

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

MINUTES

for a meeting of the Full Council held on
Monday 27th November 2023 at 7pm
in the Youth Room of the Institute

Present were:

Cllr Ian Davies (Chair)	Cllr Rob Astley (Vice Chair)
Cllr Hazel Davies	Cllr Viola Evans
Cllr Cadvan Evans	Cllr Melvin Jones
Cllr Mark Owen	Cllr Geraint Peate

In attendance: Robert Robinson Town Clerk

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Gareth Jones, Cllr Ursula Griffiths and Cllr Sam Webster
There was one local resident attending.

94. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

95. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded at the meeting.

Note:

The agenda was re-ordered so that members of the public could be involved in items 3 to 5.

96. Bute

The meeting received a presentation from Bute on the renewable energy scheme with transmission line with particular focus on community benefits.

The presentation and discussion included:

- i) The current work is around pre-application, the application for the wind farm and power line is likely to be later in 2024.
- ii) Community benefit could include reduction in electricity for residents over a set period.
- iii) Fund is currently £7,500 per megawatt produced.
- iv) It is expected that the fund would be approx. £1,200,000 pa for an extended period covering an area surrounding and including the wind farm site.
- v) Details of the census and demographics were considered when planning the scheme.
- vi) Public transport a local issue, particularly for those wishing to use it for work.
- vii) Community transport was cited as one area where the fund could help.
- viii) Bute will send an email with details of the funding themes for circulation to councillors.

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The members pointed out two major projects that could benefit from the fund as follows:

- i) The development of Morgan's Yard to include public parking.
- ii) The construction to adoptable standard the section of road at Cwm Golau to allow site construction traffic and a lorry route to bypass the Town Centre.

Note: Cllr Melvin Jones joined the meeting.

97. New national park for north Wales

The meeting considered the consultation papers on a proposed new National Park which will include land within the Llanfair Caereinion ward boundary.

During the debate the following were of note:

- i) Consultation process did not allow people to join by video link when it was requested.
- ii) The boundaries for the new national park are still not settled.
- iii) The scheme was in the Labour manifesto for Welsh Government.
- iv) Funding issues around extra cost for planning applications and also a levy on the local council tax for those in (and possibly around) the national park.
- v) Planning applications will involve an extra level of approval by the National Park Authority created affecting property both in and immediately around the park.
- vi) Any renewable energy/power lines are covered by the Wales Strategic Plan and will override the National Park Authority.
- vii) Concern that the decisions are being made by stealth.
- viii) It has been shown that house prices in and immediately around a national park (increase approx. 25%). This could lead to the issue of affordability to local people and could encourage more second homes. (evidenced by other national park areas such as the Lake District)
- ix) 22% of Wales is already a national park, the addition of the proposed national park would increase this to approx. 40%.
- x) In theory the national park could bring more tourism to the area.
- xi) If there is substantially more tourism there are issues with road structure and traffic.

The meeting **AGREED to object to the proposal on the following grounds:**

- i) Any national park should exclude any part of the Llanfair Caereinion ward. The council does not wish to see half its ward in the national park and half not.
- ii) Further precept cost to residents is unwelcome.
- iii) The effect on houses prices (which often happens) would price local people out of an already unaffordable market.
- iv) The extra planning regulations are unwelcome.

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

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98. Ysgol Bro Caereinion

The meeting considered a formal response to the school consultation as requested. The meeting also received the survey carried out by face-book by Kate Roberts. It was noted that PCC is not keen to host a public meeting – the town council may wish to host its own public meeting in the new year.

Following extensive discussion it was **agreed** that the Town Clerk should visit Powys County Council educational officers to go through the proposals and report back to Council at the December meeting.

99. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and **approved** the minutes of the last Full Council Meeting held on 23rd October 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Geraint Peate. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting considered and **approved** the minutes of the last Full Council Meeting held on 6th November 2023.

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

100. Financial and governance

100.1 Bank balances

The meeting noted the bank balances as follows:

Current account	£35,181.06
Deposit account	£60,834.67
VAT	£4,054.50
Total funds available	£100,070.23

100.2 Management account summary

The meeting received the management accounts for the year to 31st October 2023. (full accounts issued to Chair and Vice Chair with copy of bank statements).

100.3 Orders for payment

The meeting considered and **approved** the orders for payment as set out in the agenda papers at appendix C.

Proposed by Cllr Cadvan Evans and seconded by Cllr Rob Astley. The vote was unanimous.

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100.4 Independent review panel for Wales

(i) Optional allowances

The council considered the policy for the year to 31st March 2025 and **confirmed** that no optional allowances would be paid as set out in the IRPW annual report.

The policy includes:

- Care allowances
- Loss of earnings for attending meetings
- Payments to councillors for different levels of responsibility.

Proposed by Cllr Mark Owen and seconded by Cllr Cadvan Evans. The vote was unanimous.

(ii) Statutory allowances

The council will pay a total of £208 to each councillor on 1st April 2024 unless the Clerk receives a letter from said councillor stating that they do not wish to take the allowance. The Town Clerk was asked to send a note to each Councillor on the subject.

The clerk must allow in the budget a sum to cover the amounts required before setting a formal precept request.

iii) Annual Report of the IRPW

The statutory amount of £208 is not taxable.

The IRPW return needs to show what allowances have been paid but for the ensuring year no individual names are included.

The clerk is allowed to issue a standard letter to each councillor asking if they wish to take the £208 allowance.

100.5 Budget 2024-2025

The meeting considered and **approved** the budget for 2024-2025 and set the precept at £48,825.

The budget has included for project items during the year using approx. £8,000 of its reserves to fund them as follows:

- i) New Christmas Lights £4,500
- ii) Work to car parks (Mount Field and Deri Woods) and the churchyard path £1,500
- iii) Fitness trail to supplement the grant aid already in place £1,500
- iv) Street cleaning by a contractor £3,600

As there is an excess of reserves the members was asked to consider if there are any significant schemes the council could complete for the benefit of the community. These may include the Trem Banwy playground (currently in the ownership of Powys County Council).

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The budget adopted includes the following policy about reserves:

The level of reserves at £45,000 is to be retained for security.

The council will seek to complete projects which benefit the community over the next three years from the excess reserves. However the precept is to cover normal running costs. This has been set at 5% for the year to 31st March 2025.

The council **approved** budget is attached to these minutes at appendix A.
Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Hazel Davies. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting also authorised a press release on the precept outlining what the council has achieved in the current year and what is planned for the next year.

100.6 Chronicle

The cost of printing the Chronicle and income from Adverts was reviewed. The town clerk is to look into more economical ways of producing the booklets.

101. Planning and development

101.1 Planning decisions

The meeting noted the planning decisions issued by Powys County Council.

101.2 Planning appeals

The meeting noted two planning appeals lodged regarding the following sites:

- i) Oakwood Valley Llanfair Caereinion
- ii) Tanyfron Llanfair Caereinion

102. Christmas Lights

The meeting received an update on the Christmas lights event. All was in hand with new lights purchased to enhance the existing ones.

103. County Council report

No report for this meeting.

104. Town Clerk's report

104.1 Co-option of a Councillor

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had received one application for co-option to the council. The details of the candidate will be circulated to each councillor. It was **agreed** that the applicant should be invited to the next council meeting where the appointment can be made.

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104.2 Toilets

The meeting was informed of the situation with grant aid (i.e. not awarded).

It was **agreed** that the scheme should go ahead in any event as per the decision at the previous council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Rob Astley and seconded by Cllr Cadvan Evans. The vote was unanimous.

105. Date of the next meeting

The meeting noted the date of the next Full Council meeting.

Monday 18th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Youth Room of the Institute.

APPENDIX A

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL								
ANNUAL BUDGET								
								ADOPTED
SUMMARY		2023-2024	Estimated	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025
			2023-2024	No increase	2%	3%	4%	5%
INCOME								
Precept		46500	46500	46500	47430	47895	48360	48825
Burial Services		5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Street Scene		5000	5000	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500
Recreational		10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Mount Field		160	160	300	300	300	300	300
Deri Woods		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administration		800	700	400	400	400	400	400
Publicity/Events		600	0	600	600	600	600	600
Projects (from reserves)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants/Donations		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community		10950	10950	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
From reserves		7200	0	9876	8946	8481	8016	7551
Total		76220	68320	75186	75186	75186	75186	75186
EXPENDITURE								
		2023-2024	Estimated	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025
			2023-2024					
Burial Services		7125	7000	7466	7466	7466	7466	7466
Street Scene		15200	10000	9450	9450	9450	9450	9450
Recreational		2650	2500	3430	3430	3430	3430	3430
Mount Field		7150	7000	5900	5900	5900	5900	5900
Deri Woods		2400	2400	4350	4350	4350	4350	4350
Administration		20596	18000	23390	23390	23390	23390	23390
Publicity/Events		7250	7000	10100	10100	10100	10100	10100
Projects / Other		2500	2500	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Donations/Grants		1250	2000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Section 137		50	50	100	100	100	100	100
Community		9650	5500	7600	7600	7600	7600	7600
Total		75821	63950	75186	75186	75186	75186	75186
Balance		399	4370	0	0	0	0	0
PER HOUSEHOLD BAND D								
Council tax total			46500	46500	47430	47895	48360	48825
Amount per year			57.76	57.76	58.92	59.50	60.07	60.65
Amount per month			4.81	4.81	4.91	4.96	5.01	5.05
Amount per week			1.11	1.11	1.13	1.14	1.16	1.17
Amount per day			0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17