

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the February 2023 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 08/02/2023 at 19.00.

200/2022-2023 Present.

Councilors: R Jones (Chair), K Waters, J Williams O.B.E, S Herridge, R Owen, County Cllr H Jones, R Newell, R McFarlane.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

201/2022-2023 To receive apologies.

Councilors: M Rees, T Evans.

202/2022-2023 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

203/2022-2023 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

204/2022-2023 Policing and Road Safety Matters.

The Clerk reported that the below email was received from GoSafe on 08/02/2023 and forwarded to all council members –

“I can confirm that we currently have an enforcement location near the Cricket Club. This location was enforced on 14 occasions during 2022 with 75 vehicles recorded as travelling over speed threshold”.

The email was discussed by council members and as there was no cricket club in the community it was deemed as incorrect. Council members asked the Clerk to reply to the email stating the correct locations for policing. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact GoSafe.

205/2022-2023 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported that a letter was received on 11/01/2023 from Bute Energy/Green Gen informing local residents of the proposed Green Gen Towy Usk project. Without a suitable electricity network, clean, green energy is stuck in our windy areas of Wales. We need to get it to our homes, hospitals, schools, businesses, and communities. Later in 2023, they will be launching Green Gen Towy Usk. This is a new 132kV overhead electricity distribution line connecting the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park – which will generate around 237MW of clean, green energy in the Radnor Forest, to the National Grid at a point near Carmarthen. This new network will not only transport green energy across Wales, it also has the potential to help people and communities unlock technologies that could help farmers, schools, and enable businesses to be at the cutting edge of technology while being based in a rural area.

Within a few days, contracts/licenses had been delivered via post and the following week members of staff from Bute Energy and Bruton Knowles were visiting property owners to sign the documents. On 15/01/2023 over 70 people attended a public meeting in Llanarthne Village Hall where it was discovered that numerous license applications had been received. From the meeting, a sub-committee of 10 highly skilled individuals was formed to deal with the issue.

This is a £3billion project with funds coming from Copenhagen. Several other wind farms will feed into this vein, such as Brechfa East, a wind farm in the Llanfynydd area and also another one near Lampeter. The line is almost 70 miles long beginning in Radnorshire, through Llandovery, Llandeilo, Llanarthne, Efail Fach, Mile End, Llangyndeyrn and ending in Kidwelly. We are working together with our AM's, MP's and Ministers within the Welsh Government to have the cables placed underground rather than 27m pylons placed every 250m along the landscape. A public meeting has been arranged in Llandeilo on 15/02/2023 and Llandovery on 17/02/2023 to hopefully encourage other groups to join with Llanarthne and show Bute Energy/Green Gen that the whole county is against the pylons. Carmarthenshire County Council is also opposed to the pylons as it goes against the huge investment of having the cycle path along the Towy Valley.

The 20mph consultation is open on the Carmarthenshire County Council website.

The LDP consultation will be live on 13/02/2023.

A phosphate meeting with the First Minister was planned for 09/02/2023 but this has been rescheduled for 08/03/2023 in Cardiff.

The February's Council meeting has been cancelled, but budget setting will be held on 01/03/2023, a few days before we have a final settlement from Welsh Government. If we as a Council leave it any later then we will not be able to complete our statutory duty to present a balanced budget before the deadline and also get the Council tax letters out to residents.

County Cllr A Davies reminded council members that the Hwb in Carmarthen does give 'cost of living' advice to residents.

The warm hub is held at Llanarthne Village Hall every Tuesday.

Menstrual dignity products have been obtained and are available for all village halls.

The new refuse collection calendar is underway, and a reminder is available via text.

Capel-Arthne YFC together with Llanarthne Village Hall are organising a Cawl a Chan at 19.30 on 03/03/2023. All funds raised will be shared between the two organisations.

Cllr R Jones reported that he had requested a time change on the text reminder but was refused. **Resolved** for County Cllr A Davies to investigate.

206/2022-2023 Chairman's Report.

Cllr R Jones wished to express his condolences on behalf of all members of Llanddarog Community Council to Cllr J Williams O.B.E after the passing of his father.

207/2022-2023 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 11/01/2023.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 11/01/2023. Proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

208/2022-2023 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.

209/2022-2023 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).

The Clerk reported that an email was received from County Cllr A Davies on behalf of a concerned community member on 27/01/2023. Please see below –

“I am writing to enquire whether you are, or will be willing, to lobby Carmarthenshire County Council as a matter of urgency to introduce traffic speed calming measures in the village of Porthyrhyd, and especially on the B4310 heading towards the A48 entrance/exit.

There is a large amount of traffic on this road, and this will only increase with the present housebuilding campaign being undertaken by the council. There are not only cars, but buses (predominantly for schoolchildren) and large lorries.

The narrow road in places, especially over the bridge, make this a dangerous road anyway, but the speed by many vehicles is frightening, and I believe that this makes the road a pedestrian fatality waiting to happen.

My feeling is that road humps as the road enters the village and before the bridge (on both sides) would be necessary. Experience informs us that although the speed limit just after the A48 Westbound Exit drops from 60mph to 30mph, this is rarely observed by drivers.

Thank you for considering the contents of this email. I look forward to your response”.

County Cllr A Davies stated that an email was sent to the Highways Department and the following reply was received on 27/01/2023 –

“I would inform you that the role of enforcing the existing speed limit rests with the Police and the GoSafe Partnership rather than the County Council as we have no enforcement powers in this respect. I have attached below a link to the Go Safe website which I hope you will find informative. You will note on their website the locations of current speed camera enforcement sites, details of community campaigns such as Community Speedwatch and there is a contact section for passing comments on to the partnership.

<https://gosafe.org/contact-us/community-concern/>

As per the agreed process with GoSafe/Police regarding speeding concerns, I would kindly ask that you encourage any constituents who have concerns regarding traffic speeds to log them directly with GoSafe through the above link, GoSafe will then assess speeds and decide on an appropriate course of action should they consider one is required.

The costs associated Traffic Calming features such as road humps, road narrowing etc can run into tens of thousands of pounds and therefore we need to prioritise such provision based on a history of PIC's (personal injury collisions/casualties) and also consider as secondary supporting evidence factors such as excessive speeds/high average speeds. Having looked at our collision database I would confirm that there has been no PIC's in the last five years and therefore this location would not feature highly on our programme based on the current data.

I will arrange to place speed gathering equipment along this length of road during our next scheduled round of placements and the resultant data can feed into our future decision-making process regarding measures and assist GoSafe in determining whether any enforcement action is required at this location.

I have copied in Sgt Price, Regional Coordinator for GoSafe so that he is aware of the concerns and that we plan to gather speeds in the area.

I envisage that the speed data will be available for consideration in early.

Further information on the planned 20mph Legislation can be found on the following link:

<https://gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits-frequently-asked-questions>

In addition to the above we will shortly be releasing information to the public with access to our online platform to view 20mph proposals.

This matter was discussed at length by council members and Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that he fully endorsed the community members letter and commented that it was deemed as necessary for an accident to occur before any action was taken by Carmarthenshire County Council and that placing speed camera vans at the location was just a way of raising funds. He also stated that no works had commenced at the junction of Foelgastell Road and asked the Clerk to chase the Highways Department as all works were due to be completed before 31/03/2023.

Resolved for the Clerk to contact the Highways Department.

The following email was received on 31/01/2023 from One Voice Wales –

“I am writing to inform you that The King will give two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace this year on Wednesday 3rd May and Tuesday 9th May to celebrate the Coronation. (The successful Councillor will be allocated one of these dates so they must be available for both)

The Palace wants to reward Councillors who have gone above and beyond for their communities so **please let me have your nominations urgently but no later than Monday 13th February – we only received this correspondence this morning, so the timeline is very short.**

All nominations will be placed in a draw and only the councils who have been successful will be notified.

All nominated guests must be British, Commonwealth or European Union citizens with pre settled or settled status, although their spouse, partner or companion may be of other nationalities. All guests, nominated or accompanying, must be resident in the United Kingdom.

There will be no parking facilities offered this year with the exception of disability badge (Blue Badge) holders who may apply for parking. Regrettably no exceptions will be allowed. Requests for disabled access should be entered on the nomination forms as in previous years. An additional form will be included with the nominee's invitation requesting details of their disability badge, upon receipt of which a parking label will be sent to the guest.

This is a once in a lifetime experience so if either you or your guest have ever previously attended a Garden Party at the Palace, please do not put the name forward. The palace will reject any name/s they already have on record”.

The email was discussed by all council members present and it was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Newell to nominate the Chair, Cllr R Jones

to attend the event. Resolved for Cllr R Jones to complete the relevant documents and submit before 13/02/2023.

An email was received from Llanddarog Village Hall requesting funds of £60.00 to pay for the Christmas Tree. The Clerk reported that he had replied to the email stating that the community council would donate a maximum of £50.00 for any form of Christmas decoration. Cllr R Jones and other council members supported the Clerk's decision as this was the maximum donation to any village within the community and that the donation was transferred to the village hall or welfare committee. **Resolved** for the Clerk to transfer £50.00 to Llanddarog Village Hall.

210/2022-2023 Planning.

None.

211/2022-2023 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the January meeting and **ratified** in the February meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	03/01/2023	Nest	33.82
Online	23/01/2023	J.G Evans – January Payroll	356.74
Online	23/01/2023	HMRC PAYE – Period 10	93.40
Online	23/01/2023	Castell Howell Foods Ltd – 644656 (Printing)	15.84
Online	23/01/2023	Mr Flag – 24281 (3 x Flags)	110.40
Online	23/01/2023	Catrin Llwyd - CCLL15	111.40
Online	23/01/2023	Catrin Llwyd - CCLL16	70.00
Online	26/01/2023	Nest	33.82

212/2022-2023 Receipts.

VAT Refund 2021 – 2022

17/01/2023 - £1118.31

Sale of 2 x Commemorative Mugs - £7.00

Gorslas Community Council – Online platform donation July/Oct.

17/01/2023 - £40.00.

Llandybie Community Council – Online platform donation Sept/Nov.

17/01/2023 - £40.00.

213/2022-2023 To discuss Porthyrhyd War Memorial.

No updates.

214/2022-2023 To discuss potholes/hot tar box.

County Cllr A Davies informed council members that new machinery had been purchased by Carmarthenshire County Council to repair persistent potholes effectively and efficiently. All council members to forward a list of potholes within the area to County Cllr A Davies. **Resolved** to note.

215/2022-2023 To review Corporate Risk Assessment.

A copy of the 2022-2023 corporate risk assessment was sent to all council members on 05/02/2023 to review prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated that the document had been updated since the last review on 09/02/2022 (**Minute 215/2021-2022**). It was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr S Herridge to accept the corporate risk assessment with no updates required. Resolved to note.

216/2022-2023 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr R Newell reported that he had received a letter from a community member regarding the danger of walking along the highway from Mynyddcerrig – Capel Seion. This matter was discussed approx. 12 years ago, and the issue was rejected by Carmarthenshire County Council. Welsh Government has allocated £200million to county councils within Wales. How much will Carmarthenshire receive? Is there a possibility to have a pavement installed from Mynyddcerrig – Capel Seion to safeguard local residents? **Resolved** for County Cllr A Davies to enquire.

Cllr S Herridge reported that she attended the Community and Town Council Liaison Forum on 19/01/2023 and that there was a proposed increase in Council Tax of 7%. No strike action within the county council as all pay scales had been previously agreed and accepted.

The Clerk suggested that when the Community Awards are presented to the nominees at the annual dinner that the guest's dinner is paid for from the Chairmans Fund. All council members agreed. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk reminded council members that the Zoom subscription is due for renewal very soon and asked if they were interested in changing to Microsoft Teams. County Cllr H Jones stated that he frequently utilised both platforms and from experience Zoom was a more favorable platform. All council members agreed. **Resolved** to note and renew the subscription when due.

The Clerk reported that the new “Llanddarog Community Council” signs had been secured to all community noticeboards with assistance from former Cllr W Evans.

217/2022-2023 In camera 20.29

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.

218/2022-2023 Staff pay run February 2023.

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.

219/2022-2023 Date of next meeting.

08/03/2023 at Mynyddcerrig Club.

220/2022-2023 The meeting finished at 20.06.

Chairman

Date

