

## Minutes of General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 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:

4 members of the public were present

This was a face-to-face meeting with no requests from members of the public to join by video link. Cllr Grice requested a link to join but did not do so on the night.

### 798. Apologies

Cllrs Armstrong sent his apologies due to being out of the country and Cllr Grice was unable to attend due to the train strike.

### 799. Meeting Open to the Public

2 members of the public asked the Council to support their planning application to build 4 holiday chalets at Camp Alyn, Tafarn y Gelyn. They stated that the site has a long history of residential use, all main services were already in place and a phosphate licence has been granted by Welsh Water. The drainage test results were positive and Highways dept were satisfied with the site entrance. Also, no issues had been highlighted during the ecological survey. A third member of the public stated that there were a number of tree preservation orders on the site and the owner assured them that the trees would not be affected by the work.

Cllr Morgans thanked them for their information and proposed bringing item 18 on the agenda forward to the next item. Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Sheldon and Gibson voted in favour.

### 800. Planning Application 21/2021/1157

The Chair stated that he had read all the documents on the planning portal and that the Council had objected to the original application because chalets are classified as static caravans and in the Control of Development Act 1960 and Denbighshire CC's Supplementary Planning Guidance section 6 states that proposals for new static caravan sites are not permitted. As far as the Chair could see, there had been no change and the Council could only respond based on the guidance. He suggested the owners contact DCC to contest the definition. Cllr Sheldon proposed responding to say the Council had no further comment to make in regard to this application. Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllr Morgans voted in favour. Cllr Gibson abstained due to not having been involved in the original discussion. Action: Clerk to notify planning.

### 801. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

### 802. Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Cllr Sheldon proposed they be accepted as a true record of the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Morgans and Gibson voted in favour. There were no votes against or abstentions and the motion was carried.

### 803. Matters Arising from Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 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 solution to the flooding at a property in Cae Derwen is ongoing.

765/13 Waiting for details to make payment.

- 772 The Clerk reported that she was having difficulty getting 3 quotes to prune the pine trees in Maes Ysgawen. Contractors who had previously quoted for other work which they hadn't been awarded would not quote.
- 773/1 A number of issues highlighted in the Risk Assessment for Maeshafn playing field are still outstanding. The Chair proposed buying new football nets to reduce one of the risks. Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Curtis and Gibson voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against. Action: Clerk to purchase new football nets, Cllr Morgans to fit them.
- 783 Complete and waiting for response
- 784.2 Completed 12.4.24
- 785 Completed 12.4.24
- 786 Completed 12.4.24
- 787 Completed 12.4.24
- 788 Completed 12.4.24
- 790 Completed 12.4.245

## 804. Internal Audit

The results of the internal audit had highlighted 2 issues. The wrong figures for balances carried forward had been included in the Annual Return and the figure for 'other receipts' needed rounding up for the numbers to add up correctly. Also, the Financial Risk Assessment needed updating. The Clerk reported that the numbers had been changed and went through the suggested amendments to update the Financial Risk Assessment. Cllr Morgans proposed the update be approved and that the audit report be accepted. Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Curtis and Gibson voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against. Action: Clerk to publish the updated risk assessment, post the Annual Return on the Website and display audit notice before 16<sup>th</sup> June.

## 805. Local Community Development Plan

The Chair expressed his disappointment that Cllr Grice wasn't present for this item given it is his initiative. The Clerk had circulated the feedback received following the public meeting and the Chair invited Councillors to express their considered view.

Cllr Gibson felt there was a clear appetite for more engagement with the Council and that the majority of residents felt it should be managed by the Council and not a sub-group. Her personal feeling was that the small group of vocal residents were trying to undermine the Chair to push the plan through with no respect for alternative viewpoints or the reality of the Council's first-hand experience. The verbal feedback she had received from two people who had attended the meeting was that they were uncomfortable at being 'put on the spot' about the show of hands.

Cllr Sheldon noted that those attending the meeting were mainly from Llanferres with two from Tafarn y Gelyn. He felt the focus of the feedback was on what could be done in Llanferres with no interest shown in the bigger issues likely to affect the area i.e. Burley Hill quarry re-opening. As such the feedback was not representative of the whole community's views.

Cllr Curtis felt the feedback was not conclusive and agreed with both Cllr Gibson and Sheldon. She empathised with views that Council meetings were too formal and stuffy but such is the nature of local government. She herself had expected the slides on the LCDP to include a number of case studies outlining the benefits other councils had enjoyed since adopting their plans as this would have been more convincing and 'balanced' the presentation.

Cllr Armstrong had written to the Clerk and asked that his views be presented at the meeting which were to say: *'I am not convinced as to the support for the community plan and do not see the benefit that it would*

*provide when compared to the work it will involve. Presently I would vote against it as there seems to be limited public support when considering the entire community and it is simply not necessary'.*

Cllr Morgans had expected more concrete ideas to be put forward and felt that residents wanted something but didn't quite know what. The verbal feedback he had received was mostly complimentary with one resident thanking him for explaining so clearly how the Council works and others confiding they still didn't understand what an LCDP is.

After due discussion, Cllr Morgans proposed that the Council does not create a Local Community Development Plan but instead improves its' engagement with the community by:

1. Inviting residents to attend the October meeting before the start of the precept process enabling them to outline what projects they would like to see considered for inclusion in the budget to improve local facilities.
2. Posting more information on the Council's Facebook group including details of forthcoming meetings with agenda to enable residents to engage more easily.
3. Continuing to post information on the website, noticeboards, email, local Facebook pages and in News & Views inviting feedback and comment.
4. Notify the community of any formal consultations being undertaken by outside agencies, giving residents the opportunity to express their views for inclusion in the Councils' responses.
5. Suggesting Llanferres residents set up their own Residents Association similar to MADRA in Maeshafn if they want to hold more informal/social meetings to gather ideas before approaching the Council for support.

Cllr Gibson seconded and Cllrs Curtis and Sheldon voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against and the motion was carried. Action: Clerk to diary and Councillors send information to the Clerk to action at the appropriate times.

## **806. Maes Ysgawen Park Improvements**

The Clerk reported that the concept drawings had been presented to the community at 4 different events in April and just shy of 100 people had viewed them. 45 people had completed feedback forms and many comments were voiced directly to members of the committee during the events, which were noted. There was overwhelming support for the project with 19 suggestions for additional facilities to be included and 12 concerns over safety, limitations and maintenance costs. Harrisons had been briefed to revise the drawings in line with community feedback. Planning permission will almost certainly be needed for the Cae Gwyn entrance due to its proximity to the highway, the viewing platform due to the topography of the ground and the outdoor shelter due to its' size. Harrisons have been asked to review their quote for preparing the documents needed to apply for planning permission and calculate the planning fees taking into account the 50% discount the Council is eligible to claim. The Clerk is in discussions with the National Lottery funding officer to reallocate the grant money to cover the costs of the planning application. It will be a few months before this project can move any further forward. Action: Sub-committee members to continue their work to deliver this aspect of project.

## **807. Draft Social Media Policy**

The Clerk had circulated the document prior to the meeting and the Chair stated he was still uncomfortable with how the Facebook group had been set up. He was concerned that if the current Group creator left the Council, the Council would lose control of what was posted which could lead to difficulties. After due discussion, the Clerk agreed to speak to the Clerk at Bodfari to see how their Facebook group had been set up to overcome this. Action: Clerk to speak to Bodfari.

## 808. Draft Annual Report

Cllr Morgans thanked the Clerk for drafting the report and proposed it be accepted subject to correcting 3 typographical errors. Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Sheldon and Gibson voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against and the motion was carried. Action: Clerk to amend and publish.

## 809. Correspondence List

1. Denbighshire Social Services had asked the Council if it could recognise a local resident who had been caring for a neighbour who had recently passed away. The Clerk arranged for flowers to be delivered and received a heartfelt thanks from the recipient.
2. St Berres Church had asked for financial assistance towards ground maintenance costs. This had been allowed for in the precept and after due discussion Cllr Curtis proposed a grant of £500, 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 notify the secretary and arrange payment.
3. One Voice Wales are offering free training places for Councillors.
4. DCC's Key Fund is now open to applicants wanting to develop their employment skills.
5. 6 local residents have contacted the Council with feedback following the Public Meeting.
6. Darren Millar has confirmed he will be attending the June meeting. Action: Clerk to include on Agenda and invite residents to prepare questions for him.
7. Aubergine has completed the Website accessibility check which highlighted 2 alerts both of which have been addressed by the Clerk.
8. One Voice Wales have issued guidance notes for the payment of Councillors Allowance. The Clerk had reviewed the Council's policy and confirmed no changes were needed.
9. The balance in the current bank account stood at £6,621.31 on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and the savings account at £19,196.42. The first precept payment of £6,320 had been received during the month along with the VAT refund of £613.21.

## 810. Banking and Accounts

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

## 811. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay, £744.77 of which has been reclaimed from the National Lottery grant for Maes Ysgawen Park.

1	AVOW - Wrexham	Payroll for May 2024	£542.30
2	HSBC	Bank charges April 2024	£5.00
3	Tesco	Stationary year end	£16.60
4	Clear Councils (BHIB)	2024-25 insurance premium	£780.06
5	Aubergine	Website annual domain registration	£36.00
6	Marks & Spencer	Flowers in recognition of a residents support to save a neighbour from going	£35.00
7	Llanferres Village Hall	Booking fee for 2024-25 meetings	£120.00
8	JDH Business Servies	Internal audit fee	£330.00
9	WH Smith	Laminating pouches concept drawings Maes Ysgawen improvements	£12.99
10	Tesco	Table decoration for presentations	£4.00
11	Fairways Printers	A1 drawings for presentation	£109.20
12	Morrisons	Refreshments for presentations	£39.87
13	Tesco	Refreshments for presentations	£25.14
14	Tesco	Vegan refreshments for presentation	£9.55
15	Costco	Refreshments for presentations	£94.57
16	Llanferres Village Hall	Booking fee for concept drawing presentation on 13.4.24	£60.00
17	Harrisons Design	Attending concept drawing presentation	£360.00
18	Costco	Refreshments for presentation on 18.4.24	£29.45
<b>Total</b>			<b>£2,609.73</b>

Cllr Sheldon proposed all bills be paid, Cllr Curtis 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.

## **812. Other Matters brought to the Council's Attention**

1. Cllr Morgans had been contacted by two different residents complaining that the track through Big Covert woods had been blocked and that a large shed had been erected. He had informed both that there was nothing the Council could do regarding the path as it was on private land but he would include the shed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Action: Clerk to include on agenda.
2. Cllr Morgans had chased NRW for an answer to his suggestion to remove the weir under the bridge to reduce the risk of flooding at the bottom of Village Road.
3. Darren Millar had notified Cllr Morgans that Ken Skates AM had responded to his question about reducing speeding along the A495 and a copy of his letter is attached as Appendix 1.

Cllr Morgans thanked members of the public for their attendance and asked them to leave before moving onto Part II. He proposed closing the general meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Gibson and Sheldon voted in favour. The meeting was closed at 21.09 pm.

## **813. Part II**

1. Councillors considered recruiting a new member of staff and agreed to defer the decision until the next meeting.
2. Councillors considered if the Code of Conduct had been breached and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Morgans proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Gibson and Sheldon voted in favour. The meeting was closed at 21.45 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30 pm in Llanferres Village Hall and by TEAMS video conferencing**

Appendix 1

Ken Skates AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DMA494OS

7 May 2024

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your question in the Senedd on 23<sup>rd</sup> April asking for an indication on timescale for reviewing the 40mph speed limits on the A494 at Llanferres and Pwllglas. I promised to write to you.

We are currently updating the [Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales guidance](#) (SLSLiW), to reflect current Welsh Government policy including the national roll-out of [20mph speed limits](#) and the emerging updated guidance, as well as to meet the ambitions highlighted in [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021](#).

Acting on feedback received, priority is now being given to guidance for speed limits on roads where people live, with guidance for other roads to follow. This work may see a change in the criteria for speed limits in Wales where people live and will be guidance for all highway authorities in Wales to aim for consistency.

We are keen to continue to listen as part of this work, with engagement being an important part of the process. We also want to ensure the work aligns with the updated 20mph guidance to be published in July. It is expected that the guidance for roads where people live will be published towards the latter end of the 2024/25 financial year.

Following the release of the new guidance Welsh Government will review speed limits across our Trunk Road Network and prioritise changes on the basis of a number of criteria including road safety factors.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.