

**Minutes of a Remote Meeting of St Harmon Community Council held on Thursday 4th
November, 2021**

Present: Cllr D Jenkins, S Lewis, L McPhee, D Lowde, P Hunt, M Williams
Cty Cllr D Evans

Apologies: Cllr J Bennion

The Chair began the meeting by stating that the Clerk would be asked to mute all members of the council at this point. Anyone wishing to address the meeting would be given one opportunity to do so on each agenda item. In order to do this members should raise their hands to attract the attention of the Chair and unmute themselves prior to addressing the meeting through the Chair.

The Chair stated, that in view of this intention to declare a personal and prejudicial interest in item 14 on the agenda (minute reference SH 186/21) he would be moving this to be the final item on the agenda so that he may leave the meeting at that point.

SH 172/21 **Declarations of Interests**
SH 186/21 Cllr D Jenkins

SH 173/21 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 7th October, 2021 were confirmed and signed.

SH 174/21 **Information from Minutes**

a) Stores Farm Barn

The Chair reported that he and some members of the council had attended a site meeting with an officer from PCC to discuss the issues. They had been advised that the sale of this site was in progress and the new owners plan to demolish this building. The officer committed to extend the external security fencing.

Cty Cllr Evans had also be in contact with PCC regarding this matter and felt that property sales can take some significant time and he felt the building posed a serious health and safety risk.

Cllr Williams agreed, particularly in view of the likely change in the weather and frost which could have an even further structural effect on the building.

Resolved: to write to PCC to request that the security fencing be extended immediately, in view of the health and safety risk. The Chair will pass on the contact details for the officer members met on site to the Clerk as a contact point.

b) St Harmon Play Area

The Chair and Cllr Williams had met to look at possible sites for a play area. One land owner was in support of this and he agreed to speak with his son about it and come back to the council. The council will await further contact.

c) Community Hall Fund Raising

The Chair commented on Minute Ref SH 162/21 in particular the comment re fundraising activities during lock down.

The Chair had referred to Bryn Titli applications from the Community Hall back to 2019 which showed no fund raising activities had taken place.

SH 175/21 Public Speaking

None.

SH 176/21 Correspondence

a) Pantydwr Football Club

Letter following the request of the unspent Bryn Titli and Community Council grants totaling £3000. The group were disappointed to receive this request, but committed to issue a refund cheque in their correspondence on 11th October, 2021

Members were disappointed with this response. The Chair stated that the community council had gone out of its way to support the Football Club by awarding grants both from the council and Bryn Titli over the last few years by purchasing kits, sponsoring the team and providing monies to assist with shelters and other things. He stated that it is the duty of the community council to ensure that funds are spent for the purposes allocated within the allotted time frame, unfortunately this had not been done.

The Clerk had responded to this email and had requested the refund of the £3000 grant funding.

Resolved: to write to the Football Club to request the refund of the grant monies before 2nd December 2021.

b) Powys County Council Highways – Overgrown Tree

PCC Highways will be looking at this issue and will be back in contact with the Council.

Resolved: Clerk to contact PCC to chase this matter up. Cty Cllr Evans will also make contact.

c) Pantydwr Community Hall - Thanks

Thanks for the purchase of a projector for the use of the community and hall.

Cllr Hunt asked if the projector had its own built in speakers. Neither the Clerk or members were able to answer this, however, Cllr Williams stated that most modern projectors have this facility built in accessed by Wi-fi.

Resolved: Clerk to contact the Community Hall Committee to establish this. The Clerk will also indicate the council's wish to attend a press call for this presentation.

d) Cllr Sheila Jenkins – Resignation

The Clerk reported she had received Cllr Sheila Jenkins resignation via email on the 4th November 2021. This had been acknowledged by the Clerk.

The Chair stated that Cllr Jenkins had resigned on his recommendation due to her bad health and the stress and anxiety of the past 3 years which has taken its toll.

SH 177/21 Planning Applications

None.

SH 178/21 Grant Applications

a) M Ball – Memorial Bench

Application for a grant to purchase a bench in memory of Mr Jack and Mrs Dilys Evans. Jack and Dilys served our community tirelessly for numerous years. Jack as a Community Councillor and Dilys as a valued member of Pant y Dwr WI and Hall committee. In later years Dilys loved to sit and watch Pant y Dwr go by from her garden bench.

The Clerk advised that as the bench would be of community benefit this could be purchased from the Bryn Titli fund.

Members reflected on their memories of both Dilys and Jack and felt this was a fitting tribute for their contribution to the community.

Resolved: to award a grant of £500 for the purchase, installation and provision of a plaque for this bench. Any monies unspent should be returned to the Council. This is to be funded from the Bryn Titli Fund for community benefit.

SH 179/21 Finance

a) Salary - £324.30 - approved

b) HMRC – £81.00 - approved

- c) **Just Projectors - £1860.00 - approved**
- d) **Tindale Newspapers - £109.44 - approved**
- e) **Zoom – ¼ Subscription - £35.97 - approved**
- f) **Bank Reconciliation**

SH 180/21 **Community Hall Report**
 Cllr Lowde had nothing to report.

SH 181/21 **Bryn Titli Grant Procedure**

a) **Discuss Draft Amendments to Criteria**
 The Finance and Policies Committee had recently reviewed this document and amendments were presented to the council.

One additional amendment was identified.
Resolved: to amend the policy and criteria. Clerk to publish amended versions on the website.

b) **Discuss Draft Amendments to Application Form**
 The Finance and Policies Committee had recently reviewed this document and amendments were presented to the council.
Resolved: to amend the application form. Clerk to publish amended versions on the website.

SH 182/21 **Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils**
 The Clerk recommended the Council consider adopting this protocol in view of recent issues.
Resolved: to adopt this as a council policy.

SH 183/21 **Pant y Dwr – Old Car Park**
 Cllr Lewis had received complaints about the considerable amount of fly tipping at the PCC compound. Some residents have the impression that this is a recycling centre. The council had complained about this site in 2018/19.
Resolved: to ask PCC to remove the bins from the site and erect signage to state that the site is not a recycling centre and denote where the nearest HWRC (Household Waste Recycling Centre) is.

SH 184/21 **County Councillors Report**

a) **Stores Farm Barn**
 Cllr Evans re-iterated his concerns over the Barn at Stores Farm and was pleased the council were going to press for extended fencing.

b) **Bus Shelters**
 Cllr Evans had visited the site in St Harmon of the bus shelter and felt there was no litter issue. The Chair stated that previously in the week

the shelter had been full of leaves. Cllr Evans will continue to monitor this.

SH 185/21 **Other Matters**

a) Blocked Drain

Cllr Lewis reported a blocked drain at the bottom of Sun Hill which is causing flooding across the road. Cty Cllr Evans will take this matter up.

b) Parking Issues – Pant y Dwr

Cllr Lewis reported an issue regarding cars parked outside the houses (between Pant Cottage, Pantydwr and 2 Clas View, Pantydwr) which are blocking one side of the road constantly. It is difficult to see anything coming from the opposite direction, when you are coming from Llanidloes, as you have to weave in and out of the cars parked.

The hedge is high on the opposite side of the road blocking visibility. between Pant Cottage, Pantydwr and 2 Clas View, Pantydwr. Cllr Evans will report this matter.

Resolved: Clerk to write to PCC about this.

c) Community Council Notices

The Chair mentioned that he had taken over the role of posting council notices within the community noticeboards for several years. However, he felt unable to continue with this as he needed to spend more time at home. He suggested that other members may wish to do this. He asked the Clerk if she could call on him and collect the keys and other council items. She agreed.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange a suitable date and time with the Chair.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

SH 186/21 **Audit Wales Report**

Cllr Jenkins declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Lowde was elected to Chair this element of the meeting. He asked the Clerk for clarification on the further actions required by the Council.

The Clerk stated that she would prepare a response to Audit Wales providing the updated Action/Improvement Plan and confirmation that the Council as a corporate body would be making a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman against Cllr Donald Jenkins for breaches in the Members Code of Conduct.

She also stated, that although the council had agreed to report Cllr Sheila Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for breaches in the Members

Code of Conduct, the resignation of Cllr Sheila Jenkins may have an implication on this matter.

Resolved: to defer this matter for discussion at the next meeting

The Clerk reminded all members of their duty under the Members Code of Conduct to consider their participation in meetings to discuss the reporting of Cllr D Jenkins. Anyone who feels they have a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter should declare an interest and take no part in these discussions.

The Clerk explained that a meeting would need to be called for all members without a personal and prejudicial interest to work through the Audit Wales Report and identify the elements they wish to form part of the complaint to the PSO. This will need to be matched against the criteria in the Code of Conduct and cross-referenced. This will be a lengthy and detailed process.

Cllr Lowde asked the Clerk if she would supply paper copies of the Audit Wales report, Code of Conduct and any other documents required for circulation to those members who require them. She agreed to do this.
Resolved: Clerk to provide paper copies to those members who request them.

It was agreed to hold the meeting to discuss and prepare the complaint to the PSO on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The Clerk read out an email which had been received on 4th November 2021 from Mr A Mills regarding the public meeting:

“The meeting went as expected but I was appalled at the Deputy Chairs comment thanking the Community for joining a "witchhunt" meeting.

Jill should at the very least apologise at tomorrow's Council meeting for her comment. Indeed, she should also consider her position as a Council member as she clearly cannot act objectively in presiding over Council meetings. No comments were made.”

Cllr Lowde thanked the Clerk for her support of the council over the last few months.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.