

**CYNGOR TREF LLANFAIRFECHAN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING**

Held on Wednesday 20th November 2019 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Chair –Deputy Mayor Penny Andow; Mayor Delohne Merrell; Cllr Carol Gell; Cllr Andrew Hinchliff; Cllr Alan Jones; Cllr Chris Jones; Cllr Nia Jones; Cllr Iolo Kars Jones; Cllr Christine Roberts; Cllr Glenn Robinson; Town Clerk & RFO: Jayne Neal

216. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Gareth Wyn Jones: Cllr Claire Hughes; Cllr Gareth Roberts

RESOLVED to receive and take note

217. TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR’S INTEREST – Code of Local Government Conduct (Members are reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of their declared personal interest).

Name of Member	Agenda No	Details of Personal interests	Details of the Council business to which it relates	Withdraw /Take Part
Cllr Andrew Hinchliff	13		CCBC Planning Committee	Withdraw

RESOLVED to receive and take note

218. TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

No members of the public were present

CCBC Open Spaces Manager Simon Billington was in attendance to discuss works in Llanfairfechan. Open Spaces covers a wide range of services including road surfaces, pavements, verge cutting and green spaces. It currently has 160 staff and sits within Environment Roads and Facilities in CCBC and reports can be submitted via the Report It App. A background to the service was delivered with information about a restructuring process that has taken place from 2015 with subsequent streamlining of service and efficiencies gained. As part of Western division, Llanfairfechan has named individuals who are responsible for good management in the area. Town Council have had contact with these individuals and worked positively with them. However, there seems to be some difficulties developing over the past year which has led to an increase in reports and complaints being submitted from Llanfairfechan. This meeting is an attempt to rectify the issues and move towards positive partnership working. There are three categorisations of defect that the team will address:

Critical Defect – a matter that creates a significant safety risk. A 2hr response is set for this and examples could be a tree down on the public highway or a sink hole in the road that creates a significant risk to traffic and the public

Safety Defect – these are serious defects that may have developed over time. End of working day response is set, and examples might be a serious pothole in the road or pavement that could lead to injury

Maintenance Defect – this is an early warning of deterioration or damage. Response should be within six months, but priority must be given to Critical or Safety Defects.

Although CCBC Officers are committed to making improvements in the local area, pressure of work inevitably affects the rate at which Maintenance Defect (ie. Prevention) work takes place.

Recent years has seen a focus on Critical and Safety Defects with a budget of only £400,000, but a successful capital programme bid for this year has enabled refurbishment of road surfaces. This is joint Welsh Government /CCBC funding of 2.7million and so this is positive news.

Verge cutting has been a major area of dissatisfaction in Llanfairfechan and Town Councillors have been very unhappy with the standards in the current year. A challenge for CCBC team is that growth varies from year to year and budgets do not allow flexibility. For example, last year during the drought months, cutting was suspended for a while whereas this year, there has been continuous rain and subsequent growth which has been hard to address. Generally, verge cutting takes place twice a year. If possible, May/ June and Sept/Oct but this is weather dependent. In response to the reports, the contractor was called back in and areas were cut again. However, Councillors are still not happy with the quality of the work.

Question 1 Councillor had photographic evidence that the first cut was just ‘brushing’ not cutting. There are concerns that hedges that were 3ft thick are now 6ft thick and spilling onto the roadway and pavement areas.

Response - Verges have been cut by the contractor; hedges (siding) are a different matter and are cut by operatives when they meet the Safety Defect criteria. Officers recognise that prevention work is valuable but, as detailed previously, there is not the resource to address Maintenance Defects and so this work is not a pressing priority.

Question 2. Is this as a result of budget cuts? Hedges should be trimmed up to 1.2m?

Response – Budget cuts have not significantly affected manpower at ground level. Site meeting can be set up to discuss problem areas. County Councillor to email manager.

Question 3 – Land Drainage Mount Road – Maintenance could have prevented this problem which has resulted in barriers being in place for 4 weeks.

Response – Again this is as a result of firefighting the Critical and Safety Defect work which takes up all the resource

Question 4 – Councillor reported about resurfacing at the Crossroads – there is a dip that is holding water by the traffic lights. Concern this will affect the newly resurfaced roadway

Question 5 – Councillor asked why stones had not been removed following the removal of large tree that came down in Cae Fynnon.

Response – the wall, probably belongs to a landowner and it takes time for the process to ensure landowners take responsibility

Question 6 – How is the contractor audited? Are they asked to provide photographs?

Response – in fact rationalisation including the stopping of grass collection has led to a decision to use an internal response to verge cutting in future. Therefore new, more efficient vehicles have been purchased and council staff will be completing the work. It is envisaged this will be a better, more wholistic approach that will better deal with the legacy issues.

Councillors were reminded to use the reporting App and follow this up with an email to Clerk if the matter is not addressed. An email will then be sent to our link person within the department.

219. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 6th NOVEMBER 2019

Proposed Cllr C Roberts Seconded Cllr A Jones Unanimous RESOLVED to approve and take note

220. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES AND TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTION LIST

198 Awaiting information re: cctv

205 Flood Boards have arrived, but one is not the right size. Will be swapped

Action list 10 Youth Bus – concerns that it is not widely marketed, and parents don't really understand what is on offer. Email will be sent to co-ordinator

Action List 11 Play Inspector has been in touch and company have accepted they need to complete some remedial work. Awaiting date for work to take place

Action list 18 Promenade Shelter – Councillors are frustrated this is not resolved. Clerk to email legal to find out what stage proceedings have reached **RESOLVED to receive and take note**

221. RECEIVE INFORMATION AND APPROVE JETTY GATES COSTINGS

Clerk received email to say that CCBC will share the cost of the opening and closing of the gates. Clerk sent email to clarify this would be a cost to TC of £75 per visit. It was agreed that, providing this is the cost the arrangement could go ahead with a review in six months' time.

Proposed Cllr D Merrell Seconded Cllr C Gell Unanimous RESOLVED to approve and take note

222. TOWN & COMMUNITY FORUM SERVICES MEETING REPORT

Two meetings are still to take place with CCBC Officers regarding the matter of the paddling pool and promenade car park. Mayor and Clerk are attending the Paddling Pool meeting, but it was recognised that more Councillors may want to be present for the car park meeting date which has not yet been set. It was noted that these changes could represent an opportunity for Town Council to have control over some local services. Further information to be circulated. Clerk requested that the Environmental Operatives' cart round be adjusted to allow some rubbish collection in Pen Dalar and this was agreed.

Proposed Cllr D Merrell Seconded Cllr N Jones Unanimous RESOLVED to approve and take note

223. DISCUSS AND APPROVE NEW SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Clerk had distributed the new draft policy prior to the meeting and Councillors had read and considered the document. Agreement that the policy helps to clarify the position of Councillors. A Welsh Government document Social Media for Councillors was also distributed. It was noted there are concerns about some posts on the Llanfairfechan Notice Board but it was recognised that this is bound to occur on a public board. Clerk advised Councillors to contact the admin if there are concerns to ensure he is aware of any possible breaches.

Proposed Cllr D Merrell Seconded Cllr A Hinchliff Unanimous RESOLVED to approve and take note

224. TO RECEIVE DRAFT 2020/ 2021 PRECEPT FOR DISCUSSION – PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION

An in-depth discussion took place about rising costs and the need to increase the precept. Llanfairfechan Town Council are committed to keep costs as low as possible for residents. The distributed draft precept information showed a proposed increase of just over £5000 – this is to cover some rising revenue costs and inclusion of Chwarae Allan and extra community skips charges. A grants sheet shows that out of the total precept, Llanfairfechan Town Council awarded £16,220.00 to village projects in 2019/20. Some discussion took place about which projects could take a cut in funding. Discover Llanfairfechan now focus on their website for communication and so it was agreed that the representatives speak to the committee about a possible cut. Concerns were voiced about the level of

Foodbank need in the village and it was agreed that more could be given. Clerk to add this for discussion at the next meeting. There are still concerns about the Community Library work as there are currently no survey results to consider. Clerk to email committee to request a meeting to move the survey collection forward and discuss the current situation. There is a pressing concern as the Llanfairfechan Library service itself is also possibly facing a £3000 deficit and Town Council have been asked if they would consider paying for one day a week. This would be a significant investment in one village project. Final decision about the budget must take place in the meeting on 8th January.

TO RECEIVE INCOME FROM:

Fireworks collection for Mayor's Charity Fund £339.59 **RESOLVED** to receive and take note

225. TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO:

Mayor's Allowance 2018/19 & 2019/20 £785.00 (retrospective payment)

S137 grants:

1. Saturplay	£120.00
2. Llanfairfechan Community Players	£200.00
3. Llanfairfechan Golf Club Junior project	£250.00
4. Llanfairfechan Horeb P&T Group	£150.00
5. Llanfairfechan Playgroup	£500.00
6. Llanfairfechan Crown Green Bowling	£500.00
7. Technical Footprint Office 365 1 year	£270.72
8. Vesa Mount sim card	£364.80
9. Church Institute Flood boards (retro)	£785.00
10 Lafan Projects Limited (Sound equip)	£4736.65 (includes £3000 grant payment 219/2020)
11 Lafan Projects Limited (Acoustics)	£3492.41
13 Petty Cash	£50.00
12 Staffing:	£2864.19

Town Clerk November Wages

Environmental Operative

Gwynedd Pensions

Proposed Cllr C Gell Seconded Cllr N Jones **Unanimous** **RESOLVED** to approve and take note

226. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE PLANNING MATTERS:

1. 0/46838 Plot 63 Cae America Llanfairfechan Conwy LL33 0SQ
Approval of matters required by condition 7 of planning permission 0/46606 (Construction of a detached dwelling with integral garage)
2. 0/46823 Plot 82 Cae America Llanfairfechan Conwy LL33 0SJ
Approval of conditions 4,5 & 7 of planning consent 0/46539 (Erection of a new dwelling)

No Observations – it was noted these are variations on previous plans **RESOLVED** to receive and take note

227. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE FROM:

1. One Voice Wales larger councils meeting – note about participatory budgeting. Something that might be possible through the Future Llanfairfechan project
2. Penmaenmawr Town Council – query about bus shelter. Clerk to email to inform that Councillors are not prepared to pay towards the shelter at this present time but will consider again in future.

RESOLVED to receive and take note

228. TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS/COMPLIMENTS

1. Compliments about the Remembrance Service – a good turn out with more wreaths each year. Fire service were disappointed not to be named for their wreath – Clerk to ensure they are added for next year.
2. County Councillor Facebook post informing residents that the election is a General Election of MPs to parliament. It does not affect Town Councils; the next scheduled local elections may be in 2021
3. Motor bikes have been reported for anti-social behaviour in the bottom village
4. All resident's at Fernbank have been contacted by A55 Project Liaison in partnership with Lafan Ward Councillor. It was a very positive four-hour visit to the area.
5. Light Up is on Saturday please share information and encourage people to support
6. Report that young people are gathering under the bridge at the doctor's surgery. Concerns about safety and nuisance – Clerk to report to PCSO Sara
7. Pant y Rhedyn held an engagement day but it was very poorly attended. Engagement tool was distributed, and Town Council will help to engage residents where possible

8. CLOSE – 9:25pm