying to get the County to repair the pot holes in Rectory Lane. They are still claiming that it is a boat and they have declined to undertake any work. Over the years I have spoken to residents and asked if anyone has any written evidence to prove that the road was either adopted or repaired in the past. Any such evidence may be in their deeds or in any correspondence with DCC or previous Councils. This is ongoing.

I have been approached by residents to see if we can resolve this issue once and for all and I have enlisted the support of our SM Darren Millar who has written and asked the County to check their archives. Once they have retrieved the records for Rectory Lane I have asked to be able to view them. Hopefully, we can then establish the true position and ultimately get the road repaired.

Flooding Cae Derwen and Tyn Llan

We now have a new contact for Morris Homes and they have met with residents to discuss the flooding and the maintenance of the drains at the rear of the houses in Cae Derwen and Tyn Llan plus the cutting of the hedges and trees in that area. Let us hope that the new contact at Morris Homes is more receptive to undertaking the work required. The residents have kindly kept me in the loop about their meetings with the company and I have put the County on standby just in case the commitments made fail to materialise.

272. Projects Update

- a. Tafarn y Gelyn Bench - Chair has chased Michelle Gudgeon several time but cannot get a response from Denbighshire CC
- b. Green Flag Awards – Maeshafn playing field and Maes Ysgawen park have both been judged for the award and feedback suggests both have been successful - official confirmation not yet received
- c. Noticeboard Loggerheads County Park – Sarah Jones from Countryside Services has confirmed the noticeboard is on land owned by them and have agreed to fund the cost of installing a replacement estimated at £250. The Chair confirmed the cost of a new 3 panel board will be £1236 inc VAT and has asked Countryside Services if they will make a contribution towards this – still waiting response. After due discussion Cllr Cordiner proposed the Chair be given delegated powers to progress this and try to secure a reasonable contribution towards the cost from Countryside Services. Cllr Almond seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. **Action: Cllr Morgans to progress.**

273. Maintenance in the Community

- a. A dog foul waste bin has now been installed in Plymog layby
- b. Maes Ysgawen culvert – Cllr Morgans has discussed the repairs needed with White Oak Properties. Cllr Almond suggested the whole stream may need dredging to prevent flooding. **Action: Cllr Morgans to arrange site visit with White Oak Properties to agree solution and quote for works.**
- c. Flooding of shed in Maeshafn playing field – quote of £250 received to install aqua drain in front of doors and dig soak away to direct water away from the shed. Cllr Curtis proposed appointing Celtic Stone to do the work, Cllr Cordiner seconded and all Councillors voted in favour. **Action: Clerk to arrange with Celtic Stone.**

274. Banking

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

275. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW - payment of Clerks salary & admin for July & August	£631.80
2. Lawn Order - early summer treatment Maeshafn village green	£40.00
3. JT Williams – ride on lawn mower service	£239.40
4. Cartridge People – ink for printer	£42.87
5. Seven Oaks Garden Centre – bedding plant Maeshafn village green	£76.34
6. M Narburgh – clerks expenses from April to July 2021	£41.40
Total	£1071.81

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

Action: Clerk to pay all bills on schedule

276. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

- Cllr Cordiner reported trees overhanging the verge on old A494 in Tafarn y Gelyn. **Action Cllr Cordiner to take photos and send to Denbighshire customer service asking for them to be cut back.**
- Cllr Cordiner has contacted customers service twice re the elm tree near the telephone box in Tafarn y Gelyn but they have not responded
- The Clerk stated it was time for the Laptops annual health check – **Action: Clerk to arrange during summer recess.**
- The Chair asked Councillors to consider if the Council should arrange a celebration of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in 2022.
- No other matters had been reported to Councillors.

Cllr Armstrong proposed closing the meeting to move onto **Part II** of the agenda, Cllr Cordiner seconded. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and asked the public would leave.

Part II

1. Councillor discussed at length the 2 e-mails and a letter received from 2 different members of the public alleging Data Protection and Freedom of Information breaches. Councillors resolved to respond to both by formal letter.
2. Cllr Morgans left the meeting whilst a complaint was discussed. Councillors resolved to respond by formal letter.

Cllr Cordiner proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded, and the meeting was closed at 21.39 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 9th September 2021
starting at 7.30 pm at the Llanferres Village Hall**