Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council held at Babell Zion Newydd at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 19<sup>TH</sup> October 2023

PRESENT: Cllr J Slate, G P Bevan, P Totterdale, M Williams, J Evans

Cllrs L Whatley, D E Williams, A Wadeward, S Bowen, C Evans joined remotely.

1.Apologies – Cllr G Slate

One elector joined virtually in addition Howard Davies Clerk

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

#### 3. Chair's Announcements October 2023:

I would like to thank fellow councillors and the clerk who had attended and helped out at the Summer Event. The efforts of those persons helped to make the event a success. Given the weather and the last-minute decisions that had to be made to move the event to the school this put additional pressure on all those involved and meant having to cancel some activities and find replacement activities at short notice. Thank you to everyone who pulled together to make sure the event went ahead.

I also want to report on the community children's workshops held in the summer. Cllr. Ally Wadeward undertook two craft workshops and the Chair, Cllr Jenny Slate, undertook two cupcake decorating classes which were both well attended. The Chair wished to let other councillors know that these events are not designed to make a profit but to promote engagement within the community. As such they were a success with requests for similar workshops in the future. It should also be noted that Cllrs Wadeward and Slate provided their time freely and provided materials at no cost to the council. In future if more councillors would be able to give some time we could provide more of these workshops. The Chair wished to thank Cllr Ally Wadeward for both organising the events and her support at both.

I am sure you have all seen that works are ongoing in the park to move the substation and install the electricity to the park. The work is proceeding quickly and all being well should be installed in readiness for the Christmas Tree this year.

I dropped in to speak to the new owner of Brynmeurig Stores this week. He is very keen to improve the Shop and is currently waiting for Evri and Lottery to be installed. He wanted to offer support to the Council in any upcoming events.

A Halloween 'Dress your House' competition has been launched with prizes being given from the Chair's Fund.

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

No questions were asked by the member of public in attendance.

**5. Minutes of meetings** – i) it was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the monthly Council Meeting held on the  $21^{\text{st of}}$  September 2023 (**Minute 10/23-5**)

### 6. The clerk provided a brief update on the following issues:

i) Subcontractors working for National Grid are making good progress with installing an electricity supply to the park and relocating the substation,

The Clerk advised that he had approached an energy broker recommended by 1VW to source a competitively priced electricity contract for the park, and this should be to hand next week.

The supply will be energised next week, and the area over the trench at the entrance will be tarmacked.

- **ii**) Dynevor Trees have been instructed to carry out tree works, and ground works as per their quotes which were approved last month. It is likely that the ground works will not now be commenced until Spring, however the tree works will be undertaken hopefully over the next few weeks, subject to workload and weather conditions.
- **iii**) Orders have been placed with Dragon Play to carry out repairs to the park equipment, and provision of a new mulch surface to the upper children's play area, to replace the current grassed areas, and associated repairs. The artificial grass will remain.
- iv) Outage of a streetlight near to Parc Y Swn, Blaengwastod Road has been reported to Carms C C.
- v) The Architect will have the planning permission submission for the installation of CCTV at the park, ready to be sent in by the middle of next week.

His costs as agreed £750, and there will no planning fees to pay as it is a "community project" which was welcome news.

- vi) He had requested an updated quote from Dyfed Alarms for the CCTV given the last quote was dated Feb 23 and had now expired.
- **vii**) Estimates for the provision of railings at the skateboard park, and monumental stone had been received and circulated.
- **viii**) Met with Andrew Davies from Roman Solutions at the park on Thursday afternoon, and quotes for the supply of benches within the upper toddler area have been received and circulated to all Councillors.
- ix) Paul Clever our Tree Consultant will attend shortly to undertake the biannual tree inspection which will be due by year end. As part of this inspection, he will survey the boundary hedge near to the skateboard park and across to the Lewis Morris Drive entrance to confirm ownership of the trees along this stretch, which will enable us to give specific advice to our neighbours on who is responsible for the management of overhanging tree branches on their side of the hedge, as currently we have three houseowners claiming it is our responsibility. This survey will give us a definitive document confirming ownership and responsibilities for the tree management along this boundary hedge especially on our neighbours' side, as the number of complaints on this aspect is steadily increasing.

#### 7. Council Committees:

- i)Finance committee -A further meeting will be scheduled shortly.
- **ii)Park & Environment -** Noted the minutes of the meeting which took place on the 25<sup>th of</sup> July have been circulated electronically and uploaded to our web page. A further meeting will be arranged shortly.
- iii)Web & Media Last meeting took place on the 7<sup>th of</sup> June. No recent meetings.

Cllr Whatley who had agreed to Chair a "task and finish group" along with Cllrs J Slate, and C Evans to cover off specific areas of "The Finance and Governance Toolkit" that overlap with the responsibilities of this Committee, was asked by his fellow Councillors to circulate dates as to his availability to move this review forward, as their attempts to contact him had been unsuccessful.

**iv**) **Events Committee-** Meeting of the Events Committee took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October where minutes are being finalised and will be circulated this evening.

The following proposal was received from the Committee and recommended for approval by full Council.

To open a separate bank account for the revenue and costs associated with the running of Council Events to pass through, thereby maintaining a separate record for ease of reconciliation.

After a robust discussion the proposal was carried, and the clerk instructed to contact our bankers Barclays to open a separate Events Account. (Minute 10/23 -07d)

At the Chair's discretion she wished to seek the views of the Council, on seeking sponsorship from local businesses to sponsor one of the three trees that we are looking to erect this year, at the park entrance for the first time ever, and the usual sites at Towy Garage roundabout, and Nantycaws village.

It was felt that these three locations offered prime advertising opportunities for local businesses to promote their businesses.

An initial figure of £250 per site was suggested.

Following a robust discussion, most of the Councillors thought it was a good idea and worth pursuing to see what the take up would be amongst the local business community. Additionally, sponsorship would allow us to recoup some of costs incurred in putting on the Christmas lights event. It was agreed that the Chair proceed to write to a selection of our local businesses. (**Minute 10/12 – 7**)

It was agreed that the package would include a banner to promote their business, the cost of which would be paid for by the Council.

Cllr C Evans left the meeting at 7.05pm and rejoined from home at 7.35pm. 8. 13. Members representing Council on other bodies:

Ove Voice Wales: Cllr Whatley had attended both the recent

Area meeting and the Innovative Conference at

Builth Wells. Reports to follow. He further

Advised that the AGM had to be cancelled due to lack of members attending in person, and will now be re arranged for a future date to be delivered virtually.

**School Governors:** No meetings had taken place

**Carmarthen Town Forum:** No meetings had taken place.

**9.** To receive final Income and Expenditure figures from our Chair for the successful Fun/Run Community event held last July.

The Chair talked us through a detailed spreadsheet for the event and was pleased to report that the event had come in within budget, generating a healthy profit of £859.67. Please see attached Appendix 1 at bottom of minutes for full details.

#### Cllr Ally Wadeward joins the meeting virtually at 8.05pm

- 10. After a short discussion it was agreed to go for the dark brown colour, with a tinge of red from the samples provided for the mulch surface to be applied to the upper play area. (Minute 10/23 10)
- **11.** The clerk reminded Councillors that he had circulated The Independent Remuneration Draft Annual Report February, being a consultative document, where feedback from Councillors would be most welcome, and this would need to be received before the closing date of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- **12.**Cllr Whatley gave a detailed report of his attendance at the recent One Voice Wales Area meeting, and the Innovative Practice Conference.

# For further information on The Innovative Practice Conference please see Appendix 2 attached.

**13.** The draft CCTV policy drafted by the clerk was discussed at length. The clerk emphasised that he had followed the format of policies drafted by other local Community Councils, and it had also been scrutinised by Carms C C as part of our Sustainable Community Grant. And had been accepted without further comment.

He advised that this was a fluid document, and would be populated with further information if required, prior to commissioning, as it became available from our installer Dyfed Alarms.

As a small number of Councillors had some points that they sought clarification on the Chair suggested that these be emailed to the clerk, so that he could respond to them, and the item be relisted on the Agenda for our November meeting for adoption.

# 14.To approve the schedule of Accounts for October 2023 :- Resolved to approve with (Minute 10/23 - 14)

Cllr D E Williams declared an interest as his brother is our handyman.

Expenditure/Income October 2023

Payee	Description	Amount £
Emrys Williams	Park £97. Call out to cut jammed lock on Toilet £25.00	£122.00
Howard Davies	Clerical Duties – Net salary £711.20, Allowances - £140 Zoom Monthly Payment £15.59, Stamps £1.10, extra Meeting £40.	£907.89
One Voice Wales	Training modules Cllr Whatley Chairing Skills, Use of IT Websites and Social Media, Information Mgt, Health & Safety. Cllr Bowen – Advanced Local Government Finance.	£152.00
J R B Enterprise Ltd	Dog Gloves for Park	£42.84
City Loo Hire	Toilet Service £30 plus £6 Vat 7 Services 10/7,31/7,21/8,29/8,11/9,18/9,25/9.	£252.00
Barclaycard via Direct Debit	New key cut for toilet for Diane Evans £4.50. Additional cables and connectors purchased from Amazon to provide IT connection at Babell - £78.44. TOTAL £82.94	£82.94

Carms C C	Renewal of Host It Domain 4.7.23 – 3.7.25	£33.12
Vision ICT	Renewal of SSL Certificate £60.00 Website hosting and support Dec 23 – Nov 24 £195.60. Total £255.60	£255.60
Bowen & Weaving	Paper 5 reams, 2500 sheets.	£28.20
Cllr Jenny Slate	Sweets for Community Event, £13.55 & 18.68, (Both within set budget) Sundries for Icing class at Babell £42.40	£74.63
Income		Nil

### **Extra Meetings**

1 X £50 = £ this equates to £40.00 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.

Events 9.10.23.

# 15. Schedule of Correspondence Received for Monthly meeting – October 2023.

No	Nature of Correspondence	Agreed Action
1.	Park Inspection reports April- September	Circulated
2.	Confirmation of cost to prepare planning application for CCTV at park. There will no planning fee to pay either given it's a Community project.	Circulated

3.	One Voice Wales - Newsletter	Circulated
4.	Notice of cancellation of 1VW Conference.	Circulated
5.	Training 1VW September & October	Circulated
6.	Dyfed Alarms quote and draft CCTV policy which will require adoption.	Circulated
7.	E Mails from local resident re Oak trees which have been forwarded to our advisors.	Circulated
8.	OPCC Bulletin	Circulated
9.	Audit Wales September Newsletter	Circulated
10.	Bevan Commission. Details of engagement events.	Circulated
11.	Appeal Decision re Heronsbrook Farm, Capel Dewi, Carmarthen. SA32 8AH.	Circulated
12.	Blanchere Christmas Lights Catalogue	Circulated
13.	D Day Beacons	Circulated
14.	Request for support for Climate and Ecology Bill.	Circulated
15.	Planning Applications PL 06633 & PL 06577	Circulated
16.	Planning Application PL06536	Circulated
17.	Training 1VW September & Oct	Circulated
18.	Second phase of Wales Air Ambulance Service Engagement.	Circulated

19.	Invite from OPCC to attend "open door" sessions.	Circulated
20.	Mpan number for new Electricity supply Llangunnor park.	Circulated
21.	Older People's Commissioner for Wales Access to GP Services.	Circulated
22.	Hywel Dda Engagement – Bevan Commission	Circulated
23.	The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report Feb 2024.	Circulated

16. C.Cllr Williams advised that October been relatively quiet to date, but his diary for the final week of October had been filled up with Council meetings, with numerous meetings, some of which he would not be able to attend due to clashes.

He advised that he had been approached by a small number of residents about the rumours circulating regarding the future use of Ty Penbryn and was pleased that the owners had that evening provided a statement via Facebook, and local press as to their future to convert the building into a high standard conference centre, which would also be available for corporate retreat.

#### 17.Local issues brought up by Councillors.

Cllr Bevan asked if we had received any update from Carms C C re the proposed feasibility study on creating a new controlled exit out of Charlie's car park onto Pensarn Road.

The Clerk advised that he had recently spoken with C. Cllr Edward Thomas Cabinet Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, who informed him that Ainsley Williams who was overseeing the feasibility study, and with whom we had met with as a group at County Hall last year, had been away on annual leave and he could catch up with him on his return, and then advise us of the present position here.

Action point: The Clerk agreed to keep on short diary to ensure that a timely update is received on this proposal.

Additionally, he asked The Clerk to report a tree that had fallen into the river Tywi behind the Howard's Garage, on the station side of the river, however he was unsure of the ownership of this strip of land that the tree stood on. It was suggested that we approach the County Council in the first instance.

Action point: Clerk agreed to report the matter to Carms C C in the first instance, and should it not be within their field of responsibility, asking them to point us to appropriate authority.

Cllr Whatley asked if the Council were going to take part in the Daffodil planting initiative this year.

The Chair was pleased to advise yes, and arrangements were in hand.

Cllr Wadeward advised that it had been raised at a recent PTA meeting, where the Headmaster was present, and he has agreed in principle to help.

He further asked if we could install a key press at the park, to save on the cost of cutting new duplicate keys.

Clerk advised that there were sufficient keys now in circulation, where keys are held by Cllrs Slate, Diane Evans, and the clerk in addition to Carms C C ground staff, National Grid and Dragon Play have their own locks for the gate chains. Given the recent problems encountered with digital locks for the toilet, and that there were sufficient keys now in circulation he did not see the need for the provision of a key press at this current moment in time.

Cllr Wadeward wished to update the Council on the following points:

- i) The School would be available free of charge for refreshments after the Christmas Lights Switch on scheduled for the 29<sup>th of</sup> November.
- ii) Given the change of venue, which was forced upon us, as with increased numbers attending last year, it was felt for health and safety reasons that we seek a larger local venue, as we have outgrown the number of people that Babell could accommodate comfortably. It was suggested and agreed that a letter to be sent to Babell explaining the rationale for the planned move to the school

- and thanking them for their fantastic support of this event in previous years.
- iii) The PTA had discussed our offer to help them with a Bingo fundraising evening to take place around next Easter, where they would run the event, and retain all profits, and we would help, and possibly consider some prize money.

Cllr C Evans wished to echo the clarity of the recent press and media announcement regarding the future of Ty Penbryn, as he and some other Councillors had been asked about its future in view of recent rumours that had been circulating locally.

# 18. Date of next meeting: meeting -Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at Babell Zion Newydd Vestry, with option to join virtually if required

Meeting closed at 8.55p.m

Signed:	Date:

#### Appendix 1

Item	Expenditur e	VAT	Expenditure excluding VAT	Income	Profit/Los s
5k fun Run			VAI		<u>,                                     </u>
medals	£115.00	£19.17	£95.83		
water	£0.00				
Winners trophies	£43.90	£7.32	£36.58		
P&P medasl & trophies	£19.90	£3.32	£16.58		
numbers & wristbands	£35.98	£6.00	£29.98		
Pegs and Ropes	£32.89	£5.48	£27.41		
ARC registration	£50.00				
Public liability insurance	£25.00				
Runners registration Eventrbrite	9			282.00	
Runners registration sum up				24.58	
Runners registration cash				140.00	
	£322.67	£41.28	£206.39	£446.58	£240.19
Event					
Gate entries				265.60	
Clayton Watts Entertainer	£140.00	0	£140.00		
Carmarthenshire party	£100.00	0	£100.00		
ponies					
Face painting/glitter tattoos	£120.00	0	£120.00	92.00	
	£360.00	£0.00	£360.00	£357.60	-£2.40

childrens races					
medals	£300.00	£50.00	£250.00	0.00	-£250.00
Donations/Sponsorship					
Castell Howell				1,000.00	
Sgiliau				150.00	
				1,150.00	£1,150.00
Stalls					
Craft stalls				100.00	
WI Cakes				10.00	
Icecream van				25.00	
Tea/coffee/sugar/milk/biscui ts /sweets	£32.23	£5.37	£26.86	128.80	
Chair's donation of tea, coffee, I	biscuits and sar	ndwiches			
Rides				20.00	
Food van				30.00	
Tombola				184.00	
Bean bags	£22.19	£3.70	£18.49		
Raffle books	£10.00	£1.67	£8.33	512.07	
_	64.42	£10.74	£53.68	1,009.87	£956.19
Community partners				<u> </u>	
Fire Brigade					
Police					
St Johns Ambulances	249.6	£41.60	£208.00		-£208.00
Incidentals					
Sum Up Terminal	46.8	£7.80	£39.00		
Insurance	112	£0.00	£112.00		
banners	54.81	£0.00	£54.81		
leaflet printing	201	£3.00	£198.00		
toilets and generator & barriers	423.6	£70.60	£353.00		
sound system	303.6	£50.60	£253.00		
Football stickers & Line painting spray	19.8	£3.30	£16.50		
	1161.61	135.3	1026.31	0	-
					£1,026.31
Grand Total	£2,458.30	£278.92	£2,104.38	£2,964.05	£859.67
Initial budget	£2,801.63			£3,085.00	£283.37
Without Castell Howell donation but with initial sponsorship £29	£2,458.30	£278.92	£2,104.38	£2,259.05	£154.67

#### APPENDIX 2

One Voice Wales Conference

### **Innovative Practice Conference**

Conference took place at the Royal Welsh Showground on 5th July 2023, the first in person conference for a couple of years.

Lyn opened up the conference mentioning that membership was growing with 90% of the sector joining, One Voice Wales had made cost savings with many changes being made such as the introduction of online training. He also mentioned the finance and governance toolkit and what stood out for me was his comment that if councils are looking to doing something new to think about the resource use - "Don't pile more work on the Clerk"

#### 'FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A DEMANDING FUTURE'

The Keynote Speaker at the Conference was Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government. She addressed the audience on the Welsh Government's vision of the role of community and town councils in the coming years, explaining that they are wanting to help to inform but not be directing the sector, they have given the sector new powers (Local Government Wales Act 2021) and want a healthy democracy and that communities will want to engage with community councils and that more people want to become councillors.

(I think we have seen evidence of this with the recent call for evidence to find out what is known about community and town councils and how to increase engagement within communities)

She was aware of the challenges to the sector and the Welsh Government has increased tools to meet these challenges, they are aware that councils want to do more but don't want to put more financial constraints onto the community.

The aim is to equip and enable us as town and community councils to be a strong, confident sector with the tools and skills that we need to deliver services to our communities.

#### **Tackling Climate Change**

Bleddyn Lake (Campaigns and Development Manager) of Friends of the Earth Cymru and Dr Catrin Jones of One Voice Wales launched a new climate change and nature action guide for Community and Town Councils

The document seeks to give Councils some practical ideas on what they can do on a range of issues such as energy use, water use, protecting nature, finances, chemicals, waste, food, and transport.

They went through what councils could do and included:

- Bee friendly community
- Butterfly garden/sensory garden
- Pesticide free community
- Food waste run events about how to avoid food waste.
- Look for ethical banking provider.
- No mow may help wildflowers (cut & collect)
- Green space audit identify green spaces within the community.
- Transport school run, given some of the issues regarding parking during the school run encouraging more parents/children to walk.
- Waste audit
- Tree planting, kits from Keep Wales Tidy good community engagement event
- Teracycle donation points for charity
- Clothes swap event

I had noted that some of this would be ideal for a newsletter, highlighting some of the resources we have available within the community that residents maybe unaware of - such as the facilities at Nantycaws Recycling Centre.

"Do the little things that will have an impact on your community".

#### Risk Assessment (Brian Brookes, BHIB Insurance)

Brian Brookes from BHIB Insurance and a sponsor for the conference explained the importance of councils ensuring they had risk assessments in place for council activities, the main reasons for this was:

- Defence of claims
- Defence of prosecution (HSE)
- GOOD MANAGEMENT for audit purposes

He did give some examples in one risk assessment a council had stated that inspections of every tree in the area was carried out every two years, there was an issue with a tree and it came to light that it had never been inspected.

Another was that landscaping work carried out by council employee without any risk assessment being carried out and the employee had no training on use of the equipment.

Generally, a risk assessment should look at what possible risks could arise from an activity and what if anything the council could do to reduce or limit the identified risk don't go over promising (tree)

I'm sure that the appropriate risk assessments have been done for the council but am aware that I've not seen any for the recent events held by the council.

The council may want to consider portable appliance testing of its electrical equipment in the future.

## Ensuring that training supports the realisation of Council objectives and competency development (Paul Egan Deputy Chief Executive One Voice Wales)

Training plan is a statutory requirement and should be a living document reviewed annually, for councillors it is important for the following

- Understand the role
- Contribute fully to democratic process
- Ensure high standards of governance, ethical behaviour and accountability
- Understand legal content
- Understand financial responsibilities
- Understand employer responsibilities

Councillors should consider the resource implications and how the training plan will be achieved.

Councils should Identify what is needed, the type of training - courses, webinars, conferences, work shadowing and coaching.

Delivery - what could be done in-house, an induction into the role for staff and councillors, link in with staff appraisals

Evaluate: how well is the training plan working, it should meet the council objective for a high standard of service delivery by fostering a team ethos and staff retention he did point out that councillors are not volunteers

#### **Break Out Groups:**

Designing local staffing structures

Energy conservation in our buildings

Place making and development of place/community plans

Effective community engagement