

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Full Council held on
Monday 18th December 2023 at 7pm
in the Youth Room of the Institute Llanfair Caereinion

Present were:

Cllr Ian Davies Chair	Cllr Rob Astley Vice Chair
Cllr Hazel Davies	Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Melvin Jones	Cllr Mark Owen
Cllr Stephen Purser	Cllr Sam Webster

In attendance Robert Robinson Town Clerk

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Cadvan Evans, Cllr Viola Evans, Cllr Ursula Griffiths and Cllr Geraint Peate

106. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

107. Declarations of interest

The following declaration of interest was recorded at the meeting:

Cllr Melvin Jones – minute 112.1 – Planning application –
Bethlehem Chapel House Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0HT

108. Appointment by co-option of a councillor for the vacant seat

The meeting confirmed the co-option of Stephen Purser.

A vote was taken **confirming the appointment**, the vote was unanimous.

Cllr Stephen Purser then signed the declaration of office and took his seat at the table.

108.1 Allocation to areas of interest

The members requested that Cllr Stephen Purser consider the list of areas of interest and report to the January 2024 meeting with his preferences.

109. Public Question Time and Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

110. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last Meeting issued separately.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Hazel Davies. The vote was unanimous.

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

111. Finance and Governance

111.1 Bank balances

The meeting noted the current balances (as at 31.11.2023) as:

Current account	£30,903.77
Deposit account	£60,834.67
Total cash balances	£91,738.44
VAT (to be reclaimed)	£4,500.51
Total money available	£96,238.95

The meeting **received** the management accounts as set out in the information pack to the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr Gareth Jones and seconded by Cllr Melvin Jones. The vote was unanimous.

111.2 Orders for payment

The meeting considered and approved the orders for payment as set out at appendix B in the appendices pack.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Melvin Jones. The vote was unanimous.

112. Planning and development

112.1 23/1706/HH Bethlehem Chapel House Llanfair Caereinion SY21 0HT

Erection of an enclosed porch.

The meeting agreed to **SUPPORT** this planning application.

Proposed by Cllr Mark Owen and seconded by Cllr Rob Astley. The vote was unanimous.

113. Ysgol Bro Caereinion School

The members considered the proposals for a 'Welsh Medium School' and to finalise the council's formal response to the proposals for the school. A report from the Town Clerk was presented to the meeting.

The points considered during the discussion included:

- i) Falling role numbers in Powys Schools.
- ii) Options for the school if the 'Welsh Medium' approach was not adopted.
- iii) The effect on the Leisure Centre if the school was not there.
- iv) Transport issues for those travelling to an 'English Medium' school.
- v) The contents of the consultation document issued by Powys County Council.
- vi) A public meeting was not considered appropriate at this time.

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Continued:

- vii) Estyn has asked Powys County Council to make provision for a Welsh Medium school in North Powys.
- viii) The chances of gaining a good level of funding for better facilities at the school is substantially improved if it was 'Welsh Medium'.
- ix) The members were aware of the strength of feeling from both sides of the argument.
- x) Possibility of the Town Council's own survey with clear information when the next stage of consultation is reached.

The cabinet of Powys County Council is due to consider the results of the consultation at its meeting towards the end of January 2024. Following that there is likely to be a formal consultation period when the Town Council should take a more active role in representing its residents.

The meeting noted that the Town Clerk had asked the offices at Powys County Council the direct question about the future of the school if the proposals were not taken forward. To date there has been no response even though they were aware of the meeting being held this evening.

After much discussion over the consultation the issues around the proposal it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write to Powys County Council in response to the proposals within the consultation as follows:

- xi) The residents of Llanfair Caereinion have expressed reservations regarding the proposals which the Town Councillors share.
- xii) The Council recognises the need to retain the school but need more clarity and information on alternatives before making an informed response to the consultation.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Mark Owen. The vote was unanimous.

114. Fire and Rescue Services

The meeting noted a consultation from the Fire and Rescue Services. The meeting also noted that an increase of 8.6% of this section of the council tax is to be confirmed (9% last year).

115. Allotments review

The meeting received a report on allotments from the Town Clerk. It was confirmed that no land for an allotment site in Llanfair Caereinion has been found. It was **AGREED** that no further action should be taken at this time.

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

116. Regeneration planning

The meeting received a short report on the second meeting with Powys County Council. The notes of this meeting at appendix C of the appendices pack to the agenda.

116.1 Places Plan for Llanfair Caereinion

The meeting was informed that a Places Plan could be prepared for Llanfair Caereinion (a strategic plan) at no cost (Powys County Council funded) and produced in partnership with Powys County Council.

The meeting **AGREED** to progress with a Places Plan as outlined in the report and in this minute.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Sam Webster. The vote was unanimous.

117. County Council Matters

The meeting received a general update on any matters affecting the Town from the County Councillor. It is understood that the Powys County Council precept increase is likely to be between 5 and 6 percent.

118. Town Clerks report

The following was raised under this heading:

118.1 Welsh Government White Paper – Homeless

The Town Clerk reported on the White Paper regarding the homeless in Wales. In general the proposal is to removed many of the requirements to be allowed to be allocated to a property. Although the proposals sounds good there is some concern that the housing stock is not available to meet the new plans.

118.2 Deri Woods bird boxes

The Town Clerk reported that 4 bird boxes had been damaged in Deri Woods. The FODW are repairing these and returning them to their locations.

118.3 Watergate Street car park

The meeting considered a report that there are to be electric charging points placed in the Watergate Street car park taking up 4 spaces.

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would write to the County Council expressing some concern at the reduction in car spaces and seeking a copy of the plans proposed for comment. A draft letter is to be prepared and circulated for comment before it is sent.

118.4 Christmas Lights event 2023

Cllr Melvin Jones thanked Cllr Rob Astley, Cath Astley and the Town Clerk for delivering the event this year. A proposal for next years event will need to be considered in the early spring. It was noted that a budget of £5,000 in total has been allocated for the 2024 Christmas Lights.

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion

Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

119. Correspondence

There was no other relevant correspondence not covered under the agenda.

120. Dates of next meeting

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting which is to be Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7pm in the Youth Room of the Institute.