

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the September 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 08/09/2021 at 19.00.**

#### **89/2021-2022 Present:**

Councillors: R Jones (Vice Chair), W Evans, J Youens, R Newell, R Owen.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

Cllr R Jones (Vice Chair) welcomed and introduced Mrs Catrin Llwyd as translator to Llanddarog Community Council. Mrs C Llwyd thanked Cllr R Jones for the welcome and instructed all council members that required translation services on how they were able to access the service.

#### **90/2021-2022 Apologies.**

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

#### **91/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.**

None.

#### **92/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the council on agenda items.**

None.

#### **93/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters**

None.

#### **94/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.**

County Cllr A Davies reported that following a quiet summer regarding meetings it was an ideal opportunity to update members on progress being made within the portfolio:

Rural Agenda: The 10 town project is coming along well with all the towns having received their project report. Crosshands and Kidwelly are a little behind with regards to organising Community groups but the other 8, namely Llanybydder, Llandovery, Llandeilo, Laugharne, St. Clears, Whitland, Cwmamman and Newcastle Emlyn are forging ahead. There is a pot of £1million in total for the 10 towns to regenerate the town centers. Each town has to choose its own project and present to council. In addition, there are funds available for specific job growth and Business projects.

Carmarthenshire has been awarded the White Ribbon Status which recognises work that the County has undertaken against domestic violence/violence against women.

A lot of work is happening behind the scenes to drive Carmarthenshire towards its goal of being Zero Carbon by 2030. The main problem however, is that we do not have the grid capacity to enable all the electricity which is being generated to find its

way into the National Grid. Talks are underway between all 3 counties of West Wales and Julie James (Environment Minister) to increase Grid Capacity.

**95/2021-2022 Chairman's Report.**

None.

**96/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 14/07/2021.**

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 14/07/2021 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Vice Chair for signing on 12/09/2021. Proposed by Cllr J Youens and seconded by Cllr W Evans.

Cllr R Jones reported an error on minute **74/2021-2022** and **81/2021-2022** – Change Brynteg to Landeg.

**97/2021-2022 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. The Clerk reported that a new dog foul bin had been located near Mynyddcerrig School.

Cllr R Jones informed council members that a new dog foul bin had been located at the corner of Pontfaen, near the seating bench.

**98/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.**

None.

**99/2021-2022 Planning.**

No objections to the following planning applications but Cllr R Jones suggested that the Clerk respond to the planning department at Carmarthenshire County Council regarding **PL/02534 Discharge of Condition 14 on PL/00959**. If hedgerows are to be removed, a new hedgerow measuring the same length must be sited at a suitable nearby location. **Resolved** for the Clerk to respond to the planning department. Proposed by Cllr W Evans and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

**PL/02534** - Discharge of Condition 14 on PL/00959 - Proposed milk bottling plant facility with ancillary office accommodation (B2) including storage (B8) and associated infrastructure works - Penrhiw Farm, Cwmisfael, Carmarthen, SA32 8BY.

**PL/02515** - Construction of a Two-Storey Side Extension (Amendment to Planning Permission W/34046 for a Single-Storey Extension) - Maes y Mwnws, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PS.

**PL/02542** - Single and two storey extensions to side and rear of existing farmhouse to update facilities and accessibility with no increase in number of bedrooms - Wernlas Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PU.

**PL/02403** - Change of use of existing agricultural building to temporary milk bottling facility for 18 months - Penrhiw Farm, Cwmisfael, Carmarthen, SA32 8BY.

**100/2021-2022 Payments.**

The below payments were certified in the July monthly meeting and **ratified** in the September monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically

prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr J Youens and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	26/07/2021	Nest	32.58
Online	02/08/2021	WCVA Inv - 40	21.30
Online	02/08/2021	J.G Evans July Payroll	342.94
Online	02/08/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 4	89.80
Online	02/08/2021	Dynefor Tree Services – Inv 003	250.00
Online	02/08/2021	Paragon Internet – Inv 6504226	84.00
Online	26/08/2021	NEST	32.58
Online	31/08/2021	WCVA Inv - 190	21.30
Online	31/08/2021	J.G Evans August Payroll	342.94
Online	31/08/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 5	89.80
Online	31/08/2021	Dynefor Tree Services – Inv 004	250.00
Online	31/08/2021	Second Life Products Wales Ltd (Composite Timber) – Inv 6192	221.55
Online	31/08/2021	Castell Howell Foods Ltd (Copier Paper) – Inv 737886	13.56

**101/2021-2022 Receipts.**

Carmarthenshire County Council – Precept 2  
27/08/2021 - £7,126.00.

**102/2021-2022 To receive the report of the Internal Financial Examiner for the period 01/04/2021 - 30/06/2021.**

Each member had been provided with a written report prior to the meeting. A full verbal report was provided by Cllr R Jones (Internal Financial Examiner). The report confirmed the accuracy of the bank reconciliation and statement of accounts provided to the council. It also confirmed the accuracy of the on-going budget report provided. It was proposed by Cllr J Youens and seconded by Cllr R Owen to accept the report. Members thanked Cllr R Jones and the Clerk for their work.

**103/2021-2022 To confirm the prepared External Audit Report for 2020 – 2021.**

The Clerk had received notice of instruction regarding the upcoming External Audit. The Clerk had finalised the report and received clarification from Cllr R Jones prior to presenting to the council members for confirmation. An explanation was presented verbally to all council members explaining all questions asked by the External Auditor. It was proposed by Cllr R Jones, seconded by Cllr R Newell and all council members agreed to accept the documents prepared by the Clerk. **Resolved** for the Clerk to get documents signed by the Vice Chair and Internal Auditor on 12/09/2021 before sending completed documents to the External Auditor. The Clerk thanked Cllr R Jones for all his assistance regarding this matter.

**104/2021-2022 Asset Maintenance Report.**

The Clerk Emailed a copy of the Asset Register and Maintenance Report to all council members on 06/09/2021. The report included a recent list of all assets belonging to Llanddarog Community Council, their condition, audit value and insurance value. Cllr J Youens requested that the condition of the Chairman’s Chain

be confirmed at the October meeting on 13/10/2021 as the Chair was not present. It was proposed by Cllr W Evans and seconded by Cllr R Newell to accept the report.

**105/2021-2022 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.

Cllr R Jones reminded council members that an Email had been received from Mr Andrew Morgan (Traffic Engineer Carmarthenshire County Council) and that a visibility survey at Lan Lucis bridge was imminent. Cllr R Jones suggested that the result of the survey be analysed prior to any decision being made regarding the DFS sign and that the agenda item be deferred to the October meeting on 13/10/2021 as only five council members were present.

The following Email was received from Mr Andrew Morgan on 09/08/2021 and forwarded to all council members on 11/08/2021:

“I refer to previous correspondence regarding the above, and also to the recent site meeting at Porthyrhyd attended by myself, Cllr Ann Davies and community councillors John Williams and Robert Jones.

I can confirm that the estimated cost for the manufacture, erection and commissioning of one number solar powered 30mph driver feedback sign (DFS), at the location shown on the enclosed plan, will be in the region of **£2,769.00 + VAT**. This price includes the manufacture, erection and commissioning of the DFS sign as well as the cost of providing the necessary post and solar panel.

All future maintenance costs will also be borne by the County Council.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing whether your community council is willing to pay for 50% of the cost of the scheme, which would be **£1,384.50 + VAT**. The County Council would then pay the remaining 50% of the cost of the works. This scheme could then be carried out within this financial year 2021/22.

With regards to the request for double white lines to be provided at this location, I would inform you that I have arranged for a forward visibility survey to be carried out to ascertain whether a system of double white lines on both approaches to the bridge is justified. Once this survey has been carried out and the results have been analysed, I will then arrange for a red coloured banding to be provided on the approaches to the bridge as agreed at the site meeting, with either the existing

centre line or the double white line road markings to be provided, depending on the results of the survey.”

**Resolved** for the Clerk to contact Mr Andrew Morgan for an update on the visibility survey.

**106/2021-2022 To receive update regarding cycle path from Drefach – Porthyrhyd.**

Despite numerous efforts, the Clerk reported that no updates had been received from Sustrans.

An Email was received from the Modernising Transport Coordinator – Highways and Transport Division on 24/08/2021 and forwarded to all council members on 28/08/2021 regarding the new Active Travel Network Map. The new map shows that a proposed new link is present from Drefach to Porthyrhyd and County Cllr A Davies reported that she and Jonathan Edwards MP had been working diligently to open a new link from Drefach to Porthyrhyd as this would give further access to cyclists and ramblers to visit the National Botanical Gardens of Wales and the Tywi Valley.

**Resolved** to note.

Please see Email below:

“Please see below a link to Carmarthenshire’s Active Travel Network Map. Please could you share this link via social media and other channels at your disposal to maximise engagement with all residents of Carmarthenshire.

This map is for everyone who wants to comment on issues that affect journeys on foot or by bike across our region, for any purpose, including those who don’t walk or cycle often and people who use mobility aids. We are also still welcoming suggestions on additional routes or enhancements that would improve your experience of the network and make it easier for you to use for day-to-day journeys.

**After an initial review of comments, we have updated our Active Travel Network map to include new future routes that you suggested. We are now seeking comments on the updated network prior to review and submission to Welsh Government.**

Comments will be recorded up until the end of October, alongside those we have already gathered from transport and planning experts, to finalise the Carmarthenshire Active Travel Network. This network will be planned with people, not cars, as the priority, with routes that are safe and accessible for all.”

Carmarthenshire’s Active Travel Network Map:

<https://cyclewalkcarms.engaged.space/>

**107/2021-2022 To discuss the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacon 02/06/2022.**

It was suggested by Cllr R Jones and agreed by all council members that this agenda item be deferred to the October meeting on 13/10/2021 as only five council members were present.

**108/2021-2022 To discuss energy assessment aid.**

The Clerk had received an Email from Utility Aid on 01/08/2021 and forwarded to all council members on 03/08/2021. The Email stated the following:-

“I’m writing to you with great news that Utility Aid are now in partnership with The National Association of Local Councils to support 10,000 councils in the UK with all things energy. Take a look at the NALC website for further information about the partnership. <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/our-partners#utility-aid>

We specialise in energy for street lighting, public conveniences, council offices, sports pavilions, cemeteries, town halls and other council run buildings as one of the

sponsors for the Society of Local Council Clerks and manage the energy for hundreds of town and parish councils in the UK. We also offer the option of collective purchasing for town and parish councils to hugely reduce costs by bulk buying and can even support you on your journey to net zero with qualified assessors and access to a large variety of green energy suppliers.

**We get better rates for charities & councils**

Because we specialise in the not-for-profit sector, we receive preferential charity rates from the 30 suppliers we work with. Our prices have been audited and we're around 12% cheaper than the wider market. So, if you have a new energy contract to negotiate, we'd love to help you get the very best value from that and ensure you retain as much of your funding for what you do best, providing vital front-line services to society."

The above was discussed by all council members and as the energy assessment was provided free of charge, it was decided that an application be completed by the Clerk to clarify if any financial savings were available to Llanddarog Community Council. Proposed by Cllr R Owen and seconded by Cllr R Newell. **Resolved** for the Clerk to complete the application form and report in the October meeting on 13/10/2021.

**109/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.**

Cllr R Newell reported that one of the posts at the glass recycling compound in Mynyddcerrig had still not been repaired by Carmarthenshire County Council and that it required attention before the winter. **Resolved** for County Cllr A Davies to contact the relevant department a second time to make repairs.

**110/2020-2021 In camera 20.22.**

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.

**111/2020-2021 Staff pay run August and September 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 R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

Cllr R Jones informed the council members that the Clerk was due an allowance increase in April 2021 in line with inflation in January 2021. It was agreed that the Clerk should increase his allowance by 0.7% and back date to 01/04/2021. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr W Evans.

**112/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.29.**

Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_