

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held at
Babell Zion Newydd at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 18th May 2023**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Slate Chair, D E Williams, G P Bevan, P Totterdale, J Evans, A Wadeward, C Evans, M Williams. G Slate.

Cllrs L Whatley joined remotely.

1. Apologies – None

Two electors present in addition Howard Davies Clerk

2. Declaration of Interest – To be recorded during agenda items.

3. Chair's Announcements May 2023:

Our new Chair Cllr J Slate, had very little to report, having just taken over as Chair and this being her first meeting.

She and her husband Graham had attended the recent "Mayor making" celebrations in Carmarthen which had allowed them to meet new colleagues and provide an opportunity to network.

4. Members of the Public Present – 12 minutes for questions –

RG again queried why the Council had not voted on the amendment prior to bringing it in last month, where members of the public had the opportunity of being able to ask questions or to raise points on the agenda.

Chair again reiterated that no amendment to Standing Orders has been made requiring a vote. This was an amendment made to the agenda item for clarity to ensure the speaker adhered to asking questions relating to the agenda only, thereby ensuring the smooth running and efficiency of the meeting and complying fully with current policy. Any questions falling outside these criteria would have to be sent to the clerk. As this was existing policy, and to bring us in line with other Community Councils there was no requirement for a vote. This being her final response on this matter.

5. Minutes of meetings – i) it was agreed and **RESOLVED to approve as a correct record the minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on the 20th of**

April 2023. (Minute 05/23 – 5) Noted 8 Councillors in favour with Cllr Whatley and Evans abstaining.

Action point: Following feedback on the new system for approving minutes going forward the Chair would enquire of the clerk if any amendments had been received relating to the previous month's minutes. Any received would be advised to full Council by the clerk prior to making the final amendment to the draft minutes. Typo's will be excluded and corrected immediately upon notification. If no amendments have been advised, then the Chair would immediately proceed to a vote. (Minute 05/23-5)

6. Council Committees:

i) Finance committee -Noted that a meeting took place on the 17th of May. Draft minutes had been circulated and uploaded to our webpage. Further meeting to be arranged.

ii) Park & Environment - Noted the minutes of the meeting took place on the 3rd of May. Draft minutes had been circulated and uploaded to our webpage.

iii) Web & Media - Noted the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February had been circulated and uploaded to our webpage. Further meeting to be arranged.

iv) Events Committee- Noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd of March had been circulated and uploaded to our webpage. Regular working groups continue to meet to move the Event forward. Further meeting will be arranged for June.

7. It was unanimously agreed to purchase a Lenovo Laptop with a three-year warranty for the clerk, at a cost of circa £700 from Carmarthen C C's approved Supplier Centreprize International based in Ystrad Mynach, together with an IT bundle to run hybrid meetings consisting of camera, speakers, cables etc. (Minute 05/23-7)

8. It was resolved to support the SSAFA Charity with a donation of £60 under S137 policy.

It was also agreed that these requests be looked at twice a year in May and November to ensure consistency. (Minute 05/23-8)

9. Cllr Evans motion "To make Cllr A Wadeward and Administrator of The Facebook Page" was unanimously adopted. (Minute 05/23 – 9)

10. Cllr Bevan's motion "This Community Council welcomes the Urdd

National Eisteddfod to Carmarthen and notes the local efforts to raise money for the event that was originally scheduled for 2021 but was delayed by the COVID pandemic.

As a Community Council we wish all youngsters from our community who are competing the very best of luck and hope all that attend the largest youth festival in Western Europe enjoy themselves.

We would also encourage individuals and local organisations to support The event flying flags and putting up bunting." Was unanimously adopted
(Minute 05/23 – 10)

11. Cllr Wadeward reported back to Council having had the opportunity of looking further into the provision of a Coronation Mug for the children attending Llangunnor Primary School.

After a robust discussion it was felt during these times of austerity, allied to no government funding being made available centrally, We could not justify support on this occasion. **(Minute 05/23 – 11)**

12. County Councillors Report

C Cllr Williams advised matters had been very quiet and he had nothing to impart.

13. Members representing Council on other bodies:

Ove Voice Wales: Cllr Whatley advised that he had attended the Area meeting at Llanelli on the 26th of April which was poorly attended. He would share the minutes when received.

School Governors: Cllr Ally Wadeward our newly appointed Council Governor representative advised that she had attended her first meeting and had found it to be both very insightful and interesting.

Carmarthen Town Forum: Cllr C Evans there had been no further meetings and suggested that we write to the "Forum" to see if we could send a deputy to represent us if Cllr Evans could not attend due to prior commitments.

Actions: Clerk to write to The Town Forum to see if this proposal is acceptable to them.

14.To approve the schedule of accounts May 2023: – Resolved to approve with (Minute 05/23 – 14)

C Cllr Elwyn Williams declared an interest as his brother is the handyman.

Expenditure/Income May 2023

Payee	Description	Amount £
Emrys Williams	Works at Park £97. Moving toilet, £25, £60 Labour, Materials for base £50.00, Labour to move Defib £100, Rails £20, Path repairs Materials £30, Labour £120.	£502.00
Howard Davies	Clerical Duties – Gross £889 Allowances - £140 Zoom Monthly Payment £15.59, Files £17.96 Two extra Meeting £80.00 net.	£964.75
Geraint Bevan	Bunting purchased from Chairs Allowance for Urdd Eisteddfod and fruit for Llangunmor School	£44.92
Bowen & Weaving	Stationery and Ink	£114.00
Dynevor Tree Services	Tree work undertaken at Lewis Morris entrance and bottom of park as per accepted quote.	£550.00
Clay Shaw Butler	Annual Accountancy fees for running Clerk & Councillors Payroll.	£420.00
L Whatley	Travelling expenses to attend One Voice Wales Area Meeting at Llanelli.as per attached claim.	£17.55
Income		£Nil

For Information

Cheque for £75.00 Cheque No 103589 dated 28.4.23 Payable to Association of Running Clubs issued to cover Annual membership and entry fees for Fun

Run. Itemised within Agreed Community Event Budget and therefore preauthorised.

Extra Meetings

2 X £50 = £ this equates to £80.00 after tax.

(Extra meetings - @ £50 meeting – salary includes 11 meetings + AGM, all others treated as extra meetings over 4 hours will be paid at £100. **(Minute 0920 – F4)**)

Extra Meetings held.

Park & Environment 3.5.23 £50.00

Finance Committee 17.5.23 £50.00

15. Schedule of Correspondence Received for Monthly meeting – May 2023

No	Nature of Correspondence	Agreed Action
1.	1VW Appointment of new Communication Officer.	Circulated.
2.	Emergency alerts system Saturday 23 April.	Circulated.
3.	Training Courses April & May 1VW.	Circulated.
4.	Code of Conduct training for Councillors- Carms C C	Circulated
5.	Urdd competition to decorate your property.	Circulated
6.	Parks report- March 23.	Circulated
7.	Motion for IVW AGM -September	Circulated
8.	Zoom update Thanks for 20mph campaign	Circulated
9.	1VW Minutes of Carmarthen Area Meeting	Circulated

10.	1VW Training May	Circulated
11.	Crime stats -April.	Circulated
12.	Innovative Practice Conference 5.7.23.	Circulated
13.	Response from Cwm Environmental re our traffic concerns.	Circulated
14.	April Operational Report received for Llangunnor Park.	Circulated
15.	Good Councillor Guide to Employment.	Circulated
16.	No mow May.	Circulated

Additionally with the permission of the Chair the following item of correspondence received from Sandra Thomas (details of which had been circulated electronically to all Councillors) was discussed.

16 Brithdir
Llangunnor
Carmarthen
SA31 2LN
16th May 2023

Dear Members

It was with great disappointment and deep sadness that I read the April Minutes of the full Council Meeting.

I refer to the decision to defer the works around the Memorial Stone.

16. "Following a lengthy discussion whilst acknowledging that these works would need to be undertaken at some time to improve the pedestrian access onto the Memorial, and to finish it off it was decided by a majority that the Council defer this expenditure presently given the period of austerity being seen, and to include it within the framework of the "Councils 5 year plan of expenditure

and works that is currently been worked on. Councillors voted 6 in favour of deferring this expenditure with Cllr Whatley Abstaining. (Minute 04/23-16) Action point: Clerk to thank D W Furlong for his estimate, and our current decision to defer these works to a future date when he will again be given the opportunity to quote.”

I know that I would have felt a great sense of shame if I had still been a Council member when this decision was made.

It was a proud day on Remembrance Sunday, 2019 when the dedication of the stone took place. I felt very honoured to be part of the process of establishing a memorial to the fallen, in the Parish of Llangunnor.

Ways of improving the area around the stone have been discussed and passed on several occasions over a number of years. Unfortunately, the works were held up because no decision could be made regarding a memorial for Covid victims. In fact, these are the dates when it has been discussed:

- **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held in ‘Yr Aelwyd’, Tregynnwr at 6.30p.m. on Thursday 21st March 2019. Item 6**
- **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held Remotely at 6.30p.m. on Thursday 19th November 2020. Item 7**
- **Minutes of Park and Environment Committee held “remotely”. At 6.30p.m on the 11th of March 2021. Item 7**
- **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held Remotely at 6.30pm on Thursday 20th May 2021. Item 13**
- **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held Remotely at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th September 2021. Items 2 and 14**
- **Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held Remotely at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 24 th November 2022. Item 17**

It is now very disappointing that all this time and effort is to no avail.

The Memorial Stone has become a focal point for Remembrance Sunday, when residents gather round it to remember those, who lost their lives in battle. It is of particular significance and meaning to the family of Dean Mead, who lost his life in Afghanistan. They lay a wreath in his memory every year.

I refer to Item 14 of the Minutes 16th September, 2021:

Cllr. Bevan

14. That we as a Council needed to be more respectful of the area, by ensuring that the immediate area surrounding the stone was kept in a tidy condition throughout the year, especially now as Carmarthen C C were now only cutting grass verges once throughout the summer.

The longer you leave this project on the shelf the more expensive it will become. This is false economy on the Council's part. The danger, too, is that it will be completely forgotten the longer it takes to make a decision to go ahead.

I sincerely hope that the work will be completed sooner than later.

Yours faithfully

Sandra Thomas

Following a lengthy debate and with the written support of three Councillors the Chair agreed to revisit the completion of works at the Memorial Stone, and this will now be placed on next months agenda for further discussion.

Sandra Thomas has been kept advised of our decision.

Action point: Clerk to request a revised estimate from D W Furlong Building Contractors. (Minute 05/23 – 15)

16. Cllr Slate provided a detailed report on our Community Event/Fun run scheduled for 16th July. She was please to advise that Brian Jones MD of locally based Castell Howell Foods had agreed to open the event.

The working group continues to meet on a regular basis, where a formal Events Committee meeting will be arranged for early June.

17. Local issues brought up by Councillors

Cllr C Evans wished to remind everyone that the consultation on the new hospital closes on the 19th of May.

Cllr Totterdale was concerned as to the longevity of the recent repairs made to the road surfaces around Brynmeurig, as the potholes had been repaired with cold tarmac, and had not been sealed as opposed to the hot method.

Action point: Clerk to ask Highways Department as to why the repairs had not been undertaken with hot tarmac, to see if their methods had changed.

Cllrs G Slate wished to report that the pigeons had returned to the flyover beneath Babell, and their droppings were now building up and becoming a health concern.

Action point: Clerk to report to SWTRA as a matter of urgency.

Cllr J Slate wished to report that she had received several complaints from residents about motorists finding it difficult to navigate the junction of Bleangwastod Road, and the Elder Grove Estate due to a caravan, and motor home being parked on the Elder Grove side of the junction.

Action point: Clerk to ask PCSO to have a polite word with the owners.

Cllr Matt Williams had been receiving complaints from residents about vehicles travelling at excessive speed along both Llangunnor Road, and Babell Road.

Action point: Clerk agreed to report our concerns to the Go safe web page being our initial port of call, as advised by the local traffic section of Carmarthen C C.

As a general observation Councillors felt that by having both the AGM, and the monthly Council meeting on the same evening it was too intense.

Action point: Next year consideration to be given to having two separate meetings spread across two evenings.

18. Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th June at Babell Zion Newydd Vestry, with option to join virtually if required

Meeting closed 21.30 pm.

Signed:

Date: