

## **Minutes of Community Council Public Meeting to discuss Auditor General's Report.**

**Memorial Hall:** 7.30:30.11.2021

**Councillors present:** Arwel Nicholas, Danny Davies, Elfed Davies, Derick Lock, Dylan Jones

Apologies received from Pamela Jones.

### **Introduction.**

A demonstration of the Council's financial protocols and Risk Assessment Document.

### **Report Discussion.**

The Report cannot be accepted because it is a misrepresentation of the way that the Council conducts its affairs and evidence was provided to demonstrate so. Considering that all Councillors volunteer their time, the judgement of the report is particularly harsh yet absolute adherence to the Public Audit Act is expected from small community councils.

A completed annual audit form is not what gets potholes filled and grass verges cut but it is the only evidence that Audit Wales considers exemplifies economy, efficiency and effectiveness in community councils.

### **Comments made by the community members.**

MD - An interesting presentation because it demonstrated that Councillors are not at fault, no public money has been misappropriated and that there is sound financial management. The problem seems to be that of not complying with due process. Regardless of what has gone before, it is necessary to move on to avoid additional charges.

AP - What are the Recommendations?

MS - Read aloud the Recommendations. Agrees with MD that the situation must be concluded. Complying with AW requirements is onerous for small councils. Understands that AW objected to use of Internal Auditor to sign the audit form as it is not considered best practice.

Arwel Nicholas - The Council has attempted repeatedly to explain its position to AW but their response has been intimidatory as outlined in the presentation. Deryck Evans has stated that fees will be sent to the Council early in January 2022 and that they will exceed £4,000. The amount to be charged to the Council cannot be considered as being fair.

MS - It is necessary to move on unfortunately.

CS - Agrees with MD and MS

GJH - Who are the Councillors? (Councillors introduce themselves)

DPM - The community are very grateful for the work that the Council does on their behalf and is so sorry about the situation.

AP - Has the Council discussed the Recommendations?

Clerk - Most of them are not relevant.

KA - Has the Council decided to accept the report and the recommendations?

Derick Lock - Derick Lock read out the recommendations and next steps set out on pages 6 and 7 of the Auditor General's Report. It was agreed that all six recommendations be accepted in their entirety and the Community Clerk was instructed to prepare a written response in accordance with 'next step' 23..

Meeting closed at 9.00pm