



St Harmon Community Council

Annual Report

2022/23

10 Ddole Road
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Powys
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Introduction

This Annual Report sets out to inform the residents of St Harmon and Pant y Dwr about the activities undertaken by St Harmon Community Council during the 2022/23. It is based on the financial year 1st April – 31st March. The report contains a brief outline of the structure of the Council, an overview of the Council's activities throughout the year and a financial summary.

Contact

The Council does not have an office space. The Clerk works from home and the contact details for the council are:

Jane Johnston PSLCC, CiLCA (Wales)
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
10 Ddole Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6PF

The Council

The Council is comprised of eight Members (Councillors) and the area does not have wards.

The Council elects a Chair and a Vice Chair at the Council's Annual Meeting every May. The Council is supported by one part-time member of staff; the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer who is currently Jane Johnston.

Members

The following members were in place during 2022/23

Cllr David Lowde	Chair
Cllr Sheree Lewis	Vice Chair
Cllr Mark Williams	
Cllr Aaron Mills	
Cllr Daisy Davies	
Cllr Kieron Mills	
Cllr Craig Davies	
Vacancy	

Committees

The Council previously operated a Committee system. However, in response to observations made by Audit Wales, this was removed by resolution of the Council on 6th January 2022.

Task & Finish Groups

The Council did not have any Task & Finish Groups operational during this period. However, a Focus Group remains in operation to support the Community Broadband Scheme with Community Council membership. This is an on-going project in conjunction with Broadway Partners.

Services & Facilities

St Harmon Community Council provides the following services & facilities:

- Pant y Dwr Play Area
- Recreation Field at St Harmon currently a grass let subject to annual tender
- Woodland Area (Recreational Field)
- 2 Bus Shelters
- Community Noticeboards
- 2 De-commissioned ex BT telephone kiosks housing public access defibrillators/book swaps
- Marquee
- Digital projector (on loan to the Community Hall)
- Community Website - <http://www.stharmoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/>
- Community Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067466682378>

Grants & Donations

The Council operates a grant system for the benefit of local groups which may apply for grant funding to carry out work for the benefit of members of the community within the electoral boundary of St Harmon and Pant y Dwr.

The grants application system is open throughout the year. Applications must be submitted in writing to the Clerk containing as much information as possible. The council has a limited budget allocation.

Below is a list of grants allocated during 2022/23:

Group	Amount	Purpose
Community Hall	£1500	Grant for services & operation

Bryn Titli Fund (Wind Farm)

The Council is awarded a sum of money annually from the Bryn Titli Wind Farm project. This is for allocation to community groups and community projects. The Community Council manages this fund and allocations are made under 2 separate processes: Grant Funding and Community benefit Purchases/Allocations.

- Grant Funding

This is managed in two phases

Phase 1 1st April – 31st July Allocations are made in September

Phase 2 1st October – 31st January Allocations are made in March

The criteria and application forms are held on the Community Council website - http://www.stharmoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/?page_id=932

In the period covered by this Annual report, the following grants to local organisations were made:

Group	Amount	Purpose
Pantydwr Show Committee	2300.00	2022 Printing & Resources
Pantydwr Community Hall	1500.00	Equipment
Pantydwr Show Committee	1300.00	2023 Show
Nantgwyn Chapel	1500.00	Fence
Rhayader Comm Support	1088.00	Cooking Club
Under 5's Playgroup	725.00	Ipad
Pantydwr Community Hall	653.85	Fridge & Document Safe
Little Lambs	1188.36	Hall Hire & Equipment

Grants allocated during the Covid 19 period have been significantly less as many events were cancelled due to Welsh Government restrictions. This scheme will continue for the next few years.

- Community Benefit Purchases/Allocations

The following purchases were made via the Bryn Titli Fund which were deemed for community benefit:

Item	Amount	Purpose
Marteg Messenger	40.00	Newsletter
SWALEC	252.55	Christmas Tree Electric
Jubilee Water Bottles	315.31	Children's Gift
Jubilee Event	194.40	Community Event
Bus Shelter Shelving	83.59	Produce Share
Kiosk Shelves	120.00	Defibrillator & Book Swap
Bus Shelter Signs	232.80	Community Information
Show Stand	99.19	Community Information
Tree Report	75.00	Woodland Project
Signage	237.26	Speed Reduction Signs
New Marquee	3360.00	Community Events

Financial Information

The Budget

The Community Council raises most of its money via the local government precept. The precept for 2022/23 equated to £18221, this was a reduction of £616 on 2021/22 due

Financial Summary

Budget Heading	Budget Set 2022/23	Total Budget (Including Ear Marked Reserves)	Actual Expenditure 2022/23
Salary	5050	5050	
Training – Staff & Members, SLCC	1000	1130	
Clerks Expenses – Admin Costs	0	1065	
Clerk's Home Working Allowance	156	156	
SLCC Fees		60	
Members Travel	0	50	

Meeting Room Hire	0	404	
Remote Hosting & IT Back Up	500	630	
Insurance	600	600	
Audit Fees	6000	16349	
One Voice Wales	120	120	
Website	350	700	
Information Commissioner	35	35	
Donations	0	400	
Community Hall Grant	1500	1500	
Recreational Field (Grass Let)	100	253	
Play Area	0	240	
Elections	1500	2270	
Care Costs (Statutory)	200	500	
Members Allowance	600	1350	
Contingencies	400	782	
Total Budget	18221	33644	
Earmarked Reserves – 31.03.23	4448.00		
General Reserves – 31.03.23	7718.07		
Bryn Titli Fund – 31.03.23	23744.29		
Total Reserves	35910.36		

Budget Monitoring

The Council is presented with a bank reconciliation report at each meeting which enables members to be kept up to date with council finances.

The Community Council is committed to using local contractors and suppliers wherever possible and believes in the value of the “Powys Pound.”

Council Financial Reserves

The Council holds financial reserves some of which are held within individual budget headings and others are held within general reserves. It is crucial the Council holds sufficient reserves to maintain its operation effectively and in preparation for future projects and services. A full list of financial reserves is provided to members at the end of each financial year (1st April.) These are also reported via the external audit process.

Audit Wales Investigation

The Community Council was under investigation by Audit Wales based on the 2018/19 annual return. Following the outcome the council received an invoice £16335 which has been fully settled in the financial year 2022/23. This has debt has now been fully discharged

Council Members Code of Conduct

The Council had reported former Councillor Sheila Jenkins to the Public Services Ombudsman for a perceived breach of the Code of Conduct. The following result was published on the Ombudsman’s website – “Our report concerned a complaint that the Former Councillor had failed to declare personal and prejudicial interests at two Council meetings. Adjudication Panel for Wales decided that the Councillor should be disqualified for 12 months.”

Projects

During 2022/23 the Council worked on the following projects:

- Tree planting via Woodland Trust Project on the Recreation Field
- Promotion of a Community Broadband Scheme in partnership with Broadway Partners.
- Development of increased Community Engagement
- Working on partnership with local residents and the Community Hall to facilitate community events, which included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Held a stand at the Community Show to promote the work of the Community Council and provide information to local residents. This was an extremely successful day.
- Installation of speed warning signs throughout the community to discourage speeding.



Community Woodland





Speed Awareness Signage

Looking Forward

The Council is planning several community events including an Easter Party, Coronation Party and Hog Roast, Halloween Party, Children's Christmas Party and disco and the re-institution of the Over 60's Christmas Lunch.

The Council continues to raise awareness within the community via the Community Council website <http://www.stharmoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/> and the Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067466682378>

We also issue Information Updates via email to local residents. If you wish to be included in the circulation list please email the Clerk to be added to the list – stharmoncc2021@gmail.com