

Cyngor Cymuned
Llanddowror & Llanmiloe
Community Council



Minutes of Meeting held at the Resource Centre, Llanmiloe on Monday 11th September 2017 at 19.00hrs

Members present: Chairman David Howells

Councillors: Sandra Hewens, Graham James, Angela Crewes, Tony Paradise, Gwyn Owen, Chris Holt

1. Apologies for absence: No apologies received

Cllr Jane Tremlett was absent from the meeting

2. Declaration of Personal Interests: None

3. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as true and accurate, and were duly signed by the Chairman

4. Finance

The Chairman gave a resume of the current financial situation. Concern was raised with regard to the Community Council NS&I account, in particular the signatories to this account. The former clerk, has had the accounts approved by the external auditors. As this is an unsatisfactory the Chairman agreed to pursue this matter, and try to resolve the situation by the next meeting.

Cllr. Paradise has been given a cheque by the Llanddowror WI for fees owing for the Meeting Room. This will be banked.

5. Correspondence and Letters

The Chairman presented details of correspondence received. This included details of a training course available for Councillors to attend entitled 'Understanding the Law'. Nominations will be accepted. Information had also been received with regard to the White Paper 'Services fit for the Future'. Comment and further contact by Community Councils was encouraged and the Chairman resolved to pursue this and feed back to the Council at the next meeting.

* Cllr Holt is attending Code of Conduct training for Councillors on the 12th September 2017.

* Copies of letters were circulated to Councillors with regard to correspondence received by the Chairman and former Clerk, from MJ Cory. This was presented and discussed in chronological order, for clarity. The Chairman informed members of the discussions he had with regard to this correspondence with One Voice Wales, since the last meeting. The One Voice Wales advisor provided reassurance that the actions by the Community Council to date had been right and proper, acting within the constraints of the law. In particular, the Chairman was advised that any remuneration for activities undertaken by MJ Cory could have been unlawful, as no contract between the parties to this effect was in place. It was the opinion of the One Voice Wales advisor that the Council had acted legitimately in all circumstances.

Signed by(Chair) as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had been made aware of an email circulating to some residents of Llanddowror village with regard to the above matter. A point was raised that all correspondence affecting residents of Llandowror should also include residents of Llanmiloe as it is to be remembered that the Community Council covers two wards, and matters are therefore equally precient. It was agreed that the current situation should be monitored and any further developments, if they arose, actioned as appropriate.

Further to discussions at the previous Council meeting, the Chairman proposed that a meeting of Llanddowror residents is called to decide the future administration and management of the village meeting room, the flood plan and the public conveniences (PC), running alongside the auspices of the Community Council. This was agreed. The cost of running the meeting room is approximately £800 per annum (as itemized in the minutes of the previous meeting). Remedial work is also still required outside the meeting room. It was agreed that both the running costs, and the cost of the remedial work should be borne by the Community Council. Tenders will be accepted for the outside work. In addition the Chairman provided the lease document relating to the PCs. The lease document does not appear to stipulate that the PCs should be open during the week, but should be closed at the weekend. Cllr Owen examined this document during the meeting and agreed that there did not appear to be anything that stipuated that the toilets had to be available to the public at any time.

4. Vacancy of Clerk to the Council

One Voice Wales had advised that the post could be advertised on local notice boards, word of mouth etc. and need not be advertised in the local newspapers, at additional cost, if the response otherwise was considered adequate. Expression of interest in the role has already been made locally. It was agreed that the vacancy for the post would be immediately advertised on the notice boards in Llanmiloe and Llanddowror, the role and responsibilities of the Clerk having been reviewed, and an advertisement compiled. Cllr Crewes agreed to contact the Carmarthen Journal for the costs of advertising, should this be needed. Applications for the post should be received by the 2nd of October in readiness for the next Council meeting. It was considered that Frank Roberts should be co-opted as Councillor, and in the meantime he was happy to continue to help the Council manage financial matters on a voluntary basis, until the Clerk's post is filled. This was unanimously agreed, but the Chairman was to contact One Voice Wales for further advice, to discuss the legitimacy of this, and ensure there was no conflict of interest.

5. Planning matters

There were no planning matters to be considered at this time

6. Any Other Business

Cllr Holt informed the Council that an expression of interest has been made for the vacancy of Councillor in the South Ward . A covering letter is to be submitted from the prospective candidate. **The Chairman** suggested the possibility of organising a means of inviting younger people to engage with the Community Council. Teenagers for example would add an additional and important viewpoint to community issues. This was recognised as important for the future. With potentially two Councillors resigning at the end of the year a great deal of experience is lost. This experience of council matters is invaluable to the running of the Community Council.

Cllr Hewens informed the Council that First Aid courses were to be run at Llanmiloe Resource centre. The certificated course would cost £5. Dates and times were to be confirmed once interest was established and further details could be obtained via the Resource centre. The defibrillator was now in situ in Llanmiloe and had been generally well received.

Cllr Holt advised that he was still waiting to hear from **Cllr Tremlett** with regard to his queries about Birmingham Council buying some of the new houses to be built next to Wood End. This was a matter unresolved from the Council Summer meetings. Hopefully this will be addressed fully in the next meeting when Cllr Tremlett attends.

The meeting closed at 20.50hrs

Date and time of the next meeting.

Monday 9th of October 2017 at Llanddowror Meeting Room at 19.00hrs

Signed by.....(chair) as a true record of the meeting.