

Minutes of General Meeting held on 14th April 2022

Present: Cllrs

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

Apologies:

Members of the Public:

Hugo Watts
Tony King

The meeting was held in Llanferres Village Hall. Remote access was not available due to BT still not having connected broadband.

397. Apologies

None

398. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr King asked about the poor state of the road outside the Youth Hostel in Maeshafn. The Chair stated that it had been reported 4 times to Denbighshire CC. Cllr Holland stated he had shown it to the new Chief Executive during his visit around the area and the root of the problem was Flintshire and Denbighshire CC's not co-ordinating their activity and agreeing where their respective boundaries were. As a result neither had repaired a section of the road in front of the hostel.

399. Declaration of Interest Statement

Circulated to Councillors prior to meeting.

400. Declarations of Interest

None.

The Chair proposed moving item 13 on the Agenda (County Councillors report) up to item 7 as Cllr Holland was unable to stay for the whole meeting. Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

401. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting on 17th March 2022

Cllr Holland stated line 12 of minute 389 should read 'second homes' and not 'holiday homes'. Cllr Cordiner stated there was a spelling mistake on line 2 of minute 388/4 and correction should be Heulog. Cllr Cordiner proposed accepting the minutes as a true and accurate record subject to the 2 changes stated above, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

402. Matters Arising from the Meeting on 17th March 2022

- 357 Cllr Armstrong reported the new LPFRA lease agreement has been registered with the Land Registry but he was expecting them to query it because LPFRA had not kept the names of the trustees up to date. **Action Cllr Armstrong to respond to any queries and return original document to Clerk for safe keeping.**
- 375a Still outstanding until facilities available to hold multi-location meetings in Llanferres village hall.
- 388/2 Completed 18/3/22
- 388/3 Still outstanding. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for May meeting.

- 389 Completed 18/3/22
- 391/a Completed 12/4/22
- 391/b/2 Cllr Morgans is still waiting for prices for plaques
- 391/b/3 Action: Cllr Curtis to deliver the cheque for Older Peoples Welfare afternoon tea to a member of the committee ASAP
- 391/a Cllr Cordiner thanked the Council for installing the bench a Tafarn y Gelyn
- 391/b/4 Cllr Curtis has contacted MADRA who in turn offered to speak to the Miners Arms as well but no response received from either as yet.
- 391/b/5 The school has accepted the offer of £0.50 gift packs to celebrate the Jubilee and the coins have been bought. The Clerk is still waiting for a response to how the coins will be presented. Action: Clerk to contact the head teacher after the Easter break.
- 391/c The Chair is waiting for responses to his requests to quote for Llanferres replacement noticeboard.
- 391/c Cllr Almond felt there had been a misunderstanding in what he said during the last meeting and that it would be quicker and cheaper to create disabled access in Maes Ysgawen park via Llanferres playing field. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for May meeting to discuss further
- 392 Cllr Armstrong has arranged to meet representatives from the Church to discuss the water supply to the Millennium fountain. Action: Cllr Armstrong to report back at next meeting
- 394 Completed 18/3/22
- 395 Still outstanding. Action: Cllr Morgans to contact DCC again stating the tree is now dangerous and needs removing urgently
- 396/2 Completed 19/3/22
- 390/4 Cllr Holland stated he and Mr Mulrany would be visiting Ruthin archive early in May to try and find records relating to Rectory Lane
- 390/6 Cllr Armstrong voiced his concerns over parking at Tyn Llan and the need for 'pull ins' along the road. Cllr Holland reported that he had spoken to DCC

403. County Councillors Report March 2022

The Heulog, Maeshafn

During a conversation I had with Countryside Services I raised your concerns about the area of Common land in Maeshafn known as the Heulog. David Shiel confirmed that it is classed as number nine Common Land which is not privately owned and therefore is maintained by a Local Authority which could be County, District or Community.

He stated that you have worked together in the past to maintain this particular Common Land and Countryside Services would be happy to do so again in the future.

Llanferres Play Ground

On Saturday the 2nd of April I joined over forty residents at the playground in Llanferres for their annual Spring Clean and General Maintenance event. It was an excellent morning with people of all ages involved and everyone should be congratulated for their Community spirit. Our thanks should also go to Sean Thomas for organising the event.

Gullies Maeshafn

I understand that after a further request all of the gullies in Maeshafn have now been cleaned by DCC which should stop the pooling of water in the village centre after heavy rain falls.

Boundary Changes

I have contacted the Aggregates Planning Officer to explain the changes in the ward boundaries and the impact on the Burley Hill Quarry planning application. The Quarry and part of Pant Ddu will fall into the new Moel Famau ward and the remainder of Pant Ddu including the properties by the Quarry entrance will fall

into the new Alyn Valley ward. Therefore both of the new DCC County Councillors will need to be involved in the planning application process.

Thank You

This will be my last County Councillors Report for Llanferres because as you all know I am not seeking re-election in May due to family commitments. It has not been an easy decision after ten years in the role during which time I have made many friends within our Communities and on all three Community Councils.

It has been a great honour and pleasure to represent our ward and its Communities at County Hall and to work with you all for the benefit of all our residents. It is impossible to please everyone all of the time but I hope that you will feel that I have been fair and approachable.

I wish you all well for the future and I hope that the world returns to some form of sanity soon.

404. External Audit 2020/21

Audit Wales has still not responded. Cllr Almond suggested querying their bill if it was excessive due to the queries raised by Mark Isherwood on behalf of a resident in Maeshafn. **Action: Clerk to report back to Council when audit result and invoice is received.**

405. 2021/22 Year End Accounts

The Clerk reported the following end of year review of the accounts:

2021-22 End of Year Financial Review	
Total income	21126
Total expenditure	13211
Underspend carried into reserves	7915
Total reserves carried into 2022-23	14360
Ringfenced monies:	
Election costs	2500
Councillor payments	2350
Total ringfenced	4850
Available reserves £	9510
as % of precept	63%
VAT Refund Due	603.50
Total available reserves	10113.50
	67%
Comparison of Precept	
Precept	15150
Expenditure	13211
Underspend	1939
Main reasons for underspend:	
Gate to Maes Ysgawen not replaced	800
Trees in Maes Ysgawen not thinned	350
External audit not complete - invoice not received	528
Balance of other underspend and overspends	261
Total	1939

The Chair proposed accepting the accounts, Cllr Sheldon seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

406. 2021/22 Annual Return

The Clerk read out the Statements of Income, Expenditure, Receipts and Balances and the Annual Governance Statement and suggested including a note in section 8 to say the results of the external audit had not yet been received. Cllr Cordiner proposed accepting the Annual Return, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

407. 2021/22 Financial Risk Assessment

The Clerk had updated the Financial Risk Assessment to include a section on 'Fraud'. Cllr Almond proposed adopting the new document, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

408. 2021/22 Training

The Clerk has received a bursary to attend the CiLCA training course starting on 6th May 2022. Obtaining the qualification must be completed before 28.2.2023 after which the Council will be able to claim 'Power of Competence'.

409. Correspondence List

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

1. Aubergine has completed the Website compliance check and found one alert relating to the labelling of a table in the Privacy Policy. Both the Clerk and Aubergine are unable to find the fault to fix it.
2. The Play Inspection report for Maeshafn Playing Field classified the park as 'Low Risk' and highlighted a number of minor issues needing attention. Action: Cllr Morgans to attend to them.
3. Denbighshire CC has circulated details of its Business Rates Relief scheme for 2022/23.
4. Arrangement for the new waste bill collection scheme are now available from Denbighshire CC

410. Projects Update

- a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Curtis reported Llanferres have received a Lottery grant of £390 toward the Jubilee celebrations. She has not yet had a response from MADRA or the Miners Arms about their plans, if any.

411. Maintenance in the Community

- c. Llanferres noticeboard – quote received from The Sign Workshop for £1420 inc VAT. **Action: Cllr Morgans to obtain another 2 quotes and prices for installation.**

412. Banking

Cllr Ivy Watts was sent the March bank statements and accounts for checking against the Internet banking transactions and reported all was in order.

413. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for April 2022	£527.60
2. HSBC – bank charges for February 2022	£5.00
3. Lawn Order – Spring treatment Maeshafn village green	£40.00
4. Royal Mint – Jubilee coins Llanferres	£280.00
5. Royal Mint – Jubilee coins Llanarmon	£252.00
6. Land Registry – Registration fees for LPFRA lease agreement	£45.00
7. HSBC – bank charges for March 2022	£5.00
Total	£1154.60

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

414. Other Matters Brought to the Councils Attention

Cllr Morgans reported:

1. the drains in Maeshafn have now been unblocked by DCC
2. the joints on new noticeboard installed at Loggerhead are coming apart and the manufacturers have agreed to undertake the repairs necessary
3. the front boundary stone wall at Maeshafn playing field has collapsed. He has cordoned it off and asked Countryside Services if they can repair it as part of their dry stone walling training scheme. Celtic Stone will also be asked to quote for the repair

415. End of Term in Office

The Chair thanked all Councillors and the Clerk for their efforts during their respective terms in office and especially Cllr Almond for his contribution during the 18 years he had served as Councillor, Vice Chair and Chair. Cllr Morgans proposed awarding Cllr Almond the Freedom of the Parish for his service to the Council, Cllr Curtis seconded and all Councillors voted in favour.

Cllr Almond accepted and thanked everyone.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded, and the meeting was closed at 20.36 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 12th May 2022
starting at 7.30 pm in Llanferres Village Hall**