



## Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Llangunnor Community Council (LCC) in Babell Zion Chapel on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 6:30pm

**Present:** Councillors Jennifer Slate (outgoing Chair), (incoming Chair) Elwyn Williams, Graham Slate, Matthew Williams, Stewart Bowen and Clerk, Amy Evans.

**Via Zoom:** Lee Whatley and two members of the public

## To discuss the following agenda:

- 1) Election of Chair of Llangunnor Community Council for the year 2025/26 New chair to have opportunity to thank outgoing chair **RESOLVED** Cllr E.Williams confirmed as new Chair
- 2) Election of a Vice Chair for Llangunnor Community Council for the year 2025/26. **RESOLVED** Cllr L.Whatley confirmed as new Vice Chair
- 3) To receive the declarations of acceptance of office from the new chair and vice chair, Cllr L.Whatley to be sent document electronically, Cllr E.Williams – completed
- 4) Election of Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr M.Williams to continue **RESOLVED**
- 5) Chair to invite retiring Chair's Announcements – to give summary of year in office.

*Due to the sudden resignation of the Clerk last in March 2024 I agreed to serve another term as Chair of Llangunnor Community Council to provide some continuity and stability. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support. In particular I would like to thank Cllr Stewart Bowen, without whom we would not have been able to get our Annual Audit completed and submitted on time.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to remember Cllr Paul Totterdale who passed away last year. He was a committed councillor who rarely missed a meeting, despite his health challenges, and a staunch advocate of all community related matters.*

*As with previous years, there have been some very rewarding parts of being Chair and some significant challenges.*

*The last year was particularly challenging given the absence of a clerk. Whilst this presented its own difficulties, what it did do was give Councillors more insight into the Clerk's role and an appreciation for the work that they do. Whilst the bulk of the role was taken on by myself and Cllr Stewart Bowen, all Councillors played their part whether it was minute taking or moving boxes. Again, I thank you all.*

*There have been many highlights during the year, most of which centre around engagement with the public. We held our second 5k Race in May 2024 and we have just had our 3<sup>rd</sup> 5k run last Sunday. Both occurred on one of the hottest days of the year so far, and yet were still well supported, despite the final run up Babell Hill to the finish line.*

*Cllrs Matthew Williams and Graham Slate were instrumental in putting together the events again and we receive invaluable support from St Clears TROTS. Without the timekeepers we would not be able to put on the event. So again, thank you to those.*

*We also held our third 'Party in the Park'. This was again a successful event. We were fortunate to have James 'Cubby' Davies from Scarlets Rugby and Olympic Rugby 7s. The youngsters were able to chat and have photos and see James' silver Olympic medal which many would never normally have that opportunity.*

*Brian Jones from Castell Howell, continues to support us and gave a generous donation and I am grateful for the ongoing support of Castell Howell towards all our community events.*

*I am also delighted that our partnership with Llangunnor School continues to go from strength to strength. The Chair of School Council attended the Remembrance Day poppy wreath laying at the memorial stone and in the Church, and the switching on of the lights at the Christmas Tree. The annual litter pick with the school children is also in the process of being planned. It is important to build and maintain relationships within the community at all ages.*

*At Christmas, we made a donation to Llangunnor School to provide some Christmas treats as we were unable to do our annual Santa's grotto last year. The siting of the main Christmas Tree at the Park seems to be a popular decision within the community. Last year we decided to combine the switching on of the lights with the carol service. This was a lovely evening with the school choir entertaining us, and local singer Grace Staniforth also gave us some solos, with the Carmarthen Symphonic Wind Band in attendance to provide the musical accompaniment. The mulled wine and hot chocolate was well received especially on such a cold night! These events are vital within our community to bring people together.*

*During my year as Chair I have represented the Council at many events including Carmarthen Town mayor making ceremony at the Guild Hall, the St David Day parade, and a guest of the Mayor of Carmarthen for the switching on of the Carmarthen Lights, amongst others.*



*Hybrid meetings are now common place, and whilst remote access allows those unable to attend face to face, to participate, it still presents difficulties especially when IT issues occur which are not always easy to overcome at short notice, but we will persevere.*

*We are very fortunate that since January this year, we have recruited a new clerk. Amy Evans is new to the role of clerk but she hit the ground running and is already invaluable to the Council. We wish her success going forward and I'm sure she will continue to help and support the Council in our future endeavours.*

*The most significant challenge we face as a council is the dwindling numbers of Councillors. Prior to Covid we always had a full Council and could always fill a vacancy as and when they arose. Unfortunately, it seems that there are less people who want to be involved in this type of work. Whether it is because of other commitments, or lack of interest, it is a common problem amongst many small councils. Whilst we need a social media presence and it gives us an opportunity to engage quickly with more people, it also presents its own challenges. It gives a voice to everyone, and unfortunately, it is hard to ignore negativity when we are all doing the best we can with limited numbers and limited resources, notwithstanding the fact that we do this work voluntarily. We hope that with Amy on board and managing our social media now, we can get more good news stories out there about council work and hopefully be able to attract some new councillors. The more we have the more the work can be shared and the more we can do for our community.*

*We continue to push for an emergency exit out of Charlies Pensarn car park onto Pensarn Road, which is something that is not only needed for flood risk, but over the past few years, the traffic problems seen in Pensarn during Bank holidays has got worse.*

*I would like to wish the new Chair of Council, Elwyn Williams, all the best for the next year. Elwyn has held this post several times previously and so I'm sure will be able to continue the good work of the Council.*

- 6) To receive apologies for absence – Cllrs G.Bevan and J.Evans.
- 7) To receive any declarations of interest – Cllr E.Williams – Agenda Point 11.
- 8) Committees membership for 2025/26 – To confirm membership of all Councillors on the Finance Committee – Cllr E.Williams to stand down as chair on next Finance meeting. All members of council to continue on council **RESOLVED** (Prop. Cllr J.Slate 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Bowen)
- 9) To appoint bank signatories for the year 2025/26 – currently Cllrs E.Williams, G.Bevan, J.Slate and S.Bowen – to continue **RESOLVED** (Cllr M.Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> G.Slate)
- 10) To appoint credit card holders for the year 2025/2026 – currently Cllr Jenny Slate and Clerk Amy Evans – to continue **RESOLVED** (Prop. M.Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> G.Slate, Abs. L.Whatley)
- 11) To appoint the internal auditor – LHP – (Prop. S.Bowen, 2<sup>nd</sup> M.Williams, Abs.E.Williams)
- 12) To confirm minutes of 2024 AGM held on 20/05/24– enclosed. **RESOLVED** (Prop. J.Slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Bowen, Abs.L.Whatley)
- 13) To confirm annual members allowances for 24/25 as per Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Report – defer to next meeting following confirmation of information required to make this decision.
- 14) To consider the: (to be delayed till June 2025 meeting) – **RESOLVED**
  - i. Standing Orders
  - ii. Financial Regulations
  - iii. Members Code of Conduct
  - iv. Committee Structure and Terms of Reference
- 15) To confirm sum for the Chair's Support Fund and The Community Fund for the Year 2025/26 – currently C S F - £600, C.F - £1960 **RESOLVED** (Prop. Cllr J.Slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> M.Williams)
- 16) To confirm Council representatives to serve on:
  - i. One Voice Wales - currently Cllr L Whatley. – to continue **RESOLVED** (Prop. Cllr J.Slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> G.Slate)
- 17) Governor to Llangunnor School – Cllr. Elwyn Williams representing CCC and Cllr J Evans – agreed **RESOLVED** (Prop. Cllr J.Slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> S.Bowen)
- 18) Carmarthen Town Forum – no representative available to stand on permanently, invitations to be sent to all councillors **RESOLVED** (Prop. Cllr. J.Slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> M.Williams)
- 19) Any other business (for information only) – None

**Meeting closed 18:48**