

Minutes of General Meeting held on 11th April 2024

Present: Cllrs

Allan Morgans – Chair

Amanda Curtis

Paul Sheldon

Lyn Gibson

Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

Apologies:

Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair

Simon Grice

Not Responded

HO Williams

Members of the Public:

2 members of the public were present

This was a face-to-face meeting with no requests to join by video link.

777. Apologies

Cllrs Armstrong and Grice sent their apologies due to other commitments.

778. Meeting Open to the Public

Nothing raised.

779. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

780. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 14th March 2024

Cllr Sheldon proposed they be accepted as a true record of the meeting subject to the correction of a typo on page 4 point 16 which should read 'there', Cllr Morgans seconded and Cllr Gibson voted in favour. Cllr Curtis abstained due to her not being at the last meeting. There were no votes against and the motion was carried.

781. Matters Arising from Meeting on 14th March 2024

- 747/1 Cllr Morgans is continuing to ask for the new potholes that have appeared along Maeshafn Road to be repaired.
- 709/9 A property in Cae Derwen was flooded again a few days ago. Sean Thomas contacted DCC who attended on the day and pumped out the sump in the garden. It was also agreed that DCC would run a camera down the drain to check for blockages.
- 762 Completed 15.3.24
- 765/13 Waiting for details to make payment
- 766 Completed
- 768 Completed 15.3.24
- 769 Completed 15.3.24
- 770 Completed 15.3.24
- 771 Completed
- 772 Obtaining 3 quotes to prune pine trees in Maes Ysgawen still ongoing
- 773/1 Repairs at Maeshafn playing field still outstanding
- 773/2 Completed 15.3.24
- 775 Completed 15.3.24

782. 2023-24 Year End

The Clerk presented the year end accounts and stated that income had been £27,235.40 and expenditure £23,992.50 giving an underspend of £3,242.90. This was due to £1,910 from the AONB grant being carried over into 2024-25, the sale of the lawn mower at £740 and the VAT refund of £427.

The precept for the year was £19,250 and expenditure, excluding grant funded work, was £18,966.12 giving an underspend of £283.88. Cllr Morgans proposed accepting the year end accounts, Cllr Gibson seconded and Cllrs Sheldon and Curtis voted in favour. There were no votes against or abstentions.

The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation statement and reserves account which showed that there was £19,780.67 in the bank at year end. £9,282 is ringfenced in the reserves for election costs, Councillor payments, external audit fees and the balance of the AONB grant, leaving £10,498.67 in the available reserves. Cllr Sheldon proposed accepting these, Cllr Morgans seconded and Cllrs Gibson and Curtis voted in favour. There were no votes against or abstentions.

The Clerk presented details of the amount of VAT to be reclaimed at £613.21. Cllr Gibson proposed accepting, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Sheldon and Morgans voted in favour. There were no votes against or abstentions.

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statements on the Annual return. Cllr Morgans proposed agreeing to them all, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Sheldon and Gibson voted in favour. There were no votes against or abstentions.

783. Flooding – Pont y Mwynwr

Cllr Morgans reported that he had met NRW and DCC to discuss the flooding of the properties adjacent to the river Alun in Maeshafn and suggested the weir upstream be reinstated and the one under the bridge be removed. Neither organisation had responded yet. Action: Cllr Morgans to continue chasing for a solution and write to Darren Millar to ask for his support.

784. Correspondence List

1. A member of the public thanked the Council for arranging the AONB presentation regarding improvements at Moel Famau and Loggerheads Country park.
2. Llanferres village hall has invited residents to attend a defibrillator training session on 30th May which is being sponsored by the Council. The Clerk had signed up to attend. Action: Clerk to arrange for Cllr Morgans to attend.
3. Audit Wales has sent the guidance notes through for preparation of the internal and external audits.
4. Denbighshire CC is appealing for volunteer rangers. The Clerk had circulated details to residents.
5. JDH Ltd has sent the calendar of dates for the internal audit which have been noted by the Clerk.
6. Welsh Government circulated a consultation document regarding the new Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill. Cllr Morgans had responded in his own right and suggested other Councillors do so if they wish.
7. Urdd offered free places of children at its' summer camp. The Clerk had circulated details to residents.
8. NRW has advised the Council that it is closing the play ground at Moel Famau because the equipment no longer meets Health & Safety requirements. The Clerk had circulated the notice to residents.
9. Denbighshire CC has circulated its' draft consultation re climate change.
10. A resident thanked the Council for facilitating the discussion regarding repairs along Rectory Lane at the last meeting.
11. The bank statements showed there was £1,548.05 in the current account and £18,655.54 in the savings account on 29th March 2024. This included £740 received from the sale of the lawn mower.

785. Draft Social Media Policy – Facebook Account

Cllr Sheldon explained how a Facebook group can be set up and administered. After due discussion it was agreed that the Council would have its' own group and:

- The Clerk would be the main administrator. Any other Councillors that wanted to, can also be administrators and post information on the new Facebook page subject to prior approval by the Council.

- It would be set up to prevent adverts being posted by third parties.
- Visitors would be blocked from seeing personal profile information.
- Visitors would be asked to read the Council’s Social Media Policy before joining.
- Visitors would be able to comment on information posted and members of the Council could respond to any comments asking for general information i.e. dates of meeting etc. but should not engage in conversation or make decisions in relation to Council business before the content has been approved by the Council. Action: Clerk to amend the draft policy and put on agenda for discussion at next meeting.

786. Planning Applications

Application 21/2024/0172 – Maes y Garnedd. After due discussion Councillors agreed to support the change of cladding materials. Action: Clerk to notify Planning.

787. Local Community Plan – Slide Presentation for Public Meeting

After due consideration Councillors agreed to accept the slide presentation circulated by the Clerk re the role of the Council and by Cllr Grice re the LCDP. Action: Clerk to combine the two sets of slides in preparation for the public meeting on 18th April.

788. Maes Ysgawen Park Improvements – Concept Drawings

The concept drawings had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. The Chair stated that planning permission would probably be required to undertake the works. Presentation of the drawings to the school on 11th April was a huge success. Arrangements are being finalised to present to the drawings to the community on 13th April. Action: Clerk to arrange sub-committee meeting to review feedback from the presentations and prepare brief for Harrisons to prepare finished drawings.

789. Banking and Accounts

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

790. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The Clerk stated that she was still chasing Audit Wales for their invoices for the last 3 years external audits but nothing has arrived yet.

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay

1. AVOW – payroll invoice for April 2024	£542.30
2. HSBC – bank charges March 2024	£8.36
3. Lawn Order – spring treatment	£40.00
4. JT Williams – ride on mower repair	£84.54
5. Costco – refreshments for presentation of concept drawings	£40.80
6. Costco - refreshments for presentation of concept drawings	£77.94
7. Tesco – refreshments for presentation of concept drawings	£39.64
8. Harrisons – fee to prepare concept drawings	£2,940.00
9. White Oak Properties – cutting hedge Maeshafn playing field	£150.00
Total bills for payment	£3,923.58

Cllr Curtis proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Morgans and Gibson voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against and the motion was carried. Action: Clerk to pay all bills.

791. Other Matters brought to the Council's Attention

1. Cllr Curtis thanked Councillors for sending their best wishes and the plant following the passing of her sister.
2. Cllr Morgans had been contacted by a resident in Ty'n Llan regarding the water pressure in a number of houses being very low. He suggested they write to the Council providing details so that it could contact Welsh Water on their behalf.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Gibson and Sheldon voted in favour. The meeting was closed at 20.47 pm.

The AGM and next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.30 pm in Llanferres Village Hall and by TEAMS video conferencing