

## Minutes of General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

### Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair  
Paul Sheldon  
Amanda Curtis  
Simon Grice  
Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

### Apologies:

Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair

### Members of the Public:

Hugo Watts  
Tony King

### 502. Apologies

Cllr Armstrong was delayed at work.

### 503. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr King asked if there had been any progress on the repair of Maeshafn Road which was now in a very poor state of repair. The chair stated that Denbighshire CC had no money in this year's budget but had promised to include it in 2023-24. Action: Cllr Morgans to speak to C Cllr Williams for confirmation that money would be available next year.

Mr Watts expressed concern that both C Cllrs Williams and Mendes seemed to be supporting reopening Burley Hill Quarry and were not representing the views of residents who were opposed to it. Instead they were pushing for Tarmac to make a financial contribution to the community. Cllr Sheldon stated that when Tarmac were asked about the Aggregates fund they said they still pay a levy to Welsh Government but they do not distribute it to local communities anymore. Action: Cllr Morgans to speak to both community councillors and Hannah Parish, the aggregates officer, to ask for a public meeting to be held before the application goes before the planning committee to enable residents to voice their opinions and ensure they are properly represented.

### 504. Declarations of Interest

None

The Chair proposed moving item 7 on the agenda to the beginning of the meeting to enable councillors to discuss the co-option of additional councillors. Cllr Curtis seconded and all councillors voted in favour.

### 505. Co-option of Councillors

Ann Catherall and Tim Healey have both withdrawn their expressions of interest in becoming councillors. Lyn Gibson was still interested and has requested a meeting with the clerk to discuss what is involved before deciding.

Simon Grice has expressed his interest and his CV was circulated to councillors during the month for consideration. Cllr Morgans proposed inviting Mr Grice onto the council, Cllr Curtis seconded and all councillors present voted in favour. Mr Grice signed the Acceptance of Office form and joined the council for this meeting. Action: Clerk to provide Cllr Grice with relevant documentation, arrange a date for him to attend the New Councillors training course and arrange an induction meeting.

### 506. Approval of Minutes of General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Cllr Curtis proposed accepting the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to a typographical error being corrected in 493 which should read 'routine' not 'routing'. Cllr Sheldon seconded and all councillors voted in favour.

### 507. Matters Arising from the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

325c. The second graphics panel for Llanferres noticeboard has been checked by AONB and is now at the printers. It should be available for installation before the end of November.

376b. Ongoing, still waiting for response from the church re the water supply to the millennium fountain. Mr Watts stated that it was not discussed at the church council meeting he attended recently and offered to speak to the chair. Action: Cllr Morgans to speak to Cllr Armstrong who is progressing this.

388/4. Cllr Morgans attended a meeting with the AONB at the Huelog when it was decided a risk assessment was needed before the dangerous trees could be taken down. They also agreed to undertake a survey of this area in Spring 2023 with a view to clearing the fly tipped waste and restoring the area and improving biodiversity. Action: Cllr Morgans to obtain map of the Huelog and arrange meeting.

Cllr Curtis stated that Mr Harrison had contacted her again regarding the tree overhanging his property. Cllr Morgans reported he had looked into this previously and found it was on another residents land and therefore not the councils responsibility.

485. completed 21.10.22

490. completed 21.10.22

492. completed 21.10.22

493. completed 21.10.22

494. completed 21.10.22

495. completed 21.10.22

497. on the agenda for this meeting

499. completed 21.10.22

501. completed 21.10.22

## **508. External Audits**

The Welsh Audit office has still not issued their report for 2020-21. An officer has asked the Clerk to provide additional information for the 2021-22 audit which has been sent.

## **509. Correspondence List**

- The Welsh Government's consultation document on payments to councillors working from home had been circulated for individual councillors to respond to if they wish.
- The Welsh Government's proposals for revising the parliamentary constituencies had been circulated to councillors for information.
- Denbighshire CC has notified the council that it is not eligible for a commuted sum in 2023.
- Denbighshire CC has notified the council of free parking after 3pm in its car parks in the run up to Christmas.
- Applications forms have been received for the 2023 Green Flag Awards. After due discussion councillors agreed to apply. Action: Clerk to complete.

## **510. 2023-25 Ground Care Contract**

Two of the five contractors invited to quote have responded and a third is expected within days. Action: Clerk to put on agenda for December meeting.

## **511. 2023/24 Precept Calculation**

The Clerk had circulated a draft proposal prior to the meeting. The Chair went through each item and after due discussion Councillors agreed a precept of £19,250 which represents a 4% increase on 22/23. This is due to funds required to replace the collapsed stone wall in Maeshafn playing field and the Clerks laptop needing replacing. Cllr Curtis proposed accepting the precept and purchasing the laptop on Black Friday to reduce the cost, Cllr Sheldon seconded and all councillors present voted in favour. Action: Clerk to shop around for best price and purchase out of this year's financial reserves. Cllr Morgans is researching what grants are available to fund replacing the dry stone wall and repairs to hedges and fences. Estimated total cost is around £10,000.

## **512. Project Updates**

- Maes Ysgawen Park – five quotes ranging from £1300 supply only to £4360 for supply and fit, have been received for replacing the gate into the park with one suitable for disabled users. £800 is ring fenced in reserves so additional funding is needed if this project is to go ahead. Dropping the kerb outside the gate to facilitate access is still ongoing. Cllr Morgans proposed incorporating this project

with the works needed in Maeshafn playing field to be funded by a grant. Cllr Curtis seconded and all councillors present voted in favour. Action: Cllr Morgans to continue researching grant availability and report back at the December meeting.

- Three quotes have been received of £390, £600 and £2730 for laying the hedge along the boundary between Maes Ysgawen Park and the school. Cllr Morgans proposed accepting the one from M Stokes at £390 as he adopts the Denbighshire/Flintshire style and uses stakes taken off trees rather than new wood. Cllr Curtis seconded and all councillors voted in favour. Action: Cllr Morgans to arrange for the work to be done between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and for White Oak Properties to chip and lay any debris under the hedge.

### 513. Maintenance in the Community

The cost of the maintenance works needed at Maeshafn and Maes Ysgawen parks was debated during the discussion on 2023/24 precept when it was agreed to combine the projects and apply for third party grant funding.

### 514. Banking and Accounts

The Clerk stated that at the end of October there was a total of £17,490 in the current and savings accounts. Cllr Sheldon reported he had checked the October bank statements against the accounts and internet banking transactions and all was correct.

### 515. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for November 2022	£497.60
2. HSBC – bank charges for October 2022	£5.00
3. White Oak Properties – installation of Llanferres noticeboard	£296.00
4. Lawn Order – Autumn treatment for Maeshafn village green	£40.00
5. White Oak Properties – ground care from July to November 2022	£760.50
<b>Total bills for payment</b>	<b>£1599.10</b>

Cllr Morgans proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Sheldon seconded, and all Councillors voted in favour. Action: Clerk to pay all bills on the schedule.

### 516. Other Matters brought to the Council's Attention

1. Cllr Grice outlined his involvement in Lleol which is a 'not for profit' organisation researching the viability of installing an energy generation scheme to service Llanferres village with £100,000 grant funding from Centrica.
2. Cllr Morgans reported the 40mph speed awareness signs had been removed from Llanbedr and installed on the A494 at Loggerheads. He has written to Darren Millar asking for an explanation.
3. Cllr Morgans said Countryside Services would be undertaking the risk assessment of trees in the Heulog.
4. Cllr Morgans reported that residents would need to be involved in the Management Plan for the Heulog.
5. Cllr Morgans stated he had received two quotes for replacing the dry stone wall in Maeshafn and was waiting for two more.
6. The Clerk reported the Remembrance services would start at 10.15 am in Llanferres church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and move to the war memorial at 10.45 am for the laying of the wreath. Cllr Almond is unwell and unable to read the epitaph so Cllr Morgans offered to stand in for him and lay the wreath. Wreaths would also be laid on the benches in Maeshafn and Tafarn y Gelyn.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded, and the meeting was closed at 21.40 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30 pm  
In Llanferres village hall**