

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December 2023 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 13/12/2023 at 19.00.

127/2023-2024 Present.

Councillors: S Herridge (Chair), County Cllr H Jones, R Jones, J Williams O.B.E, M Griffiths, K Waters.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: M Davies.

128/2023-2024 To receive apologies.

Councillors: R Owen, R McFarlane, R Newell, M Rees.

129/2023-2024 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr R Jones – **Minute 135/2023-2024** – Llanddarog Church email regarding alternative venues.

130/2023-2024 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

131/2023-2024 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported that a full council meeting was held on 06/12/2023.

County Cllr A Davies reported that a Notice of Motion was presented to full council which condemns the heinous mass slaughter of innocent people in Israel on 07/10/2023, totaling 14,000 people. The number has now increased to over 18,000 with thousands more receiving treatment for serious injuries. The council is also horrified by the scale and consequences of the ongoing military retaliation in Gaza and therefore call on the international community to seek an immediate ceasefire to end the current human suffering. An amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded which reaffirms Israel's and Palestine's right to exist and recognises that denying Israel's right to exist is a form of anti semitism, as made clear in the IHRA's definition of anti semitism. Recognising both Israel's and Palestine's right to exist is an essential step towards peace via a two-state solution. It was resolved that the substantive motion be supported.

The phosphates discussion is progressing well with permit changes enabling development in Llandoverly, Llangadog and Nantgaredig but none in Llandeilo.

Primary schools across Carmarthenshire have been taking part in a competition "Bwyden ein Bro" to create a meal that is inspired by their local area, using produce taken from their school gardens or local suppliers of ingredients to create their final dish. Congratulations to the winners of this year's competition, Ysgol Bro Banw from Ammanford, and Ysgol Llangennech in Llanelli. The schools were invited to Wrights Food Emporium in Llanarthne and given the opportunity to prepare and serve their locally inspired menu for guests. The competition has been led by Carmarthenshire

County Council, in partnership with University of Wales Trinity Saint David's and supported by Cook 24, a gateway to food skills programme that is led by Coleg Sir Gâr.

The development at Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd will be discussed before the Planning Committee at the beginning of 2024.

The Llanddarog School Christmas Show was fantastic. Congratulations to the children and all involved.

23/12/2023 – Carol service with Crwbin Brass Band at 18.00.

County Cllr A Davies wished all council members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

County Cllr A Davies left the meeting at 19.16.

132/2023-2024 Chairman's Report.

Cllr S Herridge reported that Cllr T Evans and retired County and Community Cllr W Evans had been admitted into hospital with ill health and wished them a speedy recovery.

Cllr S Herridge reported that she attended a special preview evening of "Luminate Winter Light Trail" at the NBGW. Thank you for the invitation.

The Chair reported that she attended a Local Health Board event at Crosshands Working Man's Club on 21/11/2023 to discuss the potential closure of Tumble and Crosshands Surgery. The event was well attended, and a decision is to be made prior to 31/03/2024. The two options include retendering the contract to another provider or redistributing the patient list amongst neighboring GP practices. There is a possibility that a practice from another area may be interested in taking over the business.

24/12/2023 – Sunday School Nativity Play – St Twrog Church, Llanddarog at 14.00.

133/2023-2024 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 08/11/2023.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 08/11/2023. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr S Herridge.

134/2023-2024 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.

135/2023-2024 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 Clerk reported that a letter had been received on 14/11/2023 from Carmarthen and District Youth Opera asking for support for their performance of "Our House" from 14/02/2023 – 17/02/2023. **Resolved** to donate £50.00.

The following email was received from a community member on 20/11/2023 and forwarded to all council members.

“Please could it be considered for discussion for a road crossing from the bus stop by the white Hart across the road to the actual bus stop.

It is extremely dangerous even with 20 miles per hour traffic to cross the road. A lot of elderly and vulnerable people use this route which the newish bus stop encourages pedestrians to cross at that point. Walking with my mother recently she did not hear (not always possible these days with electric vehicles) and could not see until she stepped out, the traffic which can appear from 3 different directions This is a concern from a number of local residents”.

The matter was discussed by council members and it was decided that the email be forwarded to the Highways Department at Carmarthenshire County Council to review. A response to be sent to the community member informing them of the action. **Resolved** to note.

The following email was received from Llanddarog Village Hall on 29/11/2023 and forwarded to all council members.

“As a regular user of Llanddarog village hall, I’m sure that you are aware that the hall will be demolished in the new year, with a new hall built on the same site.

Your bookings up to the end of February are secure.

I am pleased to inform you that there are two locations within the village, the Vestri at Capel Newydd and St Twrog Church have very kindly offered to open their doors for your meetings during the period whilst the hall will not be available.

Please contact Mair as to your preference.

We apologies for any inconvenience caused and look forward to welcoming you back as soon as possible”.

It was decided to only utilise the current meeting locations (Porthyrhyd Village Hall and Mynyddcerrig Club) until the new Llanddarog Village Hall is completed.

Resolved to note.

The following email was received from Llanddarog Village Hall on 11/12/2023 and forwarded to all council members.

“As you are aware Llanddarog Village Hall committee have decided to demolish the existing hall and build a new purpose-built hall for the benefit of the local communities. We were fortunate to be bequeathed a parcel of land opposite the hall and this was sold in 2019 and the proceeds divided equally between Llanddarog church and the Village Hall. The money received from the sale would have enabled us to modernize the hall but the precast concrete construction of the hall itself was a barrier to any renovation and alteration to its facilities.

We then applied for a grant from the Welsh Assembly for additional funds for rebuilding the hall and a grant of £300,000 was approved in June 2023. We then drew up plans for the new hall and tenders were sent out to local contractors for pricing. We received full planning permission in September 2023 and contractors have submitted acceptable tenders for the rebuild. The increases in material and labour costs over the past few years have resulted in our finances being only able to cover the rebuilding costs. We therefore need additional funding to fit out the hall to an acceptable standard and will be applying for Carmarthen County Council’s Section 106 funding to cover these costs.

I attach a copy of our application form which requests the Community Council’s support, and we would be grateful if the Committee would consider endorsing our application for these funds”.

The matter was discussed by council members, and it was unanimously decided to support the application. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones. **Resolved** for the Clerk to complete the application form.

An email was received from Llanddarog Village Hall requesting financial support to fund the Christmas tree. Section 137 funds are available for requests of this nature and it was confirmed by council members that a maximum request of £50.00 is available on an annual basis for Christmas trees, decorations or lights. **Resolved** to note and for the Clerk to transfer the funds.

136/2023-2024 Planning.

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr S Herridge and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

PL/06829 - Proposed vehicular access to include demolition of part of forecourt wall and construction of attached pillar - Bolgoed, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PL.

PL/06913 - Discharge of Condition 4 (Delivery Plan) on **PL/06157** - Penrhiw, Cwmisfael, Carmarthen, SA32 8BY.

137/2023-2024 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the November monthly meeting and **ratified** in the December monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorisation. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by K Waters.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	27/11/2023	J.G Evans – November Payroll	360.22
Online	27/11/2023	HMRC PAYE – Period 8	94.40
Online	27/11/2023	Mr Flag - 26314	91.58
Online	27/11/2023	Christmas Toybox Appeal - Donation	50.00
Online	28/11/2023	Nest	33.82

138/2023-2024 Receipts.

None.

139/2023-2024 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported that the first plinth had been completed and that work would recommence in the new year.

140/2023-2024 To discuss the budget proposal.

Community Council members discussed the budget proposal in preparation for the January precept application. The Clerk shared the 2023-2024 budget format with members and discussed each heading individually. Each member had the opportunity to propose specific requirements needed for the 2024-2025 expenditure.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested the following changes –

Insurance - £600.00 - £1000.00 (Waiting for confirmation from provider).

Seating and Asset Maintenance - £1000.00 - £1500.00 (2 x Flagpoles require new rope).

Special Projects and Reserves - £1500.00 - £600.00 (Limited costs for memorial stone).

All council members agreed to the proposals above as there was no increase in the overall total budget originally proposed by the clerk. Cllr R Jones abstained on the topic of Special Projects and Reserves. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk explained that the increase was minimal as Carmarthenshire County Council were under pressure to reduce their budget by approx £13 million. The following table shows the proposed budget requirements for 2024-2025, which will be finalised by the Internal Financial Examiner Cllr R Jones and the Clerk prior to the January 2024 meeting for approval.

HEADING	PREVIOUS BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET	REASON
Ground Maintenance	1800.00	1800.00	-
Staff Salary & PAYE	6400.00	7200.00	Current Wages Pension Inflation
Admin, Inc Audit Fees	2500.00	2500.00	-
Insurance	1020.00	1000.00	New Provider 3yr Agreement
Financial Assistance – Inc Standing Revenue Grants	2000.00	2000.00	-
Seating & Asset Maintenance	1500.00	1500.00	-
Street Lighting Estimate	6700.00	7400.00	Inc Tariff
Misc – Inc Subscriptions	450.00	650.00	-
Members Allowance	374.40	468.00	-
Members Allowance PAYE	93.60	0.00	-
Election Cost	0.00	0.00	-
Section 137	900.00	900.00	-
Allocation to Special Projects & Reserve From Precept	2000.00	600.00	-
TOTAL	25,738.00	26,018.00	

141/2023-2024 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr M Griffiths suggested that the community council should contact members of MAP (Mudiad Amddiffyn Porthyrhyd) regarding the proposed development at Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd to decide a way forward prior to the presentation before the Planning Committee at the beginning of 2024. With limited time before the meeting, it would be prudent to decide which topics were being introduced and who would present at the meeting. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact members of MAP.

142/2023-2024 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.

143/2023-2024 Staff pay run December 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 J Williams O.B.E.

144/2023-2024 The meeting finished at 20.25.

Chairman

Date
