

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the March 2022 meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on the 09/03/2022 at 19.00.

221/2021-2022 Present:

Councillors: M Rees (Chair), R Jones, J Williams O.B.E, J Youens, R Owen, E Davies, T Evans, S Herridge (Via Telephone).

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

222/2021-2022 Apologies.

Councillors: H Jones, R Newell, W Evans.

223/2021-2022 Declarations of personal interest.

Cllr T Evans – **Minute 231/2021-2022 - PL/02872** Erection of 2 agricultural buildings for general storage purposes and to keep water off existing yards – Coedhirion, Llanddarog, Carmarthen, SA32 8BQ.

224/2021-2022 Opportunity for the public to address the council on agenda items.

None.

225/2021-2022 Policing and Road Safety Matters

Cllr R Jones enquired if there were any updates on the faulty streetlight on the B4310 at the roundabout near the A48 slip road. The Clerk informed council members that the site had been attended by maintenance contractors, but the fault had not been repaired.

Cllr J Youens reported that some of the lights on the B4310 at the roundabout near the A48 slip road were on during the day. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

County Cllr A Davies noted that despite Porthyrhyd square being resurfaced a few months ago a pothole has reappeared, and she will be reporting it to the relevant department.

226/2021-2022 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies recited the following words to all council members present:

“As we approach the end of my 5-year period, it has been a pleasure and an honor to relay your voice at County Hall.

I will stand for the other 5 years as I have enjoyed and learned so much while serving as your representative. The issues have been complex, a mixture of the sweet and the cheerful. Issues such as Social Services, Housing, Planning, schools, highways, governing boards and transport and everything else.

The last County Meeting (on the morning of 02/03/2022) was extremely political and indeed reflected the long run of elections. There was a lot of this at the beginning of my period, back in 2017 but the 'point scoring' improved and everyone settled down

to work together for the benefit of the County's residents. There's another meeting on 09/03/2022 and we'll find out what the temperature of that meeting will be.

Within the parish, through your colleagues we have done a lot of work, such as:

DFS signs in Porthyrhyd

Porthyrhyd Square – Resurfaced.

New reserve for Llanddarog.

Potholes.

Help to get Porthyrhyd memorial (not yet achieved but very hopeful).

Improve the Porthyrhyd's transport situation by working with the police and County Council (Red areaweight Lan Lucis Bridge)

Co-operate very effectively during COVID.

Cllr R Jones asked if County Cllr A Davies would be able to attend the April meeting due to the upcoming election in May. County Cllr A Davies replied that she would probably not be able to attend the April meeting as legislation dictates that she would not be allowed to perform politically.

Council members thanked County Cllr A Davies for her report and wished her all the best for the upcoming election.

227/2021-2022 Chairman's Report.

Cllr M Rees sadly announced that Cllr H Jones's father Mr Vernon Jones, Y Wern, Llanarthne had passed away on 25/02/2022. Condolences were sent to Cllr H Jones.

228/2021-2022 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 09/02/2022.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 09/02/2022 and for the clerk to deliver the minutes to the Chair for signing on 10/03/2022. Proposed by Cllr J Youens and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

Cllr J Youens reported an error on minute **213/2021-2022**, penultimate paragraph – add “up to and including year 6” after “all children”. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E joined the meeting at 19.13

229/2021-2022 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.

Cllr R Owen updated council members on minute **217/2021-2022** regarding planning permission for a campsite - The siting of seasonal 'tents' including bell tents / yurts / safari tents? Yes. If the 'season' is for more than 28 days of the year, then planning consent will be required. If the glamping activity occurs for more than 28 days a year you will need consent for change of use of the land for temporary or permanent structures. Planning permission is also required to install utilities on the site. The 56-day rule - This allows most temporary uses of land to take place without having to make a planning application. To help businesses recover from the pandemic, the Government has granted additional temporary permissions for 2021 allowing, cumulatively, up to 56 days of temporary uses where the necessary legal requirements are met.

230/2021-2022 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.

The following letter was received from the Hywel Dda University Health Board on 07/03/2022 and forwarded to all council members prior to the meeting –
“I’m writing to you on behalf of the Hywel Dda Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Department, as part of the Alternative and Augmentative Communication team.

As you are aware, Paediatric Speech and Language Therapists work with children who find communication difficult. They may have additional needs that makes communication challenging for them, or they may have a degree of language delay that makes it hard for them to let others know what they are thinking. This can then lead to frustration and feelings of isolation.

You may have recently heard about the launch of the Communication Access symbol which will help businesses and communities become more aware of communication difficulties, and how to best support individuals through providing a communication friendly environment. There is more information available at communication-access.co.uk.

We as a team are passionate about supporting our children to feel heard and included. We would like to support their communication in the public places that they might access. We have started to place communication boards in Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, I attach a link with more information in Welsh <https://www.facebook.com/PrynhawnDaS4C/videos/byrddau-cyfathrebu/1176224062790694/?form=MY01SV&OCID=MY01SV>

This will hopefully be a small step in making our communities and our county be more communication friendly.

These communication boards will-

- allow children to use a visual means to let others know what they want to say,
- allow others to model and support the child’s understanding by using visual support,
- raise awareness of the hidden disability that is communication difficulty
- make our community more inclusive

The boards are 3ft x 2ft and need to be placed in a central place and accessible for small children so that they can point at all the pictures. It could be placed on a fence in the park if suitable or on fencing posts.

This is a very exciting project, the first of its kind in Wales and we are hoping that you will be interested in being part of the project. We would like to offer you a board for you park/parks free of charge. These have been funded by the Child Development Fund, via Carmarthenshire County Council, in collaboration with our service.



Council members discussed the letter, and it was decided for Cllr R Jones, Cllr J Youens and the Clerk to contact village halls and welfare committees in the community to ascertain whether a communication board would be beneficial to the premises. Cllr J Williams O.B.E enquired if Cylch Meithrin Llanddarog and Drefach could be included despite being located at the old Maes y Gwendraeth School, Drefach. The Clerk noted that he would contact the Clerk of Gorslas Community Council as the nursery was not sited within the boundaries of Llanddarog Community Council. **Resolved** for all parties to reply to the Clerk before 19/03/2022.

An email was received from the NBGW on 08/03/2022 and sent to all council members stating that Mr Huw Francis, the Director of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, has announced that he is stepping down and leaving the employment of the Garden. Mr Huw Francis has served as Director since 2016. Highlights of his tenure include the continued growth in the Garden's scientific reputation, increase in visitor numbers with the recognition of the Garden as a major attraction in Wales, and substantial improvement in the Garden's financial position. He has also overseen the successful delivery of the award-winning Regency Restoration project, the Biophilic Wales scientific programme and the Growing the Future outreach work. All councillors agreed that this would be a great loss to the NBGW.

231/2021-2022 Planning.

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

PL/02872 - Erection of 2 agricultural buildings for general storage purposes and to keep water off existing yards – Coedhirion, Llanddarog, Carmarthen, SA32 8BQ.

232/2021-2022 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the February monthly meeting and **ratified** in the March 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 R Jones.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	22/02/2022	WCVA Inv – 1239	21.30
Online	22/02/2022	HMRC PAYE – Period 12	89.80
Online	22/02/2022	J.G Evans – February Payroll	343.23
Online	22/02/2022	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL5	70.00
Online	22/02/2022	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL6	70.00
Online	24/02/2022	Nest	32.58

233/2021-2022 Receipts.

None.

234/2021-2022 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.

The Clerk informed all council members that he had spoken with representatives of both Llanddarog Village Hall and Porthyrhyd Village Hall and that nothing was being arranged by either party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Clerk informed council members that he had spoken with Llanddarog School and that 85 students were currently in attendance. Cllr J Youens reported that there were approx 18 children in the village of Mynyddcerrig but 2 of those attended Llanddarog School. County Cllr A Davies reported that a number of students from the community also attended Cwtsh Y Clos Nursery. It was agreed for council members to find out the number of children within the community and report back to the Clerk before 19/03/2022 to place an order for the mugs.

Cllr M Rees reported that St Twrog Church was organising a Jubilee Big Lunch at Llanddarog Village Hall on 05/06/2022.

235/2021-2022 To discuss Financial Assistance Requests.

The Clerk informed council members that only one letter of appeal from Wales Air Ambulance had been received. The request was discussed by all council members, and it was decided to donate £200.00 to the charity. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. **Resolved** for the Clerk to arrange payment.

236/2021-2022 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported a pothole appearing on Porthyrhyd square. The Clerk informed him that the matter had already been discussed prior to his arrival in agenda item 4, minute **225/2021-2022**.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported that the fence next to the junction between the B4310 and Foelgastell Road was causing an obstruction to drivers. Cllr J Williams O.B.E. suggested erecting a convex traffic mirror opposite the junction to view oncoming traffic. County Cllr A Davies suggested having a site meeting with a member of the Highways Department to seek suitable advice. Resolved for County Cllr A Davies to arrange site meeting.

237/2021-2022 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.

238/2021-2022 To discuss Clerk's appraisal 2022.

The Clerk was required to leave the meeting whilst his appraisal was being presented by Cllr M Rees and discussed by all council members.

Community Council members agreed that the Clerk had performed very well since taking over the role on 01/01/2020 and that he was due an incremental increase in salary from LC1 point 7 to LC1 point 8 from 01/04/2022. The Clerk thanked all council members for their feedback and for the increase in salary. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

239/2020-2021 Staff pay run March 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 received an email from One Voice Wales on 04/03/2022 and sent to all council members to review prior to the meeting. The email included the national salary awards 2021-2022 and that pay agreement had been reached on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2021. Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible. All council members agreed with the document and to initiate the increase in salary from 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr R Owen. **Resolved** for the Clerk to calculate the difference in salary and receive payment in the April 2022 pay run.

240/2021-2022 The meeting finished at 20.40.

Chairman

Date
