**Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council**

**Minutes of normal meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2023**

Present: Cllrs Keith Thomas, Tudor Eynon, Wynn Griffiths, Meurig James, Jamie Lewis, Edward Howells.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1 – Apologies for absence**. Apologies were received and accepted from County Cllr David Simpson.

**2 – Declarations of interest**. No interests were declared.

**3 – Questions from members of the public.** There were no questions from any members of the public.

**4 - Minutes of previous meeting**.

There were accepted as a true record and agreed by all present. They were therefore signed.

**5 - Matters arising from previous meeting**.

**A40 bypass.**  There had been no significant updates received from the contractors about progress on the bypass received. The Council were informed that the contractors were looking for ideas for small permanent improvements within the village that would be of wide benefit. This was discussed, and it was agreed to suggest updating the children’s play area, improving parking facilities close to the Hall and providing picnic seating facilities located with a view towards the Preseli Mountains. It was also suggested that any plaque noting the work could be located here. Cllr Thomas would pass this on.

**Local repairs and issues**. The potholes were being dealt with on the back lane, although not all had been filled. There was no update on the Meadow View safer access issue to report.

**6 – New business.**

**Hall Committee and Council joint working.** It was reported to Council that the suggested arrangement for a cleaner had been discussed by the Hall Committee, and a temporary arrangement had been agreed that did not involve the Council. It was therefore agreed to wait and see how this evolved, and bring the issue back for discussion at a later date.

**Council budget 2023-24.** The Clerk had provided a detailed spreadsheet and a summary report showing the predicted end of financial year Council finances, and a proposed budget for consideration. This was discussed at length. It was noted that the vast majority of expenditure was required spending for legal or contractual reasons. After full consideration it was agreed to set a budget at the figure suggested.

**Council precept for 2023-24.** In the light of the discussions for the previous item, it was agreed to set the precept amount at £5839 for the year 2023-24. This took into account anticipated money already in the accounts at the end of March 2023 as well as the reserves held. It was considered important to not reduce the reserves too much at a time when the economic climate was already reducing the money held in real terms.

**Hall insurance**. The Council has a longstanding wish to support the Village Hall, and to that end was pleased to agree to make a donation towards the insurance costs for the coming year.

**Remembrance tea.** It was noted that 2022 had been the centenary of the erection for the War Memorial in the village, one of the first to be erected in Pembrokeshire, and indeed West Wales. The Council was therefore delighted to be able to support the celebration tea that had been held, and agreed to cover the catering costs of £50.55.

**7 – County Councillor’s report.** The County Councillor had given his apologies to the meeting. He had not provided a report on any matters he wished to bring to the attention of the Council.

**8 – Correspondence received.**

* One Voice Wales remote training. This was noted.
* Welsh Govt consultation on draft regulations affecting the council tax for second homes. This was noted. .

**9 - Planning:**

There had been no relevant planning notifications received since the last meeting.

**10 - Finance:**

Bank balance **main** account £3764.68 as of 10th January 2023

Bank balance **second** account: £20.00 as of 10th January 2023

Bank balance **business interest** account: £8087.17 as of 10th January 2023. This account holds the bequest; the reserve for Cllr allowances; the reserve for elections.

Details of payments made and due are summarised below.

Invoices/contractual/other payments agreed:

* Clerk’s monthly salary for December/January
* Clerk’s expenses for December/January
* Clerk’s tax December/January
* PCC – election charge for May 2022 - £255.00
* Hall insurance donation - £760.34
* Remembrance tea -£50.55
* Currys Business – laptop and external hard drive - £343.98
* Amazon – Powered usb hub and Office software - £112.08

**10 - Councillors’ reports for consideration at next meeting.**

It was noted that the bus shelter was very dirty. Cllr Thomas would contact the bypass contractors who had previously offered to jetwash it.

It was noted that the road edge and therefore hedge on the north side between Crosshands House and Ivy Cottage was deteriorating and subsiding, particularly as a result of the amount of traffic and water recently. This would be raised as a concern with SWTRA.

Flytipping was reported at the top of the old Pengawse Hill. This would be reported to PCC.

**11 - Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting was agreed for Wednesday 8th March 2023 starting at 8.00pm.

 There being no other business to consider, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.