

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September 2024 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Mynyddcerrig Club on 11/09/2024 at 19.00.

88/2024-2025 Present.

Councilors: K Waters (Chair), County Cllr H Jones, R Jones, M Rees, R Owen, J Williams O.B.E, M Griffiths, R McFarlane, A Aldridge.

Clerk.

Translator: H Glenister.

89/2024-2025 To receive apologies.

Councilors: None.

90/2024-2025 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

91/2024-2025 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

Mr David Saunderson and Mrs Kathy Saunderson, Pentre Dolau, Mynyddcerrig attended the meeting to inform council members that they had applied for planning permission for glamping and camping. Their aspiration is to erect six glamping pods, a roundhouse and toilet facilities on land at their home address. They currently have permission to operate for 28 days per annum and are seeking planning permission to operate all year. The business would host community healing camps to assist with mental health support, self-empowering and self-healing. Activities would be provided (walking, foraging, woodland activities, nature projects, etc). They hope to bring more business to the community by utilizing the facilities available at Mynyddcerrig Club, local shops and fuel stations. There will be no charge for any person under the age of 16 and disabled facilities would be available in one of the pods. Mr Saunderson currently organizes the Mynyddcerrig Running Club and all funds raised are donated to Mynyddcerrig Club.

Cllr M Rees joined the meeting at 19.05.

Mr and Mrs Saunderson thanked all council members for their time and asked if anyone had any questions.

Council members decided to wait until the planning application had been received before discussing.

92/2024-2025 County Council matters - County Cllr A Davies.

None.

93/2024-2025 Chairman's Report.

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting following the summer break.

The Chair reported that she and other council members attended a thanksgiving service at St Twrog Church, Llanddarog at 19.00 on 04/09/2024 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Llanddarog and District WI. The occasion was very well attended, and

refreshments were provided at the end of the service. Congratulations and well done to all involved.

On 10/09/2024 Members of Llanddarog Community Council attended Bremenda Isaf, Llanarthne to find out more about the activity at the farm and the Bwyd Sir Gar Food partnership. An enjoyable and educational experience was had by all members present.

Bwyd Sir Gâr Food is Carmarthenshire's local food partnership and aims to develop a thriving, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient local food system. It brings together partners from a range of different sectors to help tackle a range of social, economic and environmental issues, striving to ensure good food for all.

Key partners in Carmarthenshire include:

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Natural Resources Wales
- Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS)
- Cook 24
- Carmarthenshire Food Network
- Social Farms & Gardens
- Food Sense Wales
- Castell Howell

Bwyd Sir Gâr Food is a member of the [Sustainable Food Places network](#) and is a Bronze award-winning place.

Please find below a link to the food partnership website. –

[Bwyd Sir Gâr Food | Local Food Partnership | Carmarthenshire \(bwydsirgarfood.org\)](http://bwydsirgarfood.org)

94/2024-2025 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 12/06/2024.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 10/07/2024. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

95/2024-2025 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.

Cllr M Rees confirmed via email on 31/07/2024 that she had completed the Code of Conduct training online. **Resolved** to note.

96/2024-2025 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 sent to Dyfed Powys Police on 06/08/2024 asking for a senior officer to attend our council meeting on 11/09/2024 as a result of the RTA on the A48 on 19/07/2024. All traffic was diverted either through Llanddarog and Porthyrhyd or Maesybont, causing tailbacks up to and including Crosshands. Council members were concerned that no Police or Council presence were visible within the community and that as numerous vehicles were unfamiliar with the area, they were apprehensive in manoeuvring their vehicles in the correct direction due to the lack of signage.

The following response was received from Dyfed Powys Police on 22/08/2024 -
“Thank you for your below email and apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Unfortunately, due to officers working different shifts and others on Annual Leave on 11/09/2024 we will not be able to attend the below meeting I’m afraid.

However, regarding your below request/concerns, I can confirm:

Any issues or concerns regarding the diversions and lack of signage I would suggest that this be directed to either the South Wales Trunk Roads Agency or the local Highways Department with Carmarthenshire County Council if not already done, who would have been instructed to carry out the diversions whilst Police dealt with the serious RTC on the dual carriageway.

I can confirm that we had received calls from frustrated motorists who found themselves stuck in traffic in the surrounding areas from the RTC, however some of these drivers had followed their Sat Nav to which neither Police or any traffic management would have had any control over.

I have been informed that officers were heavily committed as you’d appreciate, and any available officers were either committed at the scene of the RTC itself or were committed with road closures as a result of the RTC.

Again, I apologise that we are not able to attend your upcoming meeting however should you have any further queries following your meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us”.

Council members discussed the response from Dyfed Powys Police and were disappointed and dismayed with their comments.

County Cllr H Jones suggested that Carmarthenshire County Council should have a plan in place if an incident occurs again on the A48 after the NBGW slip road.

Cllr R Jones stated that Dyfed Powys Police should take responsibility for the carnage within the community following the incident and not just Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr K Waters suggested that the community council contact the Police Commissioner to relay the community councils opinions and suggestions. **Proposed** by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Owen.

The following email was received from a community member on 11/09/2024 and forwarded to all council members prior to the meeting –

“If the agenda allows, please discuss the following at your meeting tonight:

1. A Hearing to decide on proposed LDP allocations will be held on November 5th. Will a member of the CC be representing the residents? We realise how disappointed the Community Council was following the mix up in April so can you please confirm whether or not you have registered?

2. Is it the CC’s intention to hold a public meeting or collate residents’ opinion regarding the allocation of land near Llwyn Henri and change of boundary by some other means? Do you also intend to contact Llanddarog residents for their response to proposals in their village?

3. All submissions etc for the attention of the independent inspectors can be sent to Corrine Sloley prior Hearing but as you can appreciate time is running out.

4. From past experience MAP fully realises how difficult fighting developments can be once sites have been allocated and of the changes that occur during the planning process regardless of decisions made by inspectors at Hearings! Although 5 or more

dwellings (which is now recommended by Forward Planning) appears reasonable numbers can increase dramatically. Wernfraith was allocated for 27 dwellings - and a recommendation made for phasing 6 at a time back in April 2014. There is also an adjoining upper field at Llwyn Henri which could be earmarked for development in the future.

5. Do you remember the agent's past recommendation? A developer has already implied that 14 dwellings could easily be built on the proposed allocation as density has increased dramatically (ie. the number of dwellings allowed per hectare).

6. Extending boundary would allow further development by Tŷ Cynheidre. Over 40 dwellings were built from late 1980's to the present day. Another 42 will soon be built.

7. MAP does NOT oppose RESPONSIBLE development and is fully aware of the concerns felt by residents. The main concerns are drainage issues (CCC's responsibility) and issues with infrastructure / sewerage system (DC's responsibility) and yet both parties are in favour of further developments!

8. At long last alternative accommodation has been found for the tenant in Cwm Cati and work (deep cleaning etc) will be carried out in his home. It has taken the CC 11 months and 4 days to arrange this as the incident occurred at the end of October 2023 - not a record to be proud of!

Council members discussed the above email, and it was decided to organise a public meeting to allow all community members to attend and voice their opinions and concerns. **Resolved** for the Clerk to organise a meeting.

97/2024-2025 Planning.

No objections to the following planning application. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

PL/07895 - Erection of steel frame shed, finished in wooden cladding and concrete blocks. (Concrete blocks 1M from foundation then cladding up to roof) Primary use will be for storage of motor home, trailer and vintage tractor - Wernfraith Lodge, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT.

98/2024-2025 Payments.

The below payments were certified in the July meeting and **ratified** in the September meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorization. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr M Rees.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	29/07/2024	J.G Evans July Payroll	419.54
Online	29/07/2024	HMRC PAYE – Period 4	110.00
Online	29/07/2024	Paragon Internet - 8016995	38.16
Online	29/07/2024	Edge IT Systems Ltd - 37958	147.60
Online	29/07/2024	Post Office – Audit Wales	9.95
Online	29/07/2024	Dynefor Tree Services - 004	300.00
Online	01/08/2024	Nest	40.06
Online	21/08/2024	Nest	40.06
Online	27/08/2024	Dynefor Tree Services - 005	300.00
Online	27/08/2024	J.G Evans – August Payroll	419.74
Online	27/08/2024	HMRC – Payroll 5	109.80
Online	27/08/2024	Llanddarog YFC - Donation	50.00

Llanddarog YFC - £50.00 (Donation Civic Allowance)

99/2024-2025 Receipts.

20/08/2024 Carmarthenshire County Council – Precept 2 - £6778.18.

100/2024-2025 To To consider the co-option of additional members.

The Clerk reported that two members of the community had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto Llanddarog Community Council and documents had been sent to both parties for completion. The returned documents were sent to all council members prior to the meeting. Council members discussed both applicants and it was decided to accept Ms Zana Bryan and Ms Amanda Aldridge as new members to Llanddarog Community Council. **Proposed** by Cllr M Rees and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E. All agreed.

101/2024-2024 To discuss Community Awards.

A copy of the proposed format of nomination form was given to all council members at the meeting. After a review, council members discussed the nomination form and were happy to support the proposed format with a few minor amendments. **Resolved** for the Clerk to make minor amendments.

102/2024-2025 To discuss Asset Maintenance report.

The Clerk Emailed a copy of the Asset Register and Maintenance Report to all council members on 09/09/2023. The report included a recent list of all assets belonging to Llanddarog Community Council, their condition, audit value and insurance value. The Clerk stated that no work was required. **Resolved** to note.

Cllr M Rees reported that the “Pound / Ffald” sign was missing from its location by the Victorian Post Box. Council members discussed the issue, and it was decided for the Clerk to obtain a quotation for a slate sign to replace the original. Proposed by Cllr M Rees and seconded by County Cllr H Jones. **Resolved** for the Clerk to obtain a quotation.

103/2024-2025 To discuss letter of complaint to Carmarthenshire County Council / Welsh Water.

The Clerk sent a letter of complaint to Carmarthenshire County Council on 29/07/2024 and a reply was received from Mr Hugh Towns, Senior Development and Enforcement Manager on 06/08/2024. The following letter was emailed to all council members on 06/08/2024 –

Stage 1 Complaint – Alleged process errors in the determination of planning application PL/06638 – Residential Development – Land part of Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT

“I refer to your letter regarding the above, addressed to the Chief Executive, which is being investigated under Stage 1 of the Councils Complaints Policy – [Complaints / Compliments \(gov.wales\)](#). It is noted that there are three points included in your complaint:

The wrong information was provided in relation to the Protocol for Representations to the County Council on Planning Applications

How the meeting was conducted

Vital practical evidence was ignored

I will deal with each of these in turn.

Protocol for Representations to the County Council on Planning Applications

The Protocol is available to view on the Council Website and states that a maximum of two objectors from different addresses who have raised material planning considerations will be entitled to address the Committee. Should more than two requests be received to address the Planning Committee on a planning application it shall be the first two requests received in time that shall be given the right to address the Committee. I attach the link below:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1227545/part-53-revised-council-09022022.pdf>

Officers of the Division were of the misconception that the two requests to address the Planning Committee were in addition to the Community Council. However, when the requests were forwarded to the Democratic Services Team in advance of the Planning Committee meeting it was clarified that the two requests had to include the Community Council. As the Community Council was the third request received, they were unable to address the Planning Committee under the terms of the Protocol. This was a misunderstanding that is regrettable but to allow more than two representations would have been contrary to the published protocol.

Conduct of the Meeting

The Protocol sets out the order of presentation to the Committee as follows:

Opening remarks, background, and report by the officer

Objector/representative - two speakers per planning application (maximum of 5 minutes each)

Applicant/agent

Local member(s) - local county councillor(s) (maximum of 5 minutes, or 5 minutes per local member for a dual/multi ward)

Committee member question and comment

Summary by officer

Decision

The Agenda was followed as set out in the Protocol and I cannot agree with your allegation that the agenda was somehow biased towards the developer.

Part 5.2 of the Councils Constitution sets out the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Officers in Planning Matters. Section 11 deals with Planning Committee decisions contrary to officer recommendation. Specifically, paragraph 11.2 states that officers shall be given an opportunity to explain to the Planning Committee the planning and/or legal implications of their intended decision before the decision is confirmed.

Section 12 deals with appeals against Council decisions. Paragraph 12.5 states that where planning officers are unable to defend decisions on appeal (due to requirements of the professional conduct rules of the Royal Town Planning Institute) the Planning Committee should be aware of this before the final vote is taken. In such cases, the Committee shall nominate (at least) two of its members who voted contrary to the recommendation to appear at any appeal and explain the Committee's decisions and the reasons for them. These should normally be the proposer and seconder of the proposal, which was contrary to officers' recommendation.

I do not consider that it is threatening or condescending for officers to advise members of the Planning Committee of the implications of a decision contrary to the officer recommendation, it is a requirement of the Constitution to do so. In an Appeal situation the Planning Inspector will expect evidence to be provided to substantiate any refusal and it is wholly right that Planning Committee members consider whether they have sufficient evidence to produce at an Appeal, especially where the statutory consultees do not object. The potential for an award of costs against the Council for unreasonable behaviour is also a relevant consideration.

Vital practical evidence was ignored

I was in attendance at the Planning Committee meeting at which the planning application was considered, 25th April 2024, and I have subsequently reviewed the webcast.

Local residents Andrew Davies-Wrigley and Mair Evans addressed the Planning Committee as did County Councillor Ann Davies. There is no evidence in the webcast that any members of the Planning Committee ignored the matters raised, in fact a number of Committee Members thanked the objectors for their submissions and made reference to the matters raised in their comments. It should also be noted that it took the Planning Committee just short of 2 hours to deliberate on the merits of the application prior to coming to a majority decision to grant planning permission.

Therefore, for the reasons set out above I cannot uphold your complaint”.

All council members present discussed the response letter and despite unanimously disagreeing with the reply it was decided not to pursue the issue as it would not change the outcome of the planning decision. **Resolved** to note.

104/2024-2025 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E. reported that a crane to lift the stone on to the plinth would be available in 2 weeks. The names of fallen soldiers will then be investigated and finalized. Cllr K Waters offered assistance if required. **Resolved** to note.

105/2023-2024 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chair.

Cllr M Rees reported that a stranger had been seen in the village of Llanddarog over the past 10 days. No one has approached him due to safety concerns. Cllr M Rees has contacted Dyfed Powys Police but is not aware of officers attending. Cllr K Waters stated that if she sees the stranger in the village she will approach him. **Resolved** to note.

106/2023-2024 In camera 20.10.

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.

107/2023-2024 Staff pay run August and September 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 R Jones.

The Clerk reported that the January 2024 inflation rate of 4.0% (CPI) should be added to the allowance figures for the Clerk from 01/04/2024. All council members agreed. **Resolved** to note. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

108/2023-2024 The meeting finished at 20.15.

Chairman

Date
