

Minutes of General Meeting held on 8th February 2024

Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair
Paul Sheldon – parts of meeting
Lyn Gibson
Simon Grice
Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

Apologies:

Amanda Curtis
Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair

Not Responded

HO Williams

Members of the Public:

John Almond
Tony King
Hugo Watts

This meeting was held by video conference.

746. Apologies

Cllr Curtis sent her apologies due to being out of the country. Cllr Armstrong sent his apologies due to being delayed in work. Cllr Sheldon apologised for having to dip in and out of the meeting due to family circumstances.

747. Meeting Open to the Public

Mr King asked the Council if it would notify Denbighshire highways that a number of new pot holes had appeared in the road around Aberduna quarry. Action: Chair to send email.

Mr Almond stated that a tree on his land with branches in danger of falling into the school grounds, had been removed by the school. Also, that Denbighshire CC had refilled the salt bins near his home within days of him asking. The Chair responded that salt bins had also been filled around Maeshafn and that the one on the S bend was severely damaged. Action: Cllr Morgans to request a replacement bin.

748. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grice declared a personal interest in Part II discussion regarding Freedom of Information request.

749. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 18th January 2024

Cllr Grice proposed they be accepted as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Gibson seconded and Cllr Morgans voted in favour. Cllr Sheldon abstained due to not being present at this point. There were no abstentions or votes against and the motion was carried.

750. Matters Arising from Meeting on 18th January 2024

- 533/2 Ongoing, Cllr Grice stated he would speak to County Councillor Huw Williams to enlist his support in trying to get additional dog fouling bins installed. Action: Cllr Grice to continue chasing.
- 679 The Clerk reported having had two enquires about the sale of the ride on lawnmower but no bids as yet. Action: Cllr Gibson to re-advertise on community face book pages and Clerk to place advert in News and Views.
- 681 Ongoing, waiting for response from DCC regarding changing the Maeshafn road name back to Village Road from Pont y Mwynwr.
- 692 Ongoing, clerk is continuing to advertise Councillor vacancies.
- 729 Completed 19.1.24
- 734/17 Completed 19.1.24
- 734/18 Completed 19.1.24 DCC will be attending March meeting to outline improvements at Loggerheads Country park and Moel Famau
- 736 Completed 19.1.24
- 737 Completed 19.1.24
- 739 Completed 19.1.24
- 740.i Completed 19.1.24
- 740.iii Completed 22.1.24
- 740.v Completed 19.1.24

751. Correspondence List

1. A member of the public had sent in a Freedom of Information request which is to be considered under Part II.
2. The editor of News & Views had thanked the Council for its’ grant towards publishing costs.
3. Audit Wales 2024-25 Audit Fees scheme had been circulated to Councillors for information.
4. Aubergine had completed the website compliance check in January 2024 and found three alerts. The Clerk had corrected them.
5. LPFRA had asked if the Council would donate a raffle prize for its Race Night to generate funds for maintenance of the playing field. After due discussion Councillors agreed to donate a £50 gift voucher for the Druid Inn Llanferres. Action: Clerk to arrange.
6. Enfys Ecology had submitted their quote for a representative to attend during work on the trees in Maes Ysgawen park. The Clerk stated she is waiting for a second quote to arrive.

752. Third Quarter Review of Accounts

The Clerk reported the position at the end of December to be as follows:

April to end of December 2023		Forecast to end of March 2024	
Income	24906	29139	Includes income from National Lottery grant estimated at £4100and £5000 from AONB fund
Expenditure	11960	28665	Includes tree work in Maes Ysgawen park funded out of AONB grant and part of professional fees for Maes Ysgawen park funded out of Lottery grant
Under/over spend	12946	474	2% under budget for day to day activities
Review of Reserves at Year End			
Cash at bank as at end of December		29484	
Plus income from Jan to end of March		4233	
Total income at end of March		33717	
Less forecast expenditure Jan to March		16706	
Less ring fenced items	Cllr Allowances	-2350	
	Election costs	-2500	
Available reserves		11856	62% on target

753. Local Community Plan – Arrangements for Public Meeting

The Chair stated that the slides prepared in preparation for the public meeting on 18th April outlining the Council’s role within the community, spelt out what duties and powers LCC has and what it can and cannot do. He asked that Cllr Grice take care when preparing his slides on the Essence of a Community Plan to make it clear that the Council has no decision-making powers in relation to housing, transport, flood risk etc. but that LCC can try to influence those organisation that do.

The wording of the draft Notice of the Public Meeting was discussed at length. It was agreed that the text under point 3 be relocated from the body of the agenda to the top of the notice and reworded in light of the Chairs comments. Action: Clerk to revise and circulate to Councillors for agreement. The Chair proposed that as soon as Councillors are in agreement, the notice be circulated to advertise the event. Cllr Gibson seconded and Cllr Grice voted in favour. Cllr Sheldon abstained due to him not being present at this point. There were no votes against.

754. Maes Ysgawen Park Improvements

The Clerk had received a quote from an ecology company to have someone present on site when the tree work is being done to provide advice if evidence of bats is found and is waiting for a second quote to arrive. The tree surgeon has been unable to speak to DCC’s tree officer as yet. The Clerk stated that work needed to be done soon before the birds started nesting and the trees budding. Cllr Grice asked a number of questions in relation to procedure, liability and insurance. The Clerk stated that she had a copy of the contractors public

liability insurance certificate and his risk assessment and intended to be on site when work started. Cllr Sheldon stated that the Council had fulfilled its' duty of care when it invited the tree officer to have a look at

the tree in question and they could find no evidence of bats being present. He stated that the contract should include details of the scope of work including what to do if bats or any other protected species e.g. greater crested newts were found and didn't feel that anyone from the Council needed to be present. Mr Watts was invited to comment and stated that in his view the Council would be abdicating its responsibility if no one from the Council was present when the work was being done. After due discussion Councillors agreed that formal instructions would be given to the Contractor to start work as soon as possible but stop and contact the Clerk if any protected species were found. The Council would then ask an ecologist to attend site to advise on how to proceed. Action: Clerk to formally write to Contractor.

The Clerk stated that the park sub-committee had met the landscape architects in the park on 16th January to go through the initial briefing document and for them to 'walk' the park for further understanding of the challenges. The topographic survey has been done and initial concept drawings should be available the first week of March. Arrangements are now in hand to present the drawings to the Council as soon as they arrive, to the school on 11th April and to the community on 13th April. Action: Clerk to circulate more detailed information as it becomes available.

Harrisons submitted their first invoice at the end of January and the Clerk has applied for funding to pay this from the National Lottery grant. Action: Clerk to pay invoice when monies received from grant.

755. Proposed New National Park

The Chair had attended one of the NRW presentations re the proposed new National Park and the Clerk the second. In total over 30 residents attended and the overwhelming opinion was that the project should not go ahead. There were concerns over the adverse effects it would have on affordable housing, planning decisions, the future of farming, the effect on public services with increased tourism and costs/priorities given the increasing pressure on local government, NHS and other organisations funds.

Mr Watts had attended and referred the presenters to the findings of a Frank Knight (leading estate agent) study of the effects on housing stock and prices in National Parks. Action: Cllr Morgans to forward Mr Watts the NRW's contact details for him to send the report to them because they stated they had not seen it.

Mr King was against the project because he feels the AONB are doing a fantastic job already and he didn't agree with increasing tourist numbers in the area.

The Chair spoke to Darren Millar afterwards to inform him of the residents feelings and found him to be supportive of the initiative because he thought it would benefit the area. Mr Millar would be recommending the area covered stay the same as the existing AONB and that Denbighshire CC be given the powers to manage the park rather than it be run from Cardiff.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Council would respond to the consultation document when it is published reflecting residents views. Action: Clerk to circulate as soon as it becomes available.

756. Banking and Accounts

Cllr Sheldon stated that he had checked the bank statements against the internet banking and accounts for January 2024 and the transactions were all correct.

757. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for February 2024	£1017.42
2. HSBC – bank charges January 2024	£5.00
3. Welsh Water – supply to millennium fountain	£6.43
4. Tesco – stationary	£17.30
5. Harrisons Design – Topographical survey and site meeting	£1770.00
Total bills for payment	£2816.15

CYNGOR CYMUNED – LLANFERRES - COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Plus LPFRA raffle prize as agreed in Minute 751.5 above

£50.00

Total payments for January

£2866.15

Cllr Gibson proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Morgans seconded and Cllr Grice voted in favour. Cllr Sheldon abstained due to him not being present at this point, there were no abstentions or votes against and the motion was carried. Action: Clerk to pay all bills on the schedule.

758. Other Matters brought to the Council's Attention

1. Cllr Morgans reported that Pont y Mwynwr Cottage had been flooded again and the owners had asked if the Council could do anything to help. Ex County Councillor Martyn Holland had tried in the past but to no avail. Action: Cllr Morgans to speak to NRW with a view to arranging a site meeting.
2. Pont y Mwynwr House (next door) had complained that an increasing number of parcels were being delivered to them by mistake since the name of the road had been changed from Village Road. Cllr Gibson stated that this happened regularly to residents in her village and that the issue was probably with the delivery drivers being in a rush rather than the road name changing. Councillors agreed. Action: Clerk to ask DCC for an update on the request to change the road name back to Village Road.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting and moving to Part II, Cllr Gibson seconded and Cllr Grice voted in favour. He thanked members of the public for attending and they left. The meeting was closed at 21.00 pm.

759. Part II – Response to Freedom of Information Request

Councillors agreed to send the documents asked for in response to a Freedom of Information request from a member of the public.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Grice seconded and Cllrs Gibson and Sheldon voted in favour. The meeting was closed at 21.07 pm.

The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in Llanferres Village Hall and by TEAMS video conferencing