Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2019 at The Public Institute, Llanfair at 7.00pm

Present – Cllrs C Stephens (Vice Chair and Chair for the meeting in the absence of Cllr K Roberts) R Astley, U Griffiths (arrived 7.20), I Davies, V Evans, A Dunsford, and Clerk

Before business began Mrs Williams, English and Drama teacher from Llanfair High School introduced pupils who gave presentations as to why Llanfair Town Council should keep the Library open. Cllr V Evans awarded prizes and the Chair thanked them for their excellent efforts.

Mr Phil Jones, Head Teacher of the High School then updated the council members on the recent Community Partnership meeting and grant applications. He proposed that the Town Council could help with such grant applications. Cllr Stephens explained that this would not be possible as Town Council time could not be used for making grant applications for other groups.

Mr Jones informed the meeting that the next Community Partnership meeting was on Thursday 10th October and invited all to attend. Cllr C Stephens thanked everyone from the High School for their time.

Business began at 7.30pm

1.Apologies – Cllrs K Roberts, C Evans, G Jones, G Peate, W Williams and H Davies

2.Declarations of Interest - None

3.Minutes of meeting held on 23rd September 2019

The minutes were read and agreed by all and signed as correct by The Chair.

4.Matters arising.

Sundial – Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded a link from Kieran Elliott to Cllr A Dunsford regarding sourcing a new face.

Gorsedd Stones – It was noted that during the Centenary Celebrations in September this area was very wet. It was agreed it needed to be drained.

**Action**: Cllr R Astley to drain area by use of a chain harrow.

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ASB – Clerk informed the members that the vandalism in the toilets had been dealt with by the police and the perpetrator had made a full payment to the council to cover the repairs.

BT Phone box by the Goat. Cllr A Dunsford confirmed he had not heard any more on the matter

**Action:** Cllr A Dunsford to follow up with BT.

5.Finance.

Current account balance: £54,054.28

Money Manager Account: £40,089.81

The following payments were agreed:

101468 – Mrs V Griffith – Clerk’s salary August - £809.64

101469 – HMRC – Clerk’s NI for July, Aug and Sept

101470 – Mrs V Griffith -Clerk’s salary September – £809.64

101471 –J G Lloyd – Grass cutting contract July Aug and Sept - £1,879.20

101472 – J G Lloyd – Verti draining x 2, tennis courts, Erw Ddwr etc - £1,284.00

101473 – R Isaac – Strimming at No 1 Poole Road and weeding at Chapel of Rest - £44.00

101474 – Mrs V Griffith – Expenses for August and Sept to include Deri Woods costs - £234.24

101475 – Kieran Elliot – Payment for War Memorial Conservation - £6,206.24 (to be fully reimbursed by PCC War Memorial Project)

DD- Opus Energy – Electric for Chapel of Rest and Toilets (August) - £45.15

Bank transfer – S D Johnson – library cleaning August - £39.03

Bank transfer – S D Johnson – toilet cleaning August - £144.00

Bank transfer – S D Johnson – library cleaning September – £36.00

Bank transfer – S D Johnson – toilet cleaning September – £147.50

Bank transfer – G H Harding – repairs to ladies toilets - £141.60

Bank transfer – Carnog working horses– logging at Centenary event - £150.00

Bank transfer – Came and Company – Insurance for Mountfield - £330.00

Bank transfers – Came and Company – Insurance for Deri Woods - £438.91

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Receipts:

Headstone fees – £95.00

Burials - £500.00

Chapel of Rest - £30.00

Payment for toilet repairs - £160.00

Second precept tranche - £13,333.00

Interest on money manager account - £19.98

Chair signed balance sheet from both accounts

Error:

Clerk stated that on some minutes she had listed payments to D M Johnson for the cleaning of toilets and the library. From October 2018 all cleaning invoices should be listed as S D Johnson.

It was agreed that the £60 invoice for Delyth Williams for the face painting at the Deri Woods event could be paid when it was presented to save Delyth waiting until October meeting.

School crossing invoice:

Clerk confirmed she had received a payment reminder for the A458 SCP for 2018 – 2019. It was agreed not to pay this and to contact County Councillor Gareth Jones in order to start a dialogue with PCC to resolve the matter. Failing this it was suggested that the Town Council commission an independent health and safety risk assessment. The police and RoSPA could also be consulted.

**Actions:**

i.Clerk to ask Cllr G Jones to liaise with PCC on this matter.

ii. Clerk to look for email to check if PCC state the road is safe.

Quarterly spending review:

Clerk presented the members with the quarterly spending review and took questions.. She stated that there should be a contingency fund in the budget for 2019 – 2020 to cover miscellaneous spending. It was agreed that £3,000 would be appropriate. She also stated that due to the war memorial management plan further funds should be allocated in the budget for its ongoing upkeep. A figure of £500 was agreed. The spending review was agreed by all as satisfactory.

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Audit:

The Clerk informed the members that the 2018 – 2019 had now been returned by the Wales Audit Office and was unqualified. The Clerk confirmed that the completion of Audit Notice had been posted for the statutory time during September.

The Clerk read out the Auditor’s report. All matters raised in the report were discussed but particularly the issue of the high reserves. It was agreed that in the light of PCC cuts LTC would likely be asked to take over more and more services with little or no financial help from PCC. Furthermore the toilet grant was in its final year and it was agreed that they were a valuable and well used asset in the town and should be kept open. The Library was the next service threatened with closure and high reserves were essential if such services were to survive.

6.Planning.

There were no planning applications received for consideration.

7.Premises.

Deri Woods and Goatfield - The Chair congratulated all those involved in the recent Deri Woods Centenary event. It had been a huge success and greatly enjoyed by the community. Cllr Viola reported that the dog bag dispensers at the entrance to the Deri Woods and the Goatfield were no longer serviceable and required replacing.

**Actions:**

i.Cllr R Astley to email catalogue to Clerk and Clerk to find prices for dog bag dispensers.

ii. Clerk to contact PCC with ask if more bag dispensers and bins could be placed at the entrances and around the town due to dog fouling problem in general.

Mountfield – It was reported that LUFC were offering hospitality in exchange for match sponsorship at a cost of £25.00 per person.

**Action:** Clerk to ask for match dates and details and pass on to any individual or business who might be interested.

Glan yr Afon play area – Clerk confirmed all hedges were now cut

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St Mary’s Church Yard – Clerk confirmed she had written to both Col. Glyn and the Rev Kushi regarding the removal of the dead tree near the church hall. Clerk confirmed that G Lloyd would be cutting the hedge along the wall the weekend of the 28th September

**Actions:**

i.Cllrs R Astley and A Dunsford to remove small dead tree asap.

ii.Clerk to monitor contractor for hedge cutting.

Public toilets – Clerk confirmed the repairs to the ladies were complete and there was nothing further to report. It was also confirmed that the doors were open on a Sunday 10 am to 4pm and it was agreed they would remain so until further notice. The gutters required cleaning of dead leaves etc.

**Actions:**

i. Review opening hours at next meeting.

ii.Cllrs R Astley and A Dunsford to clear gutters asap.

Chapel of Rest – Clerk confirmed work is to start on the fence week commencing 23rd September.

**Action**: Clerk to monitor fence repair with contractor.

Erw Ddwr – Nothing further to report.

**Action:**Clerk to monitor contractor for repair to ‘rubbish’ sign and re varnishing of main sign at entrance.

Library – Clerk read letter from Kay Thomas regarding a meeting to discuss the Library’s future.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting date with Kay and councillors asap.

Banwy Industrial Estate CAT – Nothing further to report. Clerk was still awaiting the CAT documentation so the legal process could begin.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr G Jones to move this forward.

The list of jobs from the Town Walk was updated.

**Action**: Clerk to keep this updated and re circulate before each meeting to ensure the list is completed.

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8.Correspondence

Highway signing – Clerk had received an email from PCC regarding the brown sign for Deri Woods. It needed replacing and it was agreed it should be bi lingual. Cllr V Evans asked for the brown ‘gallery’ sign to be removed from the top of Mount Road as it was now obsolete. All agreed.

**Actions:**

i.Cllr C Stephens to email Clerk with Welsh translation.

ii.Clerk to email this to PCC for inclusion on new brown sign and ask for ‘gallery’ sign to be removed.

Hedge by the vicarage – Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation from the Church in Wales that the hedge needed cutting back and the tall trees needed a safety inspection.

**Action**: Clerk to monitor situation.

War Memorial – Clerk informed the members that she had received written confirmation from Catherine Pugh of PCC that the full amount of the conservation work would be re imbursed by the War Memorial Project. All agreed this was an excellent outcome. Clerk explained that the Management Plan for the Memorial would now need administering as conservation work was complete and it would be put on the agenda under ‘Premises’. All agreed.

**Actions:**

i.Clerk to invoice PCC for full amount - £6,206.24

ii.Clerk to put War Memorial on agenda

Clerk had received and read out:

Letter from the Carnival ref. dates for 2020

Open letter from the objectors to the proposed planning application at Llanerchyddol.

A reminder from OVW of the Maldwyn Area Committee meeting on 24th September.

A letter from a resident requiring information on a planning application. Clerk confirmed she had an answer for the resident.

**Action:** Clerk to reply with required information.

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9.Powys County Council matters.

Cllr G Jones had given his apologies for the meeting but had informed the Clerk that all outstanding matters from the Town Walk and from previous meetings were in hand.

10.Montgomeryshire Local Forum.

Cllr W Williams was not present at the meeting.

11.Road Safety.

It was confirmed that the required work on the unlit and dangerous path between the primary and high school had now carried out in full.

12.Matters arising.

Dog fouling – Cllr K Roberts had received reports of dog fouling in the town from a resident via social media. It was agreed that the issue remaining a major problem in and around the town and action was required. It was agreed that the best way to tackle this in the absence of a dog warden was for it to be reported via social media and dog walkers to police it themselves.

**Action:**

**i** Cllrs C Stephens and I Davies to post on social media.

ii.All councillors to remain vigilant and report dog fouling incidents when witnessed

Remembrance Day – Clerk reminded all that this was fast approaching. It was agreed that the schools and community groups should once again be asked to take part in the Act of Remembrance on Sunday 10th November.

**Action:** Clerk to write to all groups and liaise with Cllr H Davies for ordering of wreaths

Youth Reps on Town Council – Clerk informed members of the legal position of electing non-voting Youth Reps onto the Town Council. It was agreed that his should go ahead immediately.

**Action**: Clerk to write to High School and invite them to select candidates. Clerk to write to Chair of Governors of High School to inform him of the process as per the legal criteria.

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Banwy road bridge – Clerk had made enquiries regarding the Probation Service providing the man hours to paint the bridge. She informed the members that the job must not take paid work from any employee, in this case PCC. It was agreed this should be pursued.

**Action.** Clerk to liaise with County Councillor Gareth Jones on the matter.

Environment Wales Act (2016) Biodiversity report – Clerk informed the members of the duty of all Town and Community Councils to make a report to WAG about enhancing biodiversity in their policies and actions as per the legislation.

**Action:** Clerk to compile this report by end of 2019.

Bank Antiques – Cllr A Dunsford informed the members of the imminent closure of the business. All agreed this was a very unfortunate development and wished him success with moving and re opening the business within the town.

13.Date of next meeting: Monday 28th October 2019 at 7pm

Meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

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