**LLANTYSILIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD 2nd DECEMBER 2024**

**AT THE CONQUERING HERO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

# PRESENT

Chairman: Mrs M. Smith

Councillors: P. Davies, Mrs J. Evans, S.V Evans, R. Cragg, R. Hughes, and the Clerk.

Also present Mr Richard Evans, who takes over the role of Clerk in February 2025.

**APOLOGIES**

Cllrs. D. Walton, J. Pickett, County Cllr. Karen Edwards and A. Jones.

**24/4273 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

# 24/4274 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Although not present at the Meeting, Karen had provided a brief written report which was as follows:-

Refuse collection. There haven’t been any further reports of missed bin collection.

Pentredŵr road. Noted and being investigated.

Fence at the Horseshoe Falls car-park. In the process of being repaired.

Footpath to the Church. In poor condition and being looked into.

**24/4275 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr. R. Hughes.

Seconded by Cllr. Mrs J. Evans.

**24/4276 MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM**

It was noted that a new salt-bin has now been sited at Pen y Clawdd.

# 24/4277 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Accounts for payment.

The Accounts were paid as on the schedule attached to these Minutes.

1. Monthly Budget

The Budget was approved as a correct record.

1. Other financial matters.

It was agreed to pay the annual subscription to SLCC.

It was agreed to review the Cemetery Fees and garage rent annually in February.

As the Cemetery Fees were raised in October 2024, and to comply with the 6 Month Rule, it will only be the garage rent for review in February 2025.

1. To set the Precept for 2025/2026

In line with the Financial Committee’s proposal, and taking into account the three year projected Budget to 2028, it was agreed to raise the Precept by £375.00. This was agreed by all members present and will incur a rise, based on the number of band D properties, to approximately £2.88 per household per annum. The annual Precept for 2025/2026 will therefore be £12,720. (2024/2025 - £12,345.00).

To reach this conclusion the Council considered the following: -

1. Cemetery

The cost of maintaining the Cemetery increases every year with the income from burials being minimal. Some of the large trees will shortly need trimming down and, although the central path was re-surfaced in the last financial year for safety reasons, there is still a cost associated with maintaining some of the headstones and the perimeter fence. This is in addition to general maintenance, grass cutting and annual insurance etc.

(2024/25 - £2,250.00 - 2025/26 - £2,600.00).

1. Administration

Increased in line with inflation.

(2024/25 - £550.00 - 2025/26 £600.00).

Clerk’s Allowance

The working from home allowance of £35.00 per month is the basic allowance as agreed by NALC and is payment for the use of the clerk’s home, electricity and room hire. To remain the same at £35.00.

1. Clerk’s Salary

The National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks agreed a 2.5% rise beginning from the 1st April 2024 for all Council Clerks and office staff. This took the Clerk’s hourly rate, based on SCP (Sliding Column Point) 23, from £16.67 to £17.29. The new clerk’s hourly rate on SCP 15 will begin at £15.08 and rise annually by one point with further rises based on gaining qualifications etc.

Therefore the 2025/26 Budget shows a decrease of £700.

(2024/25 - £6,400 – 2025/26 - £5,700.00).

1. Website

It is a statutory requirement that the Council produces a website. Allowing for annual inflation the Council agreed a rise of £27.00

(2024/25 - £348.00 – 2025/26 - £375.00)

1. Room hire

The Council holds its meetings in the two community centres, the Conquering Hero and Pentredŵr CC, five monthly meetings in each. There hasn’t been any indication that either of the centres will raise their hire fees for 2025/26 therefore the Council has left this the same as the last financial year.

(2024/25 - £300 – 2025/26 - £300.00).

1. Garage, seats and notice boards

Maintenance work was carried out in July 2024 so it’s anticipated that the cost for the new financial year will be minimal.

(2024/25 - £568.00 – 2025/26 - £500.00)

1. Annual Audit

This to remain the same at £400.00.

1. Insurance

This rises annually. The Council has estimated accordingly.

(2024/25 - £1,090.00 – 2025/26 - £1,200.00).

1. Subscriptions

To remain as the last financial year.

(2024/25 - £150.00 – 2025/26 - £150.00).

1. Donations 137 payments.

To decrease by £50.

(2024/25 - £200.00 – 2025/26 - £150.00).

1. Reserves

The Council agreed to hold an annual reserve of £4,500.

Resolved – as proposed by Cllr. Cragg as Chairman of the Financial Committee, to raise the Precept by 3% as shown above. Unanimously agreed by the Council.

**24/4278 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

 The Chairman had nothing to report.

**24/4279 CLERK’S RETIREMENT**

Interviews were held in Pentredŵr Community Centre on the 13th November. Present were the Council’s Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Smith, Cllr. Cragg and due to Cllr. Mrs Evans being unable to attend, Cllr. Hughes. The Clerk was also present. The outcome was the selection of Mr Richard Evans who will take over as Clerk from the 1st February 2025. The Council fully accepted the Sub Committee’s proposal and welcomed Mr Evans to the Meeting.

The Council agreed to the present Clerk being paid until the end of February thus allowing for Mr Evans to settle in.

It was resolved that Mr Evans’ employment begins on the 1st February 2025 at salary scale SCP15 which equates to £15.08 per hour and rises annually according to the NALC and SLCC Agreement for Local Council Clerks.

**24/4280 CEMETERY**

Cllr. Mrs Smith said that she would look at the newly erected gravestone, which is thought not to adhere to the Council’s Cemetery Regulations, and report her findings to the next meeting of the Council in February.

# 24/4281 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters.

**24/4282 NATIONAL PARK**

It was noted that the last public meeting will be held in Llangollen on the 10the December between 3pm and 7pm.

**24/4283 COMMUNITY PROBLEMS**

1. The electronic sign at the turn off for Berwyn is again not functioning correctly. Cllr. Mrs Evans forwarded a text to Cllr. Edwards informing her of this fact. Cllr. S. V. Evans expressed his concern as to how this would affect local businesses as the sign is indicating that the Pass is closed due to snow and ice.
2. Water gullies blocked on the Horseshoe Pass. Council concerned that this will cause another major landslide.
3. The road through Pentredŵr is in dire need of attention as it’s breaking up.
4. Blocked drain at the top of Pen y Clawdd hill.

**24/4284 COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**24/4285 CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

# 24/4286 CORRESPONDENCE

Relevant emails forwarded to members.

**24/4287 MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

To review the rent for the garage.

**There being no other business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.**