

Christmas Lantern Parade**Minutes of the Lantern Parade Committee held at Ty Newydd on Tues 14 July 2026 @ 6.08pm**

Attendees:	Councillor I. James, N. Walters, J Curtice, L. Williams and M. Phillips Clerks – D. Walters and N. Douglas.
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in Meeting Discussion Points:

LP2026-1	OPEN MEETING Councillor I James opened the meeting first course of action nominate a chair. Cllr J Curtice PROPOSED Cllr I James as Chair SECONDED by Cllr M Phillips. ALL AGREED
LP2026-2	APOLOGIES There were apologies for absence from Councillor S. Beynon
LP2026-3	NOTIFICATION Cllr I James Informed the committee that Cllrs M. Curtice, J. Bowen and P. Morgan had stepped down from the committee and Cllrs M. Phillips, N. Walters and L. Williams were appointed members to the committee.
LP2026-4	BASIC INFORMATION a) Date of Event - Thursday 26 th November b) Location as before c) Gorseinon & Llŵchwr Town council d) 6.30pm start e) Welsh Coast Radio f) Same format g) We are in year 4 of sponsorship from Redkite £1000 a year over 5 years. Redkite have requested an invoice which Clerk D. Walters has provided for 2025 and also 2026. Cllr J Curtice suggested contacting Peter Lynn for sponsorship for future years. h) Insurances are sorted out by Gorseinon town council – Zurich insurance. Increase to Public Liability insurance to £12,000,000
LP2026-5	RISK ASSESSMENT As notified Councillor L Williams will complete the risk assessment with Gorseinon clerk. Clerk will review risk assessment with Cllr Williams on a separate occasion. Clerk D Walters explained forms had been partially completed with details of route, dates, sustainability efforts etc. Safestyle will be used again for the event, they are used for events all over Swansea. They bring a lot of experience and know the choke points on the route and what needs to be done. Cllr N Walters suggested speaking to the police about there being more of a police presence. Discussion followed between all Cllrs on contacting police.
LP2026-6	BUDGET Clerk D. Walters provided approx. budget required of £14,500 request to go to Llŵchwr Town Council to increase their share to £5,000. LTC councillors agreed this course of action.

LP2026-7	ROAD CLOSURE Approvals for road closure is in process with CC Swansea 25 Marshalls are required with 1 supervisor and marshalls all need to be qualified. Safestyle Security – availability has been confirmed.
LP2026-8	SUPPLIERS Clerk D. Walters shared the supplier list on screen and provided the following update: Of those contacted so far in list A all confirmed. Clerk will contact Evolve Youth Club and Gower College to see if they would like to be part of the parade. Sleigh has been booked – Cllr M Phillips asked to ensure that Santa and Mrs Claus stayed on the sleigh until they got back to the car park as a lot of people that had been on Lime Street missed them last year. Bus has been booked – all agreed that the bus at the back of the parade worked well last year. Cllr J Curtice asked how many crazy characters we had and could this be increased. Clerk D Walters advised that there were 10 last year, they are quite expensive, request was made to increase the number of characters as they were very good. Grotto location – Clerk D Walters advised that it had come to light that the gazebo for the grotto was being paid for and we were limited on how long we could have it for. Bethel Chapel had offered the use of their basement as the grotto which covered any issues in relation to weather, also no time limit on removal can be left until next day. Cllr N Walters suggested grottoing up the archway and children could wait at that point and be taken from there into the grotto area by the elves Cllr I James requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Commercial for their help and assistance over the years. With regards sweets for children from Father Christmas, same as last year haribos and chocolate Malteser bars for smaller children, these would be free of charge - ALL AGREED Cllr M Phillips asked that it be reiterated to personnel that no vehicles were allowed to park in the bus station. Need to ensure that they park somewhere else. If required drop off in car park and then move to another area, suggestions given of Canolfan Centre or Asda. If it was Asda need to get permission from Asda. Could speak to Cadets to see if they could open the centre to park. Clerk D. Walters informed everyone that in previous years the characters had tried getting changed in Ty Newydd but it was a tight squeeze with the security teams in there as well. Suggestions put forward for clerk to contact Gorseinon Institute, Rugby Club and/or Cricket club to use their buildings for people to change. A query was raised about fundraising during the parade. It was confirmed that the only group that could fundraise was the lifeboat crew based on the fact that they are a community emergency group that are not government funded. If there were any queries about local charities attending the parade they could attend with signs promoting their charity but collections/fundraising was not permitted.

	This is a community Christmas event and should be fun and enjoyable for all.
LP2026-9	LASER DISPLAY Laser display – music was better last year. Members put forward suggestions to try other forms of entertainment this year. Fireworks – increase in costs, not sustainable and there were a lot of complaints about them. Silent Fireworks – these need to be lower to the ground and cannot be seen very well by everyone Cllr M Phillips suggested a disco lorry, with lights etc playing Christmas music. Everyone to research and send any info found to Clerk D. Walters. Suggestion made to speak to Morriston. Noted that Clerk D Walters should contact Mark Cutcliffe
LP2026-10	CATERING Refreshments for marshalls as usual Asda let us down last minute last year clerk was advised that there is a window to apply for grants which had closed last year before the request was made. Clerk D. Walters has already requested grant from Asda this year. Cllr J Curtice informed committee that Sainsburys saved the day and that we should go back to them as well. Clerk D. Walters asked everyone to confirm what jobs they would be doing on the night to make sure everyone knew where they were supposed to be. Cllr Curtice asked to make sure that toilets were kept open as well. Cllr N Walters advised everyone to get their elf costumes as soon as possible.
LP2026-11	PARADE SET UP Reviewed and happy with set up as per last year
LP2026-12	ADVERTISING Kingsbridge to print banners half to Gorseinon and half to Llchwyr, Clerk D Walters to do overlays to go on banners to change date. Brochures not required. Just stick to posters to go on noticeboards and in various local shops etc. Welsh Coast Radio Social media and websites. Before start of school contact schools about lantern parade workshops.
LP2026-13	CLEAN UP TEAM Clean up team needed next day for Bethel church clean up
LP2026-14	WORKSHOPS Loughor Welfare Hall Fri 13th Nov & Fri 20th Nov - 5.30 – 7.30 The Lodge Sat 14th Nov & Sat 21st Nov

	Give option to Bethel of having their own workshop and Committee would provide supplies. Clerk advised that the petty cash was to be increased to £200 to cover any emergency requirements. Lanterns – footballs, umbrellas clear and experiment with paper parasols, still use what we have left of the willow as well. Marker pens. Cllr L Williams put forward the suggestion of milk bottle lanterns. Lights for lanterns – Committee approved same lights to be purchased as last year. Clerk D Walters confirmed that all tools and for the workshops had been purchased and plenty available. Materials to go to local groups i.e. brownies, scouts etc in September.
LP2026-15	BAD WEATHER Back up for bad weather no issues now as grotto is in Bethel Church
LP2026-16	REVIEW OF ACTIONS Contact Peter Lynn about sponsorship Cllr L Williams and D. Walters to complete risk assessment walkabout Cllr M Phillips and D. Walters to contact police about increased police presence LTC councillors to take request to increase budget from LTC to £5,000 to LTC council meeting in September D. Walters to contact Evolve Youth Group and Gower college on participation for 2026 D. Walters to look at adding crazy characters D. Walters to confirm with Bethel Chapel use of basement for Grotto Letter of thanks to go to Purchase of Haribo and chocolate bars Contact Gorseinon Institute/Rugby and/or Cricket club to request use of buildings for crazy characters to change. Contact Mark Cutliffe about disco lorry, all to research options along these lines. Everyone to send through allocated tasks for the evening to Gorseinon Clerk. Materials for Lantern Parade to go to local groups in September Purchase umbrellas, parasols and footballs for lanterns Purchase of lantern lights Contact the lodge to book 2 Saturdays for lantern workshops Posters for Lantern Workshops to be completed and sent to schools in September
LP2026-17	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Next meeting 6pm Tues 15th September at Ty Newydd
	Chair called the meeting to a close 19:15