

Minutes of a Meeting of the Save Llanystumdwy Action Group held at Llanystumdwy Village Hall on Monday 11.2.2008 at 8p.m.

The meeting was attended by 25 people including six School Governors, parents and members of the community.

The meeting was chaired by Henry Roberts.

It was agreed on the following agenda for the meeting:-

1. Henry Roberts and Gwenda Roberts (Governors) to report on last Friday's (8.2.08) meeting with the County Council.
2. Arrangements for Wednesday evening (13.2.08)
3. Wednesday afternoon (13.2.08)
4. To elect a formal Protection Committee

1. Henry Roberts and Gwenda Roberts' (Governors) report on last Friday's (8.2.08) meeting with Cyngor Gwynedd

Henry Roberts reported that, along with Gwenda Roberts and Tegid Roberts (on behalf of the Church in Wales), he had attended a meeting with Iwan Trefor Jones (Deputy Chief Executive of Cyngor Gwynedd). The meeting had been arranged by Councillor Margaret Griffith. It had been a useful meeting.

He explained that the Council was inviting comments on the conception as a whole, especially the balance between setting up federal schools and creating community schools/closing schools.

Surveys were currently being conducted - one into the effect any measure might have on the Welsh language and the other to assess the value of a federal system in a rural situation and to meet the requirements of the Council.

A new version of the Council's consultation document has been produced (available on the Council's website) where there was also a questionnaire.

The results will all be fed to a full meeting of the Council on 19th June. At present it was too soon to comment on individual schools and the situation of any individual school won't be changed in the meeting on 19th June.

At the end of Henry's report everyone was given the opportunity to ask questions. It was agreed that we should look at the new document and the questionnaire and submit our comments, with every opportunity to share information and comments beforehand.

It was also agreed not to offer specific comments on this school at present but to try to respond to the wider considerations.

Both Henry and Gwenda spoke of their recollections from the meetings.

- a. As village school is a Church School, pushing this fact was probably our strongest chance of success.
- b. Perhaps we should also push the general idea of federal schools.

The above possibilities were discussed.

Henry Roberts, Gwyn Ellis (Head) and Geraldine Hackman (Governor) had met to discuss the financial implications recently. (The Governing Body's Finance Sub-Committee)

This was a meeting to discuss the formula of financing junior schools in the light of the cutbacks that have to be made in the service. It was frightening for those who were there to hear that small schools seemed to carry a large share of the cuts - much more than the bigger schools. It was felt that this rebelled against any new federal schools as these cuts would be carried forward to the new system, therefore placing them under a disadvantage from the start. There had been fears for a long time that there would be financial pressure to close individual sites in a federal system at a later stage. There were fears that this was being enacted even before the system comes into existence.

The meeting failed to see how Cyngor Gwynedd can put a system they seem to favour under such a disadvantage.

2. Wednesday Night Meeting (13.2.08)

Cymdeithas yr Iaith had arranged a walk from Penllyn to Pen-Llŷn this week to draw attention to the campaign to save rural schools. The walk on Wednesday will be from Croesor to Llanystumdwy.

There will be a concert in the hall at 7.00 p.m. Adults £3, Children £1.

It was decided to arrange a Twmbola stand on the night to raise funds for the local campaign in Llanystumdwy - Twm and Elis Gwyn to arrange this.

It was necessary to let as many people as possible know about Wednesday night as there hadn't been much publicity. Everyone was requested to phone or pass the message on to as many people as possible. This was going to be important from now on as far as meetings were concerned too. It was agreed that such events were valuable in order to keep everyone together as a team and to keep the campaign alive.

3. Wednesday Afternoon (13.2.08)

Cymdeithas yr Iaith members and local supporters of the campaign would be walking through the village at approximately 3.00 o'clock. A large post box was being carried along the length of the walk in order that members of the public can send on their observations to Cyngor Gwynedd. They would be stopping in the hall for a short break - it was agreed to arrange tea and sandwiches for the walkers.

4. Election of a Formal Protection Committee

It was agreed that we needed to elect a formal Protection Committee in order to make the arrangements easier for the future. It was difficult to report back at meetings if there was no committee. It was agreed that it was necessary for everyone to be aware that there was no intention of leaving anyone out i.e. every meeting will continue to be a public meeting but the small committee will drive the campaign forward. The Governing Body of the school had already agreed to this idea.

A number of people expressed their interest in being on the committee - Helen Rose, Gail Jones, Awen Hamilton, Gwenda Roberts, Aled Price, Mannon Griffith, Sian Parry, Twm Morys, Elis Gwyn, Henry Roberts, Sioned Thomas.

The intention was for the above to meet up and elect specific officers. Anyone else who was interested would be welcome to be a part of the committee. We need to draw different people in as and when required in order to help with the campaign.

It was agreed that it was essential to keep the campaign alive. It was also agreed that the group should meet as soon as possible to discuss the new document and the questionnaire.

5. Any Other Business

It was:-

Suggested that the campaign was becoming too dependent on the website.

- minutes will be made available from the school or on the website

Necessary to form a telephone round-robin

- there was one operating already

Necessary to pass on messages re meetings, relevant information etc. by word of mouth

- everyone agreed to do this - names to be put into the frame as soon as possible

Henry reported that a meeting was to be held at Pwllheli on 1st March (morning) to bring schools together. Llanystumdwy were requested to support this idea. Henry had every intention of attending himself and stressed the importance of co-operating with other schools.