

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October 2021 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 13/10/2021 at 19.00.

113/2021-2022 Present:

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

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

114/2021-2022 Apologies.

Councillors: J Youens, E Davies, R Newell.

115/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.

County Cllr A Davies - **Minute 122/2021-2022** – Email of concern regarding road condition near Whitlera Farm.

116/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the council on agenda items.

None.

117/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters

None.

118/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported that as it's Black History Month and Race Hate Week she addressed the Council during the Chairman's Announcements and reported the following:

October is a special month for Equality and Inclusion. First, October is Black History Month which gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. History Month aims to recognize the contribution and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage. It is also an opportunity for people to learn more about the effects of racism and how to challenge negative stereotypes. This second element ties in closely with the Hate Crime Awareness Week, which takes place from 09/10/2021 to 16/10/2021. We have a responsibility as a Council to work with our communities and with key partners to make it clear that hate crime is not welcome in our county. We stand in solidarity with those affected by hate crime and support those who need ongoing support.

County Cllr A Davies also seconded the presentation of the Annual Council Report which incorporated the Wellbeing Objectives this year.

At the end of September County Cllr A Davies attended a 'Green Day' which was organised by Llanddarog and District WI. A well attended afternoon, with plenty of

stalls for people to see. Congratulations Llanddarog and District WI. I addressed the Group and informed them about the Net Zero Carbon progress which is being made by Carmarthenshire County Council.

119/2021-2022 Chairman's Report.

Cllr M Rees reported that she had attended a Llanddarog and District WI event in Llanddarog Village Hall on 25/09/2021 to celebrate the Great Big Green Week in support of the Climate Coalition. This was the second time an opportunity had occurred to allow her to wear the Chairman's chain.

The Chair congratulated County Cllr A Davies and her daughter Gwenllian of Cwtsh Y Clos Nursery in Llanarthne on coming first in the "Day Nursery of the Year" category with Mudiad Meithrin.

120/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 14/07/2021.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 08/09/2021 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Chair for signing on 18/10/2021. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr W Evans.

121/2021-2022 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 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 for a third time to make repairs.

122/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had received an Email from a community member on 10/10/2021 and forwarded to all council members on 11/10/2021. The letter reported the following issue:

"I'd like to draw the council's attention to an issue that has been causing concern for a number of months now - the dangerous condition of the main road around Whitlera Farm when cattle move from the fields near the road junction that leads to this property and others, to the farm. Whilst clearly the cattle need to be moved, the road is left dirty causing vehicles to slide dangerously when approaching the junction.

The issue has been referred to the local authority by residents on this road on two occasions this year - July 27th and August 16th but the problem persists. Residents have in the past asked persons from the farm to arrange for efforts to be made to clean the road, but nothing is ever done.

Another concern is the fact that cattle are moved across the road without adequate supervision leading to a dangerous situation on what is a fast main road.

I enclose photographs of the junction and the dangerous road condition.

I would appreciate the community council's attention to this matter".

The matter was discussed at length by Community Council members with Cllr W Evans stating that a track had been built to assist the farmer so that the road was not required. Cllr W Evans and Cllr H Jones stated that it was the farmer's responsibility

to clean the road after the cows had crossed especially when the crossing point was near a junction. Cllr H Jones showed concern to public safety and animal welfare as to the lack of supervision whilst the animals crossed the road. The Clerk enquired if “Cows Crossing” signs were sited in the area. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department at Carmarthenshire County Council to remind them of the issue and to deal with the matter urgently. The Clerk to also ask for “Cows Crossing” signs be erected in this area.

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call on 12/10/2021 from an irate member of the community stating that Carmarthenshire County Council were hesitant in helping him relocate due to the condition of his home. The community member showed anger and used foul language towards the Clerk despite the Clerk not having any prior knowledge of the issue. The Clerk agreed to assist the community member to the best of his ability and limited resources. The Clerk contacted the Chair, Vice-Chair and County Cllr A Davies to help assist with the matter. The Clerk reported that Carmarthenshire County Council had taken steps to assist the community member numerous times but were sometimes unable to access the property. The matter had been reported to the Housing Department at Carmarthenshire County Council and they were hoping to resolve the matter within a few days. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs asking the Council to consider giving financial assistance towards the running of the movement at County level. **Resolved** to consider in the November meeting on 10/11/2021.

123/2021-2022 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

PL/02738 - New extension to house to provide accessible facilities for disabled client. Conversion of stables to storage and carers break room. Reconfigured drive access to provide step free access to house. New fences to boundary - The Ridings, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PP.

124/2021-2022 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the September monthly meeting and **ratified** in the October 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 H Jones.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	23/09/2021	Nest	32.58
Online	27/09/2021	WCVA Inv - 339	21.30
Online	27/09/2021	J.G Evans – September Payroll	342.94
Online	27/09/2021	HMRC PAYE – Period 6	89.80
Online	27/09/2021	Edge IT Systems - Inv 35225	135.36
Online	27/09/2021	Dynefor Tree Services – Inv 005	250.00
Online	27/09/2021	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL1	70.00

125/2021-2022 Receipts.

None.

126/2021-2022 To receive the report of the Internal Financial Examiner for the period 01/07/2021 - 30/09/2021.

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 Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr W Evans to accept the report. Members thanked Cllr R Jones and the Clerk for their work.

127/2021-2022 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.

Cllr M Rees confirmed that the Chairman's chain was in good condition and that no repairs were required. The Clerk asked if council members wished for the name bars to be purchased mid-year or wait until Cllr M Rees had completed her year. The consensus was to wait until May 2022. **Resolved** to note.

128/2021-2022 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.

129/2021-2022 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.

130/2021-2022 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.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with an operator from Utility Aid and since Llanddarog Community Council receive an invoice from Carmarthenshire County Council for all the energy used, they were unable to offer any support. The Clerk also informed the council members that all village halls within the community were eligible for Utility Aid support and that he had informed all relevant parties. **Resolved** to note.

131/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr H Jones reported that a decision was imminent as to whether he would be accepted as a co-opted member of Llanddarog School's board of governors instead of being a Community Council representative.

Cllr H Jones had approached Cllr J Williams O.B.E. to ask if he was willing to represent Llanddarog Community Council on Llanddarog School's board of governors as a family member attended the school. Cllr J Williams O.B.E. stated that he was willing to fulfil the role if no one else wished to volunteer. **Resolved** to note.

Cllr S Herridge reported that the water pressure in Porthyrhyd had been very low over the past few days and that Welsh Water were monitoring the issue. Cllr R Jones also reported the same issue in Pontfaen but the water pressure had been partially restored. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk wished to thank Cllr W Evans for his assistance with regards to all the work involved with the Gwili Evans bench.

132/2020-2021 In camera 20.11.

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.

133/2020-2021 Staff pay run October 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 asked council members if they wanted to hold a live council meeting in December 2021 as certain restrictions had now been lifted. He informed council members that Llanarthne Community Council held live meetings every 3 months. Council members agreed to the proposal to hold a live meeting every 3 months in line with Llanarthne Community Council. **Resolved** to note.

134/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.20.

Chairman

Date
