

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANGAMMARCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT
7.30PM ON THURSDAY 12th November 2015 AT THE ALEXANDRA HALL,
LLANGAMMARCH WELLS**

PRESENT

Community Councillors: David Malcomson, Mairwen Price, and Ron Birchall.

In attendance: Cllr Van Rees

Apologies: Jon Hather, Bill Hill, and Helen Wear

Clerk: Sarah Quibell

2012. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2013. Casual Vacancy

Despite following due process, nobody has come forward to fill the vacant seats. Casual Vacancy will therefore remain on the agenda until the vacancy has been filled.

2014. Minutes meeting held on 17th November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17th September were approved and signed as accurate.

Matters Arising

2015. Nant-yr-Onen

It was reported that the land has now been sold.

Angharad Richards (Senior Planning Officer, PCC) has informed the Community Council that she has ‘referred the case onto Legal Services for them to consider the evidence and to ultimately decide whether to take a prosecution forward.’

2016. Highways

An email was received from James Bevan (PCC Highways Department) regarding the ongoing works on the bridge in Llangammarch. He states that he has chased the matter with the PCC Street Works Department. They have issued a Section 81 notice to Welsh Water, who have passed it on to their contractor.

The Clerk to send an email to Cllr Van Rees so that he can pursue the matter.

Cllr Hather has reported that the 'Give Way' sign at the cross roads in Llanwrtyd on the Cynala road is about to fall over. The Clerk is to contact the Highways Department regarding the matter.

2017. Action Log

- The safety inspection is complete – Cllr Birchall to do a report
- The defibrillator signs have been given to Cllr Price
- Application form for Grant Aid to Support Community Halls is in draft, was circulated, and tabled for discussion at the next meeting. Clerk to send copy of draft to Cllr Hill in readiness for next meeting.

There were no further matters arising.

2018. Appointment of Cllr with Special Responsibility for Finance

Continues.

2019. Defibrillator

Defibrillator signs were given to Cllr Price for the Llangammarch box.

Anthony Jeffries to provide details of location for citing of the Tirabad box. Once a suitable lighting column has been agreed, LCC will approach PCC to provide a quote for the works.

Registration numbers of both defibrillators to be supplied to David Ronicle.

2020. Budget and Precept 2016/17

The precept will need to rise in due course to meet current expenditure levels, however, it was unanimously agreed to continue with the current figure of £6,800 for 2016/17, with a chance to further review at the next meeting.

The amount factored into the 2016/17 budget for the playground, should the Community Council take over the running of it, was agreed at £900.

2021. Community Delivery/Devolving Outdoor Recreation

A letter has been received from Cllr Thomas (Executive Leader, PCC) addressing the current position regarding Community Delivery, particularly in relation to the current 'level of austerity'. The letter further informed that he 'will write...again in November to confirm the approach that the Cabinet wish to take with Community Delivery and any associated activity' going forward.

An email has been received from Stephan Butcher (PCC Outdoor Recreation) stating that the transfer of the playground in Tan-y-Deri has been deferred until the new financial year, as the cost of the works required pre-transfer outweigh the savings to be achieved. He will make contact again in March 2016 'to confirm the intentions and requirement of ... Llangammarch Community Council'.

The Clerk is to reply to Stephan Butcher with comment that work carried out in the past was less than satisfactory, adding that there is concern that future will not be of a suitable standard or present a sustainable resolution.

2022. Welsh Government White Paper – Reforming Local Government (William’s Report)

There were no matters for discussion at this meeting but the item is to remain on the agenda.

2023. Funding Opportunities

Several opportunities for funding have presented since the last meeting, and it was agreed to explore these, as well as leave the matter as a standing item on the agenda.

- Groundwork Funding Opportunity through Tesco Carrier Bag Levy – Tesco have ‘announce[d] a new opportunity for green space projects’. ‘Tesco has 428 store regions and...will award six grants in each region per year...In total the programme will support around 2,500 projects each year’, 1st place = £12,000, 2nd place = £10,000, and 3rd place = £8,000.

The Community Council agreed that as this grant covers playgrounds and open spaces it would be worth exploring. The Clerk is also to send a copy of the funding information to Anthony Jeffries.

- Grow Wild Funding to Help Communities Bloom – ‘Grow Wild motivates communities, friends, neighbours and individuals to come together to transform local spaces by sowing, growing and enjoying UK native wild flowers.’ It was thought that this could be explored in relation to the Riverside Gardens.
- Grow Wild Seed Kits – Clerk to register for free wild flower seed kits for the Llangammarch area, and forward to Cllr Hather and Anthony Jeffries for Cefn Gorwydd and Tirabad respectively.
- The Heart of Wales Line (HoWL) – they have given money in the past to maintain the boxes on the railway line. Cllr Birchall to contact them regarding this and/or the coming year.

2024. Winter Maintenance Provision – Tirabad

The Clerk contacted Major Mahoney, the Commandant of the Sennybridge Training Area to see if he would be willing to join the Community Council in lobbying PCC to grit the road as a priority route. He replied promptly and was ‘happy to support...our concerns’.

Cllr Van Rees relayed the message of support to Cllr John Brunt, the PCC Portfolio Holder for Highways, requesting that ‘a possible approach [be made] to Major Mahoney to see whether the military authorities may be able to make a contribution towards the cost of gritting’.

2025. Water Issue – Tirabad

Cllr Van Rees is to ask Simon Crowther (Land Drainage, PCC) to attend a meeting with himself and the Chair. The Clerk is to provide Cllr Van Rees with a copy of the associated documentation.

PCC and Other Correspondence

2026. Concurrent Functions and Village Hall Grants – Future Funding

A letter has been received from Paul Griffiths (Strategic Director – Place, PCC) informing of a reduction in the current rate of hall funding, with a cessation of the grant from 2018/19.

2027. One Voice Wales – Invitation to Provide Feedback

The Community Council filled out the form, which the Clerk will return.

2028. Walking for Wounded

Information received as a result of the donation made by LCC. Tabled for information.

2029. Request for Funding from Powys Citizens Advice Centre

The request was declined.

There was no further correspondence.

Planning Applications:

There were no applications for consideration.

2030. Public conveniences, including reimbursement for expenses and future funding

Cllr Birchall has not returned the form regarding the continuation of toilet provision in Llangammarch as it has been established that building insurance is required. Quotes are as follows:

- AON (current insurer) – awaiting quote
- Zurich - £110
- Aviva - £550

It was agreed to wait for a reply from AON, if they are competitive then, as they are our current insurer the policy should be taken out with them, if not, then Zurich is the next choice.

Further to the discussion surrounding insurance, the Chair signed the form and it was agreed that Cllr Birchall can complete it and return to PCC. The Clerk requests a copy for the records.

It was agreed to reimburse Cllr. Birchall £127.09 for the upkeep and maintenance of the toilets, including utilities and sundry cleaning items.

Payment method/management of the toilet fund to be an agenda item for next meeting. Clerk to find out how an Escrow fund can be managed, particularly in relation to the annual audit.

Finance:

2031. Online Banking – Dual Authorisation Progress

The Chair to complete the process.

2032. Member Allowances

Guidance received from OVW highlighting that member allowances are ‘a matter for each individual member to establish with his/her tax office’.

It was noted that it has been previously agreed that member allowances are only payable for LCC Councillors if they travel outside of the Community Council area on official business.

2033. External Auditor

The Wales Audit Office have informed that ‘Grant Thomas will become the appointed auditor on behalf of the Auditor General’ going forward.

2034. VAT

The Clerk requests that all receipts supplied for reimbursement be VAT receipts to that the VAT element can be claimed back where applicable.

2035. Receipts and Payments Summary to 4th November 2015 *

The receipts and payments summary was approved by the Cllr’s and signed by the Chair.

2036. Cheques for Signature

Approval was given for the following cheques to be signed:

Cheque no. 100790 for £14.04 (Stamp Reimbursement – Sarah Quibell), cheque no. 100791 for £17.98 (Stationery – Office Solutions Wales), cheque no. 100792 for £50.00 (Notice Board Repair – Mr C.J. South), cheque no. 100793 for £118.00 (Membership – SLCC), cheque no. 100794 for £25.00 (Hall Hire – Alexandra Hall), cheque no. 100795 for £127.09 (Toilet Expenses Reimbursement – R. Birchall), and cheque no. 100796 for £10.40 (Clerk’s Expenses – Sarah Quibell).

Any other business (non-substantive matters and matters for referral to the County Council)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9.30 pm.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Casual Vacancy
Appoint Cllr with Special Responsibility for Finance
Defibrillator Batteries
Welsh Government White Paper (William's Report)
Community Delivery
Funding
Payment Method/Management of Toilets Fund

Date and Venue for next meeting

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday 14th January, 2016 at 7.30 pm, at Alexandra Hall.

Signed: Date: