

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the November 2022 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 09/11/2022 at 19.00.

134/2022-2023 Present.

Councillors: R Jones (Chair), M Rees, K Waters, R McFarlane, S Herridge, T Evans.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

135/2022-2023 To receive apologies.

Councillors: R Newell, M Griffiths, J Williams O.B.E.

136/2022-2023 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

137/2022-2023 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

138/2022-2023 Policing and Road Safety Matters.

Cllr M Rees reported on the condition of the road surface in Cwmisfael between Whitehall Farm and the Llanddarog junction. Drain covers were also damaged or loose due to the amount of heavy goods traffic and water on the surface. The Clerk stated that the road surface had been repaired in August 2022 but to no avail. **Resolved** for County Cllr A Davies and the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr S Herridge reported that she had received numerous complaints regarding cars being parked in the wrong direction outside Porthyrhyd Garage. The Highway Code rule 248 states that "You **MUST NOT** park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space". Cllr R Jones stated that this was a Police matter but asked the Clerk to inform the local constabulary. **Resolved** for the Clerk to inform the local Police station.

139/2022-2023 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies informed Council members that a full council meeting was held on 09/11/2022 and the following was reported –

"An excellent presentation from Mid and West Wales Fire Service which highlighted the need of retained Firepersons. The Service is currently running at 80% of the firefighters needed. There is a cost to council residents of around £59 per annum and they wish to increase this levy by 13% to invest in people and infrastructure. Very few fire stations working 24/7 within the area, and these are mainly in Neath, Port Talbot and Swansea. One in Carmarthenshire based in Llanelli with one engine being full time and one on a day system.

Three questions were asked during the meeting. Two were quite parochial relating the Garnant Ward and one more general issue regarding Bwcabus and its availability

within the County. There was also a cross-party Notice of Motion relating to the Cost-of-Living crisis.

Three papers were accepted relating to Social Care and Social Services. It highlighted the need to help people within Carmarthenshire to live well with dementia and the need for more social care workers. The County currently has 150 patients that have been assessed and need care, but no carers are available within the Public or Private sector. This means that the care is currently being provided by family members who are receiving direct payments. 23% of carers used to be 'in house', and this has now increased to 40% and we are still building on this figure.

The volunteer sector falls within my remit and with this in mind I arranged a meeting with the director of CAVS (Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services) to discuss how we can help the organisation to move forward and become integral to residents during this time of hardship. CAVS itself does a lot of good work on food poverty and village halls/community centres. However, the Citizens Advice Bureau are only accepting telephone consultations now but there is a need for face-to-face meetings. There are empty rooms within 'The Mount' and these should be used by the Citizen Advice Bureau. This follows a 'Poverty Seminar' which was held at the Fwrnes last week where council staff, councillors and third sector representatives worked together to find alternative options to support the most vulnerable within our Society.

I've invited the Carmarthenshire Federation of YFC to County Hall on 22/11/2022 at 19.00. This will give members a chance to see how local democracy works. Llanddarog, Capel-Arthne, Vale of Tywi and Llanfynnydd have received an invitation but it is open to all members who wish to attend".

140/2022-2023 Chairman's Report.

The Chair informed council members that he had been invited to the NBGW to meet Dr Lucy Sutherland, the new director of the NBGW.

Cllr R Jones announced that on Sunday 13/11/2022 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.

141/2022-2023 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 12/10/2022.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 12/10/2022. Proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr T Evans.

County Cllr A Davies reported an error on page 3, paragraph 4 – Change County Cllr A Davies to Carmarthenshire County Council. **Resolved** for the Clerk to alter.

142/2022-2023 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.

143/2022-2023 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming council meeting.

(All relevant correspondence is emailed to council members at the time of receipt and only brought before the meeting if necessary or specifically requested by members or the Clerk).

A letter was received from a community member on 22/10/2022 and forwarded to all council members on 24/10/2022. Please see following –

“Thank you for the email and your response regarding the Information Board.

Although we are keen to see the history of Porthyrhyd displayed as that of other villages such as Llanddarog and Llanarthne throughout the county, we are also caring members of our community well aware of the anxiety and hardship facing residents following the shambles in Westminster, Brexit and the nightmare caused by the Cost of Living Crisis. Instead of asking you in this sad economic climate to continue to source funding for a history project we have decided that we could possibly create an exhibition, as we have done several times in the past, to raise awareness of the wealth of history associated with Porthyrhyd.

Perhaps, if and when the economic climate changes for the better sometime in the future you will keep our request in mind and apply for funding and we will be happy to help in any way we can.

You are aware of the the Council’s Project to provide Warm Places during the coming Winter months. Since October 17th the town libraries have been designated as Warm Places for the Public. Perhaps you as Community Council could consider opening a hall or vestry as part of this scheme to host a Warm Welcome Space.

The Warm Welcome Scheme is funded through the Council’s Poverty Fund and information can be found on the Council’s website. Even if you don’t succeed in obtaining funding such a scheme could easily be provided.

Thank you for your work”.

The Clerk reported that the Poverty Fund guidance notes and application form had been sent all community councilors and village halls on 28/10/2022.

Cllr R Jones enquired about eligibility for the funding,

County Cllr A Davies stated that to be eligible for funding the group must –

- Be based in, and/or represent, serve, and support people in Carmarthenshire.
- Demonstrate that the proposal is clearly to the direct benefit of the residents and communities of Carmarthenshire.
- Be a constituted community group or a registered Charity or CIO based in Wales.
- Other entities would be considered where there is no other community facility within the locality

Applications for support must be submitted by 18/11/2022.

Cllr R Jones asked, “How many days a week Llanarthne Village Hall provided the service”?

County Cllr A Davies replied that the service was available on Tuesday (13.30 – 15.30) and Thursday (13.30 – 16.30) but was reliant on volunteers.

144/2022-2023 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

PL/02636 - Construction of slurry lagoon - Whitehall Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PY.

PL/04981 - Proposed extensions and alterations - Pantllan, Llanddarog, Carmarthen, SA32 8PB.

145/2022-2023 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 S Herridge and seconded by Cllr R Newell.

| Method of Payment | Date | Suppliers & Details | Sum £ inc VAT |
|-------------------|------------|---|---------------|
| Online | 24/10/2022 | J.G Evans – October Payroll | 356.74 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | HMRC PAYE – Period 7 | 93.40 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | Catrin Llwyd – CCLL12 | 114.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | Catrin Llwyd – CCLL13 | 121.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | Dynefor Tree Services - 007 | 250.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreaths | 60.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | One Voice Wales - 6529 | 35.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | One Voice Wales - 6530 | 35.00 |
| Online | 24/10/2022 | J.G Evans – Wynnstay Reimbursement Shortage | 9.45 |
| Online | 27/10/2022 | Nest | 33.82 |

146/2022-2023 Receipts.

None.

147/2022-2023 To discuss asset transfer of land at Cwm Catti.

The Clerk informed council members that a site meeting had been arranged with Maria Evans (Housing Officer) at Cwm Catti on 18/11/2022 at 09.30. County Cllr H Jones, Cllr J Williams O.B.E and Cllr R Jones to attend.

148/2022-2023 To discuss meeting accessibility.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported to the Clerk on 27/10/2022 that Llanddarog School Board of Governors had discussed and approved the proposal on 26/10/2022 and that a charge of £50.00 per meeting would be invoiced to cover the cost of the facilities and the school caretaker.

The Clerk informed council members that One Voice Wales were currently discussing the legislation with the Welsh Government as many rural community councils were unable to provide the required facilities.

The matter was discussed by all council members present and it was decided to wait for the report from One Voice Wales before a final decision is made. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

149/2022-2023 To discuss Community Awards.

The Clerk informed council members that the certificate was being designed and that a copy of the proof was imminent. No other nominees had been received. **Resolved** to note.

150/2022-2023 To discuss Information Board at Porthyrhyd.

A reply was received from the community member. Please see following –

“Thank you for the email and your response regarding the Information Board.

Although we are keen to see the history of Porthyrhyd displayed as that of other villages such as Llanddarog and Llanarthne throughout the county, we are also

caring members of our community well aware of the anxiety and hardship facing residents following the shambles in Westminster, Brexit and the nightmare caused by the Cost of Living Crisis. Instead of asking you in this sad economic climate to continue to source funding for a history project we have decided that we could possibly create an exhibition, as we have done several times in the past, to raise awareness of the wealth of history associated with Porthyrhyd.

Perhaps, if and when the economic climate changes for the better sometime in the future you will keep our request in mind and apply for funding and we will be happy to help in any way we can”.

Resolved to note and discuss in the future.

151/2022-2023 To review Policies and Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Clerk reported that there were no policy updates.

The Clerk reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2023 was received on 07/10/2022. Please see changes as follows

Basic payment for extra costs of working from home

All councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home.

Set payment for consumables

Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

Cllr R Jones reiterated that the community council must make the basic payment to all council members, however, each member can decline the payment if they so wish by completing the members allowance form at the AGM.

Cllr R Jones also stated that the Clerk was responsible for the cost of office consumables required to carry out the role of each council member (paper, stamps, envelopes, printing, etc).

152/2022-2023 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 Cllr R Jones suggested that donations were made to the following parties:

Urdd Gobaith Cymru Sir Gaerfyrddin 2023 – This matter was discussed in the meeting of July 2020 on 08/07/2022. Please see minutes - **88/2020-2021** Consider potential funding for the Eisteddfod 2021. It was reported that the Eisteddfod would proceed in 2022 a year after it was planned due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The members decided to donate £250.00 in year 2020 - 2021 and £250.00 in year 2021-2022. **Resolved** to note.

As the Eisteddfod was also delayed in 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, council members decided to honor their decision and instructed the Clerk to donate the sum of £500.00 towards the event.

Llanelli Deaf Club - £50.00.

Cerebral Palsy Wales - £50.00.

Carmarthenshire YFC - £50.00.

Carmarthen & District Youth Opera - £50.00.

Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr K Waters.

153/2022-2023 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

None.

154/2022-2023 In camera 19.53.

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.

155/2022-2023 Staff pay run November 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. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

156/2022-2023 The meeting finished at 20.56.

Chairman

Date
