Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 27th January 2020 at The Public Institute, Llanfair at 7.00pm

Present – Cllrs K Roberts, R Astley, I Davies, U Griffiths, A Dunsford, H Davies, W Williams (arrived 7.05), C Evans, C Stephens, G Jones, V Evans and Clerk

Visitor – Mr Stephen Purser

Before business began The Chair welcomed Mr Robert Robinson of Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway. Robert updated the members on the planned expansion of WLLR. It was agreed that it was important for the Town Council and the Railway to work together to promote such a valuable tourist attraction and the town of Llanfair as a whole. The Chair thanked Robert for valuable update.

Business began at 7.15pm

1.Apologies – Cllr G Peate

2.Declarations of Interest – Cllr G Jones declared an interest in planning application 20/0010/OUT due to his presence on PCC planning committee.

3.Minutes of meeting 16th December 2019

The minutes had been read and agreed by all. The Chair signed the minutes as correct.

4.Matters arising.

Gorsedd Stones – Once again Cllr R Astley had been unable to carry out the work due to the recent wet weather.

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| **Action**: **Cllr R Astley** to drain area by use of a chain harrow when ground becomes drier. |

BT Phone box by the Goat. Cllr A Dunsford reported that Cadw had still not responded to his email regarding the maintenance of the phone box near the Goat.

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| **Action**: **Cllr A Dunsford** to follow up with Cadw for a response and report back at next meeting. |

War Memorial – Clerk informed the members that the final two mouldings had not yet been finished but had contacted the contractor regarding a completion date which was now February, weather permitting.

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| **Action**: **Clerk** to insure this final job is carried out. |

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Remembrance Day – It was agreed that Cllr H Davies should monitor the wreaths on the Memorial and ensure they do not become untidy due to the weather. Cllr H Davies informed the members that wreaths could be left in place up until Easter if they were still in good condition.

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| **Action**: **Cllr H Davies** to report back at next meeting |

Youth Reps on Town Council – Clerk confirmed that the High School were ready to bring two Youth Reps to the February meeting. All agreed this would be an excellent start.

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| **Action**: **Clerk** to continue to liaise with the High School and confirm their presence at the February meeting of LTC. |

Environment Wales Act report on biodiversity – Clerk confirmed this was now published on the website

Internal Auditor – Clerk had not yet been in contact with potential new auditor.

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| **Action**: **Clerk** to contact new auditor. |

RoSPA report for Glan yr Afon play area – Cllr R Astley confirmed that although he had emailed the details of his repair to RoSPA they had not yet responded.

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| **Action**: **Cllr R Astley** to monitor situation and await response. |

Erw Ddwr – Cllrs A Dunsford and R Astley confirmed they had fixed the new signs in place on the waste bins. Cllr H Davies informed the members that the sign near the Garden of Remembrance required the legs mending.

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| **Action**: **Clerk** to contact Rob Isaac regarding the repair |

Painter – Cllrs C Stephens and I Davies confirmed that there had been no response to the advert.

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| **Action** –**Cllrs C Stephens, I Davies and Clerk** to monitor responses, if any. |

Budget 2020/2021 – Clerk confirmed that following the Budget meeting of 20th January she had informed PCC regarding the precept requirement.

HLF Grant for Deri Woods – Clerk confirmed that she had received no information from MWT regarding confirmation of the final spend from the HLF.

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| **Action – Clerk** to monitor response from HLF via MWT |

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Dog fouling at Hafan Deg – Further reports of fouling were made by a number of Councillors. The particular areas of concern were Hafan Deg, Glan yr Afon and the main street in the town.

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| **Action** – **Clerk** to report the matter to PCC once again |

Dog waste bins and bag dispensers – Clerk had not had a response from PCC and Cllr G Jones was not present with any update on his part.

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| **Action** – **Clerk** and Cllr G Jones to monitor situation. |

Grant for Public Toilets – Clerk confirmed that this had been received in full from PCC.

To consider how grants are applied for – Clerk confirmed she had received some details of possible joint application grants,

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| **Action – Clerk** to read all suggestions and report back at next meeting. |

St Mary’s Church Yard – Cllr A Dunsford confirmed he had received the sundial arm from Cllr H Davies but had not yet done the face. Cllr R Astley confirmed the lytch gate cross was being galvanised and would be replaced asap. Cllr H Davies confirmed that the back path was now clear of leaves and the steps by the toilets had been swept.

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| **Action – Cllr A Dunsford** to source sundial face and **Cllr R Astley** to replace lytch gate cross |

Public Toilets - Cllr R Astley confirmed that the door locks were now functioning correctly. Cllr H Davies reported that due to the toilets being locked the public were using outside the toilets instead. All agreed this was totally unacceptable.

Christmas Lights – Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent to Cllr V Evans thanking her for another excellent event.

Banwy Industrial Estate CAT – Clerk confirmed all had received the most up to date copy of the plan.

Town Walk jobs list – Clerk confirmed this had been updated and distributed to all councillors.

St Dwynwen’s day – Clerk confirmed this event had been advertised via LTC social media as promised.

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Knife Angel Event – Cllrs C Evans and A Dunsford confirmed they had attended the event in Newtown on 4th January.

Church Flood Lights – Cllr C Evans confirmed he had spoken with electrician Aled Jones regarding having different colours in the flood lights and would be meeting with him to obtain a quote.

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| **Action – Cllr C Evans** to report back with prices and details |

Arwain – Clerk confirmed she had sent the details to Cllrs I Davies and W Williams

Donation to the Urdd Eisteddfod – Cllr C Evans confirmed that the event would not be held close to Llanfair and it was decided that no donation should be made.

Error – Clerk had incorrectly stated that, in AOB in December’s minutes, there was a problem with runners on the wrong side of the road. It should have stated that the danger was arising from walkers with headphones on the wrong side of the road.

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| **Action** – **Clerk** to amend minutes. |

Biodiversity Report – It was agreed that this quarterly review should coincide with the quarterly budget.

Cleaner for the Toilets – Clerk confirmed there had been no further enquiries.

5.Finance.

Current account balance: £57,604.04

Money Manager Account: £40,109.80

Chair signed the balance sheet for both bank accounts.

The following payments were agreed:

101490 – Mrs V Griffith -Clerk’s expenses January - £24.46

101491 – Mrs V Griffith – Clerk’s salary January - £809.64

DD- Opus Energy – Electric for Chapel of Rest and Toilets (December) - £116.41

DD – Charlies Stores – New padlock and chain for Deri Woods (HLF) – £40.46

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Receipts:

Headstone Fee - £75.00

Chapel of Rest - £120.00

Precept (final tranche) £13,333.00

Toilet grant – PCC - £5,000

6.Planning.

Planning application 20/0010/OUT – 3 dwellings at Tanyfron, Broncafnant Lane, SY21 0BW.

Cllr G Jones left the room before discussions began.

The members voted to support this application. Cllr G Jones returned to the room and the Chair informed him of the decision of the members.

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| **Action** – Clerk to inform PCC of the decision. |

7.Premises.

Public toilets – Cllr I Davies had obtained 3 quotes for CCTV as previously agreed. It was agreed that a 4 megapixel system would be appropriate. The quote chosen was that from LME. It was agreed that a wifi connection would enable the use of an app to monitor the CCTV. (Cllrs I Davies and U Griffiths left the meeting at 8.05pm). There followed a discussion on when best to re-open the toilets. Due to a lack of interest in the cleaning job for the toilets and library a number of options were put forward. Firstly Welshpool Town Council could be asked to sub contract one of their cleaners. Secondly Cllr G Jones would approach PCC regarding a similar arrangement. Until an answer was forthcoming on both the Clerk would ask the current cleaner to do reduced hours when the toilers re-open. Cllr C Evans also suggest that a sub-committee was formed with a view to recruiting a handy person around the Town to do the library and toilet cleaning plus other small jobs. It was agreed that a job description would be needed in the first instance.

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| **Actions –**  **1.Cllr I Davies** to liaise with contractor over time scale for installation and report back via email.  **2.Cllr C Evans** to make enquiries for an available phone line for wifi connection.  **3.Clerk** to approach WTC regarding a cleaner and ask the existing cleaner to do reduced hours when the toilets re-open.  **4**.**Cllr G Jones** to enquire if PCC could provide a sub contracted service. Both to report back asap.  **5. Clerk** to find and forward a job description for handy person to all. |

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Deri Woods and Goatfield - Clerk had received a priced tool list from the Deri Woods volunteers. It was agreed that Cllrs C Evans, G Jones and R Astley would consult on the prices and report back to Clerk asap so the tools could be purchased. It was agreed that it was essential to have an effective security system for the tool store. A shadow board and a system for signing all equipment in and out. Cllr S Stephens requested an extra interpretation board be purchased with the HLF budget. All agreed if funds permitted. Cllr C Evans suggested it could be sited in the Dog Free area. All agreed.

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| **Action – Cllrs Jones, Evans and Astley** to report back to **Clerk** regarding tools list asap |

St Mary’s Church Yard – It was reported that a number of lights in and around the Church were not working. It was agreed that if the Church Council could not mend them then LTC could contribute in order to enhance security

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| **Action – Cllr G Jones** to ask Church Council to mend broken lights and report back on response |

Mountfield - Nothing to report.

Glan yr Afon – Nothing further to report.

Chapel of Rest – Nothing to report

Erw Ddwr – Cllr H Davies reported that the mole problem continues but said Rob Isaac had the matter in hand.

Library – Clerk updated the members on the meeting with Kay Thomas on 9th Jan. She also read out the draft Budget and Governance kindly compiled by Stephen Purser. Cllr G Jones informed the members that he now had a verbal assurance from PCC that the IT would remain in all libraries as part of any take over package. He had also approached the Institute regarding the library possibly operating under their charitable umbrella and had had an encouraging response. The next meeting of The Institute was on 6th Feb and Cllr G Jones agreed to attend in place of Cllr K Roberts.

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| **Action** – All updates to be reported at February meeting of LTC |

War Memorial – Nothing further to report.

Banwy Industrial Estate CAT It was agreed that on site daylight meeting should take place on Tuesday 4th Feb at 3.30pm. All councillors to meet at WLLR.

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| **Action – Clerk** to email site map to all |

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The list of jobs from the Town Walk was updated.

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

Bollards on Watergate St – Cllr H Davies reported that these were damaged. Cllr G Jones had already reported the matter to PCC.

Light on Stop sign at Maes Gwyn turn – It was also reported to Cllr G Jones that the light on this sign was not working.

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| **Action** – Cllr G Jones to report to PCC |

8.Correspondence

Letter from Anwen Parry of the County Times – Clerk read response from Anwen regarding letter from the Town Council regarding her article of 17th January 2020.

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| **Action – Clerk** to forward link to North Powys Wellbeing report to all. |

Closure of the High Street – Clerk informed the members that LTC had been copied into a letter regarding the closure of the High Street to accommodate a street party as part of the VE celebrations. All present were in full agreement.

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| **Action – Clerk** to email PCC the following morning to formalise LTC’s full agreement to shut the High Street for VE Day street party on Friday 8th May 2020 |

VE Day – The Chair read a letter from Sam Webster, Chair of Llanfair District RBL, regarding the proposed timetable of event for VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations. There was unanimous agreement that LTC would support and contribute to the event and should the Lottery Grant application be unsuccessful LTC would contribute £500.

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| **Action – Clerk** to inform Sam Webster of this decision. |

Letter from resident regarding drains on Barnfield Road – Clerk had received a letter regarding the dangers posed to drivers due to blocked drains on the junction between Ty Newydd and Brithdir. Cllr G Jones explained that the drains were now unblocked and the issue resolved. The resident had been informed of this.

Order of St John – Clerk had received a letter from Dr Tim McVey asking for new members to volunteer for the Montgomeryshire area council. It was agreed that this should be put onto the LTC social media platforms and Clerk would inform Dr McVey of this.

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| **Actions** – **Clerk** to send letter to **Cllr I Davies** for inclusion on social media and Clerk to write to Dr Mc Vey. |

Letter from resident – Clerk read a letter from a resident who had comments to make regarding the Library. The Clerk had replied explaining that the Library would soon no longer be funded by PCC and would need to be run by volunteers. The Clerk invited the resident to contribute her ideas when this change occurred.

Christmas Lights – Clerk had received information from a company specializing in Christmas Lights. It was agreed she should contact them regarding possible reduced stock.

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| **Action – Clerk** to contact company |

Application for new pharmacy – Clerk had received an application for the new pharmacy at the new Caereinion Medical Practice. All agreed there were issues needing to be raised and no comments to make.

9.PCC Matters

Cllr G Jones had received a letter from a resident regarding the bollards and the speed bumps in Watergate St. Safety concerns had been raised and Cllr Jones would be taking these to PCC.

Cllr Jones updated all on progress of the new medical centre. He informed the members that because services needed connecting the tarmacking of Watergate St would not be carried out until this was completed.

Cllr Jones asked all councillors to email details of all potholes and other issues to him so he had a clear record of each issue and could deal with them effectively.

Cllr Jones reported that the proposed new yellow lines configuration for Llanfair would not be carried out by PCC until the new financial year but he would try to bring this forward.

Cllr Jones informed all that the rise in council tax would probably be around a 5% rise.

The problems regarding Morgan’s Yard were still on going and he had not had a reply from PCC planning department as to their resolution.

10.Montgomeryshire Local Council Forum.

Cllr W Williams had nothing to report

11.Road Safety.

SCP – It was confirmed that the newly appointed SCP had started the previous week.

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12.AOB.

Visit to the House of Commons – Cllr A Dunsford informed the members that he had received an invitation from Graig Williams MP, for Town Councillors to visit and have a tour around the House of Commons. Council members would have to find their own transport to and from London. Any one interested should contact Cllr Dunsford.

Asset register – Clerk informed the members that the Asset Register incorrectly listed Mountfield. She pointed out this should be removed and The Goatfield added as it was now owned by LTC following the recent CAT from PCC. All agreed.

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| **Action** – Clerk to update Asset Register. |

Meeting finished at 9.20pm.

13.Date of next meeting – Monday 24th February 2020 at 7pm