

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Llanddarog Village Hall on 14/02/2024 at 19.00.

164/2023-2024 Present.

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

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: C Llwyd.

165/2023-2024 To receive apologies.

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

166/2023-2024 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

167/2023-2024 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

Members of MAP (Mudiad Amdiffyn Porthyrhyd) attended the meeting to discuss the below planning application –

PL/07200 - Installation of additional drainage apparatus to facilitate the disposal of surface water from an adjacent residential development - Land part of Wern Fraith Farm (adjacent to garage), Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PJ.

The above planning application was received and forwarded to all council members on 04/02/2024.

County Cllr A Davies responded to the email on 09/02/2024 as the website was unobtainable. Please see following –

“My understanding is that this new application has come about due to the SAB (drainage) requirements for the site. That is, to take surface water away from the sewage system that they needed to extend the line further on towards a stream at the bottom of the field, which will then connect to the Gwendraeth Fach. This is presented as an additional application but will form part of the original”.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E responded to the email on 09/02/2024 as the website was unobtainable. Please see following –

“What Ann has said ties in with the notice posted on the lamppost outside the Abadam. As it happened I pointed the notice out to Eddie Jones on Thursday the 8 February.

He then took me around the back of the Abadam and into his property at the rear where he pointed out where the surface water outlet was proposed to be provided. He had been speaking with the surveyors who had been in the field behind the proposed site some days before.

The intention, according to Eddie, was for the water discharged from the proposed site to be piped into the Nantyglesiad stream that runs through Eddie's property.

Eddie made the point that the stream already overflows quite often as it captures surface water coming from the road to Foelgastell/Cefneithin and when it overflows it runs through the back of the Abadam car park. In the bottom right-hand corner of the photograph is the opening of the concrete pipe that acts as a dam because the pipe capacity is not large enough to allow the volume of water to pass through.

Eddie had requested to the surveyors that the proposal outlined above be amended so that the surface water discharge enters the stream below his property and the rear of the Abadam.

Finally, Eddie had not at that time received any form of consultation notice as an interested party to these proposals.

I think we need to see the detailed proposals ourselves”.

The above was discussed by all council members present and it was decided that the community council should format an objection to the current planning application and that the discharge should be relocated further down the field below the river.

Resolved for the Clerk to format a letter.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E also reported that numerous drains were blocked on the highway from Nantyglesiad, Porthyrhyd to Porthyrhyd square. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

The community members reported that there was confusion regarding the closing date for the second consultation of planning application **PL/06638** as 3 various dates had been provided by Carmarthenshire County Council. County Cllr A Davies confirmed that the closing date was 05/03/2024.

MAP asked Llanddarog Community Council to respond to the above planning application as the plans were not correct and that the surveyors were not aware of the correct location of the Gwendraeth Fach. A meeting was held in January 2024 between MAP and Welsh Water where the Maintenance Operations Manager and Planning Officer for Wales attended. They confirmed that there was an issue in Porthyrhyd but Welsh Water had no plans to develop the infrastructure for 5–10 years. There was scope to construct a development of 42 houses if there was no rainfall.

The resident of No4 Cwm Catti, Porthyrhyd had informed MAP that raw sewage was constantly entering the property via the toilet, bath and rear entrance of the property during times of heavy rainfall. On one day in November 2023 over 50 tanker loads of sewage were removed from Porthyrhyd, clearly identifying that Porthyrhyd will not be able to cope with a development of this size.

A question was asked whether the community council had discussed the type of people that were potentially allowed to reside in the proposed development.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E and other council members categorically replied that this topic was not appropriate to discuss at any time.

The community members stated that there were no objections to housing developments in Porthyrhyd as there was a need for new houses but the development should be at the correct location where services and infrastructure are able to deal with the number of houses. Natural Resources Wales are just as culpable as Welsh Water regarding their response to the first consultation and Carmarthenshire County Council should challenge their response.

Cllr R Jones had concerns that the meeting with Welsh Water was being logged as a complaint.

The community member reported that they had presented evidence of the issues in Porthyrhyd in a meeting that lasted over 2 hours.

Has there been a response to Carmarthenshire County Council?

A second meeting has been arranged with Welsh Water to guide them around the village and show them where the problems occur.

MAP is volunteering with "Stop the Block" scheme and all findings will be made public. No facts or statistics were provided by Welsh Water. During the meeting, they stated that the company wanted as many customers as possible to increase turnover to keep our bills lower and invest in the infrastructure. One issue in Porthyrhyd is that rainwater is directed into the system where the land drainage department of Carmarthenshire County Council should be dealing with surface water. MAP are arranging a meeting with Welsh Water and Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss this topic among many others.

The community members left the meeting at 19.45, not to return.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that Welsh Water and Carmarthenshire County Council would greatly benefit from the development but they should acknowledge the issues within the community prior to making any decisions and that common sense must prevail.

Cllr R Jones reported that Welsh Water had acknowledged a problem in their second letter but no upgrades to the system for 5-10 years.

Cllr R Jones asked what was the purpose of the second consultation?

County Cllr A Davies stated that it was due to local and community feedback. She also stated that the resident of No4 Cwm Catti should have reported all the issues to record and evidence the problems in the village.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E asked if the planning committee meeting was open to the public?

County Cllr A Davies replied that the meeting was open to the public. Only the 4 people invited to speak are allowed to comment on the development.

168/2023-2024 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies reported that she'd had a busy month with visits to the Carmarthenshire Tourism Association to discuss the 182 night minimum requirement for Council tax and also attended a number of Food strategy meetings. There have been a number of NFU/FUW/Farmer Association meetings to discuss the SFS and other agricultural related issues. The breakfasts organized by the Farmer's Union of Wales raised over £2500.00 for the Welsh Air Ambulance. The Tywi Teifi proposed pylon line consultations have started but equally well attended have been community meetings which have been organised by local County Councillors (Cllrs Neil Lewis, Linda Davies Evans and Denise Owen). County Cllr A Davies and Mr Gary Jones from the Llanarthne community Group assisted in the community meetings.

Budget-wise the County is aiming for a Council tax increase of 7.5% which is well below Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion.

County Cllr A Davies has also attended regular meetings with Dyfodol yr Iaith and Cymdeithas yr Iaith to discuss language implications within the LDP and will continue to do so until the adoption of the Local Development Plan.

169/2023-2024 Chairman's Report.

None.

170/2023-2024 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 10/01/2024.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 10/01/2024. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

171/2023-2024 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.

172/2023-2024 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).

An Email was received on 12/02/2024 and forwarded to all council members regarding a proposed introduction of 40 M.P.H speed limits at various locations in Carmarthenshire. The purpose of the Order is to reduce existing higher speed limits to 40mph or reduce lengths of existing 40mph where they have been identified as necessary for improvements in road safety, and to reaffirm some existing 40mph speed limits which are part of wider speed limit Orders that are being revoked.

Cllr R Jones stated that the map and website where changes were being proposed was unavailable and asked County Cllr A Davies why a consultation was necessary for highways already 40 m.p.h. and why there was no consultation on the B4310 from Porthyrhyd to Drefach when the speed limit was reduced from 60 m.p.h to 50 m.p.h.

County Cllr A Davies to investigate.

The following Email was received from Cllr J Williams O.B.E on 12/02/2024 regarding the above Email -

"I wish the Council to **object** to the drafting of the current Traffic Order as it does not include within it an introduction of a reduced speed limit for the unnamed Class III from Porthyrhyd to Cefneithin that links with Heol y Foel.

As a Council we have made previous representation for the speed limit of 60 MPH on this road to be reduced without any success to date.

This Traffic Order provides a perfect opportunity to get our case included.

They reason they previously cited for not reducing the speed limit from 60 MPH was the costs involved of changing the distances between the white lines in the centre of the road.

Clearly this argument cannot be used when they appear to be modifying the speed limits on other Class III roads.

To justify this change I would cite that people regularly walk this road without the benefit of a pavement and in the night time, the absence of adequate road lighting.

Where there is lighting it gets obscured by trees growing around the lamp posts.

I forward for consideration at our next meeting".

The Email was discussed by council members, and it was agreed that the Clerk reply to Carmarthenshire County Council with the above proposal. **Resolved** to note.

173/2023-2024 Planning.

The below planning application was discussed in minute **167/2023-2024** as members of the public were present.

PL/07200 - Installation of additional drainage apparatus to facilitate the disposal of surface water from an adjacent residential development - Land part of Wern Fraith Farm (adjacent to garage), Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PJ.

174/2023-2024 Payments.

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

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	02/01/2024	Nest	90.02
Online	24/01/2024	J.G Evans – January Payroll	419.74
Online	24/01/2024	HMRC PAYE – Period 10	109.80
Online	24/01/2024	Mynyddcerrig Welfare Committee – Christmas Concert	50.00
Online	24/01/2024	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL23	156.00
Online	24/01/2024	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL24	204.00
Online	29/01/2024	Nest	40.06

175/2023-2024 Receipts.

09/01/2024 Gorslas Community Council Zoom Donation - £140.00.

09/01/2024 Llandybie Community Council Zoom Donation - £240.00.

176/2023-2024 To review Corporate Risk Assessment.

A copy of the 2023-2024 corporate risk assessment was sent to all council members on 07/02/2024 to review prior to the meeting. The Clerk stated that no alterations or updates were required. 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.

177/2023-2024 To discuss Mynyddcerrig memorial stone.

The Clerk reported that he discovered that the memorial stone belonged to Carmarthenshire County Council. Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested that the community council adopt the memorial stone. Council members discussed and agreed with the proposal. Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that he would arrange the adoption with Carmarthenshire County Council. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Wyn Bishop Funeral Director and Memorial Mason to enhance the lettering on the memorial stone but was still awaiting a quotation.

178/2023-2024 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E reported that once the weather improves, the memorial stone would be placed on the plinth and secured with a second layer of concrete.

179/2023-2024 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr T Evans asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the residents of Hafod Ifan, Llanddarog for their continuous work in keeping the village clean by collecting litter on a regular basis. **Resolved** for the Clerk to write a letter.

Cllr M Rees reported that the drains in Cwmisfael were continuously blocking and no longer secured to the surface due to erosion. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr R Owen reported that overhanging trees between Mynyddcerrig and Capel Seion required attention as they were a potential danger to the public. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr S Herridge reported that she had been approached by a community members asking for a seating bench to be located between Landeg Garage, Porthyrhyd and the roundabout. Council members discussed the proposal and agreed to locate a bench at the corner of the junction near the roundabout. **Resolved** for the Clerk to organize and install the bench.

180/2023-2024 In camera 20.45.

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.

181/2023-2024 Staff pay run February 2024.

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.

182/2023-2024 To discuss resignation of council member.

A letter of resignation was received from Cllr R Newell on 14/02/2024 stating that due to circumstances beyond his control he was no longer able to serve the community as a counselor. Having served the community for almost 16 years, Cllr R Newell stated that he had fond memories of his time as community councilor and was proud to have served the area of Llanddarog. Porthyrhyd and Mynyddcerrig. Council members wished Cllr R Newell all the best for the future and asked the Clerk to respond by letter, confirming his resignation. **Resolved** to note.

183/2023-2024 The meeting finished at 20.53.

Chairman

Date
