

**Minutes of Public Meeting of St Harmon Community Council held on Wednesday 3rd
November, 2021 via Zoom**

Present: Cllr J Bennion (Chair), S Jenkins, D Lowde, S Lewis, L McPhee,
M Williams, P Hunt,

Apologies: Cllr D Jenkins

Cllr Bennion took over the Chair for this meeting. She thanked everyone for attending.

SH 169/21 **Declarations of Interests**

The Clerk reminded members of their legal requirement under the Code of Conduct to fully consider the declaration of interest process.

- Cllr D Jenkins (he had previously completed a declaration of interest form which had been submitted to the Clerk, however, Cllr Jenkins was not in attendance at the meeting.)

SH 170/21 **Audit Wales – Public Interest Report (Immediate) – Inadequacies in Governance, Financial Management and Internal Control Arrangements – St Harmon Community Council**

a) Clerk's Introduction

The Clerk stated It is important that she give some background to all present prior to moving to discuss this report which is based on financial year 2018-19.

She welcomed members of the council and members of the public to this meeting which is solely to discuss the Audit Wales report issued on 12th October 2021 entitled: **Inadequacies in Governance, Financial Management and Internal Control Arrangements – St Harmon Community Council**

This is an Immediate Public Interest report and was made public on the Audit Wales website on the date of issue.

As an Immediate Public Interest Report this requires the community council to hold a Public meeting to discuss this report and its recommendations and to publish a press notification of the meeting at least 7 days prior to the meeting. An advertisement was placed within the Public Notice section in the Brecon and Radnor Express on 20th October 2021.

The Agenda for this meeting was published on community council website on 15th October 2021 and subsequently on noticeboards within the community.

The Council will need to discuss this report and consider the recommendations made by the Auditor General and prepare a plan for a way forward. This will involve regular reporting back to Audit Wales on progress.

In May 2020, she carried out the Community Council's Internal Audit as an independent qualified person and identified issues regarding operation and governance which were submitted to the council in a written report. The report was discussed by the Community Council at its meeting held on 22nd June 2020. This report was accepted by the Council.

Following that meeting she offered to prepare a step-by-step Improvement Plan for the council to ensure that it complies with legislation and runs effectively. She did not wish to charge for this service.

Following this, the Community Council began to gradually implement the recommended actions.

In December 2020, she agreed to take over as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to St Harmon Community Council for a temporary period to assist the council and implement the recommendations made.

Since December 2020, the Council has taken significant steps to ensure that it operates legally and carries out its duties within legislation and to stipulated time frames.

The Improvement Plan has been updated on a regular basis and a copy of this is available from the Clerk upon request via email. This has also been sent to Audit Wales and has prompted comments within the report.

The Community Council members will now be asked to follow the agenda and discuss the report.

Those members of the public who have requested to address the Council under the Public Speaking Protocol will be given 3 minutes each and will be called to speak by the Chair of the meeting.

Members of the Council will not be permitted to take questions, however, as Clerk, I may be able to direct discussions should the need arise.

All members of the Council and of the public were asked to refrain from interrupting as this can cause issues with Zoom meetings.

All Council members have been circulated with a flow chart to demonstrate the declaration of interest process to assist their consideration of this matter.

Cllr Bennion proposed that Public Speaking be moved to this part of the meeting to enable members of the public to address the council prior to discussion. This motion fell by 2 votes to 4.

Cllr Hunt arrived at the meeting.

b) Consider the Report from Audit Wales

Members were given the opportunity to address the meeting.

Cllr Lowde reported that this is a long and detailed report based upon evidence gathered by the Audit Office. As members of the council, they each received the draft report about 6 months ago and were given the opportunity to correct any factual inaccuracies. This is the finalised report. The words speak for themselves. In what it reveals about the behaviour of some, the findings are disturbing, not just to him as a councillor, but as they have heard from the public, disturbing to our whole community.

At the time of becoming a community councillor, members each signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in which they agree to comply with certain standards. This report details numerous examples covering a wide range of activities in which the report concludes that some members have failed to do so. It refers to contradictory or misleading information, false documentation and potentially unlawful actions. He suggested that as members of the council they need to take urgent corrective action. He felt the report was factually accurate.

Cllr Bennion and Cllr S Jenkins stated they did not agree.

Cllr Bennion stated that the report contradicts itself in many places and she had fed back factual inaccuracies to Audit Wales when the draft report had been published, none of which had been amended in the final report.

She quoted from point 257 where it states that “Mrs Jenkins (now the Chairman) has told my auditors that if (she) had been made aware of the facts (she) would not have proceeded with (her) application. Cllr Bennion stated that Cllr Sheila Jenkins was not and has never been chairman of the council. She went on to state that there are so many inaccuracies within the report.

Cllr Lowde asked Cllr Bennion if she was suggesting that Audit Wales did not review the evidence correctly. Cllr Bennion responded by stating that not one iota of the report had been changed since the draft stage.

Cllr Lowde felt that Audit Wales is an independent body and stated he accepted the report in full.

Cllr S Jenkins stated that she agreed totally with Cllr Bennion. She went on to say that Audit Wales had it in for the chairman from the start and had been hanging around his neck, which is disgusting.

Cllr Williams commented that although he had not been a member of the council at the time, he had taken considerable time to study the report and its findings. He felt there may be a few grammatical error but felt that Audit Wales had nothing to benefit by producing this report and coming to its conclusions. He felt that the majority of things stated in the report actually happened. He went on to say that things had gone on which were not correct, whether intentionally or unintentionally, but the council must now move on.

Cllr Bennion referred to the item about the bank accounts contained within the report. The accounts had been closed due to a-up by the bank and Audit Wales were aware of this, but still they ask in the report why this happened. She stated that the report was not 100% factual.

Cllr Lewis stated that this report is appalling.

Members were given a draft of this report earlier this year. What concerned her as much as the report itself, is that even after reading it, there are members of our Community Council that continue to give the Chairman their full support in every decision he makes. What these councillors must remember is they are here to represent members of our community, and they must think for themselves.

It is going to cost the tax payer, and that includes me and you, a lot of money, and if things don't improve we will be here again in the near future.

Cllr McPhee stated that she had read the report and felt it was unbelievable and was saddened by it and was concerned about the future implications of this on the council and the community.

Cllr Bennion asked members what they suggest for moving on. Members felt the council needed to move on.

Cllr Hunt stated the majority of the council had resigned prior to this time and had left Cllr D Jenkins as the only person. He had tried to the best of his, and kept the council going, but admitted that all his actions were not correct. He stated that the council had not lost money and not fiddled money. He went on to say that the council can't change anything now.

Cllr Lowde commented on elements of the report which stated about false documents being submitted, the chair accusing the Scrutiny Manager from PCC of falsifying information which is a serious accusation, but Cllr Lowde was not saying anything about stealing or fraud, but quite serious documentation concerns by accusing a County Council employee was potentially unwise.

Cllr Bennion stated that no one can answer whether the chair had had a conversation with the Scrutiny Manager as they were not there and asked how the council could make a judgement on this matter.

Cllr Lowde stated that the report mentions that the Monitoring Officer has a record of his discussions with the chair which is referred to in the report.

Cllr Bennion responded by stating that was Cllr Lowde's prerogative, but she felt it was extremely unfair that the chairman was not allowed to defend himself at this meeting.

Cllr Lowde asked what Cllr Bennion what she felt Audit Wales had to gain by producing this report and giving misleading information.

c) Consider and Accept Recommendations from Audit Wales

The following recommendations were made by Audit Wales and the council were asked to consider them.

R1 – I recommend that the Council prepare and agrees an action plan to address the numerous weaknesses and deficiencies in its governance and financial management arrangements identified within this document.

The Clerk reminded members of the action plan she had instigated following her completion of the internal audit in May 2020 and stated that the actions from this are almost complete and implemented. This could be submitted as evidence to Audit Wales to fulfil recommendation 1.

Cllr Williams proposed that the council submit the updated action plan to Audit Wales to support this recommendation. This was carried unanimously.

Resolved: to submit the updated action/improvement plan to Audit Wales.

R2 – I recommend that the Council consider whether there are matters raised in this report that should be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as potential breaches of the Council's Member Code of Conduct.

Cllr Lowde stated that he understood there may be some grammatical inaccuracies within the report but felt that Cllr D Jenkins would welcome the opportunity to have the evidence reviewed by the Public Services Ombudsman. He stated that it was crucial that the electorate have full confidence in the community council.

He felt regarding the first recommendation; this council has greatly benefitted from the appointment of an experienced Clerk about year ago and she has already explained this evening the progress made.

Regarding the second recommendation; If the Chairman believes that his actions were proper then, he believes, he will welcome the opportunity to have the evidence reviewed by the Public Service Ombudsman to clear his name.

Cllr Lowde felt the council owes it to the electorate who they are here to represent. They need to have confidence that their Community Council behaves with honesty and integrity, in openness and transparency, in using the electorate's money. The Audit Office investigation is not a free service. Although he understood that they do not yet know the final figure. Cllr Lowde asked Clerk through Chair for estimate.

The Clerk had spoken with Audit Wales earlier in the day to ascertain an estimated figure. She had been informed that the hours of work currently equate to £16,000, however, Audit Wales may wish to make some concession on this matter so the estimate was given of between £12,000 and £16,000. The Clerk confirmed that £16,000 would rise the council tax per residence by approximately £51.12 for one year.

However, on her appointment in December 2020, the 2021/22 had been reconsidered and an allocation of £10,000 had been placed in the budget for audit fees and to support some of the costs related to this investigation. As the council had not had a Clerk for almost 12 months and there were no related travel fees etc, this had resulted in an actual increase in the precept of £5804. (2020/21 £13,033, 2021/22 £18,837.) The council would need to ensure that sufficient monies are placed in the budget for 2022/23 to cover any costs above £10,000 and the cost of the audit fees for 2019/20 and 2020/21 which had not yet been charged. The council would be setting its budget for 2022/23 at the December council meeting.

Cllr Bennion stated that this was a lot of money wasted.

Cllr Williams stated that the council now has the estimated cost and if the council does not accept the report and recommendation 2 it will look extremely bad.

Cllr Lowde proposed that a recorded vote be taken on any proposals held within this section. This was agreed by 4 votes to 3.

Cllr Williams proposed that the report be accepted and the council accept recommendation 2 and make a report to the Public Services Ombudsman. The Clerk asked Cllr Williams to clarify his proposal by stating the name of the councilor who he suggested should be reported. He responded stating Cllr D Jenkins.

A recorded vote took place on this matter with the following outcome:

Cllr Bennion	Against
Cllr Hunt	Against
Cllr S Jenkins	Against
Cllr Lewis	In favour
Cllr Lowde	In favour
Cllr McPhee	In favour
Cllr Williams	In favour

Resolved: to accept the report and the council, as a corporate body to report Cllr D Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct relating to the Audit Wales report.

Cllr Lowde felt there were also other issues with regard to the Members Code of Conduct.

Cllr Lowde made a proposal to report Cllr S Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct, i.e. by attending and participating in the meeting on 1st April 2021 when the draft Audit Wales Report was discussed and for attending and participating in the discussions at the meeting held on 3rd November 2021.

Cllr Bennion stated that she felt this was very petty.

Cllr Williams responded by stating that the council was not being petty, the Clerk had circulated a flow chart demonstrating the declaration of interest process which clearly indicates that Cllr S Jenkins should have declared an interest.

A recorded vote took place on this matter with the following outcome:

Cllr Bennion	Against
Cllr Hunt	Abstain
Cllr S Jenkins	Abstain
Cllr Lewis	In favour
Cllr Lowde	In favour
Cllr McPhee	In favour
Cllr Williams	In favour

Resolved: the council, as a corporate body to report Cllr S Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct i.e. by attending and participating in the meeting on 1st April 2021 when the draft Audit Wales Report was discussed and for attending and participating in the discussions at the meeting held on 3rd November 2021.

d) Future Actions in Response to the Report

The Clerk summarized the future actions to be taken by the council as resolved in the previous item.

1. The Council will supply a copy of the updated Action/Improvement Plan to Audit Wales as evidence to support recommendation 1.
2. The Council as a corporate body will report Cllr Donald Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct relating to the Audit Wales report.

3. The Council as a corporate body will report Cllr Sheila Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct relating to her attendance and participation in meetings held on 1st April 2021 and 3rd November 2021.

e) Summary from Clerk

A meeting will be called for those members who do not have a personal and prejudicial interest in the above matters to progress the reports to the Public Services Ombudsman.

SH 171/21

Public Speaking

The Clerk had taken legal advice from One Voice Wales and it has been confirmed that she could read out redacted resident's letters at this meeting in place of those residents addressing the public meeting.

Letter 1

This was withdrawn prior to the meeting as the resident wished to address the public meeting.

Letter 2

It is clear from the Audit Report findings that there are two clear individuals that have driven the conclusions arrived at by the Executive Director, Audit Services. One of these is the former Clerk who has since left the Community Council but someone who should never have been employed in the first place due to her inexperience in exercising the legal responsibilities involved in supporting the Community Council. The other, the Chairman, has clearly been 'found out' in his attempts to pull the wool over the eyes of Audit Services. Did he seriously expect officers of Audit Services not to be recording conversations they have with the various Community Councils that pose questions/statements to them.

There is also no excuse for the numerous illegal actions that have been perpetuated by the Community Council most of which have been driven by the Chairman and his lack of understanding of the Community Councils responsibilities. This situation has also not been helped by comments by one of the inappropriately co-opted Councillors as: "I've been involved in public service for 30 years and its always been done like this". Clearly this Council member is wrong and should have taken-up past training opportunities available to them.

In light of these "shortfalls", I would strongly suggest that all Councillors take-up any Council member training opportunities that are offered to them. Subsequently, and in any event, the public should expect the individual Council members to be bold enough to challenge any proposed actions or lack thereof that are at odds to the standards expected by Audit Services or proposals that are not in the best interests of the Community.

I am also astounded by the multitude of Audit Report findings that conclude with the comment: "conduct falling short of the standard the public has a right to expect"; most of which are directed at the Community Council Chairman. If he had any integrity he'd be tendering his resignation.

I also recall the Community Council meeting where a number of concerns were raised with the councillors by a member of the public. In reply, this person was shamefully dismissed publicly by the Chairman and I quote:

"My response to [*****'s] address to the council at our last meeting on the 8th May. First of all I would like to thank [*****] for sharing her concerns with us. Whether they are actual concerns or whether they are concerns of the mind, well, we'll see....."

- "This council has been accused of being evasive, of making it difficult for the general public to view these accounts, not being transparent, not making itself accountable. All of which is untrue....."

- "As there is no evidence here of any of her concerns being genuine, in fact just the opposite, I would suggest that [*****] reconsider those concerns.....".

Clearly, the concerns raised with the Community Council have ALL [and more] been proven correct. As a consequence, I would expect an unreserved apology by the Community Council Chairman to the member of the public who raised the concerns to the Council back in May 2019.

In conclusion, the findings of Audit Services should be a wake-up call to the St Harmon Community Council members. Each and every one of them has an equal voice on the Council and as such, should be prepared to objectively debate the topics under discussion. Sitting back and being silent or being pressured into supporting proposals that are not in best interests of the Community or at odds to the standard of conduct expected from Community Councils is not acceptable. Remember, each Council member is there to represent the Community and administer Council funds and proposals to the benefit of the Community.

Letter 3

I am writing in response to the above report produced by Audit Wales in respect of the year 2018-19. The auditor concluded that there were significant failures in decision making and inadequacies in financial management and internal control at the Council, listing seven areas where the Council's conduct was poor or irregular and even in two cases potentially unlawful.

In addition, the report states that the conduct of the Chairman and the former Clerk with regards to the matters highlighted in the report “fell short of the standards that the public has a right to expect of public officials” (paragraph 15).

All councillors who were in office at the time when the events covered in the report occurred have joint responsibility for what happened and should carefully consider whether they should remain in their positions. The main responsibility, however, falls on the former Clerk and on the Chairman. The Clerk has left her job but the Chairman remains in place. He should resign from his position as Chairman and as a councillor at the earliest opportunity, so that other more capable councillors with higher standards can work to remedy the serious failures and inadequacies identified in the report.

The main failings identified by the report would appear to be the result of the former Clerk not carrying out her duties in an effective manner. This could have been because she was not competent to do the job or because she was working in collusion with or under the influence of the Chairman. In any case the Chairman was responsible for what happened, especially as “the process that led to the appointment of the Council Clerk and RFO was flawed and potentially unlawful” (paragraphs 168 - 174) and the terms and conditions of her employment were not properly approved (paragraphs 175 - 181). In addition, it appears that the flawed tendering process for the repair of bus shelters took place before the former clerk took up her position, as evidenced by the false document presented to the auditors (paragraphs 226 - 241). This indicates that the Chairman was acting inappropriately before the former Clerk was in place and so cannot reasonably claim that the former Clerk was solely responsible for the failings identified in the report.

Letter 4

I would be grateful if my comment below could be added to those submitted to the committee for discussion at the next Council meeting on 4 November:-

Kathryn's summary of The Auditors report below, into the governance of the Community Council, is troubling and calls into question the integrity of appointments and the allocation of grants by the Community Council.

What is the Council doing to address these serious shortcomings in its governance? Which members are acknowledging responsibility for them? Does The Chairman of the Council consider that he is still qualified to continue in that role and repair the shortcomings highlighted in the Auditors report, or will he take personal responsibility for the failures and stand down?

What did the audits find?

In its audit of St Harmon community council, Audit Wales concluded that the council's overall governance and financial management standards were "poor".

It said the council had failed to comply with multiple legal requirements and had breached its own rules around procurement and the hiring of the council clerk.

It found the council's allocation of a community grant scheme was "fundamentally flawed and potentially unlawful".

The co-opting of two new members of the council in February 2019 was also described as "fundamentally flawed".

Letter 5

We are writing to register our very real concerns regarding the way the council has recently been managed. It is the report from the Welsh Audit Office that has enabled the community to see the scale of the inadequacies.

We have been horrified to learn the full extent of the financial mismanagement which has been allowed to happen during the last few years, by St. Harmon Community Council. The report by the Welsh Audit Office lays bare the inadequacy of the control of, and reporting on, the finances of the council and quite rightly apportions the largest share of the blame on the Chairman.

We first knew of certain financial and procedural irregularities a year or two ago, whilst the council dealt with monetary awards to different groups and organisations, from the allocation of funds from Bryn Titli Wind Farm. We had been aware that the Welsh Audit Office became involved as a result of the questionable legitimacy of the council's actions and we were concerned when the Chairman appeared to dismiss most of the points highlighted by them. We are now left incredulous at the scale of the financial mess presided over by the Chairman and at the range of dubious decisions made by him, which have come to light in the report.

One of our main concerns now is the financial implications as a result of the Chairman's actions, for the council, and more importantly, the community. There can be little doubt that it is going to cost a considerable amount to pay for the work that has been done by external agencies and to rectify the financial standing of the council.

This is almost certain to be money raised by additional levies on members of the community and through the diverting of other funds that could, and should, have been put to much better use.

We now feel that the Chairman has lost any trust placed in him and should very carefully consider his position, not only as Chairman, but as a councillor at all. We feel confident that many other local residents will take a similar view, particularly when the financial implications for all of us become clear. It really is now time for fresh leadership, which should be more considered and open to scrutiny as appropriate.

Letter 6

As a resident of the Community I was very concerned to read the October 2021 report (Document reference: 2568A2021-22) from Ann-Marie Harkin Executive Director Audit Services for and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.

In its audit of St Harmon community council, Audit Wales concluded that the council's overall governance and financial management standards were poor.

More concerning was that Audit Wales found St Harmon community council had acted unlawfully in its awarding of a number of grants and public contracts.

On this count should the matter be reported to the Police?

The auditors also found that the conduct of the Council's Chairman (Donald W Jenkins) and the Council's former Clerk with regards to the matters highlighted in this report fell short of the standard that the public has a right to expect of public officials.

Audit Wales made 2 recommendations to address the issues highlighted in the document with which I concur: -

R1 that the Council prepares and agrees an action plan to address the numerous weaknesses and deficiencies in its governance and financial management arrangements identified within this document.

R2 that the Council considers whether there are matters raised in this report that should be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as potential breaches of the Council's Member Code of Conduct

On the basis of the Report I would expect that the Chairman, his wife and their close associates have considered it appropriate to offer their resignations from the Community Council: and that all other co-opted councillors will, as soon as possible, offer themselves for re-election by the community members.

I also strongly recommend that entirely new CC officers are appointed to oversee R1 above and to facilitate R2.

My final point is that it will be appropriate to elect new councillors (rather than to co-opt) to fulfil the Council vacancies created).

I request, please, that my fully redacted complaints (as above) be shared and formally recorded at the 4th November Community Council meeting

Letter 7

Question:

In light of the Welsh auditors report and specifically with the number of times Mr Donald Jenkins is mentioned either in name or as chairman, indicated by the auditor as the person making numerous mistakes, and I say mistakes to avoid saying that they may have been committed deliberately; will Mr Jenkins resign his position to leave the way clear for somebody that knows what they are doing.

Letter 8

I refer to the report by Audit Wales issued October 2021, regarding St Harmon Community Council, and wish to voice my concerns at the next Council Meeting on 4th November 2021.

I am most concerned by the multiple failures detailed in the Auditor General's report, ranging from significant deficiencies in governance, financial management, audit transparency and inadequate arrangements to secure value for money, to failure to comply with multiple legal requirements including the breaching of rules regarding the procurement and hiring of the council clerk and the co-opting of 2 new members of council.

In the Appendix to the report alone, comparing the Internal Audit's findings on the Council's 2018-19 accounts with the Auditor General's findings on the same issues, out of 11 issues the Internal Audit is completely at variance with the Auditor General's findings on 6 issues and only agrees on 1 (2 only partially agree and 2 are designated as not-applicable).

This seems to me a lamentable state of affairs and I would seriously question how the Council intends to redress these issues, and indeed, whether the Chairman's position is still tenable.

Letter 9

Quite frankly I was shocked and appalled to read of the financial mismanagement and mismanagement in general that was overseen by Cllr Donald Jenkins as Chairman.

I understand that there has been some changes in the way that the administrative tasks are handled, and hope that with the resignation of Ms West, that it will be better managed moving forward. From what I can see at the moment I believe that this clerk is a great deal more competent than the last.

I have been keeping an active eye on proceedings within the last few years and do not believe that there has been any change in the way that Cllr Jenkins has conducted himself between 2018 and now.

The process of procurement for the renovation of the telephone kiosks in the community is worrying. How on Earth could a quote of £1800 (or £1945.82 as it was later calculated) be considered good value for money for minimal work? Another concern is the breach in the procurement process when the contract was handed to the husband of a former councillor.

The outline of the incidences in the co-option of two councillors starting from page 49 are very troubling. As anyone in a professional capacity can attest, declaring conflicts of interest is pivotal to transparency and proper decision-making, however it seems that these rules do not seem to apply to Cllr D Jenkins and Cllr Hunt. The extension of the deadline by the Chairman and clerk to allow for Cllr D Jenkins' wife to apply, alongside the failure to declare a conflict of interest in the co-option of his own wife is shameful. In my opinion, this should be reason for Cllr D Jenkins to stand down on Wednesday evening, not only as Chairman but as a community councillor.

Other incidences that stand out on the audit are the amended accounts being certified by the Chairman as being approved despite not having done so (page 13), the failure to keep adequate and accurate accounts (page 15), the poor transparency of council business and members interests (pg 26-29), the potentially unlawful appointment of the former clerk (page 35) and breaching of procurement rules and breaches in VAT arrangements (pg 38-41). These are only a brief overview of the audit report which makes quite disturbing reading. In effect there is a litany of serious offences that require full explanation, but also consequences for the actions overseen by the Council should be considered.

In conclusion, I have no confidence whatsoever in the councillors that were in place for all or the majority of the 2018/19 period (namely Cllr D Jenkins, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Bennion) and I think that they should do the honourable thing and stand down with immediate effect.

Cllr Bennion invited those members of public who had registered to address the council to do so.

Mr Roger Mason stated he had listened to the discussions and he wished to express his strong feelings.

He felt it was a shame that the meeting had to be via Zoom as many members of the local community would have wished to attend an in person public meeting as many feel very strongly about this matter.

He stated that without exception, everyone he had spoken to were disgusted at the conduct of some members of the council, Cllr Donald Jenkins is named throughout the report and found at fault in many ways, including changing minutes, disputes with members of the public and obstructing members of the public from viewing the accounts. He felt for any member to deny the content of the report is unacceptable.

He agreed that Cllr Donald and Sheila Jenkins should be reported to the Public Services Ombudsman and other members should also consider their positions.

He stated that Cllr Donald Jenkins had pressurized members in to voting with him and that those members who supported him on these occasions should seriously consider their positions on the council as community representatives.

Finally, he stated that ultimately it will be the community who have to pay for this investigation.

Mr Nick Kitchen stated that he was full of admiration for Cllr Lowde, Cllr Lewis, Cllr McPhee and Cllr Williams for standing out at this meeting and supporting the Audit Wales report and voting to support the recommendations held within. He wished to congratulate them for sticking to their guns and supporting the community during this difficult meeting.

He stated that Cllr Bennion's comment about costing a lot of money was accurate but the council should not just ignore this.

He felt that the public are now at the stage where they have lost any trust in Cllr Donald and Cllr Sheila Jenkins, and asked how can the council now move on.

Mr Kitchen agreed with Mr Mason that Cllr D Jenkins had regularly shouted down members of the public at previous council meetings, which was totally inappropriate as these were the people he was supposed to be representing.

He felt hat Cllr D Jenkins and Cllr S Jenkins should resign their positions and leave these open for those who have community interests at heart.

Cllr Bennion thanked everyone for attending this "witch hunt."

The meeting was closed at 8.25pm