

## Minutes of General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Present: Cllrs**

Allan Morgans – Chair  
Jac Armstrong – Vice Chair  
Paul Sheldon  
Amanda Curtis  
Margaret Narburgh – Clerk

**Apologies:**

Lyn Gibson

**Not Responded**

HO Williams

**Members of the Public:**

1 member of the public  
was present

**Visitors:**

None

This meeting was held by TEAMS video conference.

**899. Apologies**

Cllr Gibson sent her apologies due to family commitments.

**900. Meeting open to the public**

No matters raised.

**901. Declarations of Interest**

None

**902. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Cllr Sheldon proposed they be accepted, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllr Morgans voted in favour. Cllr Armstrong abstained due to not having been at the last meeting and there were no votes against.

**903. Matters Arising from Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

- 773 Actions from Maeshafn playing field inspection still ongoing.  
888 The Chair had written to Emlyn Jones, head of Planning, requesting an update on progress regarding the illegal buildings in Big Covert woods. The letter was acknowledged and stated that he would investigate but as yet no response has been received. The Chair stated that he had listened to the DCC's meeting yesterday where it was stated that there are now 600 matters outstanding with the enforcement officer some dating back many years.  
887.3 Completed 18.11.24  
887.8 Completed 21.11.24  
889 Completed 15.11.24  
890 On agenda re Maes Ysgawen park update.  
891 Completed 17.11.24  
892 Completed 17.11.24  
893 Completed 4.12.24  
895 Completed 18.11.24  
896 Completed 15.11.24  
897.3 Completed 18.11.24  
898 Completed 15.11.24

**904. Maeshafn Noticeboard**

Denbighshire CC's Local Land Charges department have confirmed that the 2 areas of land in the centre of Maeshafn village are a designated 'Village Green' reference VG15 registered on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1970. Further investigations are underway with the Land Registry and Highways dept. Cllr Armstrong stated that development is restricted on such land and he will check if relocating the noticeboard onto the village green would be permitted.

The Clerk stated that other enquires indicated that planning permission would likely be required to install a window in the side of the building the noticeboard is currently attached to.

Cllrs Morgans and Sheldon had inspected the noticeboard and concluded that it would probably not survive being moved and that it is too big to be relocated onto the village green. Cllr Armstrong stated that if it has been attached to the building for 20 years or more it has a legal right to stay attached to it.

The Chair stated the Council wished to find an amicable solution to this and the salt bin could be moved to make space to move it further along the same strip of land. Councillors all agreed that with the noticeboard having the right to be where it is and the only beneficiary being the resident, then any costs associated with its' relocation should not be borne by the Council. **Actions: Cllr Armstrong to establish if a noticeboard can be installed on the village green, the Clerk to continue her enquiries on the implications of moving it and draft a letter updating the resident on progress.**

## 905. 2025-26 Precept

Since the precept calculation had been considered at length during the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the publisher of News and Views has confirmed there will be no further publications. The Chair proposed the suggested grant for this be removed. After due discussion Councillors agreed to include an additional £6,000 for essential maintenance of the paths in Maes Ysgawen park and another £1,500 to replace other aged community assets. Cllr Morgans proposed the precept for 2025-26 be set at £25,575, Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Armstrong and Curtis voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against **Action: Clerk to complete and submit the forms with an explanation of why there is a 35% increase on 2024-25 precept.**

## 906. Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk stated that the service provided by JDH Ltd has always been efficient and dependable and considers their fee of £270 exc. VAT to be reasonable. Cllr Morgans proposed retaining their services for 2024-25 internal audit, Cllr Armstrong seconded and Cllrs Curtis and Sheldon voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against. **Action: Clerk to appoint JDH Ltd as internal auditor for 2024-25 accounts.**

## 907. Correspondence List

1. Denbighshire CC are reviewing the location of polling stations. The Clerk had checked with the Llanferres Village Hall committee and they are happy to continue making the hall available for elections.
2. North Wales Police have invited the Council to comment on how their funding is spent.

The Clerk reported that on 29<sup>th</sup> November there was £434.13 in the current account and £15,175.52 in the savings account, which included a payment of £2,715 from the National Lottery grant and £452.27 VAT refund.

## 908. Maes Ysgawen Park Update

The Clerk stated that the National Lottery has confirmed that the Councils grant application to fund the capital works is 'strong' but has been 'paused' until planning permission has been granted. She has notified Planning of this development and been assured that the application will now be considered a priority.

There has been no progress on the SAB application since the meeting with DCC on 8<sup>th</sup> November which is frustrating. Following discussions with the Harrisons and the YGC Drainage Consultants, a water filtration test has been arranged on 23<sup>rd</sup> December with a view to the application being ready for submission by mid-January 2025. It will be 8 weeks before Denbighshire CC responds which means work is unlikely to start before mid-summer 2025, assuming the grant application is approved. The cost for the filtration test, technical drawings, completion of the application form and application fee is estimated to be £3,500 which is a significant increase on the original quote. After due discussion Councillor felt there was no alternative but to continue with what is already in place, the cost being funded from the £7,400 balance of the existing grant.

They also agreed that there will be a natural pause at the end of this stage and the Council should consider how best to proceed and with whom if the grant is approved.

The Clerk expressed concern that any additional works needed as a result of the infiltration test (soakaways and drainage channels along the edges of paths) have not been included in the cost estimates submitted to the National Lottery and the consequences of this will also need to be considered. **Action: Clerk and Chair to keep track of progress and report back to Council in January.**

## 909. Draft Financial Regulations

The Clerk had amended and circulated the revisions agreed during the November meeting prior to this meeting but had not yet changed the banking arrangements. Cllr Morgans proposed they be adopted, Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Curtis and Armstrong voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against. **Action: Clerk to publish the updated Financial Regulations and banking arrangements.**

## 910. Review of Standing Orders

The Clerk had updated Section 18 in the Standing Orders to reflect the changes in the Financial Regulations for consistency. Cllr Morgans proposed they be accepted, Cllr Curtis seconded and Cllrs Armstrong and Sheldon voted in favour. There were no abstentions or votes against. **Action: Clerk to publish.**

## 911. Internet Banking Check

Cllr Sheldon stated that he had checked the bank statements against the internet banking and accounts for November 2024. The split payment to Audit Wales had taken a bit of working out and he confirmed all the transactions were correct. The Clerk stated that this was necessary because of the daily payment limit on the bank account.

## 912. Payment of Bills and Invoices

The following bills were presented for authorisation to pay.

From	For	Amount
AVOW - Wrexham	Payroll for December 2024	£712.40
HSBC	Bank charges November 2024	£5.00
White Oak Properties	Ground care	£1,537.10
White Oak Properties	Routine maintenance of assets	£135.00
<b>Total Bills to Pay</b>		<b>£2,389.50</b>

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

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

1. Cllr Morgans asked if White Oak Properties had trimmed the hedge along the boundary between the school and Maes Ysgawen park. The owner confirmed that they had and the Chair thanked them for a job well done.
2. Cllr Curtis stated that a number of the remaining old established trees had been blown down during the recent storm blocking one of the paths through Big Covert and there was now a gaping hole in the woodland where they had been.
3. Cllr Morgans reported that DCC had been very quick to remove the fallen tree along the Maeshafn road after the storm.

4. Cllr Morgans reported that a resident had asked if the owner of Aberduna quarry was planning to use the site for landfill as suggested on Facebook. He had no knowledge of any plans and asked Councillors to report if they heard anything.
5. The Chair stated that someone has put a notice on a tree in Maes Ysgawen park stating that the culvert should not be unblocked following the recent storm. After due discussion Councillors agreed that because this was on Council land, the Council had a duty to keep it clear to prevent water flooding onto Cae Gwyn. **Action: Clerk to include on agenda for January meeting and invite interested parties to attend and discuss how best to resolve this matter.**

Cllr Curtis proposed closing the meeting, Cllr Sheldon seconded and Cllrs Morgans and Armstrong voted in favour. The meeting was closed at 20.39 pm.

**The next General Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm by TEAMS video conferencing.**

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