

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the February 2022 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held online on the 09/02/2022 at 19.00.

199/2021-2022 Present:

Councillors: M Rees (Chair), R Jones, J Williams O.B.E, J Youens, R Owen.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

200/2021-2022 Apologies.

Councillors: E Davies, S Herridge, H Jones, R Newell, W Evans.

201/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.

None.

202/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the council on agenda items.

None.

203/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters

Cllr H Jones reported the following issue to the Clerk prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend.

Cllr H Jones was approached by a member of the community regarding the number of cars parked on the pavement/highway outside Porthyrhyd Garage. Numerous cars have been parked at the same location for many weeks and causing an obstruction to pedestrians and nearby residents. The issue is also causing a hazard when entering and exiting the Post Office car park.

Cllr R Jones stated that if all vehicles had tax and insurance, they were not illegally parked if the vehicle was on the highway.

The matter was discussed by all council members, and it was suggested by County Cllr A Davies to report the matter to Dyfed-Powys Police to deal with the issue.

Resolved for the Clerk to report to Dyfed-Powys Police.

204/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported that the council tax charges for 2022 – 2023 had been set at 2.5% as new grant funding had been received during the final days of the budget discussions. Full council meeting on 09/02/2022 to discuss the following 3 x “Notice of Motion” – Housing, Net Zero Carbon and the budget. Funding has been obtained to change the Debenhams store in Carmarthen into a community hub. This is a multipurpose development that will house a selection of artifacts from the museum, a gym/fitness and wellbeing centre on the first floor with the ground floor being utilised as a community hub and an opportunity for local businesses to open pop-up shops to promote their products. During the festive season, the pop-up shops received a footfall of over 23,000 and was well supported by the residents of Carmarthenshire.

Cllr R Jones enquired about the new vehicle charging points in Crosshands as they are still not open as discussed in the January meeting on 11/01/2022, minute **182/2021-2022**. County Cllr A Davies reported that the EV charging hub had been officially opened by Lee Waters AM and Cllr Hazel Evans and confirmed that they would be open on 15/02/2022.

205/2021-2022 Chairman's Report.

Cllr M Rees sadly announced that Mr Selwyn Evans, Coedhirion, Llanddarog had passed away on 16/01/2022 and that a thanksgiving service was held at St Twrog Church, Llanddarog on 29/01/2022. Mr Selwyn Evans was a community councillor for over 30 years and was preceded by his father, Mr Gwili Evans was also a community councillor and clerk to the community council for many years.

206/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 12/01/2022.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 11/01/2022 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Chair for signing on 11/02/2022. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Owen.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested an error on alteration on minute **181/2021-2022** – Remove all What3words references to avoid possible confusion by those reading the minutes. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported an alteration on minute **182/2021-2022** – to remove direct reference to a private company from paragraph 5. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested an error alteration relating to on minute **194/2021-2022** – Add reference numbers to all tables. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested an alteration on minute **194/2021-2022** – Add “Agreed by council members” to section (e). **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested an alteration on minute **194/2021-2022** – Add “Recommendations” after “report” in the last paragraph. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

207/2021-2022 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.

208/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.

Letter of appeal from Wales Air Ambulance. Defer to the March meeting on 09/03/2022.

209/2021-2022 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr R Owen and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

PL/03397 - Siting of 3 tourism accommodation units (pods) with associated landscaping and storage/utility building - Land at Llys yr Eos, Mynyddcerrig, Llanelli, SA15 5AY.

210/2021-2022 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the January monthly meeting and **ratified** in the February 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 J Youens.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	18/01/2022	WCVA Inv – 1094	21.30
Online	18/01/2022	HMRC PAYE – Period 10	90.00
Online	18/01/2022	J.G Evans – January Payroll	343.03
Online	18/01/2022	Defib World – Inv 3378	45.99
Online	21/01/2022	Nest	32.58
Online	28/01/2022	Red Dragon Flagmakers – Inv LCC-G-250122	1125.60
Online	28/01/2022	Mr Flag – Inv 21378	110.40

211/2021-2022 Receipts.

None.

212/2021-2022 To discuss maintenance of community flagpoles.

An email was received on 14/11/2021 from Cllr J Williams O.B.E stating that the flagpoles within the community required maintenance before the flags are raised in 2022. The Clerk contacted Red Dragon Flagmakers in Swansea as they were local and able to fulfil any maintenance work required. Photographs were sent to Red Dragon Flagmakers on 30/11/2021 and a prompt reply was received, stating that repairs and a LOLER inspection was required.

Cllr R Jones enquired if the work involved should be part of a tender process. Cllr S Herridge reported that as the maintenance required was a Health and Safety issue, that it should be rectified as soon as possible. The matter was further discussed by council members, and it was decided to sought repairs as soon as possible. Proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr H Jones. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact Red Dragon Flagmakers.

The Clerk reported that an engineer from Red Dragon Flagmakers performed a survey of all flagpoles within the community on 17/12/2021 with Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and Cllr W Evans in attendance. A report and quotation was received on 07/01/2022 and sent to all council members stating all the repairs that were required. LOLER certificates were received on 10/01/2022 giving the following results –

Llanddarog Flagpole – Fail.

Porthyrhyd Flagpole – Fail.

Mynyddcerrig Flagpole – Pass.

The required repairs were discussed by council members, and it was decided to complete all required repairs ASAP to comply with health and safety regulations. Once all repairs have been completed, new LOLER certificates will be issued on all failed flagpoles.

It was also agreed to inspect and repair if necessary, each flagpole every 3 years as advised by the engineer. Cllr J Williams O.B.E. also asked for a contingency sum be placed aside for a new flagpole at Llanddarog as the engineer had advised that a replacement flagpole would be required in the near future.

Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. **Resolved** for the Clerk to arrange repairs with Red Dragon Flagmakers.

The Clerk reported that all flagpoles had been repaired and the invoice had been paid. The Clerk also clarified that each flagpole would undertake a LOLER inspection and repaired once every 3 years as recommended by the engineer. Please see inspection rota below –

2023 – Llanddarog.

2024 – Porthyrhyd.

2025 – Mynyddcerrig.

Resolved to note and for the Clerk to arrange annual inspections.

213/2021-2022 To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon 02/06/2022.

County Cllr A Davies previously 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 flood-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.

An email was received from the National Trust on 08/12/2021 and forwarded to all council members asking for more details with regards to the proposal (Proposed site, size, etc). The lead ranger who is responsible for the land and meadows project at Paxton's Tower was also copied into the email.

The Clerk advised council members to wait until the Llanarthne Community Council meeting on 14/12/2021 to decide on a reply to the questions. Cllr R Jones enquired if the NBGW were celebrating the occasion. The Clerk instructed council members that he would make enquiries. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the NBGW.

The Clerk reported that an Email was sent to the NBGW on 04/01/2022 asking if they are planning an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. No reply has been received. The Clerk invited County Cllr A Davies to report on the plans of Llanarthne Community Council.

County Cllr A Davies reported that Llanarthne Community Council are planning to have a beacon at Paxton's Tower and the event at Llanarthne Village Hall. Capel Dewi were organising an outdoor event with a band and catering in attendance. County Cllr A Davies stated that a UK wide bonfire beacon was planned for 02/06/2022 with summer picnics planned for 05/06/2022 and celebrations throughout the weekend.

Cllr M Rees suggested that Porthyrhyd Village Hall would be an ideal venue for the celebrations as they have a large outside area and playing fields. Cllr S Herridge offered the services of her daughter Rhiannon to perform during the celebrations and Cllr R Jones suggested that she might be able to sing the official jubilee anthem.

Cllr M Rees reported that St. Twrog Church are planning to hold a special service on 05/06/2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Clerk forwarded an email to Cllr M Rees on 23/01/2022, introducing commemorative coins, mugs and bookmarks to honour the occasion. The matter was discussed by all council members, and it was decided to mark the occasion by giving a commemorative mug to all children up to and including year 6 within the community. The council's name and logo to be printed in purple on the mug. The Clerk to enquire as to the number of children within the community with the assistance of council members. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr J Youens.

Council members were not aware of any celebrations occurring in the community between 02/06/2022 - 05/02/2022, therefore the Clerk was asked to contact all village halls and clubs to discover if plans were in place to celebrate the occasion. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact all village halls and clubs.

214/2021-2022 To discuss Porthyrhyd Memorial Stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E informed council members that this matter had been in discussion for approx 8 years and that 12 names were currently on the list of soldiers to be placed on the stone.

Cllr J Youens informed council members that certain names were engraved on the Memorial Stone in Mynyddcerrig and in Capel Seion.

Cllr R Jones asked "Why it was not possible to have names of soldiers from Llanddarog and Mynyddcerrig on the Porthyrhyd memorial Stone?"

County Cllr A Davies replied that there were no issues in having names engraved at two different locations within the community if the soldier was from the parish. It would be far worse if the name of the soldier was not remembered at all.

Cllr R Jones recommended that names of soldiers should be placed on the Memorial Stone as well as the church memorial.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that he would send a list of the fallen soldiers to the Clerk for him to forward to all council members.

It was decided to defer the matter to the April meeting on 13/04/2022.

215/2021-2022 To review Corporate Risk Assessment.

A copy of the 2021-2022 corporate risk assessment was sent to all council members on 04/02/2022 to review prior to the meeting. It was decided to update the following topics as follows –

Topic 3 – Remove "Reduced cover to reflect the number of constituents more accurately".

Topic 11b – Remove “Council agreed in July 2018 that review of asset values were not needed given the limited asset base”.

Topic 28 – Remove “took report to Council in use of chairman civic allowance in April 2017”.

Resolved for the Clerk to update the corporate risk assessment.

The Clerk referred to Topic 12b, where the Clerk is due to have an annual appraisal with the Chair. **Resolved** for the Chair and the Clerk to discuss appraisal on 11/02/2022. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

216/2021-2022 To receive the report of the External Financial Examiner for the period 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021.

Each member had been provided with a written report from the Welsh Audit Office prior to the meeting. A full verbal report was provided by the Clerk, stating that the ‘Accounting Statement’, ‘Audit Certificate’ and ‘Notice of Conclusion of Audit’ had been placed on the website and notice boards for public viewing and confirming the external auditor’s comments as follows –

“Audit Opinion – Unqualified.

Since my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices.
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
- is not consistent with the Council’s/Committee’s governance arrangements; and
- that the Council/Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations - There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council’s attention”

Members thanked the Clerk for his rigorous work in the audit preparation and the Clerk thanked Cllr R Jones for his assistance.

It was proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E to accept the report.

217/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested that if Cllr M Rees was chosen to attend The Queen’s Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, the council should cover the cost of travelling and one night’s accommodation for Councillor and Mr Rees. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

Cllr J Youens announced that she would be retiring from council duties at the end of April 2022. Cllr M Rees acknowledged the contribution and dedication that Cllr J Youens had given to the Community Council for many years.

Cllr R Owen reported issues occurring at Pentre Dolau, Mynyddcerrig, Llanelli, SA15 5BL. Cllr R Owen reported that

- camping pods had been placed on the land without planning permission,
- a new roadway had been built to access and exit the camping pod site,
- a public footpath sign had been removed from the entrance of the footpath,
- a “Trespassers will be Prosecuted £1000” sign had been erected on the gate and
- that the owners of the property are running a business at the property without permission.

Cllr R Owen said that removing the public footpath sign was an offence and that the “Trespassers will be Prosecuted £1000” sign was meaningless as the footpath is open to the public. Cllr R Owen asked the Clerk if any planning requests had been applied for Pentre Dolau regarding the camping pods and the new roadway.

The Clerk replied that no planning applications had been received.

Cllr R Owen also enquired if business rates were being paid at the property as they are now running a camping pod business.

The matter was discussed by all council members, and it was decided for the Clerk to contact the relevant departments at Carmarthenshire County Council to obtain clarity on all the issues. **Resolved** for the Clerk to obtain information.

218/2020-2021 In camera 20.45.

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.

219/2020-2021 Staff pay run February 2022.

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.

The Clerk informed council members that NALC had not increased the pay scale during 2021 after receiving correspondence from One Voice Wales. **Resolved** to note.

220/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.51.

Chairman

Date
