

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the April 2024 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Mynyddcerrig Club on 10/04/2024 at 19.00.

203/2023-2024 Present.

Councillors: R Jones (Chair), County Cllr H Jones, J Williams O.B.E, R Owen, M Rees, T Evans, R McFarlane.

County Cllr A Davies.

Clerk.

Translator: M Davies.

204/2023-2024 To receive apologies.

Councillors: S Herridge, K Waters, M Griffiths.

205/2023-2024 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

206/2023-2024 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

207/2023-2024 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

County Cllr A Davies firstly apologized for being intermittently absent over the past few months as she had been extremely busy. The Work had been overwhelming with many issues within the Ward, including housing, Llanddarog School, the proposed planning application in Porthyrhyd and the pylon group regarding Llanarthne and Llanddarog.

Regarding the proposed planning application at Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd it is envisaged that the planning committee will be meeting on 25/04/2024. There are two major issues concerning this potential development. The sewage system and the inability of Welsh Water to deal with the surface water and sewage. One member of the community will be presenting to the planning committee on this topic and County Cllr A Davies is discussing the required improvements with Welsh Water. The AMP 7 AC 8 scheme is available, and County Cllr A Davies is driving for improvements within the community. County Cllr A Davies has recommended that MAP (Mudiad Amddiffyn Porthyrhyd) obtain a hydrology report to question the Welsh Water report. County Cllr A Davies will be presenting on the Welsh language. There are no guarantees that the local people can purchase these homes first and we don't know if the officers are going to approve the application. If the proposed planning application is refused, the developers will more than likely appeal.

Cllr R Jones stated that the LDP allowed for 27 dwellings on the site. Can the developers change their minds after the planning application is agreed.

County Cllr A Davies stated that if the planning department approve the application and the planning committee refuse the planning application, the developers will appeal.

Cllr R Jones asked if the hydrology report would question the Welsh Water report. County Cllr A Davies stated with regards to the issues with Welsh Water, a hydrology report would confirm or deny their report.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E asked if Carmarthenshire County Council are likely to adhere to their decision regarding affordable housing or change their minds as in various other developments.

County Cllr A Davies was unable to confirm their actions in the future.

208/2023-2024 Chairman's Report.

None.

209/2023-2024 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 13/03/2024.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 13/03/2024. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by County Cllr H Jones.

210/2023-2024 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.

211/2023-2024 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).

212/2023-2024 Planning.

None.

213/2023-2024 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 authorization. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	25/03/2024	J.G Evans – March Payroll	419.74
Online	25/03/2024	HMRC PAYE – Period 12	109.80
Online	25/03/2024	Cllr T T Evans – 2023–2024 Salary	150.00
Online	25/03/2024	Cllr R McFarlane – 2023-2024 Salary	150.00
Online	25/03/2024	Roman Solutions - 12764	450.00
Online	25/03/2024	Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth - Donation	97.00
Online	25/03/2024	Llanddarog YFC - Donation	100.00
Online	25/03/2024	Wales Air Ambulance - Donation	57.00

Online	25/03/2024	Macmillan Cancer Support - Donation	100.00
Online	25/03/2024	Llanddarog Village Hall - 89	36.00
Online	25/03/2024	Carmarthenshire County Council - 97552626	2174.15
Online	27/03/2024	Catrin Llwyd – CCLL25	166.00
Online	27/03/2024	One Voice Wale – 2024-2025	230.00
Online	27/03/2024	SLCC – MEM248161-1	183.00
Online	28/03/2024	Nest	40.06
Online	28/03/2024	Llanarthne Community Council – 50% Zoom Donations	200.00

Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth - £97.00 (Civic Allowance £57.00, Section 137 £40.00)
Llanddarog YFC - £100.00 Section 137.
Wales Air Ambulance - £57.00 Civic Allowance.
Macmillan Cancer Support - £100.00 Section 137.

214/2023-2024 Receipts.

04/03/2024 – Ammanford Town Council Zoom Donation - £20.00.

215/2023-2024 To receive the Internal Financial Examiners report 01/01/2024 – 31/03/2024.

Each member had been provided with a written report prior to the meeting. A full verbal report was provided by Cllr R Jones. The report confirmed the accuracy of the bank reconciliation and statement of accounts provided to the Council. It also confirmed the accuracy of the on-going budget report provided. It was proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees to accept the report. Members thanked Cllr R Jones and the Clerk for their work.

Each member had been provided with a copy of the 2023 – 2024 accounts prior to the meeting. The Clerk updated all council members with regards to income, expenditure and a complete budget report. The Clerk showed that certain topics of the budget had an overspend and others an underspend and an explanation was given to each topic.

216/2023-2024 To discuss the Audit Wales Report 2022 - 2023.

The following Email was received from Audit Wales on 28/02/2024 and forwarded to all council members.

Audit opinion: Qualified.

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, on the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council’s governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Basis of Qualification

Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, the Annual Governance Statement is not consistent with the Council’s internal controls and governance arrangements for the year:

- Assertion 1: Arrangements for the approval of accounts The Council did not make proper arrangements for the approval of the Annual accounts. The Council did not approve the accounts by 30 June as required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.
- Assertion 4: The Council did not make proper arrangements for the public inspection of accounts as required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.
- Assertion 3: The Council has not provided evidence that a budget has been set in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and that the precept has been set in line with the budget. The Act requires the Council to take into account its level of reserves when setting its budget requirement. We recommend that the Council sets a budget in accordance with the relevant regulations and codes of practice.

The email was discussed by council members in the March meeting on 13/03/2024 and it was decided for the Clerk to contact Audit Wales regarding the timescale allowed before a response is received. The Clerk stated that he had spoken with a member of Audit Wales and was informed that no timescale was determined but a response would be inline with when an email was received from the community council.

The Clerk stated that no response had been received from Audit Wales prior to the meeting and that it was important to discuss and finalize their decision.

Council members discussed the Audit Wales decision for 2022 – 2023 and decided on the following outcome -

Assertion 1 – Agree. (Late report from Internal Financial Auditor)

Assertion 3 – Fundamentally object. (Notice placed on website and in community noticeboards. Evidence sent to Audit Wales)

Assertion 4 - Fundamentally object. (Evidence sent and also available to view via website in December 2021 and January 2022 minutes)

Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones. A unanimous decision by all council members present. **Resolved** to note.

217/2023-2024 To discuss Mynyddcerrig memorial stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that he had spoken with Mrs Maria Evans from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the adoption of the memorial stone and she confirmed that Mr Meirion Howells had sanctioned the adoption of Mynyddcerrig memorial stone to Llanddarog Community Council.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Wyn Bishop Funeral Director and Memorial Mason but was still awaiting a quotation.

218/2023-2024 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.

Cllr R Owen confirmed that Torcoed Quarry had approved the loan of the chain grab.

219/2023-2024 To discuss community litter picking equipment.

The Clerk emailed all council members on 24/03/2024 with information on litter picking equipment and after investigating and comparing various products and prices locally and online, found the details of a company which is competitive regarding price, has very positive reviews, a lifetime warranty provided with their products and has a good ethos regarding recycling.

www.waterhaul.co.uk

High viz vests are available via Amazon at competitive prices and in various colours. The Clerk stated that after a conversation with the community member, the community requires 5 – 6 sets of litter picking equipment. Each set would cost approx. £30.00.

Council members discussed the results of the investigation, and it was decided that the Clerk should contact the community member to discuss the formatting, safety and organization of the litter picking group prior to the community council purchasing the equipment and donating to the litter picking group. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the community member.

220/2023-2024 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chairman.

Cllr R Owen raised a concern regarding a potential 4-day music festival planned for Mynyddcerrig in the Summer of 2024.

The Clerk stated that after a conversation with the festival organizer, Mynyddfest will be the first live music festival ever in Mynyddcerrig and run from 11/07/2024 – 14/07/2024.

The event will feature a range of local artists, bands and musicians along with an open mic competition where the winner can win back the cost of their ticket.

Ticket holders will also be entitled to participate in various workshops including inner dance, sound bath, Shamanic journey, and a free music workshop for anyone wanting to play an instrument for the first time. It will be a small intimate festival which makes it ideal for those who struggle in large crowds as well as increasing the community feel and camping will also be free. There will be live music from folk to metal, healing workshops, music workshops, kids' entertainment, forest school, alternative therapies, stalls from local artisans and alternative therapists. There will be numerous activities to keep the public busy for the duration of the event or you can just sit back and enjoy listening to the sounds around you. For those who fancy some peace and quiet they can also escape into the woods at the festival and just reconnect with nature.

Tickets cost £114 for adults and £60 for children (4-15 years old).

The Clerk also informed council members that the event organizer had been working with Carmarthenshire County Council to ensure public safety at the entrance/exit point of the festival. Council members raised concerns regarding noise pollution, litter and parking. **Resolved** to note.

Cllr M Rees enquired about the reinstating of Llanddarog Community Council Community Awards. **Resolved** to defer to the May meeting on 08/05/2024.

Cllr M Rees enquired about the civic service at St Twrog Church, Llanddarog. Council members decided to defer it to 2025 – 2026. **Resolved** to note.

The Clerk raised a concern that Llanddarog Community Council does not have a Vice – Chair to replace the Chair in 2024 – 2025 after the resignation of Cllr R Newell in February 2024. Council members discussed the topic, and it was decided that the Clerk should take control of the AGM on 08/05/2024 until council members vote on the new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024 – 2025. **Resolved** to note.

County Cllr H Jones suggested that all council benches should be engraved with “Cyngor Cymuned Llanddarog Community Council” to deter theft of council assets. He stated that Llanarthne Community Council had adopted the idea in 2022 after a community bench was stolen from its location. The Clerk stated that the cost of engraving each bench would be £45.00. Cllr J Williams O.B.E asked if all benches

were required to be removed to be engraved or was it a mobile service. The Clerk stated that the rear 3 plinths would need to be removed to complete the task. The Clerk suggested engraving a small number of benches at one time to avoid safety concerns. All council members agreed. **Resolved** for the Clerk to arrange engraving.

221/2023-2024 In camera 20.36.

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.

222/2023-2024 Staff pay run April 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 J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

223/2023-2024 The meeting finished at 20.41.

Chairman

Date