

# Cyngor Cymuned Llannon Community Council



## **Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Llannon Community Council**

**on**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Held remotely via Zoom**

**Meeting commenced at 6:30pm**

**The Chair, Cllr. Julie Owen presided over the meeting.**

### **Minute No. 25 – Members Present.**

Cllr. J. Owen (JO)  
Cllr. R. Lloyd Davies (RD)  
Cllr. P. Owen (PO)  
Cllr. S. Eldridge (SE)  
Cllr. S. Stewart (SS)  
Cllr. G. Jones (GJ)  
Cllr. R. Jones (RJ)  
Cllr. Ll. Davies (LD)  
Cllr. C. Davies (CD)  
Cllr. S. Blackmore (SB)  
Cllr. T. Stillman (TS)  
Cllr. A. James (AJ)  
Cllr. J. Anderson (JA)

### **Also Present:**

Mrs. C. Hope – Clerk (CH)  
Mrs. Ff. Lewis – Deputy Clerk (FL)  
Mrs. L. Davies – Welsh Language Interpreter

**Minute No. 26 – Apologies and reasons for absence.**

Cllr. E. G. Evans – Personal matter.

**Minute No. 27 – Absence without apologies given.**

Cllr. N. Thomas.

**Minute No. 28 – Declarations of Interests.**

There were no new declarations of interests.

**Minute No. 29 – Public participation.**

There was no public participation.

**Minute No. 30 – Confirmation of the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.**

*LD proposed that these minutes were a true record. PO seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the following minutes of the EGM 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 (prints of which having been previously circulated to members) be taken as read, and the same are hereby verified, received, and confirmed by all respectively:

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 confirmed.

***6.32 pm Cllr. J. Anderson joined the meeting.***

**Minute No. 31 – Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.**

*RD proposed that these minutes were a true record. SE seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB against the proposal. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the following minutes of the Annual Meeting of Llannon Community Council (prints of which having been previously circulated to members) be taken as read, and the same are hereby verified, received, and confirmed by all respectively:

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 confirmed.

**6.34 pm Cllr. S. Stewart joined the meeting.**

**Minute No. 32 – Ratify the Council’s Cashbooks.**

The Clerk previously circulated the following to all Councillors via email:

- Council Account Cashbook for March 2024.
- Hall Account Cashbook for March 2024.
- Precept Account Cashbook for March 2024.
- Reserve Account Cashbook for March 2024.
- Soldo Cashbook for March 2024.
- Council Account Cashbook for April 2024.
- Hall Account Cashbook for April 2024.
- Precept Account Cashbook for April 2024.
- Reserves Account Cashbook for April 2024.
- Soldo Cashbook for April 2024.
- Council Account Cashbook for May 2024.
- Hall Account Cashbook for May 2024.
- Precept Account Cashbook for May 2024.
- Reserves Account Cashbook for May 2024.
- Soldo Cashbook for May 2024.

The Chair asked the members present if there were any questions with regards to the above Cashbooks.

No questions were raised.

*LD proposed that the Council ratify March’s Cashbooks. SE seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

*RD proposed that the Council ratify April’s Cashbooks. SS seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

*SS proposed that the Council ratify May’s Cashbooks. CD seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council Account Cashbook for March, April and May 2024, Hall Account Cashbook for March, April and May 2024, Precept Account Cashbook for March, April and May 2024, Reserve Account Cashbook for March, April and May 2024 and Soldo Cashbook for March, April and May 2024 are ratified.

**Minute No. 33 – Ratify payments made.**

The Clerk previously circulated the payments made during April and May 2024 for ratification to all Councillors via email.

There were no comments or questions raised from the members present.

*SS proposed to ratify the payments made in April 2024. SE seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

*SE proposed to ratify the payments made in May 2024. RD seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** payments made in April and May 2024 are ratified.

**Minute No. 34 – Ratify regular payments to be made during 2024-25.**

The Clerk has previously circulated the regular payments to be made during 2024-25 to all members of the Council via email.

There were no comments or questions raised from the members present.

*LD proposed to accept the document. SS seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the document of the regular payments to be made during 2024-25 is ratified.

**Minute No. 35 – Receive end of year financial report and approve the accounts for 2023-24.**

The Clerk previously circulated the end of year financial report and the accounts for 2023-24 to all members of the Council via email.

The Clerk informed the Council that all of the documents that were sent via email are the exact same documents sent to the internal auditor. The reason for sending all the documents to all members of the Council was so that they could have a better understanding of the work involved. The Clerk also informed the Council that these documents will be sent to the Audit Wales office.

The Clerk gave an overview of the 2023-24 Budget. The Clerk informed the Council that the reason why there's such a difference between the balance brought forward for 2023 and 2024 is mainly due to the £90,000 used to pay towards building Cross Hands Park.

The Clerk advised the Council that they should consider increasing the reserves when looking at future Budgets and Precept demands.

The Clerk stated that she was very pleased with how the Budget had been managed and that the internal auditor also stated this in his report.

The Clerk informed the Council that the internal auditor stated in his report that the system used by LICC is more than adequate and that Excel is a recommended system to use for the Financial Reporting of the Council. The Clerk was hoping that now that this is written in the internal audit report that all accusations that the Council's accounts were illegal will be put to bed and the matter will not be raised again.

GJ stated that it didn't matter whether or not the internal auditor states that Excel is Ok to be used, he still believed that double entry bookkeeping would be better, and that the Council should use an accountancy software.

The Clerk felt that there was no need for the Council to pay for software that would cost in excess of £1000 per year as the amount of transactions that the Council make through the Bank accounts doesn't justify spending this amount of money.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk on behalf of the Council for their hard work in preparing all of the documents for the internal auditor. The Chair congratulated the Clerk on such a good internal audit report.

*RD proposed to accept the end of year financial report and the accounts for 2023-24 as previously circulated via email from the Clerk. SS seconded the proposal. AJ voted against the proposal. GJ, RJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** to accept the end of year financial report and the accounts for 2023-24 as previously circulated via email from the Clerk.

**Minute No. 36 – Receive a report from the internal auditor for 2023-24.**

The Clerk previously circulated the 2023-24 report received from the internal auditor to all members of the Council via email.

*SS proposed that the Council accept the 2023-24 internal audit report received via email from the Clerk. PO seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council accept the internal audit report for 2023-24 as previously circulated via email from the Clerk.

**Minute No. 37 – To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

The Clerk previously circulated the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to all members of the Council via email.

*SS proposed to approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 as previously circulated via email to all members of the Council from the Clerk. RD seconded the proposal. GJ, RJ, AJ and SB abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** to approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 as previously circulated via email to all members of the Council from the Clerk.

**Minute No. 38 – To discuss requests for financial assistance.**

The Clerk had previously circulated the following requests received for financial assistance along with all relevant documents to all members of the Council via email:

- a) Tumble Rugby Club Juniors
- b) Tumble Colts

- c) Merched Y Wawr
- d) Cyfle i Bawb

JA declared an interest with Tumble Colts and stated that she will not be participating when the Council discuss their request for financial assistance.

GJ stated that an agenda item was missing and informed the Council that Cross Hands Action Team have also requested financial assistance.

The Clerk informed the Council that the application was only received today and that it wasn't possible to add an item onto the agenda tonight. The Clerk also informed the Council that she has sent an email to the applicant explaining this and that a meeting will be arranged to specifically discuss their request.

GJ challenged the Clerk stating that the Chair has the authority to add items onto the agenda.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Chair has the authority to rearrange the order of the agenda, but it is illegal to add items onto the agenda on the night of the meeting.

GJ continued to challenge the Clerk on this matter as he was unsatisfied with the advice given. The Clerk responded on each occasion stating that items cannot be added on to the agenda during the meeting. GJ stated that "he didn't realise the Clerk was in charge of the meetings".

The Clerk asked the Chair if she could continue with the information for the agenda item. The Chair agreed.

The Clerk provided an overview of each request for financial assistance. She stated that all of the relevant paperwork has been received. Tumble Rugby Club Juniors and Tumble Colts both request £500 assistance towards paying for equipment. Merched Y Wawr and Cyfle i Bawb both request £500 towards trips and to help pay towards Hall Hire.

SS asked the Clerk if there was enough money available within the budget and are the donations going to be granted on a first come first serve basis? SS also asked whether it would be an idea to split the donations into time slots throughout the year?

The Clerk assured the Council that there's currently enough money in the budget to grant all of these financial requests, if the Council wished to do so. The Clerk informed the Council that the policy was adopted in May and that they would need to wait six months before they can change the policy. The Clerk also informed the Council that there have been patterns with when financial requests have been received by the Council and that so far, this year, the requests received have been less than last year. The Clerk will monitor this closely.

SE informed the Council that he had lost internet connection at the start of this agenda item and has missed most of the conversation. Therefore, he will be abstaining from voting on this matter.

SB asked the Clerk if all four of these organisations are in the ward of Llannon and if there is a benefit to the residents within the ward.

The Clerk informed the Council that Tumble Rugby Club Juniors and Tumble Colts are in the ward of Llannon. The Clerk also informed the Council that majority of the members that attend Merched Y Wawr and Cyfle i Bawb live within the ward and that they use Tumble Hall as their meeting place.

*LD proposed that the Council grant the financial assistance requested from the above groups. GJ seconded the proposal. SE & JA abstained. All other members present voted in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council grant Tumble Rugby Club Juniors, Tumble Colts, Merched Y Wawr and Cyfle i Bawb the financial assistance that they have requested.

**Minute No. 39 – Ratify the Council's report of progress made against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objectives 2023-24.**

The Clerk circulated the report on progress made against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan objectives for 2023-24 to all members of the Council via email.

The Chair asked all members present to take time to look over the report during the meeting before any discussion or comments were made.

The Chair asked members of the Council if they had any questions or comments regarding the report.



LD stated that she has only helped with the Cinio a Chlonc once and that she didn't want members of public to think that she has been there every week, hence taking away the recognition for the people who have been there weekly. She also stated that she didn't mind if her name was taken out of that section of the report. She will continue to volunteer as and when she can.

SB informed the Council that as he hasn't had enough time to read the report, currently he felt that he's unable to commit to any of these projects. He stated that he's unwilling to do anything until he has had the time to read the document in detail and therefore, he'll be abstaining from voting on this item.

GJ informed the Council that there was a spelling mistake on the County Councillor's section.

RD informed the Council that on page 23, it was Ysgol Llannon that they did the bug hotels and that she has sent a photo of the school into the Clerk.

SS stated that she is extremely glad to see such a strong focus on involving the youth and that creating a Youth Council would be a positive outcome for LICC. SS also stated that she is very pleased to see that the Clerk has organised so many activities during the summer holidays for the families within the community and that it has been good to see positive posts on social media.

LD informed the Council that on page 22, she doesn't think that the Council have done any bulb planting during 2023-24. It was agreed this would be removed.

JO asked whether they should change the wording of establish a luncheon club to state that it is ongoing?

The Clerk informed the Council that the goals moving forward is part of the well-being plan.

LD asked the Clerk if it was possible to update the picture of the Eisteddfod as the picture in the report was for the previous year. LD also asked if it was possible to add the address for the dog poo bins situated in Cross Hands and Tumble.

SE asked the Council whether the Welsh Language training extends to Councillors?

The Clerk informed the Council that it isn't currently in the Training & Development Plan but the Council can consider adding it to the plan. The Clerk also informed the Council that there is a Welsh language course available at a cost of £45 per term and this could be covered under the training budget if anybody wished to attend.

*SE proposed that the Council ratify the Council's report of progress made against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objectives 2023-24 with the above amendments. CD seconded the proposal. SB and AJ abstained from voting. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council ratify the Council's report of progress made against the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan Objectives 2023-24 with the above amendments.

***The Chair closed the meeting at 7.18pm***

GJ then asked the Chair if he could speak and the Chair agreed. He brought the Council's attention to a post that he had put in the chat function of Zoom at 19.05:

*"The Chairman cannot decide which items should appear on the agenda for meetings. The Clerk is responsible for the agenda, apart from Extraordinary Meetings. Normal practice would be for the Clerk to consult with the Chairman when drawing up an agenda to ensure that appropriate and necessary items are added."*

GJ told the meeting that the Clerk was wrong and the point should have been added. The Clerk advised the meeting that the information GJ had posted was regarding drawing up the agenda and you cannot add agenda items during a meeting. GJ once again stated the Clerk was wrong and left the meeting.

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

**(Chair)**