

St Harmon Community Council

Minutes of a Remote Meeting of St Harmon held on Thursday 3rd April, 2025

Present: Cllr S Lewis, D Poulton, M Williams, L McPhee, N Schmidt, A Mills
Cty Cllr C Johnson-Wood

Apologies: None

SH 44/25 Declaration:
SH 48/25c Cllr D Poulton
SH 49/25c Cllr D Poulton
SH 54/25c Cllr D Poulton

SH 45/25 Minutes
a) Minutes of Meeting held on 6th March, 2025
The minutes were agreed and signed.

SH 46/25 Information from Minutes
None.

SH 47/25 Public Speaking
None.

SH 48/25 Correspondence
a) PCC Highways – 20 Mph Speed Review
The following email was received:
“We haven’t taken any speed surveys. It is referenced in the report WG mad available data from a company that obtains data from vehicle telematics. It isn’t conclusive as it doesn’t record all vehicles, we won’t even know what proportion, but it gives a sample and idea where it is quoted.”
This was noted.

b) James Evans MS – Inheritance Tax
The following email was received:

“Thank you for your email. I share your view that the changes to the Inheritance Tax rules will ‘have a devastating impact on family farms and farmer’s ability to pass on their farms to the next generation’. Abhorrent is indeed the word for it!

I am doing all I can to raise this in the media and in the Senedd chamber to put pressure on the UK and Welsh Labour Governments to reverse their decision. Whilst this is a matter for the UK Labour Government, the Welsh Labour Government has to take its share of responsibility for this disastrous policy. Research by the CAAV said Welsh farms could account for 40% of the total affected by proposed changes to IHT if the plans go ahead. It is clear that Wales is bearing the brunt of this!

A survey just a few weeks ago revealed that 39% of farms will be unsustainable in the next 5 years, with 56% expecting to close by 2035. Communities right across Wales will be adversely changed by this policy.

I have supported many organisations in their calls to either have this policy scrapped or significantly raise the £1million starting threshold figure. NFU, FUW, CLA, BASC to name just a few. I attended the farmers protest in London to stand alongside many local families fighting for their future. We must all come together and send a clear message to the Labour Governments that this policy has to be scrapped or at the very least, the threshold significantly raised. This is not just a matter for land owners – it will hurt whole communities, put our food security at risk and open the door to low quality food imports.

If not already done so, I would encourage you to send a copy of your letter to the First Minister Eluned Morgan MS and the Deputy First Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies MS.

We must all keep fighting against this disastrous policy. No Farmers No Food!" This was noted.

c) Powys County Council – Kiosk Land

Cllr Poulton declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.

This was noted.

d) David Chadwick MP – Inheritance Tax

The following email was received:

“Thank you for your email on behalf of St Harmon Community Council. I appreciate the stress and worry that has been caused for many people involved in the farming industry in my constituency, which may be affected by these changes.

I am very worried about the impact of the changes in the Budget on rural areas like ours, including the planned changes to agricultural Property Relief which risks becoming a disaster for local farmers and small businesses. I want to make it clear that I stand with farmers across Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe, and the rest of the country. Family farms serve as the backbone for so many of our rural communities and are essential for our food security and the rural economy, with many small businesses’ reliant on their business: from vets to agricultural merchants to local shops and post offices.

I spoke about this in Parliament on 6th November and commented:

We have less favourable views on other elements of the Budget, including the changes to agricultural property relief, which are causing a great deal of genuine anxiety across my constituency and Wales as a whole. If the Labour Government do not change course, they will be throwing family farms to the

wolves in the same way that other industries have been let down in the past. The impact will be felt not just by young farmers unable to take on a viable farm business, but in wider consequences. The entire rural economy is dependent on farming incomes, so the changes will threaten jobs across Wales. We do not understand why the Government are not raising the revenue from other sources. Why should Welsh farmers bear the brunt of repairing the economic damage caused by the Conservatives?

I have spoken with many farmers from Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe in the constituency and those who have come to Parliament and have also met with representatives from the NFU to discuss this matter further.

It is very clear that these changes may impact farms that have been in family for generations, and as you say whilst many farmers are asset rich they are often cash poor with the business bank account reflecting this. The farmers ability to pay this tax does not appear to have been fully considered and may mean that land would have to be sold to pay for this, jeopardising the long-term viability of family farms.

The Chancellor needs to reverse these plans or risk a lost generation of family farms. I will fight these changes every step of the way and will continue to pressure the government to get our farmers the support they deserve.

I also want to acknowledge that this announcement came on top of the Welsh Labour Government already asking farmers to do more, with less support, and I fully recognise the pressure that many farmers are under. Farming can be an incredibly rewarding career, but it also comes with huge pressure and isolation. Please do remember that support is available from many organisations, including the DJP Foundation (0800 587 4262) and RABI (0800 188 4444). These numbers are available 24 hours a day should anyone in the St Harmon community need assistance.” This was noted.

SH 49/25

Planning Applications

a) 25/0435/TPO

Grid Ref: **E:** 298371 **N:** 274720

Proposal: Felling of two horse chestnut trees (TPO757 and TPO758)

Location: Garmon View , Pant-Y-Dwr, Rhayader LD6 5LL

Cllr Poulton declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Resolved: no objection.

SH 50/25

Finance

a) One Voice Wales - £123 - approved

b) Community Annual - £1500 - approved

c) Notice Me – Notice Board – £647.94 - approved

d) Barriers Ltd – Panoramic Mirror - £72.29 - approved

e) Lucky Pierre – Barbeque - £500.00 - approved

- SH 51/25 Annual Accounts 2024-25**
The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts for 2024/25 to the Council with supporting information including a breakdown of reserves, list of Bryn Titli expenditure and balance sheet. Members were encouraged to ask questions to confirm their full understanding of the documents.
Resolved: the accounts were approved by the Council.
- SH 52/25 Street Lighting**
Cllr Poulton addressed the Council on 2 street lights which he felt were surplus to requirements within the community. The first one is located outside School House and the second outside Nantgwyn Chapel. Cllr Poulton agreed to canvas the residents and report back to the Council. The Council could then approach PCC to have them turned off if residents felt they were unnecessary.
Resolved: Cllr Poulton to canvas the residents.
- SH 53/25 Community Events**
a) **Barbeque**
Plan are now firmly in place for this event and Cllr Mills will be ordering the Bouncy Castle etc shortly. The banners will be displayed mid April and a poster will be published on social media.
- SH 54/25 Kiosk Defibrillator**
Cllr Poulton declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.
Resolved: to defer this matter to a future meeting.
- SH 55/25 Marteg Messenger**
Cllr Mills had been approached by a local resident who wished resurrect the Marteg Messenger. The resident was approaching the Community Council for financial support towards this. Members fully supported this idea and Cllr Mills will speak to the resident to ask him for an idea of the budget required. This will be brought to the next meeting.
Resolved: Cllr Mills to bring information to the next meeting.
- SH 56/25 County Councillors Report**
Cty Cllr Johnson-Wood reported on an Emergency Extraordinary Meeting being held on Thursday 10th April to discuss education. The Clerk will send a link to the meeting to all members.

Cty Cllr Johnson-Wood asked all members to bring any issues to her attention directly.
- SH 55/25 Other Matters**
There were none.