

## CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the October 2025 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 08/10/2025 at 19.00.

#### 105/2025-2026 Present.

Councilors: R Owen (Chair), County Cllr H Jones, J Williams O.B.E, C Jones, T Evans.

County Cllr S Hughes.

Clerk.

Translator: H Mainwaring.

#### 106/2025-2026 To receive apologies.

Councilors: M Griffiths, K Waters, R McFarlane, R Jones, A Aldridge.

#### 107/2025-2026 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

#### 108/2025-2026 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

#### 90/2025-2026 County Council matters - County Cllr S Hughes.

None.

#### 91/2025-2026 Chairman's Report.

None.

#### 92/2025-2026 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 09/07/2025.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for the monthly meeting on 09/07/2025. Proposed by Cllr R McFarlane and seconded by Cllr R Owen.

#### 93/2025-2026 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.

The Clerk reported that the overhanging/fallen trees in Cwmisfael had been removed. The following update had been received from Carmarthenshire County Council on 10/09/2025 regarding the refuse bin in Mynyddcerrig –

“Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding as I am aware you have chased on a few occasions.

In answer to your query regarding the removed bins, the 2 bins in question were removed as part of the ‘Members Seminar – Budget Consultation’ that was held last year. Where it was agreed to remove 20% of our current litter bin stock throughout the county where a newly developed Litter Bin Matrix scoring system was put into place to factor which bins were to stay and which were to be removed. Earlier this

year all councillors should have received an email with the bins within their respective wards which were to be removed.

Regarding the 2 bins which we have removed as part of the above bin rationalisation programme these were decided through the matrix on the below reasoning:

- Bin removed near K A M construction – This was removed due to health and safety concerns due to the sharp bend and busy road not providing the operative a suitable location to park and service the bin.
- Bin removed near Harddfrynn Capel Seion road – This was removed due to 2 reasonings firstly again being health and safety concerns due to the junction on the busy road plus from operative feedback where the bin was not used very often and the litter fill/usage levels were very low.

I hope this answers your question, should you wish to discuss further please feel free to contact me”

Council members discussed the email and disagreed with the reasons explained as the speed limit in Mynyddcerrig had been reduced to 20mph, there is a parking area near the old Mynyddcerrig School, the area near Harddfrynn has a wide pavement which is able to accommodate a vehicle and the public are currently leaving their refuse on the seating bench and dispersing refuse throughout the area. **Resolved** for County Cllr S Hughes to respond.

The Clerk reported that he had sent an email Mr Mike Jacob (Traffic and Road Safety Manager) regarding the C2061 from Porthyrhyd to Foelgastell but no update had been received. **Resolved** for County Cllr S Hughes to contact Mr Mike Jacob.

**94/2025-2026 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 16/07/2025 from a community member –  
“I have organised for Trading Standards to do a talk in Llanddarog community hall sometime in September. The village hall has offered up the use of the venue free of charge as it benefits the community in general...so I was going to ask you whether the Community Council would be happy to fund teas and coffee during the event?

Council members discussed the request, and it was decided to fund the refreshments at the community event to the value of £30.00. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr A Aldridge. **Resolved** for the Clerk to transfer the funds.

The following email was received from Porthyrhyd Welfare Committee on 31/08/20205 –

“A few years ago, as you know a defibrillator was installed outside the Neuadd Fach. Mr Gwyn Edwards, Crosshands set out to raise money for the purchase of the defibrillator as he is keen to ensure that this important equipment is available in a number of locations in the area. He also bears the responsibility of inspecting the equipment regularly and over the years the defibrillator was used to save lives. Porth-y-rhyd Wellbeing Committee paid for the box to be stored but over time the

condition of that box deteriorated, and a new box had to be bought in August this year.

The box cost £534 and an additional sum was paid for installation.

We understand that you have a source of money for assisting organisations/associations/individuals etc. which is distributed in the Autumn and here is a request for a contribution from that fund towards this very important provision.

We trust that you will look favorably upon this request for assistance.

Thank you very much".

Council members discussed the request, and it was decided to contribute £267.00 towards the cost of the new cabinet. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Owen. **Resolved** for the Clerk to transfer the funds.

#### **95/2025-2026 Planning.**

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr A Aldridge.

**PL/09137** - Hybrid planning application for proposed residential development, incl:- I) Full application for conversion of existing outbuilding to 1 no. Single storey dwelling. II) Outline application for 2 no. Single storey dwellings (1 no. Affordable), with access to be considered and all other matters reserved - Maes Yr Haf, Mynyddcerrig, Llanelli, SA15 5BD

**PL/09588** - Discharge of Condition 19 and 23 on PL/06638 (Landscape Constraint Plan and External Surfaces Schedule) - Land part of Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT.

**PL/09657** - Discharge of Condition 4 on PL/07200 (Landscape & Ecological Design Scheme) - Land part of Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT.

**PL/09815** - Discharge of Condition 20 on PL/06638 (External Lighting) - Land part of Wern Fraith Farm, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8PT.

**ENF/02680** - Unauthorised works on land. The land appears to have been partitioned by a wooden fence and gate. The side entrance has been made into hard standing and contains various building material including containers of liquid of some sort and also the far side of the fence looks as if a track is being created (possibly a motorcycle track) - Land near Lanfach, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, SA32 8HP.

The Clerk informed council members that no updates had been received regarding the above issue and that it may take up to 12 weeks before a reply is received. Defer to the October meeting on 08/10/2025.

#### **96/2025-2026 Payments.**

The below payments were certified in the June monthly meeting and **ratified** in the July monthly meeting. Copies of invoices sent to all members electronically prior to payment for authorization. Proposed by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

<b>Method of Payment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Suppliers &amp; Details</b>	<b>Sum £ inc VAT</b>
Online	18/07/2025	Service Charge	4.25
Online	15/08/2025	Dynefor Tree Services – 26/07/2025	300.00

Online	15/08/2025	J G Evans – July Payroll	400.39
Online	15/08/2025	J G Evans – August Payroll	400.39
Online	15/08/2025	HMRC	105.40
Online	15/08/2025	HMRC	1005.40
Online	15/08/2025	123 Reg – 3830932283	71.99
Online	15/08/2025	123 Reg – 3849463425	71.99
Online	15/08/2025	123 Reg – 3843589375	100.66
Online	18/08/2025	Service Charge	4.25
Online	20/08/2025	Nest – July & August	84.32
Online	20/08/2025	Dynefor Tree Services – 19/08/2025	300.00

**97/2025-2026 Receipts.**

Carmarthenshire County Council – Precept 2.

29/08/2025 - £6876.94

**98/2025-2026 To discuss Llanddarog telephone kiosk.**

The Clerk reported that on 03/04/2025 an email was received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding a BT consultation into the telephone kiosks in Llanddarog and Porthyrhyd (Minute **229/2024-2025**). A reply was sent to Carmarthenshire County Council on 28/04/2025 stating that the telephone kiosks remain in situ.

The Clerk reported that he contacted BT when the removal of the red K6 telephone kiosk was reported on 15/07/2025. The Clerk also contacted Carmarthenshire County Council asking "Why Llanddarog Community Council had not been notified of the kiosk's removal. The following response was received on 17/07/2025 –

**"Thank you for your email and for highlighting the concerns raised by the Llanddarog community regarding the recent removal of the red telephone kiosk.**

**I appreciate the sensitivity of the matter and understand the strength of local feeling. It appears that BT followed the statutory process under Ofcom's Universal Service Obligation, set by Offcom.**

**Following the Council raising objections to the removal of the box ,our records indicate that they emailed the officer on 9 June 2025, with their final decision and that they had decided that the telephone box does not meet the tests set out by Ofcom for retention of the box and have taken the decision to remove the box.**

**Unfortunately, the decision is one for BT rather than the council to make as this is not a Planning application governed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Even though the box is within a conservation area and that we would wish to see retained for the community, its size , being less than 115m<sup>3</sup> threshold, means that they would not need to seek planning or listed building consent to remove the box. We therefore cannot rely on those regulatory powers of enforcement to compel BT to reinstate the box. While the kiosk was not listed, we acknowledge its contribution to the character of the area and share your disappointment at its removal.**

**I regret that, at this stage, there is no legal mechanism to compel BT to return the kiosk. I have asked the Officers manager to consider why the community weren't notified of BT's decision of the 9 June, while there is no statutory duty to do so, I believe it would have been helpful in this instance".**

If notification had been received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the removal of the kiosk, Llanddarog Community Council would have adopted the kiosk for £1.00. If the community council were to purchase a K6 telephone kiosk the cost would be £3200.00 + VAT. These funds are not available to the community council and it would be deemed irresponsible if the council spent funds on an item of this nature. After numerous emails between Llanddarog Community Council and BT, information was received that DC Transport and Engineering was the company employed to collect the kiosk. Numerous conversations were had with the company, and the Clerk was informed on 04/09/2025 that he was to contact BT again to hopefully discuss the return of the kiosk. An email was sent to BT requesting the return of the kiosk, but no reply had been received.

Council members discussed the issue at length and despite the valiant efforts of County Cllr S Hughes, Cllr M Griffiths and the Clerk trying to recover the kiosk and keeping the community members updated via social media it was decided not to pursue the issue any further. **Proposed** by Cllr J Williams O.B.E and seconded by Cllr R Jones. All agreed. **Resolved** to note.

**99/2025-2026 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.**

Cllr J Williams O.B.E expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers that assisted with the concrete slab. The next stage is to paint the slab black until finally covering with black marble. A plaque to be placed on the memorial stone requesting the assistance of community members in recognizing the names of fallen soldiers from World War I and II. Cllr J Williams O.B.E to research also. If names of fallen soldiers are remembered on other memorial stones they will not be allowed to be engraved on the Porthyrhyd memorial stone as duplication is not permitted but if present within religious buildings, it is permitted.

Cllr S Hughes asked if a celebration of the final memorial stone was planned. Cllr J Williams O.B.E suggested a small community event.

**100/2025-2026 To discuss Community Awards.**

The Clerk reported that only one nomination had been received regarding the community awards. Council members agreed with the nominee. The Clerk to inform the nominee and the award to be presented at the annual dinner in the Butchers Arms, Llanddarog on 28/01/2026. **Resolved** for the Clerk to inform the nominee and book the venue.

**101/2025-2026 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chair.**

Cllr R Owen asked the Clerk to source a new flag for Mynyddcerrig as the current one had been destroyed by the current weather conditions. **Resolved** for the Clerk to organise.

Cllr A Aldridge left the meeting not to return.

**102/2025-2026 In camera 21.07.**

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.

**103/2025-2026 Staff pay run September 2025.**

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 Owen and seconded by Cllr R Jones.

The Clerk asked council members for permission to complete the FILCA course to improve his knowledge. The cost of the course is £120.00 + VAT but the Clerk has sourced a bursary for the course therefore the cost to the council would be negligible. All council members agreed. The chair signed the bursary. **Resolved** to note.

**104/2025-2026** The meeting finished at 21.11.

Chairman

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Date

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