



**St Ishmael Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting held remotely
on 12th January 2021.**

PRESENT:

Cllr V M Jones, Cllr J Batte, Cllr J Price, Cllr J Greenwell, Cllr A Davies, Cllr K Low, Cllr A Dalton, County Cllr M Stephens, and Cllr P Stephens.

In the Chair: Cllr V M Jones

1. Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED that apologies for absence be accepted from Cllr P H Thomas, Cllr Ralph Bloor, Cllr H Gibbon, and Cllr Gloria Squires.

2. Declaration of Interests

The register of declarations of interest was made available to members. Cllr J Greenwell declared an interest in the issue of replacing the Community Council Website. Cllr A Davies and Cllr A Dalton declared an interest in Agenda item 12 in relation to the Llansaint Hall refurbishment.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of the meeting held on the 8th of December 2020 – proposed by Cllr J Price and seconded by Cllr J Batte, all in agreement.

4. Matters Arising

Community Council Website – The Clerk confirmed that examples of the websites created by Ginger and Tall had been forwarded to the Councillors to consider. The two favoured options were considered based on the cost versus experience: Ginger and Tall £500.00+VAT plus a hosting fee of £75+VAT annually
Vision ICT £1550.00+VAT plus a hosting and support fee of £240.00

It was resolved that the Council would remain with Vision ICT due to the previous experience of the company and their experience in creating Council websites.

Christmas Arrangements – The Clerk informed the Council that a new timer was fitted to the Christmas lights in Llansaint as the previous timer had failed and the lights were on continuously for a time. The lights had been removed by RT Electrics on the 8th of January and Cllr PH Thomas had been informed that the trees could be taken down.

LED MUGA lights – The Clerk informed the Council that several quotes for changing the lighting and replacing the switch box had been provided by electrical engineer, Keith Jones:

J3 Electrical Services Ltd	£4855.30 (0% VAT)
Dextra	£2880.00
DACA	£2650.00 plus VAT
Ansell	£5640.00

It was resolved that the Clerk would send the details of the quotes to the Councillors to consider further and that money from the reserves should be set aside for this work to be undertaken.

Briardale – The Clerk informed the Council that the survey of the Briardale path had not taken place as expected, CCC had received a letter in respect of a legal claim against them in advance of the site visit. The correspondence was being considered by the Legal Department before any further action could be taken.

Outstanding Audits – The Clerk confirmed that Grant Thornton had been contacted in respect of the 2019-20 Audit, they informed the Clerk that they were unable to publish the results until Wales Audit had completed the 2017-18 and 2018-19 Audits.

Planning Objections – The Clerk confirmed that a planning objection had been submitted in relation to removal of hedgerows at Rhosys Coch, Portway.

Handyman – The Clerk updated the Council that an advert for a Handyman had been placed on the Website and on Social Media, initial enquiries had been made by a couple of people but Andrew Jenkins of Palms Landscaping Ltd had registered an interest in carrying out the job at a rate of £13 per hour.

It was resolved that Mr Jenkins should be offered the job on a 6-month trial period. The Clerk would inform Mr Jenkins and ask for a start date to be agreed. The Clerk would also ask Mr Jenkins if he could attend the next “in person” Council meeting where the Council could ensure that their objectives for the role were understood.

Tenders – The Clerk opened and presented the two Tenders in relation to the three-year contracts for the Playing Field and the Rights of Way.

The Tenders for the Ferryside Playing Field were presented:

Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes	£250.00 per cut
	£250.00 per Aeration
Palms Landscaping Ltd	£270.00 plus VAT per cut
	£210.00 plus VAT per Aeration

It was resolved that Palms Landscaping Ltd would be awarded the Tender.

The Tenders for the Rights of Way were presented:

Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes	£150.00 per visit
Palms Landscaping Ltd	£275.00 per visit

It was resolved that Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes would be awarded the Tender.

Ferryside Working Group Update – The Clerk updated the Council that the Ferryside Working Group had identified several issues within the Ferryside Village that needed to be resolved, these ranged from traffic issues to additional planting. The next step would be prioritising the issues and looking at ways of getting them resolved.

In relation to the issue of the water running down the Porthill, which was in part caused by the farming practices being adopted on the adjacent fields, County Cllr M Stephens suggested that this could be raised during the liaison committee or with the National Farmers Union.

5. Planning

There were no planning matters to be considered.

6. Correspondence

	Correspondence	From	Action
1	Save our Signal Box Project	David Martin	The Clerk read out the letter

			from Mr Martin. The Council agreed that a letter of support be sent in line with the aims and objectives set out in the letter.
2	Update on launch of UWP 2	One Voice Wales	Noted
3	New national over 50s alcohol helpline	CCC partners	Noted
4	Volunteering Recovery Grant - information to circulate to networks and stakeholders	One Voice Wales	Noted
5	Warning - New domain pretending to be Microsoft could fool a lot of people	One Voice Wales	Noted
6	Community Support Lists	CCC partners	Noted
7	Planning application consultation	CCC	Noted
8	Cockling - Welsh Government Fisheries	Dyfed Powys Police	Printed
9	3-year audit cycle	Audit Wales	Noted
10	UC MOD Pendine Activity	Mr Rob Bamforth / Mr Jonathan Edwards MP	Letters discussed at Agenda Item 11.
11	Planning Applications 07.12.2020 - 11.12.2020	CCC	Noted
12	Hywel Dda CHC November Newsletter	Hywel Dda	Noted
13	Survey aimed at Older Carers in Wales	One Voice Wales	Noted
14	Three Rivers cockle fishery - closure	Welsh Government	Noted
15	Volunteering Recovery Grant - information to circulate to networks and stakeholders	One Voice Wales	Noted
16	NOTICE TO OVW MEMBER COUNCILS – CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN PERIOD	One Voice Wales	Noted
17	Merry Christmas from One Voice Wales	One Voice Wales	Noted
18	Save a Life Cymru	One Voice Wales	Noted
19	Christmas Community Support Lists	CCC partners	Noted
20	Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageing (MAFA) - Launch of Public Consultation on the Strategy for an Ageing Society	One Voice Wales	
21	Letter from Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner	Dyfed Powys Police	Noted
22	WLGAs coronavirus email update 15.12.2020	One Voice Wales	Noted
23	Community Facilities	CCC	Noted
24	Freight Trains speeding	Response from Network Rail	The Clerk read the letter to the Council regarding the limits on

			speeds and the safety measures in place. Noted
25	Scam Alert	CCC Partners	Noted
26	Veterans Bronze Award	CCC Partners	Noted
27	Countryside Code Review - Additional opportunity to comment	One Voice Wales	Noted
28	Planning Applications 14.12.2020 - 18.12.2020	CCC	Noted
29	Seasons' Greetings - Carmarthenshire Versus Arthritis	Versus Arthritis	Noted
30	Census 2021	Welsh Government	Noted
31	Season Greetings from the Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council.	CCC	Noted
32	Tir Coed	CCC Partners	Noted
33	You're Not Alone This Christmas	CCC Partners	Noted
34	Welsh Government - Keep Wales Safe campaign	Welsh Government	Noted
35	Twristiaeth a Chyflogaeth	Cylch yr Iaith	Noted
36	Planning Applications 21.12.2020 - 25.12.2020	CCC	Noted
37	Planning Applications 28.12.2020 - 01.01.2021	CCC	Noted
38	NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY 5TH JULY 2021	One Voice Wales	Noted
39	Postponement of local government by-elections	One Voice Wales	Noted
40	Your town, your future! – Review of the future of Welsh Towns	One Voice Wales	Noted
41	Covid-19 Vaccine Scam Alert	One Voice Wales	Noted
42	Parish and Town Councils £200 grant Available	Cymru Hearts	Noted
43	Planning Applications 04.01.2021 - 08.01.2021	CCC	Noted
44	WLGA coronavirus email update 08.01.2021	One Voice Wales	Noted
45	PL00613 Ferryside Farm – response to planning objection	Phillip George	Noted
46	CCC Remittance Advice – precept 3/3 payment £11,630.00	CCC	Noted

7. Financial Assistance

No requests for Financial Assistance had been received.

8. Accounts

Brian James – Bus shelter cleaning and litter picking £80.00*
Ferryside Social Enterprise Group - Monthly MUGA electricity charge £10.00
Julie Rees – Clerk’s monthly salary £468.00
Julie Rees – Clerk’s travelling expenses £9.79
Julie Rees – Clerk’s general expenses £19.12
RT Electrics – Replace and reset timer on Llansaint Christmas tree £120.00
Keith Jones (Jones Associates Mechanical and Electrical Consulting Engineers) -
providing detailed specification and quotes for LED MUGA lights £250.00
Lampeter Tree Services – Cutting down Ash trees infected with Ash dieback behind
play park £550.00 NET £110.00 VAT £660.00 GROSS
Iscoed Contracting Ltd – Oak bench at Ferryside Square £300.00 NET £60.00 VAT
£360.00 GROSS
Vision ICT – Annual website hosting and support £200.00 NET £40.00 VAT £240.00
GROSS
Peter Buckley – Re-issue of cheque lost by recipient for Play park inspections £90.00

*It was agreed that the Clerk contact Mr B James to check that he was able to continue his duties and to inform him of the role of the new handyman.

All in agreement, cheques to be delivered to the signatories by the Clerk.

9. Planting trees within the Community

The Clerk explained that information and advice had been sought from the Woodland Trust regarding their application process. Due to problems with their servers the Woodland Trust were currently unable to accept emails or applications. However, funding was available at certain times of year for Community Groups to plant trees.

Possible areas to be planted were discussed by the Council.

It was resolved that two coppices of trees, one for Llansaint and one for Ferryside, be applied for at an appropriate time.

10. Precept and Quarterly Budget

The Clerk presented the Quarterly budget and confirmed that the 2020-21 Precept payment had now been received in full (£34,889).

The Clerk went on to present the precept report to the Council to assist setting the precept for the year. The 2021-22 tax base for the area had fallen due to the number of Category A properties in the area paying Council Tax. The Council felt strongly that the amount charged to the Community should not be raised given the economic difficulties being faced by so many.

It was proposed by Cllr J Batte that the Band D rate should be retained, this was seconded by Cllr J Price. All in Agreement.

It was therefore resolved that the Band D rate would be retained at £44.50 and the precept would therefore be set at £34,045. The Clerk would prepare an updated budget for the Council based on the precept. The Chairman and the Clerk were authorised to complete the necessary paperwork confirming the precept requirement to Carmarthenshire County Council.

Allocation of the Council reserves were discussed with the following agreed:

Pale Drainage	£10,000
Llansaint Hall	£5000
Amenity Maintenance	£3000
Website Upgrade	£2000
MUGA lights	£3000

11. MOD Pendine

The Clerk read a letter from Mr R Bamforth to MOD Pendine regarding the sudden and loud explosions taking place in December and a letter from Mr J Edwards MP to the Secretary of State for Defence raising his concerns following numerous complaints from residents.

Many Councillors expressed their feeling that the noise levels had increased in December as the explosions could be heard as far as Llansaint.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Qinetic to suggest that a regular meeting be held between the Community Council and Qinetic to raise the concerns of the Community regarding this ongoing matter. The Clerk would also ask if sensors were still in place on houses in Ferryside to monitor the noise levels during explosions.

12. Llansaint Hall Refurbishment

Cllr A Davies informed the Council that a grant applied for by the Llansaint Hall Committee to improve the facilities at the hall had been successful, as a condition of the grant the work would need to be carried out by the end of March 2021. The grant had been awarded based on the £5000 support given by the Community Council, from the reserves set aside.

It was proposed by Cllr J Batte that the £5000 be awarded to the Llansaint Hall as soon as it was needed, this was seconded by Cllr J Price. All in agreement.

The Council resolved to support the project from £5000 set aside in the reserves.

13. Removal of trees on the Cliff Path

Cllr Mike Jones updated the council on an incident that had taken place on the Cliff Path on 17th December 2020. Cllr Jones had been contacted by a resident concerned that the Cliff Path had been closed due to trees being cut down. Upon further investigation Cllr Jones spoke to the landowner to stop trees on County Council land being cut down and a telephone call between Cllr Jones and Jason Winters, CCC, took place before the owner was instructed by Mr Winters that the work should stop. CCC agreed to carry out an onsite inspection of the trees in question to see if they needed be removed.

Cllr Jones raised concerns that this was not the first incident of this nature and felt that CCC needed to raise this issue with the residents and new owners of Caradog Court to prevent further incidents of this nature arising.

It was resolved that the Clerk would contact CCC and ask if they would consider writing to the residents of Caradog Court to ensure they were fully aware which land belonged to the County Council, and that trees should not be removed without permission.

14. Any other business

14.1 Cllr A Davies brought a twinning opportunity with Roquefort, Lot-et-Garonne to the attention of the Council. It was resolved that Cllr Davies would express an interest on the behalf of the Council and keep the Council informed of any further developments.

14.2 Cllr J Price asked if there was Grant Funding still available for food hampers that the Council could consider again advertising given the difficulties being faced by so many due to the pandemic. The Clerk informed the Council that there was £430 of the grant money available and that she would ensure that the grant was advertised via social media.

14.3 Cllr A Dalton raised concerns that buses were unable to travel through Llansaint on a number of days during the previous week due to the roads being so icy. County Councillor Mair Stephens said that she would investigate the matter further.

14.4 Cllr J Batte stated that he was very pleased to see the County Council had now replaced the fencing along the Cliff Path. He also sought advice on the responsibility of landowners in relation to Ash dieback.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:20