

**Minutes of a Remote Meeting of St Harmon Community Council held on Thursday 6th
January 2022**

Present: Cllr D Lowde, L McPhee, D Jenkins, P Hunt

Apologies: Cllr M Williams, S Lewis

SH 01/22 **Declarations of Interests**
Cllr L McPhee SH 08/22a

SH 02/22 **Election of Vice Chair**
The Chair proposed Cllr McPhee as Vice Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Jenkins and agreed unanimously.

SH 03/22 **Minutes**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November, 2021 were presented to the Council. As 2 members of the meeting were not present at the meeting on 24th November, the council was inquorate. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

SH 04/22 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were confirmed and signed.

SH 05/22 **Information from Minutes**
a) Football Club Grants
Cllr Jenkins asked what the council intended to do to recover the grant monies as the group had had sufficient time to make the refund. The Clerk explained that the group had contacted the council at the last meeting to say a refund would be made once their bank mandate was completed.

Cllr Jenkins felt that further action should be taken.
Resolved: to contact the Football Club to ask for a refund of the monies by the end on January 2022, or the council will consider further action at the February meeting.

SH 06/22 **Public Speaking**
None.

SH 07/22 **Correspondence**
a) The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils – Consultation.
This link had been shared with members, who were asked to complete the consultation.

b) Llandrindod Wells Town Council – Early Days Motion - Bullying of Clerks

At its December meeting, Llandrindod Wells Town Council agreed to support the Early Days Motion put forward by Dr Julian Lewis MP with the hope of making changes to legislation. The council has sent a letter to our MP asking her to support this motion.

A copy of the information received is below for your information.

Early Days Motion 691

Conduct of councillors towards town and parish council clerks
EDM (Early Day Motion) 691: tabled on 25 November 2021

Motion text:

That this House notes with deep concern convincing evidence collected by the Association of Local Council Clerks showing that, far from being untypical, the toxic behaviour by Parish Councillors in Cheshire exposed online in December 2020, is endemic in a significant minority of Town and Parish Councils; deplores the departure from their roles of dozens of part-time and full-time Clerks, as a result of bullying by Councillors who face negligible sanctions for such misbehaviour; regrets the anguish thus generated and the substantial cost to the public purse arising from settlements following breakdown in employer and employee relations; and calls on the Government to establish an appropriate and effective sanctions mechanism, including financial penalties, to deal with local Councillors found guilty of such misconduct.

Link - <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59182>

The council were approached to write to Fay Jones MP to ask that she supports this motions.

Resolved: to write to Fay Jones MP to ask her to support this motion.

SH 08/22

Planning Applications

a) 21/2308/REM

Grid Reference: **E:298047 N: 269201**

Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of planning approval 20/1115/FUL, to allow the building to be used for up to 4,000 free range organic broilers (poultry)- Site Address: Ffosmascal, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5NR. Cllr McPhee declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Members referred back to the meeting held on 7th January 2021 when the council considered the following application:

20/2115/REM -Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of planning approval 20/1115/FUL to allow the building to be used for up to 5,000 free range organic broilers (Poultry.)

The initial application was for cattle, however, the removal of condition 3 is requested to house up to 5000 free range organic broilers.

Members felt this was a significant issue to the proximity of the area to neighbouring housing, and concerns over environmental issues including air pollution, carrion and other issues.

Resolved: to object to this amendment due to the proximity to neighbouring properties and for environmental pollution issues

Members remain opposed to this development and wished to resubmit the previous comments as above.

Resolved: to object, reiterating the previous comments and request that Cty Cllr Evans “call in” the application to be heard by the Planning Committee.

b) 21/2247/FUL

Grid Reference: **E:298339 N: 270965**

Proposal: Proposed Storage Building and associated works

Site Address: Rhayader Motorcross Track, Cwmithig Hill, St Harmon, Rhayader, Powys.

Resolved: to support this application

SH 09/22 Grant Applications

None.

SH 10/22 Finance

a) Salary - £540.50 (including 20 hours overtime Nov/Dec) - approved

b) HMRC – £135.00 - approved

c) R Rees – St Harmon Christmas Tree - £120 – Bryn Titli Fund – approved.

d) Microshade Business Consultants - £444.00

e) Bank Reconciliation to 30.12.21

Reconciliation	@	30.12.21
Balance @	26.11.21	39514.01
Plus Receipts		0.00
Less Payments		830.45

Total Balance		38683.56
Breakdown:		
Council	c/f	15635.43
Plus Receipts		
Less Payments		675.50
Balance		14959.93
Bryn Titli		23878.58
Plus Receipts		0
Less Payments		154.95
Balance		23723.63

14959.93

23723.63

38683.56

SH 11/22 **Written Notice of Motion – Cllr S Lewis**

As a motion requiring written notice formally submitted to the proper officer, I propose that the Council take a vote of no confidence in Cllr Donald Jenkins as a Community Councillor of St Harmon Community Council following the content and outcome of the Audit Wales investigation and subsequent public interest report.

Cllr Lewis was unable to attend the meeting due to sickness

Cllr Jenkins commented that as the outcome of any decision following this motion would make no difference to his position on the council he saw no point in this matter being placed before the Council.

The Chair asked the Clerk to advise on this matter.

The Clerk confirmed that any member has the opportunity to submit a written notice under Standing Orders and the council has a duty to consider this on presentation by the member concerned.

The Chair proposed that this matter be deferred to the February meeting for re-presentation. Cllr McPhee supported this. Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Hunt voted against this proposal. The Chair exercised his casting vote and supported the deferral of this matter to the February meeting.

Resolved: to defer this motion for re-submission at the February meeting.

SH/12/22

Council Vacancies – Co-option

One application was received from Mr Aaron Mills.

Resolved: to co-opt Mr Mills to the Community Council. It was agreed not to re-advertise for the second vacancy as elections will be held in May 2022.

SH 13/22

Appoint Internal Auditor – Tracey Price

The Clerk recommended the appointment of Tracey Price as internal Auditor for 2021/22.

Resolved: to appoint Tracey Price.

The Clerk reported that the outstanding Annual Returns had not yet been received.

SH 14/22

Council Committees & Sub Committees

The Clerk presented report including a recommendation to the Council to disband all Council Committees.

Cllr Jenkins referred to the Audit Wales report refuting the comments with regard to the council operating a Play Area or Recreation Field Committee. He stated the council has never had either committee in place.

The Clerk had listed the following committees which are currently in place:

- Finance & Policies
- Human Resources
- LDP

The Clerk had not seen any reference to a Play Area Committee or Recreation Field Committee within the records.

The Chair proposed that all council committees be dis-banded, Cllr Jenkins voted against this proposal.

Resolved: to dis-band all council committees immediately.

SH 15/22

Date for 2022 Annual Meeting – Proposed - Thursday 12th May 2022

The Clerk informed members that it would not be possible to hold the 2022 Annual Meeting on the first Thursday in May as this will be election day.

Resolved: to hold the Annual Meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022.

SH 16/22

Pant y Dwr Notice Board

The Chair reported that the noticeboard within the bus shelter at Pant y Dwr needs replacing.

The Clerk had identified a supplier of external metal magnetic noticeboards. He also mentioned the dis-used council board which is located on the wall of the hall which he felt needs removing.

It was agreed to purchase a new 12-sheet board for the bus shelter in Pant y Dwr for £151.95 from Bryn Titli Funds. Cllr Jenkins suggested that this should be funded from community council funds and voted against the proposal to fund from Bryn Titli.

Resolved: to purchase a new board as above from the Bryn Titli Fund. Also to arrange for the board on the hall wall to be removed.

SH 17/22 Community Broadband Scheme – Open Meeting – Thursday 13th January

A meeting will be held on 13th January at 6pm with Broadway Partners to discuss the Community Broadband Scheme. This will be an open meeting. Members were asked to notify residents of this.

SH 18/22 Community Hall Report

The Chair said he had little to report on this matter. He mentioned he would speak to the hall committee about the notices placed on the Church Hall noticeboard.

SH 19/22 County Councillors Report

Cllr Evans was pleased with the outcome of contact with PCC with regard to the unofficial recycling site in Pant y Dwr.

He had reported the overflowing drain reported by Cllr Lewis at the next meeting. Members confirmed this had still not been cleared.

SH 20/22 Other Matters

a) Play Area – Pant y Dwr

Cllr Hunt agreed to pass the inspection folder over to Cllr McPhee who is now responsible for site inspection.

The Clerk will get a quote for soil to fill in the areas which have shrinkage.

Resolved: Clerk to obtain quote.

b) Old Blacksmith

Cllr Hunt reported excessive smoke which he had witnessed on one evening recently which blocked the road. It was suggested that he continue to monitor this.