

## MINUTES OF THE LLAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held At Llay/Resource Centre, Llay  
 Date Thu 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016  
 Time 1830

Name	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Bryan Apsley Chairperson	√	N	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
Dave Adams	√	O	√	√	√	A	√	√	√			
Sandra Apsley	√		√	√	√	A	√	√	√			
Terry Boland	A	M	√	A	√	√	A	√	A			
Ken Cupit	√	E	√	√	A	√	√/A	√	√			
Maldwyn Davies	√	E	√	√	√	√	√	√	A			
Peter Evans	√	T	A	A	√	√	√	A	√			
Sharon Roberts	√	I	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
Rob Walsh	√	N	√	√	A	√	A/√	√	A			
Vera Wineyard	A	G	√	√	A	√	√	√	A			
John O'Keefe		H		√	√	√	√	√	A			
Dennis Owen		E		√	√	√	√	√	√			
Jan Osborne	X	L	X	X	X	√	√	√	√			
Mark Williams (Clerk)	√	D	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			

In Attendance: 10 members of the community & PCSO Hughes

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs T Boland, R Walsh, M Davies, J O'Keefe, V Wineyard
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The February Minutes were accepted as a true record.:  
Proposed by: KC    Seconded by: DO
3. **Public Questions:** Although no formal questions had been received, the Chair informed all that some correspondence had been received regarding the recent issues involving youth services. The Chair read out recent correspondence from the **School Holiday Playscheme** Co-ordinator, which was in response to other correspondence that had been received, inferring the community council was solely to blame for the cessation of this scheme, which was factually incorrect. The Chair offered members of the public present to select a representative to speak at this stage. However, no person present wished to comment. The Chair then highlighted how the community council assist the community with funding school crossing patrols and the new skate park, both examples of services and facilities that would previously have been funded by WCBC. Finally, the Chair, once again, offered the public in attendance the opportunity to speak but there were no comments.
4. **Matters Arising:** SA mentioned that the **Keep Wales Tidy litter pick** had gone extremely well, as had the recent ceremonies in recognition of the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the closure of Llay Colliery**. Both the events at the Park CP School and the Church Service had been excellent. The

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Chair and other councillors endorsed these comments. SR mentioned that she had seen people with measuring equipment within the **derelict site of the Old School** recently, so hopefully, there are the beginning of plans to utilise this area of the village. The Chair thanked all those who had attended recent meetings involving the **Local Development Plan**. He confirmed that after correspondence sent by the Clerk, WCBC had declined the opportunity to hold a specific meeting within Llay. SR suggested that in light of this, and the closing date for comments to WCBC being 1<sup>st</sup> April, she felt there was value in holding an open meeting in the village. This would allow everyone who had opinions to express them on both the LDP and the Youth Services proposals that have been recently highlighted. All Councillors agreed this would be useful and the Clerk was tasked to arrange a venue as soon as possible. (Note: **Resource Centre now booked for Thu 24<sup>th</sup> March at 1830**). SR stated the **poster design competition**, involving local 7-11 year old schoolchildren was progressing. This would also involve the Resource Centre and after various discussions, PE proposed a £30 prize from the community council, which was seconded by JO. This prize would be in addition to the £20 prize that SR was funding herself. SR mentioned that the **Open Space Assessment** plans have now been postponed until June 2016. Finally, the Chair mentioned some ongoing issues involving **New Bins, debris left by refuse collections**, use of **Shones Lane** Pitches and the **Nant y Gaer pathway**, which will be discussed at subsequent meetings when the county councillors are in attendance to update.

**5. Police Matters:** PCSO Hughes apologised for his absence at recent meetings, due to operational matters on the nights in question. He then outlined the latest crime figures, copies of which were given to all in attendance. In response to a question from PE, PCSO Hughes explained how the **speeding priority** set by the council was implemented. He further confirmed that there had been no drug materials found recently in the woods, and he would also ensure the third priority matter is looked into on the monthly figures. This is usually set by the local Inspector but PCSO Hughes will discuss this with his superiors and report back. SR mentioned that whilst the lack of drug debris was a good sign, the recent litter pick had resulted in large quantities of **alcoholic debris** being found. JO asked if there were **response times for answering 101** non-emergency police calls as she had waited ages for a response when using the service recently. PCSO Hughes will report this back to the relevant authorities. SR mentioned some local anti-social behaviour she was aware of and also issues in and around the Resource Centre. PCSO Hughes was aware of the latter and hoped it would be resolved when imminent action due to be taken is completed.

**6. Finance and Appeals:** After a brief discussion, DE and SR approved the **Finance Figures** for February, as presented by the Clerk. The final draft of the new **Grant Application Form**, which now included specific questions about direct benefits to Llay residents, was approved. After discussions, the Chair signed the **Annual Investment Strategy** letters (for internal audit purposes), which state the priorities remain unchanged, namely extending the **cemetery** when required and **replacing streetlight fixtures and fittings**. For both these priorities, substantial sums of money will be required, which the council currently hold in savings accounts. The Chair also signed documents reaffirming the structures in place to check on all financial transactions undertaken by the community council and the Clerk. This is designed to ensure that there is no opportunity for illegal activity to take place, and follows practice guidelines laid down in local government regulations. The final item within Finance was an appeal by the local **Floristry Course** tutor, for £60 to purchase essential items for the students. There was a discussion regarding the funding of this course overall, which also involved discussing the monies paid to attend by the students, but in summary PE proposed awarding the amount required and DO seconded. This was carried unanimously and the Clerk was instructed to arrange payment of the £60.

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7. **Street Lighting:** There were no major streetlighting issues to discuss, although once again, many councillors mentioned the slow response in repairing lights, even when there is three out in a row as in the case of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All lighting problems are reported as soon as the council are aware of them. DA mentioned whether bulb replacements could be **LED lights**, which are believed to last longer and cost less to run. The Clerk will follow up this enquiry with the relevant authority and report back.

8. **Planning:** The 3 planning applications before the council, involving extensions to a private dwelling, planning updates on Ballswood Quarry and change of use at a small factory on Llay Ind Est were all passed without comment. SR mentioned that the proposals for the **new Police Station**, and in particular **traffic routes**, were now online. Of particular concern was one route proposed involving Gresford Road, which would also include emergency vehicles as well as contractors traffic during construction. This was generally felt to be unworkable and DO agreed to take this matter forward on behalf of the council.

9. **Burial Matters:** The Clerk reported that the **recent break in attempt** at the Cemetery had resulted in damage to the building but no theft of equipment. This was due to the increased level of security at the building, introduced by the council following the last break in a couple of years ago. All repairs were carried out promptly and the insurance cheque is also approved and will shortly be paid into the councils' account. There were no other issues to discuss, but SA mentioned she had visited the cemetery recently and found it to be in a satisfactory condition.

10. **Reports:** The Chair distributed an informative document to all regarding the "**difficult decisions**" consultation meeting. The preparation of this document had been a joint effort between the Chair and SR. He expressed concern regarding the way the meetings were administered, both for the difficult decisions and the future of **Youth Services**, which was concurred by DO who had also been in attendance. Another attendee at the meeting on difficult decisions had been SR, who suggested that the meeting for the community (booked post meeting for Thu 24<sup>th</sup> Mar at the Resource Centre starting at 1830) could be used to allow everyone to speak about both subjects (namely the Difficult decisions and Youth Services). This was agreed as a good idea and would be implemented.

11. **Correspondence:** The Clerk referred to a **thank you letter** he had received from Llay Welfare Bowls Club, in recognition of their recent grant. The other correspondence received related to the **2 vacancies on the Community Council**, for which 4 applications had been received by the Clerk within the stipulated timeframes. The Chair then outlined the rules for holding the co-option of 2 councillors from the applications received and the Clerk distributed voting slips to all present. In addition, the Chair asked 2 members of the public to assist with the count following the vote. This was duly done and the Chair instructed the Clerk to inform all applicants via e mail at the same time, as some were not able to attend the meeting this evening. (Note; post meeting, this e mail was sent and acknowledged by all applicants and Ms Pat Taylor and Ms Christine Archer have been duly elected via co-option. WCBC Electoral Services Officer has been informed). The Chair thanked the members of public who had assisted with the counting of votes. The final business of the evening involved a staffing matter involving salaries and the Chair asked the public to leave the room, in accordance with Standing Orders.

There being no further business the Standing Orders were moved and accepted. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2008. The next meeting is on

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2016 at 1830**

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Signed:.....

Mr B Apsley  
Chairman  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2016