

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the January 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 13/01/2021 at 19.00.

175/2020-2021 Present:

Councillors: M Rees (Chair), R Jones, J Youens, W Evans, J Williams O.B.E, S Herridge, R Newell, E Davies.

County Councillor A Davies.

Clerk.

176/2020-2021 Apologies.

Councillors: H Jones, R Owen, T Evans.

177/2020-2021 Declarations of Personal Interest.

None.

178/2020-2021 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Council on Agenda Items.

None.

179/2020-2021 Policing and Road Safety Matters.

Cllr J Youens reported that residents from Mynyddcerrig had complained about the amount of gravel accumulating on the side of the road and the potential damage to vehicles since the resurfacing was done in September 2020. The path was now covered in loose gravel which poses a danger to pedestrians. The Clerk sent a request to Carmarthenshire County Council on 21/12/2020 but no action had been taken. Cllr J Williams enquired if Torcoed Quarry would be able to assist but due to public insurance issues in the past they stopped sweeping the road through Mynyddcerrig. **Resolved** for Clerk to speak with Mrs Jill Sarracini for assistance before contacting Carmarthenshire County Council again.

Cllr M Rees reported that the road was subsiding in the centre between Rose Villa and Cwm Coch Farm and a number of culverts/drains were blocked on the road from Is-y-Llan to Cwmisfael. The Clerk had contacted Carmarthenshire County Council to resolve the issue but no action has been taken. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department again.

Cllr M Rees reported that overhanging trees and branches between Las Wern and Casa Mia in Cwmisfael were of public safety concern as much of the bank was being undercut due to falling trees. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department.

Cllr S Herridge reported a loose kerb stone outside Porthyrhyd Post Office. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department.

Cllr S Herridge reported that 2 lighting columns on Crwbin Road were not working. Cllr R Jones suggested that all lighting issues be reported directly on the Carmarthenshire County Council website. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department.

Cllr R Jones enquired if the erosion on Porthyrhyd Junction had been repaired. Cllr J Williams stated that the issue had not been resolved as of 13/01/2021. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department.

Cllr S Herridge reported that the trees located at the Corner of Crwbin Road and the B4310 required cutting. The trees do not belong to Disgwylfa, therefore the owner of the land needed to be traced before any action was taken. **Resolved** for Cllr E Davies to trace ownership of the land through HM Land Registry and for the Clerk to reimburse any costs incurred and contact the proprietor once ownership had been established.



County Cllr A Davies joined the meeting at 19.28.

180/2020-2021 County Council Matters - County Cllr A Davies.

A brief update was given by County Cllr A Davies with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic within the county of Carmarthenshire.

Hospital ward figures are decreasing but numbers have not yet reached the pre-spike figures. There are currently 38 cases of Covid-19 within the area of Llanarthne, Llanddarog, Llangyndeyrn and Ferryside.

On 10/01/2021 there were 88 Covid-19 patients in Glangwili Hospital and 8 care homes were suffering with outbreaks of the infection. Palliative care is currently under pressure due to patients being released from hospital. The following data was received from the Hywel Dda website on 10/01/2021:-

- 2,686 people received the first vaccine by 10/01/2021.
- 6,400 doses of the Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine received in total to date (for over 80s, including house-bound patients, long-stay inpatients and all care home residents)
- GP practices to begin offering the Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccine this week (Carmarthenshire x 6 practices, Ceredigion x 4 practices, Pembrokeshire x 4 practices)
- 3,900 doses of the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine confirmed for week commencing 11/01/2021 (strictly for care home, health and social care staff only at our mass vaccination centers in Carmarthen and Cardigan)

In the Council meeting on 13/01/2021, the local LDP was discussed and this was passed in order for the document to be processed further. Today's discussion was mainly technical and taking into consideration the comments and observations from 3rd parties such as NRW etc.

Two Plaid Cymru Notices of Motion were passed. One calling on families using Universal Credit to be allowed the opportunity of having Free School Meals. At the moment this isn't the case and the transition to UC has shown that many working families who are eligible for a family credit top up are not having FSM for their children. This motion partly called on Welsh Government to cost this fully to see if we can help these young families. Helen Mary Jones also raised this in the Senedd this week so hopefully some action will be seen soon.

The second motion looked at second homes within our communities and the detrimental effect they are having within these villages. Looking mainly at Laugharne, Pendine and Llanstephan but it could also apply to communities such as Myddfai, Cilycwm, Ferryside and Llansaint, etc. It was not looking at diversification such as holiday lets, but on second home ownership which means that the house is taken out of the local market and empty for around 11 months of the year. It called on Welsh Government to place a 1% Land transaction tax on to 2nd dwellings, change planning laws in order that planning permission must be sought as a change of use from a primary dwelling to a second home. Also that local authorities can set a cap of second dwellings within each ward, introduce a licensing system which would manage the conversion of a residential property into a commercial unit and close all the loopholes that allows second homes to register as businesses in order to avoid paying Council Tax.

Next week County Cllr A Davies will be attending Budget Meetings and a report will be provided in the February meeting on 10/02/2021.

181/2020-2021 Chair's Report.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Chair reported that she had attended a Christmas service at 18.00 on 24/12/2020 and that 40 people could be in attendance following Government guidelines on social distancing. **Resolved** to thank the Chairman for her report.

182/2020-2021 Confirmation and Signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 09/12/2020.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 09/12/2020 and for the Chair to sign the minutes on 16/01/2021. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

183/2020-2021 Matters arising from the above minutes.

None.

184/2020-2021 Correspondence.

An Email was received from a member of the public on 07/01/2021 and sent to all Council members regarding the condition of the Roman Road between Pontfaen and Llanddarog. This issue has been discussed (Minute 101/2020-2021 and 120/2020-2021) and reported to Carmarthenshire County Council but although stone had been laid, this had been washed away due to water running from water logged fields. **Resolved** for County Cllr A Davies and the Clerk to contact relevant department.

An Email was received from a member of the public regarding vehicles travelling at speed despite the 30mph signs and 'SLOW' being printed on the B4310 towards Lan Lucas bridge. Some residents have witnessed incidents involving a vehicle travelling at speed, meeting a lorry or other large vehicle near the bridge and an accident being averted by the driver of the large vehicle mounting the pavement. **Resolved** to note and place on the agenda for the February meeting on 10/02/2021.

185/2020-2021 Planning.

No planning applications received.

186/2020-2021 Payments

The below payments were certified in the December monthly meeting and **ratified** in the January Monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	24/12/2020	WCVA SIN 010208	21.30
Online	24/12/2020	J.G Evans December Payroll	359.23
Online	24/12/2020	HMRC PAYE – Period 9	89.80
Online	24/12/2020	Cllr M Rees Reimbursement – Christmas Toybox App	50.00

187/2020-2021 Receipts.

Carmarthenshire County Council - Precept 3
24/12/2020 - £7,056.67.

188/2020-2021 To receive the report of the Internal Financial Examiner for period 01/10/2020 – 31/12/2020.

Each member had been provided with a written report prior to the meeting. A full verbal report was provided by Cllr R Jones. The report confirmed the accuracy of the bank reconciliation and statement of accounts provided to the Council. It also confirmed the accuracy of the final budget report provided. It was proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr J Youens to accept the report. Members thanked Cllr R Jones and the Clerk for their work.

189/2020-2021 To develop and finalise the budget and precept for 2021 – 2022.

- a) Review of income and expenditure for period 01/04/2020 – 31/12/2020 – All members had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting along with a copy of the bank reconciliation up to 24/12/2020. The statement balance on 24/12/2020 was £19,449.94.
- b) Projected balance at 31/03/2021 – Cllr R Jones and the Clerk discussed and formatted the figures based on current spending trends and expenditure for the same period in 2019 – 2020. Projected Annual Spend - £21,548.84 (Please see table 1 below).
- c) Report and recommendations in relation to 2021–2022 budget – A draft expenditure report was sent to all members prior to the meeting totalling £23,550.00. A draft income figure was presented to the members from VAT refund for £1660.00.
- d) Confirmation of the 2021 – 2022 budget – The budget is presented in table 2 below.
- e) Confirmation of the special project's programme and the Council's other reserves – The installation and engraving of the War memorial in Porthyrhyd and a driver feedback sign in Porthyrhyd. The reserves will need to be reviewed by the RFO and the internal financial examiner every 3 months to ensure the continuation of between 50% - 55% at the end of the financial year.
- f) Report in relation to 2021 – 2022 budget – All members received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. The Band D Council tax figure for 2021 – 2022 is 556.15 and all members were required to evaluate the presented options (Please see table 3 below)
- g) 2021 – 2022 Precept Demand - All Council members considered the options provided for the 2021 – 2022 precept and all members agreed that the precept demand would be £21,378.00 with a Council Tax Band D of £38.44. The surplus of £1363.00 will be added to the reserve..
- h) To ratify the annual investment strategy – The strategy was discussed under policies in the Community Council meeting on 11/11/2020.
- i) Insurance Policy – It was discussed that a possible collaboration of insurance policies between Llanarthne Community Council and Llanddarog Community Council was available from BHIB. It was **resolved** to place on the agenda for the February meeting on 10/02/2021 and send all members a current copy of the policy.

The budget and precept report was proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr J Youens, with no objections from any Community Council members.

190/2020-2021 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr J Williams reported an increase in fly tipping on Heol Y Foel between Porthyrhyd and Foelgastell. **Resolved** for Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr M Rees expressed an interest in organizing the NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day on 05/07/2021. Local councils, communities and others throughout Wales are being encouraged to play a leading role in NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day on 5th July 2021, a unique day of celebration and commemoration of those that work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week without any thought of their own safety. They are asked to do this by agreeing to raise a unique flag at 10am; participate in the Two-Minute Silence at 11am, the Nation's Toast at 1pm, Afternoon Tea at 4pm, the ringing of church bells 71 times with each ring representing a year in the 71 years of the NHS at 8pm, from within their local communities, as a 'tribute' to the Heroes of the NHS, Social Care and those that work so tirelessly on the frontline.

Cllr R Jones received an Email from a member of the Community, regarding the use of the old noticeboard located inside the disused bus shelter in Llanddarog. The idea is to have a small display of photographs of the surrounding area, taken by local residents. Simply 2, 3 or 4 photographs that are changed every couple of weeks and could be a point of interest for people out on a walk and help with community morale. This could be managed by one person and the Community member would initially take control. It could be just a temporary display over the lockdown restrictions or longer-lasting if popular and, when safe, others may like to get involved in updating the photos. The Matter was discussed by all Council members and it was agreed to allow the Community member to arrange a display of photographs within the old noticeboard but the Community member was to police the content on display and keep the noticeboard in a clean and tidy condition, initially on a 12 month trial. Proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr S Herridge. The matter was voted on by Council members (Agreed x 5, Against x 2). **Resolved** for Clerk to contact Olympic Windows for a copy of the keys for the noticeboard, contact the Community member and to format a notice for the board stating ("No Offensive Material or Content to be Placed In This Noticeboard").

The Clerk requested that a sub-committee meeting be held on 19/01/2020 between Cllr R Jones, Cllr W Evans and members of Llanarthne Community Council to format new tender applications for the grounds maintenance contract. Cllr J Williams requested that grass areas outside Llanddarog Church should be of lawn quality and length. **Resolved** for Clerk to send an invite to all members involved in the sub-committee.

The Clerk informed all Council members that the information board in Llanddarog had been collected and was in storage awaiting repair. He reported that a new frame was required due to the poor condition of the old one. He recommended a composite material instead of timber due to the longevity and future maintenance costs. Cllr J Williams offered to sponsor the material for the new frame and this was gratefully accepted by all members. **Resolved** for Clerk to source material.

In the November meeting **151/2020-2021** Cllr H Jones enquired about a previous verbal agreement with a neighboring Community Council that if the Clerk was unavailable to attend a monthly meeting, the neighboring Clerk would be willing to substitute. The Clerk had spoken to his counterpart from Gorslas Community Council and received a proposal which was sent to all members on 17/12/2020. All members were in agreement but a review of the risk assessment was required before initiating. **Resolved** to place risk assessment on February agenda.

191/2020-2021 In camera 21.28.

Those who were not Community Council members or the Clerk departed the meeting – not to return. The exclusion is due to personnel/staffing matters being discussed.

192/2020-2021 Staff pay run January 2021.

Each member was sent an Email of the report prior to the online meeting. It was **resolved** to accept the report and ratify the payment of the sums as presented.

193/2020-2021 Continued review of auto enrolment position.

No Update regarding the NEST pension scheme.

194/2020-2021 The meeting finished at 21.35.

Chairman

Date

LLANDDAROG BUDGET & PRECEPT 2021-2022

Please find below a report on the 2020-2021 budget, the actual expenditure to 31/12/2020 and the estimated expenditure to 31/03/2021. Reasons are given on sum difference and will be discussed in the January meeting on 13/01/2021.

TABLE 1.

HEADING	PREVIOUS BUDGET	ACTUAL SPEND TO 31/12/2020	ESTIMATED SPEND ON 31/03/2021	DIFF	REASON
Ground Maintenance	2550.00	2532.00	2532.00	-18.00	-
Staff Salary & PAYE	5000.00	4269.07	5616.16	616.16	NALC, Inflation, Allowance
Admin, Inc Audit Fees	2300.00	1120.05	1488.70	-811.30	WCVA + Audit Fee. No Translation or Printing
Insurance	870.00	865.69	865.69	-4.31	-
Financial Assistance – Inc Standing Revenue Grants	1700.00	1500.00	1500.00	-200.00	Cancellation of Llanddarog Show
Seating & Asset Maintenance	750.00	40.00	740.00	-10.00	3 x flags Repair to Assets + Installation
Street Lighting Estimate	3002.87	2499.99	4999.98	1997.11	Late 2019-2020 Inv. Awaiting 2020-2021 Inv.
Misc – Inc Subscriptions	450.00	353.20	538.20	88.20	One Voice Wales Inv
Members Allowance	120.00	0.00	360.00	240.00	3 x Members Allocation
Members Allowance PAYE	30.00	0.00	90.00	60.00	3 x Members Allocation
Election Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Section 137	900.00	531.99	781.99	-118.01	Remaining Chair Allowance
Allocation to Special Projects & Reserve From Precept	5641.33	2036.12	2036.12	-3605.21	2 x Benches + 2 x External Notice Boards
TOTAL	23,314.20	15,748.11	21,548.84	1765.36	

There was a projected VAT refund in the 2020-2021 precept of £2000.00. This reduced the precept demand from £23,314.20 to £21,314.20. It was resolved to demand a precept income of £21,170.00 in 2020-2021 and for general funds to replenish the £144.20 shortfall.

Please find below a proposed budget for 2021-2022 in comparison to 2020-2021. Reasons are given on sum difference and will be discussed in the January meeting on 13/01/2021.

TABLE 2.

HEADING	PREVIOUS BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET	REASON
Ground Maintenance	2550.00	2550.00	New Tender Process
Staff Salary & PAYE	5000.00	6000.00	Current Wages + Pension (4%) + Inf/NALC (3.5%)
Admin, Inc Audit Fees	2300.00	2300.00	-
Insurance	870.00	900.00	Premium Inflation
Financial Assistance – Inc Standing Revenue Grants	1700.00	2000.00	Urdd Eisteddfod
Seating & Asset Maintenance	750.00	1250.00	Interpretation Panel
Street Lighting Estimate	3002.87	2750.00	10% increase on last inv
Misc – Inc Subscriptions	450.00	450.00	-
Members Allowance	120.00	360.00	Remuneration Review
Members Allowance PAYE	30.00	90.00	Remuneration Review
Election Cost	0.00	0.00	No Election Cost
Section 137	900.00	900.00	-
Allocation to Special Projects & Reserve From Precept	5641.33	4000.00	War Memorial, Speed Camera
TOTAL	23,314.20	23,550.00	

At the time of preparation the only projected income for 2021-2022 is a VAT refund of £1660.00. This will reduce the amount of the precept demand from £23,550.00 to £21,890.00. Also reducing the overall demand will be the projected bank balance remaining in the account. Full details below.

TABLE 3.

Bank balance as at 31/12/2020	£19,449.94
Less projected expenditure 01/01/2021 – 31/03/2021	£5,800.73
Projected bank balance as at 31/03/2021	£13,649.21
Expenditure proposal for 2021-2022	£23,550.00
Less Estimated income for 2021-2022 (VAT Refund)	£1,660.00
Less projected bank balance as at 31/3/21 (based on projected expenditure)	£13,649.21
Amount required to make up the difference	£8,240.79
Add 50% of projected expenditure to create a reserve of 50% of revenue	£11,775.00
Amount required as total precept for 2021-2022	£20,015.79
By using tax base 556.15	
Amount raised by keeping the Band D rate the same as last year @ £38.44	£21,378.00
Amount raised by reducing the Band D rate to £35.99 (-6.4% on last year)	£20,015.00
NB. If we keep the Band D rate the same as 2020-2021 we will end up with a budget surplus of £1363 which will be added to the reserve. The reserve will then be equal to 56% of annual expenditure (between 6 and 7 months). This is entirely acceptable for a council of our size.	