

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the July 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 14/07/2021 at 19.00.

65/2021-2022 Present:

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

Clerk.

66/2021-2022 Apologies.

Councillors: County Cllr A Davies, R Jones, T Evans, R Newell.

67/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.

Cllr H Jones: Agenda item 19 - To discuss translation service provider for 2021-2022.

68/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

69/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters

Cllr H Jones raised a concern regarding vehicles travelling at speed after 21.00 along the various roads between Porthyrhyd and Llanarthne. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to Dyfed-Powys Police.

Cllr S Herridge reported that the 30mph sign on Heol Y Foel on the approach to Porthyrhyd square was obstructed by overgrown hedgerows. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

70/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported the following to the Clerk in an Email –

“The RWS County Committee is holding activity in the village of Llanarthne on 18/07/2021. On Sunday 18/07/2021 there is a “Gymanfa Ganu” and a strawberry tea. Names must be passed on to Kathryn Jones, Castell Howell Foods in order to comply with TTP guidelines.

The work of the Council is ongoing as the Council receives the White Ribbon which demonstrates that the County complies with the guidelines for crimes against Women and Men. They make sure that help is available if and when a case is identified.

In addition, work is progressing on making Council housing available to local people. There are several vacancies within the Ward, but I am assured by officers that work on the houses is due to start soon.

There was a good discussion on the Community/Town Council Committee/Working Group on CCTV and the rules involved. There was also a very good discussion on recycling and refuse collection. Almost no one knew that a survey and consultation was taking place and people need to fill this in to voice concerns. The intention is to get new floors and recycling becomes easier. That is, glass, cardboard, plastic, etc. all separately.

Consultation is also underway on Council housing. We are looking at new properties and so our consultation asks everyone what type of houses and homes they want.

That is, bungalow, 2-3 bedroom houses, etc, to see what the demand is before building commences”.

71/2021-2022 Chairman’s Report.

None.

72/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 09/06/2021.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 09/06/2021 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Chair for signing on 17/07/2021. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr W Evans.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported an error on Minute **59/2021-2022** – Change Llanddarog to Llanarthne.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported an error on Minute **60/2021-2022** – Change Coedbryn to Caebryn.

73/2021-2022 Matters arising from the above minutes.

The Clerk informed Council members that all matters to **resolve** had been actioned and if correspondence had been received, a copy of the Email had been sent to each member for information.

74/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming Council meeting.

An Email was received from a member of the Community on 14/07/2021 and forwarded to all Council members prior to the July meeting on 14/07/2021. Please find below a copy of the letter received –

“Thank you for responding to the request regarding adopting measures to prevent drivers speeding through the village of Porth-y-rhyd.

However, I’d like to draw your attention to the location of the recently erected Driver Feedback signs. Although I am much in favour of educating drivers rather than punishing them I do question the location of the sign placed by Ty Cynheidre as one enters the village from the direction of Drefach. Should this sign not be on the left hand side? Many a Council place two signs – one on either side of the road – to make sure that drivers are aware of their speed. I realise that funds are scarce but question the logic behind placing the one and only sign on the right hand side of the road. As I often travel this way, I have noticed on numerous occasions that the sign is not visible when a bus or lorry travels towards me on the opposite side of the road. At least the sign from the direction of Llanddarog is clearly visible to all drivers.

It is such a pity that no sign has been placed when entering Porth-y-rhyd from the direction of the Garden as this is what was suggested. This section of the B4310 poses numerous hazards and a sign to try and slow down the traffic would have been a good decision. Again, I ponder the logic behind the decision.

Unfortunately, some existing important signs are ‘hidden’ in the overgrowth. Surely drivers travelling from the square in the direction of Derwen Deg should be able to see both signs – one warning of the road narrowing (on the left hand side before you cross Pont Lan Lucis) and the other displaying a turn to the right (on the left hand side after crossing the bridge).

Finally, I would like to kindly remind you of another important matter. The official correct spelling of the village is Porth-y-rhyd - not Porthyrhyd. I would appreciate it if the Community Council would consider adopting this official spelling and keep it in

mind if at any time in the future funding becomes available for new signs. In the meantime, perhaps some sticky tape would do the job?"

All matters were discussed by Community Council members. Cllr S Herridge stated that the new DFS signs had made no difference to the amount of speeding vehicles travelling through the village of Porthyrhyd but Cllr M Rees, Cllr J Williams O.B.E and Cllr J Youens disagreed with the comment, and the following answers were recorded.

"County Cllr A Davies, Cllr Robert Jones and Cllr J Williams O.B.E met with Mr Andrew Morgan on 16/06/2021 to discuss the provision and location of a DFS sign on the section of road between Lan Lucis bridge and the dual carriageway off slip T junction in Porthyrhyd.

Mr Andrew Morgan reported that there was no convenient location to locate the sign between the T junction and Landeg Garage. The most convenient location available was on the grass verge adjacent to the Porthyrhyd village sign. The fact there was no convenient electrical supply available at that location meant that the DFS sign would be solar powered.

A solar powered DFS sign is more expensive than the DFS sign sited on the Drefach road but as in that case the cost would be split 50/50 between Carmarthenshire County Council and Llanddarog Community Council. There was no indication given as to when the sign would be installed but it would be prior to 31/03/2022 once the order was confirmed to Mr Andrew Morgan by the Clerk. **Resolved** to discuss in the September meeting on 08/09/2021". See **minute 81/2021-2022** below.

With regards to the DFS signs recently installed in Porthyrhyd, Carmarthenshire County Council allocated the signs at their current locations as an energy source was available to power the unit. As throughout the County of Carmarthenshire, numerous DFS signs are allocated in this manor with a DFS sign opposite the White Hart, Llanddarog and another by Mynyddcerrig Primary School being prime examples.

We are aware that Carmarthenshire County Council are in the process of cutting overgrown hedgerows in Porthyrhyd.

With regards to the signage within the village, this is the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Resolved for the Clerk to respond to the community member.

Operation London Bridge - Guidance for Community & Town Councils

Operation London Bridge is the code name given to the passing of H M Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Guidance notes have been produced to assist Community & Town Councils to consider in advance the implications on the passing of H M Queen would have on the activities of the Council and to help the Council plan what actions it wishes to take when the event occurs. **Resolved** to discuss in the September Meeting on 08/09/2021. See **minute 80/2021-2022** below.

Waste Collection Strategy. - In line with the statutory recycling targets set by Welsh Government, we (Carmarthenshire County Council) have been reviewing the delivery of future household waste collections throughout the county.

In order to meet Welsh Government's 70% recycling target by 2025, we must increase the amount and quality of household recycling presented to us in our kerbside collections and look at ways of reducing the amount of waste that is thrown out in black

bags. This will also help us to reduce our carbon footprint and provide a more efficient and cost-effective service for our residents.

As a result, we have developed a set of proposals which would transform how household waste is presented and collected at the kerbside.

Housing and Regeneration Masterplan Consultation. - The County council is developing its new 10-year Housing and Regeneration Masterplan to shape the future of housing in Carmarthenshire. Providing quality, affordable homes is a key priority for the council and we are investing millions of pounds in new housing stock; creating much-needed jobs and helping to grow the local economy and regenerate communities.

Consultation on Qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations. - The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the 2021 Act”), sets out the intention of Welsh Ministers to specify, in regulations, the qualifications or description of qualifications that the clerk to a community council must hold in order for the community council to meet the second of the three eligibility conditions to become an ‘eligible community council’. See **minute 83/2021-2022** below.

Carmarthenshire Revised Local Development Plan 2018 – 2033. - The draft plan, known as the Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (LDP), was published for consultation in 2020, and the representations received, together with the officer responses and recommendations were reported to County Council in January 2021. It was hoped that by May 2021, we would have published and consulted on the “Focused Changes” and submitted the Plan to the Welsh Government for Examination. Unfortunately, this is not the case, and work on the LDP is currently delayed.

This delay is due to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) having issued interim planning guidance on addressing phosphate levels in Riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). This planning guidance has been produced following an assessment of phosphorous breaches within SAC rivers across Wales. As a result, the Council has had to reassess its position in line with the guidance note and consider its implications.

75/2021-2022 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications.

PL/02027 - Proposed Change of Use of land to provide ancillary accommodation, including 5 units for visitors (shepherds huts and 'pods') - Llethr Llestri Farm, Llanddarog, Carmarthen, SA32 8PH.

Proposed by Cllr W Evans and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

PL/02190 - Single storey side extension - Glanyrafon, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT.

Proposed by Cllr W Evans and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

76/2021-2022 Payments

The below payments were certified in the June monthly meeting and **ratified** in the July Monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr J Youens and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
		WCVA	

Online	25/06/2021	SIN 011016	21.30
Online	25/06/2021	J.G Evans June Payroll	342.94
Online	25/06/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 3	89.80
Online	25/06/2021	Dynefor Tree Services – Inv 002	250.00
Online	30/06/2021	NEST	32.58

77/2021-2022 Receipts.

None.

78/2021-2022 To receive the report of the Internal Financial Examiner for the period 01/04/2021 - 30/06/2021.

Cllr R Jones was unable to examine the accounts prior to the July meeting due to personal commitments. The accounts will be examined within the next few weeks and the report will be sent to all Council members prior to the September meeting on 08/09/2021.

79/2021-2022 To receive and consider the Internal Auditor's report for the 2020 – 2021 accounts.

The Internal Auditor Emailed a report to the Clerk on 11/07/2021 and it was forwarded to all Council members on 11/07/2021 in preparation for the July meeting on 14/07/2021.

Proper Book Keeping.

Further to my suggestion in last year's audit I note that Section 137 payments are not formally minuted though are summarised in the 'outgoings' column in the Summary of Accounts. **Resolved** to note in the monthly minutes in future meetings.

Risk Management.

The merits of providing the standing revenue grant should be a Council decision and confirmed every year.

In relation to the other donations (including Section 137 expenditure), I would advise that the convention of the outgoing chairman providing recommendations to the Council can continue, albeit it may be pertinent to review it. At the very least, the outgoing Chairman should seek out further information from applicants in relation to key issues such as financial position, local benefits and what the funding will spent on. In the longer term. there may be scope in developing a more formalised process whereby applicants are required to fill in a simple application form. **Resolved** to note and for the Clerk to discuss with Internal Financial Examiner.

Asset Control.

The Council has not reviewed the condition survey report for this year though I note that this was scheduled for September 2019, **Minute 136/2019-2020** but was deferred. I acknowledge that the change of clerk and the lockdown due to Coronavirus may have prevented the survey being undertaken.

There is reference to a report carried out in September 2020 – **Minute 110/2020 – 2021** refers, highlighting some defects and repairs to be carried out on the Council's assets. A full schedule of assets and value should be prepared. **Resolved** to note and for the Clerk to ask the Contractor to perform a survey. Asset register and current value in place.

80/2021-2022 Code of Conduct Training.

The Clerk received a letter from Carmarthenshire County Council on 28/06/2021 stating that the authority's Standards Committee had resolved to hold 2 online training sessions in July via Zoom.

The Clerk forwarded the Email to all Community Council members on 28/06/2021 and the following Council members will be attending the Code of Conduct Training Course – Cllr W Evans, Cllr J Youens and Cllr S Herridge.

81/2021-2022 To receive update regarding DFS sign at Lan Lucis Bridge.

County Cllr A Davies, Cllr Robert Jones and Cllr J Williams O.B.E met with Mr Andrew Morgan on 16/06/2021 to discuss the provision and location of a DFS sign on the section of road between Lan Lucis bridge and the dual carriageway off slip T junction in Porthyrhyd.

Mr Andrew Morgan reported that there was no convenient location to locate the sign between the T junction and Landeg Garage. The most convenient location available was on the grass verge adjacent to the Porthyrhyd village sign. The fact there was no convenient electrical supply available at that location meant that the DFS sign would be solar powered.

A solar powered DFS sign is more expensive than the DFS sign sited on the Drefach road but as in that case the cost would be split 50/50 between Carmarthenshire County Council and Llanddarog Community Council. There was no indication given as to when the sign would be installed but it would be prior to 31/03/2022 once the order was confirmed to Mr Andrew Morgan by the Clerk. **Resolved** to discuss in the September meeting on 08/09/2021.

82/2021-2022 To receive update regarding cycle path from Drefach – Porthyrhyd.

The Clerk reported that no updates had been received from Sustrans. Resolved for the Clerk to contact Sustrans again and give update in the September meeting on 08/09/2021.

83/2021-2022 To discuss Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

Consultation on Qualifications of Clerks in Wales Regulations. - The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the 2021 Act”), sets out the intention of Welsh Ministers to specify, in regulations, the qualifications or description of qualifications that the clerk to a community council must hold in order for the community council to meet the second of the three eligibility conditions to become an ‘eligible community council’.

The matter was discussed by all Council members and it was decided that the Clerk should attend an appropriate course. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

84/2021-2022 To discuss translation service provider for 2021-2022.

The Clerk had received an invitation template from Cllr M Jones (Llanarthne Community Council) to be forwarded to potential candidates to supply the Community Council with translation services during live and online Zoom meetings in collaboration with Llanarthne Community Council.

The invitation was sent to three potential candidates and replies were received from all contractors and sent to all Council members prior to the July meeting.

After a discussion to evaluate the experience and cost of the candidates it was decided to offer the position to Mrs Catrin Llwyd in collaboration with Llanarthne Community

Council. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. **Resolved** for the Clerk to inform the translator.

85/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr R Jones Sent an Email to the Clerk on 03/07/2021 stating that he had attended the Town and Community Council Liaison Forum on 02/07/2021 and the following was reported by Cllr R Jones.

“The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths and attended by various Council Officers, County Councillors and members of Community and Town councils: The following items were reported/discussed.

CCTV Policy: Basically, a report from the relevant officer regarding the size and scope of the systems/rules/regulations/advice and help sources available. This was only applicable to CCTV covering public areas by councils and other organizations.

Waste Management Services: A report giving facts and figures on waste and recycling targets and achievements. Also, of options for future plans for kerbside collections. He made a plea for residents to engage with the current consultation process (available on-line) as to their views and preferred options. A few discussions around recycle centres and points of view regarding kerbside collection were aired.

Housing and Regeneration: This was perhaps the least interesting talk. The speaker really just talked about the things that they thought should be considered when formulating their masterplan. No specifics were discussed and there was little/no discussion around this topic. He also asked that individuals and councils get involved in the ongoing on-line survey.

The meeting lasted for about an hour and a half but there were no decisions made or called for and very little opinion expressed on behalf of Town and Community Councils. It was more to do with updating us on these particular topics.

Cllr W Evans reported that two complaints had been received regarding the condition of the “Gwili Evans” chair in Llanddarog. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the contractor to make repairs.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported on a previous issue regarding a wicket bench previously erected and obstructing the view of drivers at the junction from Heol Y Foel – Porthyrhyd. Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested placing a convex mirror on the opposite hedge to assist drivers with regards to traffic conditions. The matter was discussed by Council members, and it was decided for the Clerk to contact Carmarthenshire County Council prior to any decision being made. **Resolved** for the clerk to contact the relevant department.

Cllr E Davies reported on the number of Community members utilising the Roman Road to walk their dogs and the lack of a “Dog Foul Bin” in the area. The matter was discussed, and it was decided to allocate a “Dog Foul Bin” on the corner of Pontfaen, near the seating bench. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact County Cllr A Davies.

The Clerk reminded all Council members that the members allowance form needed to be completed and returned to the Clerk ASAP. **Resolved** for the Clerk to resend the document and deliver a hard copy to Cllrs E Davies, S Herridge, J Youens, M Rees and W Evans.

86/2020-2021 In camera 20.19.

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.

87/2020-2021 Staff pay run July 2021.

The Clerk reported the payroll amounts verbally to all Council members. It was **resolved** to accept the report and ratify the payment of the sums as presented.

Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

88/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.26.

Chairman

Date
