

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the March 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 10/03/2021 at 19.00.

218/2020-2021 Present:

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

Clerk.

219/2020-2021 Apologies.

Councillors: E Davies.

220/2020-2021 Declarations of Personal Interest.

None.

221/2020-2021 Opportunity for the Public to Address the Council on Agenda Items.

None.

222/2020-2021 Presentation from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

A member of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service was unable to attend the meeting due to technical issues. It was agreed that the presentation be postponed until the April meeting on 14/04/2021.

223/2020-2021 Policing and Road Safety Matters.

Cllr R Jones reported that allocation signs had been painted on the pavement in preparation for installing the new DFS (Driver Feedback Sign) signs in Porthyrhyd prior to the end of the financial year on 05/04/2021.

224/2020-2021 County Council Matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies was unable to attend the meeting due to technical issues. An Email was received by the Clerk during the meeting stating that a report would be sent electronically to be included in the minutes.

County Cllr A Davies reported on last week's Council meeting which was a discussion about the budget proposals and costings. The Council had to propose a balanced budget and this was done with a Council Tax increase of 3.45% which is approx a 1.5% decrease of what was originally planned.

At 09.42am the Labour group sent an email which had 3 points and were proposing an alternative budget on this basis. The discussion was very technical but the original proposed budget was passed.

Then followed a series of questions to Cllr Cefin Campbell regarding the Net Zero Carbon and Climate Change promised by the council for 2030 and this is actually on track despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Each question was dealt with very effectively and honestly by Cllr Campbell.

Another full Council on 10/03/2021 and there was a Notice of Motion by Cllr. Rob James about Net Zero Carbon but all questions were answered in the previous meeting. There has also been an Environment Scrutiny Committee last week and none of the issues raised in the Notice of Motion were brought up by the Labour members. What transpired in the meeting was an

explanation from all sectors via the Executive Board members, both Plaid and Independents on what was being done in each department. The Notice of Motion gave each member the opportunity to update the Councillors.

County Cllr A Davies has received many complaints about potholes and each one of these have been reported. County Cllr A Davies also reported the litter and fly tipping to the Council.

225/2020-2021 Chair's Report.

The Chair wished to express a thank you to all Council members for their support in giving the Chairmanship to her for a second year.

226/2020-2021 Confirmation and Signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 10/02/2021.

Cllr R Jones suggested that "If the Covid-19 Pandemic remains for another 12 months" in minute **216/2020-2021** be removed. It was **resolved** to amend and confirm the minutes for 10/02/2021 and for the Chair to sign the minutes on 13/03/2021. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

227/2020-2021 Matters arising from the above minutes.

A telephone call was received from a member of the public **204/2020-2021** stating that the footpath from Lodge farm to Glanyrynys had not maintained in the previous 12 months. Cllr J Williams visited the site and the following report was sent to the Clerk and all Council members. "Access to the footpath is available at the Lodge Farm end but would benefit from being opened up. It is predominantly brambles that are causing the obstruction. As Cllr W Evans said last night there are two new bridges across the two rivers. There are a couple of other minor issues related to the footpath whereby hurdles that allow you to pass through from one field to another are overgrown by brambles. With the hurdle adjacent to the cattle grid on the road to Glanyrynys a brick wall has collapsed onto the stream crossing forcing all walkers to negotiate the cattle grid".

The Clerk contacted the relevant department with the information supplied on the state of the path and the following reply was received.

"I have now logged it as issue number 12186 and the clearance work will be carried out by our Rangers as soon as they are able to attend to it. Please be aware that the Rangers all have a considerable backlog of work but the job will stay on the Rangers schedule until it can be resolved". It was **resolved** for Cllr W Evans to monitor the situation.

The Clerk updated Council members on the tender applications process and reported that they had been finalised and the documents had been sent to 6 potential contractors.

228/2020-2021 Correspondence.

An Email was received from a member of the public on 17/02/2021 regarding the condition of the Roman Road between Pontfaen and Llanddarog. Please see below.

"Has the County council responded about the poor state of the lane. Someone has since dumped a load of shale at the Pontfaen end which restricts access although you can walk over".

A reply was sent by the Clerk to the member of the public on 17/02/2021 stating the following.

"No response has yet been received from Carmarthen County Council regarding the Roman Road. County Cllr A Davies has also reported the condition of the lane to the County Council. I will enquire again tomorrow as to any updates and will hopefully be able to fully reply tomorrow". The member of the public also sent a complaint directly to Carmarthenshire County Council. Please see below.

"There is an accident waiting to happen here and perhaps the Community Council and our County Councilor could push this matter as clearly there will always be an excuse for not dealing with the problem".

A reply was sent directly to the local resident on 03/03/2021 from Carmarthenshire County Council. Please see below.

“The authority is aware of the condition of this lane, we will undertake work when finances and resources are available. Carmarthenshire county council have 3500KM of carriageway to maintain with an ever decreasing budget, hence the finances have to be prioritized with priority given to higher classes of road with large amounts of vehicle and pedestrian traffic”.

A copy of the above Email was sent to all Council members on 04/03/2021 prior to the March meeting. The matter was discussed but as the reply stated their awareness of the condition of the lane and that it had previously been reported by the Community Council and the local County Council on many occasions, it was **resolved** to note.

229/2020-2021 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications.

PL/01246 – Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and Seconded by Cllr W Evans.

PL/01406 – Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and Seconded by Cllr W Evans.

Application Number	Application Type	Location	Description
PL/01246	Approval of details reserved by a condition	Brynlluan, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PR	Discharge of conditions 3 and 4 (surface water disposal and details of materials to be used in the external surfaces of the building) on W/39080 (Construction of portal frame building to cover existing manege for mixed equine and agricultural purposes)
PL/01406	Consultation 09/03/2021 – 30/03/2021	Maeslan, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PP	Erect a ground mounted 12KW Solar Array in field in front of the property

230/2020-2021 Payments

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

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	24/02/2021	WCVA SIN 010514	21.30
Online	24/02/2021	J.G Evans February Payroll	355.23
Online	24/02/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 11	88.80

Online	24/02/2021	Mr Flag – Inv 19180	110.40
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231/2020-2021 Receipts.

None.

232/2020-2021 Laptop.

After obtaining a product specification recommended by PACH and Edge IT regarding a new laptop for Llanarthne and Llanddarog Community Council as a collaborated purchase, the Clerk Emailed a copy of quotations received to all Council members for review prior to the March meeting.

Laptop Specification – HP 250 G7, Windows 10 Pro, i5, 256 SSD and 8Gb RAM.

Quotations Received – Amazon HP 250 G7 15.6" Laptop (Dark Ash Silver) (Intel Core i5-1035G1, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD, Windows 10 Pro) - £689.98.

Centerprise International - HP 250 G8 Notebook 39.6 cm (15.6") 1920 x 1080 pixels 10th gen Intel® Core™ i5 8 GB DDR4-SDRAM 256 GB SSD Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) Windows 10 Pro Black - £579.80 + VAT 8 week lead time.

Morgan & Morgan - HP ProBook 450 G7 39.6 cm (15.6") Notebook - Intel Core i5 (10th Gen) i5-10210U Quad-core (4 Core) 1.60 GHz - 8 GB RAM - 256 GB SSD - Intel Optane Memory Ready - £729.00 + VAT.

After careful consideration, all Council members agreed to authorize the purchase of a new laptop from Centerprise International as this supplier is recognized and is currently on the Carmarthenshire County Council framework. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. **Resolved** for the Clerk to order the laptop from Centerprise International as already authorized by Llanarthne Community Council in the March meeting on 09/03/2021.

233/2020-2021 Driver feedback signs Lan Lucis Bridge.

An Email was sent to Mr Andrew Morgan to arrange a site meeting but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting will not be able to proceed until lockdown rules are lifted. Cllr J Williams reported that a site meeting had taken place with Cllr R Jones and the Clerk to discuss possible locations for the DFS sign. Cllr J Williams stated that parked vehicles outside Landeg Garage was a deterrent and the Clerk reported that a "Road Narrows" warning sign was already in place. **Resolved** to note and wait for lockdown rules to be lifted.

234/2020-2021 Photographs – Prince Charles visit to Llanddarog.

Cllr M Rees reported that she had recently been given approx 70 photographs of a visit to Llanddarog by Prince Charles in 2003 by Mr Selwyn Evans, Coedhirion Farm, Llanddarog. Cllr M Rees suggested that copies of the photographs should be printed and that an album should be sent to Carmarthen Archives. Cllr M Rees also suggested that copies of the photographs be displayed in Llanddarog notice board and that she would be willing to rotate the display on a frequent basis. The original photographs are to be kept safe by the Clerk. Cllr M Rees reported that an electronic copy of the photographs may be available from Mr Terry Jones and that she would retrieve a copy when lockdown rules are lifted. Cllr W Evans suggested that when we have the electronic copies, both these and the prints be sent to Carmarthenshire Archives. Proposed by Cllr W Evans and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

235/2020-2021 Carmarthenshire Area Committee Meeting.

Cllr M Rees reported that she attended the meeting on 16/02/2021 and that she had updated committee members on GDPR. There was very little exchange of information and definitely no actions taken on previous topics discussed. Cllr M Rees and other Council members stated that

the meeting was more suitable for Town Councils and not Community Councils despite One Voice Wales acting on behalf of all Councils within the Country. After a short discussion it was decided that a member of Llanddarog Community Council would only attend if an agenda item was of interest or concern. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

236/2020-2021 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E. reported that maintenance contractor Ken Gibbard would complete all ongoing maintenance issues before 31/03/2021. **Resolved** for the Clerk to Email list of outstanding issues to Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

Cllr W Evans reported that potholes require repairing by the bus stop in Porthyrhyd. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E. reported that a Lottery Grant was available for £300.00 - £10,000.00 for use within the local community. Cllr J Williams suggested that the grant could be used to purchase the plot of land on the corner of the B4310 and Crwbin Road and remove the overgrown trees. Cllr W Evans stated that the trees were planted for the purpose of retaining the nearby wall. Cllr W Evans also reminded Council members that Llanddarog Community Council had disposed of all land ownership previously as maintenance costs and insurance were the responsibility of the Community Council. Cllr R Jones questioned the benefit of owning the land as Llanddarog Community Council were already maintaining the land. The Clerk reported that the overgrown trees had previously been reported to Carmarthenshire County Council and Cllr S Herridge informed Council Members that a survey had been done the previous week and orange tags had been placed on the trees. The Clerk enquired if the Lottery Grant could be utilised to repair the Roman Road from Pontfaen to Llanddarog as funding was not available with Carmarthenshire County Council. Cllr R Jones informed Council members that Lottery funding could not be used to repair public highways. **Resolved** to note. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

Cllr H Jones reported potholes outside White Hall Farm. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr E Davies enquired through the chair as to the possibility of a bottle bank within the community. Cllr W Evans reported that a previous attempt had been made but were unable to identify a suitable location. Cllr R Newell reported that no costs were involved to the Community Council and that the skip supplier would erect fencing around the bottle bank. Cllr J Williams O.B.E. raised a concern regarding the noise pollution from broken glass to local residents and that members of the public would dispose of other refuse at the location. Cllr R Newell recommended that CCTV could be installed to deter potential culprits. Cllr M Rees suggested that she could contact Llanddarog Village Hall committee for views and feedback. **Resolved** to note.

237/2020-2021 In camera 20.21.

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.

238/2020-2021 Staff pay run March 2021.

Each member was sent an Email of the report prior to the online meeting. Cllr J Williams suggested that it was not necessary to send a copy of the report prior to the meeting as certain elements were password protected. Due to the fact that an internal examination was performed by Cllr R Jones every 3 months members were happy to agree with the suggestion. A clerical error was made by the WCVA in the February payroll and rectified in the March payroll. Proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr R Jones. It was **resolved** to accept the report and ratify the payment of the sums as presented.

239/2020-2021 Continued review of auto enrolment position.

The Clerk reported that he has finalised the application form and will require a signature from all members prior to commencing with contributions from 01/04/2020 as agreed in the October meeting on 14/10/2020 (**Minute 134/2020-2021**). **Resolved** for the Clerk to collect signatures from all members.

240/2020-2021 The meeting finished at 20.30.

Chairman

Date
