

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 2023 General Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 10/5/2023 at 19.00.

1/2023-2024 Present.

Councillors: R Jones, M Rees, R Owen, R Newell, S Herridge, J Williams O.B.E, T Evans.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

2/2023-2024 To elect the Chair for 2023 – 2024.

Cllr S Herridge was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees. Cllr S Herridge was unanimously elected as Chair.

3/2023-2024 To elect Vice Chair for 2023-2024.

Cllr R Newell was proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr M Rees. Cllr R Newell was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

4/2023-2024 The Chair, Vice-Chair and council members to sign declaration of acceptance.

The Chair, Vice Chair and all council members signed the declaration of acceptance.

5/2023-2024 To receive apologies.

Councillors: County Cllr H Jones, M Griffiths, K Waters, R McFarlane.

6/2023-2024 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

7/2023-2024 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

8/2023-2024 To receive the retiring Chair's address and report on civic allowance /budget expenditure.

Cllr R Jones reported that it had been an honor and a privilege to Chair Llanddarog Community Council for the third time since becoming a community councillor. Cllr R Jones thanked the Clerk for all his assistance and hard work during the year. Many topics had been discussed and resolved including Porthyrhyd War Memorial (Ongoing), presenting retired County and Community Cllr W Evans with a seating bench at the entrance to Pontfaen and presenting all children attending Llanddarog Primary School with a Platinum Jubilee mug. Cllr R Jones reported that he had attended events within the community which included meeting Dr Lucy Sutherland, the new director of the NBGW and the lunate event at the NBGW. Some challenging moments also occurred during the year including a public meeting and 2 x consultations regarding the potential development at Wern Fraith Farm. Cllr R

Jones reflected his sorrow after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 08/09/2022. Cllr R Jones thanked all council members for their support and assistance and wished Cllr S Herridge the very best in her role as Chair of Llanddarog Community Council.

Cllr R Jones expressed the councils and his personal condolences to Cllr R Owen on the passing of his mother.

Civic Allowance Donations

Cllr R Jones stated that no funds had been spent from his civic allowance as it was being utilised to fund the recipients of the Community Awards.

9/2023-2024 To review the Council's policies and confirm cheque signatories on the bank mandate.

The Clerk reported that he had requested the most recent policies from One Voice Wales and will upload them on to the website ASAP. Current policies are available on the Llanddarog Community Council website.

The Clerk informed council members that the current signatories on the account were Cllr R Jones, Cllr J Williams O.B.E and himself. Online banking is currently being used.

10/2023-2024 To appoint the council's general standing sub-committee and terms of reference.

It was decided that the sub-committee would consist of the presiding Chair, Vice-Chair, Previous Chair and one council member from the relevant parish:

Llanddarog – Cllr T Evans, Cllr M Rees.

Porthyrhyd – Cllr J Williams O.B.E, Cllr M Griffiths, Cllr R McFarlane.

Mynyddcerrig – Cllr R Owen, Cllr R Newell, Cllr K Waters.

Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

11/2023-2024 Appointments.

It was **resolved** as follows:

- a) **One Voice Wales Area Committee** – Cllr M Rees and Cllr R Jones (Attendance if required).
- b) **Carmarthenshire County Council's Community and Town Council Liaison Forum** – Cllr S Herridge and Cllr R Jones.
- c) **Carmarthenshire County Council's Local Development Plan Forum** – Cllr J Williams O.B.E and Cllr S Herridge.
- d) **Torcoed Quarry Forum** – Cllr R Owen and Cllr R Newell.

12/2023-2024 To appoint a community representative on Llanddarog School's governing body.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E confirmed that County Cllr H Jones was to remain as representative of Llanddarog Community Council on Llanddarog School's Governing Body for the full term of 4 years. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

13/2023-2024 Mr L.M Jones - Internal Auditor for accounts 2023-2024.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Mr L.M Jones and that he was happy to continue as Internal Auditor for Llanddarog Community Council. It was agreed by Council Members to invite Mr L M Jones as the internal auditor of accounts.

Proposed by County Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge. **Resolved** for the Clerk to write a letter of invitation to Mr L.M Jones.

14/2023-2024 Confirmation of the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer for 2023-2024.

Resolved to confirm the Clerk. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

15/2023-2024 Confirmation of Internal Financial Examiner for 2023-2024.

Resolved to confirm Cllr R Jones. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Owen.

16/2023-2024 Chairman Civic allowance/budget sum for 2023-2024.

Resolved that the sum be £500 (Section 137). Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

Resolved that the sum be £300 (Civic Allowance). Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

17/2023-2024 Date, time and location of meetings.

Cllr J Williams O.B E suggested that all meetings should be held within the community's village halls/club. It was **resolved** that the meetings be held on the second Wednesday of the Month at **19.00pm** (except August). Meetings will commence in accordance with the table below.

COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2023-2024

June 2023	Mynyddcerrig Club
July 2023	Llanddarog Village Hall
September 2023	Porthyrhyd Village Hall
October 2023	Mynyddcerrig Club
November 2023	Llanddarog Village Hall
December 2023	Porthyrhyd Village Hall
January 2024	Mynyddcerrig Club
February 2024	Llanddarog Village Hall
March 2024	Porthyrhyd Village Hall
April 2024	Mynyddcerrig Club
May 2024 (Including AGM)	Llanddarog Village Hall

Other meetings may be called during the year as required

Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

18/2023-2024 To consider the co-option of additional members.

Full council currently in attendance.

19/2023-2024 Training on the code of conduct and arrangements for any payments to the Members.

a. The Clerk explained that all Council members were required to attend a Code of Conduct training course every 5 years. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to obtain

information from Carmarthenshire County Council and One Voice Wales regarding the course and report to council members in due course.

The following councilors require training on the Code of Conduct – Cllr K Waters, Cllr R Jones, Cllr T Evans and Cllr R Newell.

b. It was **resolved** that any payments of £156.00 be made to Members in PAYE tax period 12 of this financial year. If a member leaves the Council before the payroll data is sent to the agent for period 12 then they will not receive the payment. The Clerk asked council members to confirm their position in writing by signing the members' allowance document provided as to whether they are claiming the £156.00. Resolved - All council members present completed the members' allowance form and returned to the Clerk.

20/2023-2024 To note council members attendance.

The Clerk reported the following.

Name	No of Meetings	Meetings Attended	Attendance %	Declaration of Interest
Cllr R Jones	13	13	100	1
Cllr S Herridge	13	11	85	0
County Cllr H Jones	13	4	31	0
Cllr J Williams O.B.E.	13	9	70	2
Cllr M Rees	13	9	70	0
Cllr R Owen	13	9	70	0
Cllr R Newell	13	9	70	0
Cllr T Evans	13	5	39	0
Cllr K Waters	13	10	77	0
Cllr R McFarlane	13	5	39	0
Cllr M Griffiths	13	5	39	0

21/2022-2023 The meeting finished at 19.28.

Chairman

Date

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the May 2023 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 10/5/2023 at 19.00 (Following the General Meeting).

22/2023-2024 Present.

Councillors: R Jones, M Rees, R Owen, R Newell, S Herridge, J Williams O.B.E, T Evans.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

23/2023-2024 To receive apologies.

Councillors: County Cllr H Jones, M Griffiths, K Waters, R McFarlane.

24/2023-2024 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr R Jones - **36/2023-2024** To confirm annual revenue grant to Porthyrhyd Village Hall.

Cllr T Evans – **38/2023-2024** To confirm annual sponsorship to Llanddarog Show.

25/2023-2024 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

Two members of the community attended the meeting to update the council members with regards to the Wern Fraith Farm consultation. It was noted that more than 165 objections were delivered to Evans Banks Planning Ltd prior to the end of the consultation and numerous other objections were emailed. The community members asked if it was possible to obtain a copy of the community councils' letter in response to the potential development. **Resolved** for the Clerk to email a copy.

The community members asked if it was possible to obtain a copy of the community councils' letter in response to the LDP consultation. County Cllr A Davies responded by reporting the response was only related to rural enterprise dwellings. **Resolved** for the Clerk to email copy.

Questions were asked regarding the volume of traffic and speeding vehicles in the community. The Clerk replied that Go-Safe were actively policing the area and were often seen outside Llanddarog School and on the periphery of Porthyrhyd. Also, the new 20mph plan for the community was displayed on the Carmarthenshire County Council website.

Concerns were raised regarding the increased number of lorries travelling along Crwbin Road and other parts of the community. The Clerk stated that the increase in volume was due to the new bypass works in Pembrokeshire and would continue for the near future. A complaint had been logged with Torcoed Quarry and a response had been received.

A question was asked regarding how the community could assist with litter picking. County Cllr A Davies responded by informing the community members that litter picking equipment, red refuse bags and hi-viz vests were available from Carmarthenshire County Council.

Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behavior outside the public houses in Porthyrhyd. Council members advised the community members to contact the Police and Carmarthenshire County Council licensing department.

Members of the public left the meeting at 19.51, not to return.

26/2023-2024 Policing and Road Safety Matters.

Cllr M Rees reported that a car had been left in the layby opposite Llanddarog Village Hall after it had caught fire and asked the Clerk to arrange collection.

Cllr T Evans stated that a recovery vehicle had attended the scene to retrieve the car but was unable to maneuver the vehicle on to the trailer.

The Clerk stated that the car should be recovered by the insurance company but if the vehicle remains in situ for a further 14 days, he will report it to Carmarthenshire County Council. **Resolved** to note.

27/2023-2024 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies stated that a year had passed since she was re-elected to represent Llanddarog Community Council on the County Council and it is an honor and a pleasure to fulfil the role for over 6 years.

The duties are varied and include work and social support, education, highways and the dreaded potholes. Recently the traffic speed and especially the lorries from the quarry are causing problems along Is y Llan but also on rural lanes which join the rear of the NBGW and Llanarthne.

In terms of Cabinet responsibilities, planning issues and the phosphate target in the Tywi river has taken a great deal of time. At the moment only rivers in the Special Areas of Conservation are affected, but smaller rivers such as the Gwendraeth Fach will soon be included in the plan. The county of Carmarthenshire has led the way on this topic and has developed a calculator to assist building contractors in evaluating the amount of phosphate being released into the water system and 'mitigation' to have a system that will 'absorb' phosphate. Both have been completed and the County Council is waiting for NRW to give consent to proceed with both. The County Council are also waiting for NRW to give the SAGIS report in order to determine the source of the phosphate where possibilities could be farming but could also be the Welsh Water waste systems.

Another issue that has taken a lot of time is the Green Gen Tywi Usk project. The informal consultation has finished, and we are now waiting for a response.

The LDP has also taken a lot of time and this consultation has also closed.

Prior to the above time was spent on the Carmarthenshire food system and how more locally produced food is used within the county. It is important to provide nutrition and goodness for our elderly and our children within residential homes and our schools. Hopefully an innovative plan will soon be realised and utilised on land belonging to one of the County's farms.

Looking forward, the 20mph is imminent in all our villages with work already completed in Llanddarog and Porthyrhyd. No work has commenced in Llanarthne, Penrhiwgoch, Mynyddcerrig or Capel Dewi yet, but at least new signs will be installed in these villages.

County Cllr A Davies took the opportunity to thank the Chair and the Clerk, for their work over the past year and stated that she had enjoyed working with the community council and is looking forward to working with the new Chair in the coming year.

28/2023-2024 Chairman's Report.

The Chair expressed her appreciation for being elected as Chair of Llanddarog Community Council for 2023-2024 and that it was an honour to represent the community. The Chair thanked Cllr R Jones for his service over the past year and thanked all council members for their support. The Chair also thanked County Cllr A Davies for her diligent work and expressed her gratitude to Catrin Llwyd and the Clerk for their continued efforts.

29/2023-2024 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 12/04/2023.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 12/04/2023. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

30/2023-2024 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.

31/2023-2024 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 following email was received on 24/04/2023 and forwarded to all council members -

"I wish to highlight my concerns with regards to the persistent use of Quarry Lorries travelling along Is-Y-Llan (from the White Hart Public House to and from Cwmisfael). We have noticed the use and increase in volume of lorries using Is-Y-Lan as a through route. I understand these Lorries are accessing the Tarmac Torcoed Asphalt Plant, a couple of miles away from our home address. I presume this Plant provides employment and revenue in the local area, so I'll say from the outset my concerns are not to cause any disruption to the working of the Plant. However, the concerns I raise may assist in a better working/living environment for our local area".

The Clerk informed council members that Torcoed Quarry had been notified of the concerns and that a letter of response had been received on 09/05/2023 and emailed to the community member. Go-Safe are also active within the community.

Resolved to note.

The following email was received on 26/04/2023 and forwarded to all council members -

This is just an email to inform you that Llanddarog Post Office and Shop will be closed in September unless we can find someone who wants to take in on. This saddens us both as the shop has been there for many years.

If there is any interest from the community in keeping Llanddarog Post Office open as a community shop, we would welcome that interest, as Dryslwyn and Brechfa have thriving community stores this may be an option for Llanddarog.

Mr and Mrs Williams have been very active in the community, especially during lock down, and we know that the community was very grateful, maybe they would not want to see it closed. We do hope it will still be a Post Office and shop in the future and are active in trying to find someone".

The email was discussed by all council members and Cllr R Jones reported that he was under the impression that someone was interested in purchasing the business. Cllr J Williams O.B.E enquired if any assistance was available for the potential buyers?

County Cllr A Davies replied that the SPF (Shared Prosperity Fund) was available to support business ventures. **Resolved** to note.

The following email was received on 08/05/2023 and forwarded to all council members -

“I was very disappointed to understand that for the first time there has been a Royal celebration, the Community council are not presenting a commemorative gift to the children of this Community.

“I remember being a pupil at Llanddarog Church School during the past coronation in 1953, when the councilors were all instrumental in ensuring that the pupils had a television in school to view the occasion, and we were all presented with Coronation mugs, which I still possess, as it is an important part of history.

On each Royal occasion since the coronation, Llanddarog Parish/Community Council has always presented gifts to the children in the Schools within the Community.

The present pupils of Llanddarog School will have nothing to commemorate King Charles III’s Coronation, with him having visited our village in 2003 when Llanddarog won the Calor Village of the Year. Please note that the visit was coordinated by Llanddarog Community Council.

I hope therefore that you will reconsider your decision as it is not too late for them to receive a coronation gift”.

The email was discussed by council members, and it was decided that despite not being included in the budget for the Clerk to source quotations for bone China mugs and Cambridge mugs. **Resolved** for the Clerk to obtain quotations.

32/2023-2024 Planning.

None.

33/2023-2024 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the April monthly meeting and **ratified** in the May monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	24/04/2023	HMRC PAYE – Period 1	94.20
Online	24/04/2023	J.G Evans – April Payroll	360.42
Online	24/04/2023	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL18	159.60
Online	24/04/2023	Llanddarog Village Hall – Invoice 51	36.00
Online	24/04/2023	Dynefor Tree Services - 001	300.00
Online	27/04/2023	Nest	33.82

34/2023-2024 Receipts.

Carmarthenshire County Council – Precept 1.
28/04/2023 - £6454.63.

35/2023-2024 To confirm annual revenue grant to Llanddarog Village Hall.

An annual revenue grant of £550.00 was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr T Evans. All agreed.

Cllr R Jones left the meeting for the next agenda item.

36/2023-2024 To confirm annual revenue grant to Porthyrhyd Village Hall.

An annual revenue grant of £550.00 was proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr T Evans. All agreed.

Cllr R Jones rejoined the meeting.

37/2023-2024 To confirm annual revenue grant to Mynyddcerrig Welfare.

An annual revenue grant of £550.00 was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr T Evans. All agreed.

38/2023-2024 To confirm annual sponsorship to Llanddarog Show.

An increased annual sponsorship of £250.00 was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. and seconded by Cllr R Newell. All agreed.

39/2023-2024 To confirm renewal of Community Council Insurance Policy.

Quotations were received from BHIB and Zurich Insurance and sent to all council members prior to the meeting. Both quotations were discussed and it was suggested that Llanddarog Community Council commence a policy with Zurich Insurance for a period of 3 years due to the competitive price without loss of services.

It was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones to commence the 3-year policy with Zurich Insurance at the sum of £589.98. **Resolved** for the Clerk to arrange payment.

40/2023-2024 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported that he was in contact with Menshed to prepare the ground for the concrete slab.

41/2023-2024 To discuss translation services provider for 2023-2024.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E and Cllr R Newell suggested that Ms Catrin Llwyd remain as translator for 2023 – 2024. All council members agreed. **Resolved** for the Clerk to inform Ms Catrin Llwyd by email.

42/2023-2024 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr M Rees reported that she had been informed by the local postman that his area/route had been altered and that 40 extra properties were included and had to be serviced in the same amount of time. If time was short only parcels would be delivered. Resolved for the Community Council to contact Royal Mail.

Cllr M Rees reported her concerns regarding the number of complaints received about Adam Price (AM).

Cllr M Rees stated that the telephone kiosk in Llanddarog needed repair as it was in a conservation area. **Resolved** for the Clerk to format a letter to BT and for Cllr M Rees to proofread before submitting.

Cllr M Rees stated that the new plans for Llanddarog Village Hall were on display and enquired if any funding was available to assist the development.

County Cllr A Davies asked the Clerk to contact the Community Bureau and CAVS to establish if assistance was available. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant departments.

Cllr R Jones asked if Llanddarog Community Council were proposing to decorate the community to help celebrate the Urdd Eisteddfod. Council members discussed the matter and it was decided that because Llanddarog Community Council had donated £500.00 in 2022-2023 and that Llanddarog School had decorated outside the school it was not necessary to further decorate the community but individual properties within the villages were welcome to celebrate the occasion. **Resolved** to note.

43/2023-2024 In camera 20.55.

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.

44/2023-2024 Staff pay run May 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 S Herridge and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

45/2023-2024 The meeting finished at 21.05.

Chairman

Date
