

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the November 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 10/11/2021 at 19.00.

135/2021-2022 Present:

Councillors: M Rees (Chair), R Jones, S Herridge, J Youens, E Davies, R Newell, R Owen, T Evans.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

136/2021-2022 Apologies.

Councillors: W Evans, J Williams O.B.E, H Jones.

137/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.

None.

138/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the council on agenda items.

None.

139/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters

The Clerk reported to council members that on Sunday 07/11/2021 he reported to Carmarthenshire County Council the erosion on a section of highway between Pantyfer, Cwmisfael, Llanddarog, SA32 8NY and Casa Mia, Cwmisfael, Llanddarog, SA32 8NY. A response had been received from Carmarthenshire County Council stating that the matter had been logged with the highways team.

The Clerk reported to council members that on Sunday 07/11/2021 he reported to Carmarthenshire County Council that the DFS (Driver feedback Sign) sign near Mynyddcerrig Primary School, SA15 5BG is no longer working. A response had been received from Mr Andrew Morgan on 09/11/2021 stating that a VAS/DFS maintenance contractor would attend to the issue.

Cllr M Rees thanked the Clerk for reporting the issues to Carmarthenshire County Council.

140/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported there was a Notice of Motion before full Council on 10/11/2021 to ask Welsh Government to look at other ways to reach our Net Zero Carbon Commitment. At the moment there are 12 farms in Carmarthenshire which have been bought with the sole purpose of planting trees, some 2000 acres in total. These farms are being bought by large conglomerates which will then obtain Glasdir funds to plant the trees for Companies such as British Airways, Virgin, Ryanair etc, to offset their carbon use. They will be Trading carbon credits, using Welsh Government Funds, and selling these for the benefit of International Companies. We will be losing our family farms and heritage and the community benefits by having young families within these areas and also the effect on the Welsh Language.

Congratulations were given to the Council for obtaining £34 million to finish the Tywi Valley Cycle Path and create a Hub in Carmarthen Town Centre. An additional £3 Million was also obtained for smaller projects within the County.

County Cllr A Davies reported that she had attended the following meetings during the past month:

- 1) Governors meetings for Nantgaredig and Llanddarog Schools. Also asked Angharad Llywarch of Llanddarog School to be my "Mini Me". We've filmed a short video in Welsh and English to launch Prosiect Zero Sir Gar.
- 2) A member of the panel for the appointment of Head of Place and Sustainability.
- 3) Attended a public meeting in Cwrt y Cadno and Llanstephan to discuss the family farms and tree situation.
- 4) Had a meeting with a delegation of Fishermen who are concerned with the state of the Tywi and Cothi Rivers. They blamed farmers and wanted the NVZs consultation and legislation to continue.
- 5) Presided as Chair at the Tylsha Project meeting – and there have been many exciting developments with this.
- 6) Updates with the 10 Towns project - Smart Town Wifi will allow the buseneses to open and use the data which is available to make business decisions which are appropriate to them. There are also electric charging points being put into the 10 towns.
- 7) Locally - There are three empty properties which are being renovated and hopefully will be put back on the market within the next few months.

Cllr R Jones enquired if there had been any negative feedback on the new sign on the A40 near the slip road in Johnstown as it was very difficult to notice from certain directions. County Cllr A Davies reported that the Welsh Government project had received negative feedback but that the sign had been passed for planning by Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr R Jones enquired about the new Vehicle charging points in Crosshands. County Cllr A Davies stated that the project which is the first of it's kind in Wales had been completed but not officially opened as of yet. The vehicle charging points have solar panels to help reduce energy costs as well as Battery storage. There are 2 x ultra fast charging points and 2 x rapid charging points. It will take a duration of 20min to fully charge a vehicle. New signs will be located next to the highway to inform drivers of the new location.

Cllr R Newell enquired if there were any updates on the proposed cycle path from The Mansel Arms – Porthyrhyd. County Cllr A Davies reported that Jonathan Edwards MP

and herself had been working tirelessly with Actif Travel to resolve the situation which will be funded by the Welsh Government.

141/2021-2022 Chairman's Report.

Cllr M Rees reported that she had received a letter from the Evans family at Coedhirion Farm expressing their gratitude for refurbishing the Gwili Evans bench in Llanddarog. Cllr M Rees announced that on Sunday 14/11/2021 a Remembrance Service is to be held at St. Twrog Church, Llanddarog at 09.30 and by Mynyddcerrig War Memorial at 13.00. Poppy wreaths have been purchased for the occasion.

Cllr M Rees announced that on 27/11/2021 a fundraising event will be held at St. Twrog Church, Llanddarog from 10.00 – 13.00 to help raise money to build a library in the Congo. Entry will be £3.00.

142/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 13/10/2021.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 13/10/2021 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Chair for signing on 13/11/2021. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

143/2021-2022 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 announced that no correspondence had been received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the issue at Whitlera Farm, Porthyrhyd but that the highway was clean when he passed on 02/11/2021.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from the community member discussed in the October meeting on 13/10/2021 thanking him for his assistance in resolving his issues. The Clerk thanked County Cllr A Davies for her support regarding this matter.

County Cllr A Davies and Cllr R Newell confirmed that the posts at the glass recycling compound in Mynyddcerrig had been repaired by Carmarthenshire County Council.

144/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.

Cllr R Jones enquired about the following email received on 03/11/2021:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

SECTION 47 MULTI-LOCATION MEETINGS

One Voice Wales is aware of the concerns of many councils about the impact of this Section of the Act that relates to multi-location meetings. Specifically, these concerns relate to the cost involved in meeting these new requirements, poor broadband reception in certain parts of Wales as well as the practical difficulties involved in ensuring that premises used for meetings can support telephone or video conferencing.

In order to enable myself and the OVW Chair to effectively pursue our current dialogue with the Minister for Finance and Local Government and her civil servants in relation

to Section 47 of the Act you are invited to complete an online survey which will assist me in fully understanding the issues being faced by the sector. Research data of this kind can be very influential in pursuing sector specific issues, but this will require your support in responding to this survey.

The Clerk reported that he had completed the survey on behalf of the Community Council to the best of his knowledge.

Cllr R Jones enquired about the following email received on 29/09/2021 from the Welsh language Society and forwarded to all council members.

Please see email below:

“Osian Jones, a member of Cymdeithas yr Iaith, plans to cycle from Caernarfon to Cardiff between 11 and 13 November to highlight the housing crisis affecting communities across Wales.

Attached is a copy of a letter (See below) that Osian will carry from Caernarfon to Cardiff. It would be much appreciated if you would discuss the letter at your next meeting and let us know as soon as possible if you are happy for us to add your name to the letter. You can do that as a council or individual councilors can also add their names.

Osian will present the letter - with the names of all signatories - to a representative of the Welsh Government as part of a Wales for Sale rally held outside the Welsh Parliament on Saturday, 13 November.

We very much hope you will support this application and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you”.

Copy of letter:

Request from Welsh communities for our Government to control the housing market

“Dear Mr Drakeford and Welsh Government Cabinet - 13/11/21

We very much hope that this letter reaches you safely after a long bike ride all the way from the town of Caernarfon.

During the trip, the letter has visited some of the poorest communities in Wales economically, but as you know are very culturally and linguistically rich communities. These are some of the only communities in the world, where Welsh is spoken and used as a community language, that adds extra importance to the future of these communities.

As you know (and we thank you for acknowledging that a problem exists), the future of these communities is under real threat, due to the numbers of second and holiday homes. For us, a situation where some can afford to buy a second or third house, while others who wish to live in Welsh speaking communities cannot buy or rent a home, is unacceptable. We sincerely hope that you as our First Minister, and as someone who has fought all your life against social injustice, agree that this kind of situation is completely unacceptable.

There has been a demand for nearly half a century for action to manage the housing market and empower local communities to secure homes and a future for their people. For a decade our Parliament has had the power to legislate. We ask that you finally use that power to secure justice for our communities - rather than confining ourselves to minor reforms of an essentially unjust regime

We have put our name on the letter as councilors serving our communities and counties”.

The letter was discussed by Council members and no objections were raised as second homes were not a particular issue within the community. **Resolved** to note.

145/2021-2022 Planning.

None.

146/2021-2022 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the October monthly meeting and **ratified** in the November monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	26/10/2021	WCVA Inv - 558	21.30
Online	26/10/2021	J.G Evans – October Payroll	342.94
Online	26/10/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 7	89.80
Online	26/10/2021	Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreaths	60.00
Online	26/10/2021	Dynefor Tree Services – Inv 006	250.00
Online	26/10/2021	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL2	70.00
Online	28/10/2021	Nest	32.58

147/2021-2022 Receipts.

HMRC – VAT Refund
11/10/2021 - £1662.22.

148/2021-2022 To consider requests for funding.

Each member had been provided with a copy of each request during the year and if received by post, the Clerk announced the request verbally. Each request was considered and as only two of the requests were date sensitive Cllr M Rees suggested that donations were made to the following parties:

Carmarthen Toybox Appeal - £100.00 (Chairmans' Allowance)
Carmarthen and District Youth Opera - £50.00 (Section137)

Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

149/2021-2022 To Review Policies and Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Clerk had spoken with One Voice Wales regarding the upcoming policy review and informed the members that no alterations were required. Policies are available on

the Llanddarog Community Council website. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – A discussion was held on the 2021 - 2022 version of the Independent remuneration Panel for Wales document which was sent to all members on 15/02/2021.

Determination Number	Is a Decision Required by Council
42 - All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.	No - the payment of £150 is mandated for every member unless they advise the appropriate officer that they do not want to take it in writing.
43 - Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.	Yes – a council must decide how many payments of £500 it will make – to between 1 and 5 members.
44 - Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.	Yes – it is optional to pay it for up to 5 members and, if it is paid, the amount (up to £500) must be decided.
45 - Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.	Yes – the payment of travel costs is optional.
46 - If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members.	Yes – the payment of overnight subsistence expenses is optional.
47 - Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties.	Yes – the payment of financial loss allowance is optional.
48 - Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.	Yes – the payment to a Civic Head is optional.
49 - Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500.	Yes – the payment to a Deputy Civic Head is optional.
50 - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader	No - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader

or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance.	or Executive Member) can only receive travel and subsistence expenses and contribution towards costs of care and personal assistance; if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.
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Council members decided that no updates were required and to confirm the decision made in the November 2020 meeting on 11/11/2020. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

150/2021-2022 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.

The following Email was received from Mr Andrew Morgan on 28/09/2021 and forwarded to all council members:

“The survey is due to be carried out on Monday 11th October 2021. I shall therefore update you after the results of the survey have been analysed and a decision has been made”.

Resolved to defer the matter until the November meeting on 10/11/2021.

The following email was received from Mr Andrew Morgan on 09/11/2021 and forwarded to all council members.

“Just to confirm that the forward visibility survey has been carried out at this location. I am pleased to confirm that the criteria have been met for the introduction of a short length of double White lines, either side of the bridge, which was the initial request at the site meeting back in the summer. Has the community council had an opportunity yet to consider my e mail dated 9th August 2021(copy enclosed), regarding the costs associated with a new DFS sign, which was also discussed at the site meeting”.

The update was discussed by all council members, and it was decided to accept the proposal of arranging a red coloured banding to be provided on the approaches to the bridge as agreed at the site meeting, with the double white line road markings to be provided. It was decided to delay the installation of the DFS sign for the time being to clarify the effect of the above decision. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge. **Resolved** for the Clerk to arrange with Mr Andrew Morgan.

151/2021-2022 To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon 02/06/2022.

County Cllr A Davies reported that she had suggested to Llanarthne Community Council about approaching the National Trust to see if they want to organise a beacon in Paxton's Tower. County Cllr A Davies also suggested the potential use of the tower at Llanddarog Church to aid in the celebrations. Council members discussed the suggestions and agreed to ask the Clerk to contact the National Trust to discuss the matter. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the National Trust and place on the agenda for the November meeting on 10/11/2021.

The Clerk emailed the National Trust on 19/10/2021, asking them to consider the suggestion and reply with their thoughts prior to the November meeting on 10/11/2021.

No reply has been received and after a conversation with Mrs Jayne Henshaw from the National Trust, she informed the Clerk that discussions were taking place regarding the council's suggestion, and they would be in contact in due course.

An email was received from One Voice Wales on 30/10/2021 and forwarded to all council members with an update on the guide to taking part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacons. The update is now encouraging those lighting Beacons to plant a circle of seven trees with each tree representing a decade in The Queen's reign to assist with the sustainability of the planet, along with providing a permanent reminder of this unique, and amazing moment in The Queen's life and in her reign.

Cllr M Rees reported that it was not possible to illuminate the church spire more than it currently is but that the church would be lighting the spire and celebrating the occasion on 02/06/2022.

Resolved to note and place on the agenda for the December meeting on 08/12/2021.

152/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr J Youens announced that a defibrillator is being installed in Mynyddcerrig and enquired if Llanddarog Community Council would maintain and supply parts for the machine when needed as they do in Llanddarog and Porthyrhyd. Cllr M Rees suggested that Mynyddcerrig Welfare Committee write a letter to the Community Council requesting their assistance and to place on the agenda for the December meeting on 08/12/2021.

County Cllr A Davies enquired if a Christmas carol service had been arranged in Mynyddcerrig. Cllr R Owen replied that they were awaiting confirmation from the band before 14/11/2021 and inform all relevant parties.

Cllr M Rees announced that St. Twrog church will be having their nine lessons and carols service at 17.00 on 19/12/2021 and a Plygain at 17.00 on 09/01/2022.

153/2020-2021 In camera 20.00.

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.

154/2020-2021 Staff pay run November 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 S Herridge and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

Prior to the end of the meeting the Clerk announced that the December meeting on 08/12/2021 would be held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall at 19.00. The Clerk to make arrangements and book the hall.

155/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.05.

Chairman

Date
