

## CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDDAROG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the January 2026 Meeting of Llanddarog Community Council held at Porthyrhyd Village Hall on 14/01/2025 at 19.00.

#### 165/2025-2026 Present.

Councilors: R Owen (Chair), County Cllr S Hughes, R Jones, J Williams O.B.E, C Jones, K Waters, M Griffiths, R McFarlane.

County Cllr S Hughes.

Clerk.

Translator: H Mainwaring.

#### 166/2025-2026 To receive apologies.

Councilors: County Cllr H Jones, A Aldridge.

#### 167/2025-2026 To receive declarations of interest.

None.

#### 168/2025-2026 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

Cllr C Jones joined the meeting at 19.07.

#### 169/2025-2026 County Council matters - County Cllr S Hughes.

County Cllr S Hughes attended the Carmarthenshire Council meeting on 10/12/2025. A meeting was held with the housing developers Jones Henllan and some of the residents to discuss the Wern Fraith development site.

He is continuing to help and support local people with their queries and concerns, most of which are of a confidential nature.

Cllr R Owen asked County Cllr S Hughes to enquire why Mynyddcerrig was not included in the road gritting schedule prior to the snowfall. As a result Torcoed Quarry had to close for business, and many local residents were unable to source food and animal supplies. **Resolved** for County Cllr S Hughes to investigate.

#### 170/2025-2026 Chairman's Report.

None.

#### 171/2025-2026 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 14/01/2026.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for the monthly meeting on 14/01/2026. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr J Williams O.B.E.

#### 172/2025-2026 Matters arising from the above minutes.

None.

**173/2025-2026** 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).

None.

**174/2025-2026** Planning Matters.

No objections to the following planning applications. Proposed by Cllr R Jones and seconded by Cllr M Griffiths.

**PL/10245** - Proposed Side and rear single storey extensions - 12 Pontfaen, Llanddarog, Carmarthen, SA32 8PZ

**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

No update.

**175/2025-2026** Payments.

The below payments were certified in the December meeting and **ratified** in the January 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.

Method of Payment	Date	Suppliers & Details	Sum £ inc VAT
Online	16/12/2026	Service Charge	4.25

**176/2025-2026** Receipts.

30/12/2025 Carmarthenshire County Council.

Precept 3 - £6876.94.

**177/2025-2026** To receive the Internal Financial Examiners report 01/10/2025 – 31/12/2025.

Defer to February.

**178/2025-2026** To develop and finalise the precept for 2026 – 2027.

Each member had been provided with a written report prior to the meeting. A full verbal report was provided by the Clerk.

a) Review of income and expenditure for period 01/04/2025 – 31/12/2025 – All members had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting along with a copy of the bank reconciliation up to 31/12/2025. The statement balance on 31/12/2025 was £33,394.67.

b) Projected balance at 31/03/2026 – The Clerk formatted the figures based on current spending trends and expenditure for the same period in 2024 – 2025 (Please see table 1 below).

c) Report and recommendations in relation to 2026 – 2027 budget – A draft expenditure report was sent to all members prior to the meeting totaling £26,912.00.

Draft income figures were presented to the members for a VAT refund totaling £1050.00.

d) Confirmation of the 2026 – 2027 budget – (Please see table 2 below).

e) Confirmation of the special project's program and the Council's other reserves. The Clerk announced that reserves are found to be on track albeit with some easily identifiable differences. Cllr J Williams O.B.E asked the Clerk if it was possible to include the cleaning of the concrete bus shelter, Llanddarog and cutting the hedge from Porthyrhyd to Llanddarog into grounds maintenance and increase the precept demand from £30.90 to £31.60 to cover costs. Council members agreed. **Resolved** for the Clerk to obtain a quotation.

f) Report in relation to 2026 – 2027 budget – All members received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. The Band D Council tax figure for 2026 – 2027 is **574.68** and all members were required to evaluate the presented options (Please see table 3 below)

g) 2026 – 2027 Precept Demand - All Council members considered the options provided for the 2026 – 2027 precept. A council needs to make some reserves to make sure it can pay for unexpected events and to make sure it has enough money to pay bills until it receives income. Unless it has specific plans for future spending, councils should only hold reserves to provide a reasonable balance. All council members agreed to the proposal and that the precept demand be reduced by 15% to **£17,757.61** with a Council Tax Band D of **£31.90**.

h) To ratify the annual investment strategy – The strategy was discussed under policies in the Community Council meeting on 12/11/2025 minute **138/2025-2026**.

i) Insurance Policy – This matter was discussed in the May meeting on 14/05/2025 minute **39/2025-2026**.

The budget and precept report were proposed by Cllr J Williams and seconded by Cllr R Jones with no objections from any Community Council members. **Resolved** for the Clerk to request a precept of **£17,757.61**.

#### **179/2025-2026 To receive update on Porthyrhyd memorial stone.**

Cllr J Williams O.B.E stated that names of fallen soldiers were currently being collected and collated. Concrete slab to be covered in black gloss tiles.

Cllr J Williams O.B.E asked council members if it was possible for Llanddarog Community Council to adopt the memorial stone prior to completion. The matter was discussed and council members asked the Clerk to obtain clarification from One Voice Wales and the SLCC. **Resolved** to note.

#### **180/2025-2026 Forum in order for Members to raise reports / questions through the Chair.**

Cllr J Williams reported that there was an increase in rubbish on the A48 from Carmarthen Recycling Centre to Carmarthen. **Resolved** for County Cllr S Hughes to report.

Cllr M Griffiths reported subsidence near Nantyffin. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department.

Cllr C Jones reported flood and blocked drain issues in Llanddarog. At least 5 properties being affected during periods of heavy rain with toilet facilities not working and certain areas of the household being flooded. Welsh Waters solution is to install non-return valves, but their idea is not acceptable as raw sewage is flooding properties and gardens. The current drainage system was built in the 1960's and is unable to cope with the current number of households. The cost of cleaning the

affected areas after flooding has exceeded over £2000.00 with insurance costs increasing as a result. Welsh Water is required to develop a strategic plan to resolve the issue. Residents to inform Welsh Water if they experience a problem so that all complaints are recorded. County Cllr S Hughes to obtain flyers to inform residents. County Cllr S Hughes suggested a meeting with Ann Davies MP, NRW, Welsh Water and Cllr C Jones to discuss.

Youths wearing dark clothing and hoods have been noticed in Llanddarog. Please be vigilant.

**181/2025-2026 In camera 20.41.**

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.

**182/2025-2026 Staff pay run January 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 Jones and seconded by Cllr R Owen.

**183/2025-2026 Next Meeting.**

Date of the next meeting to be held at Mynyddcerrig Club – 11/02/2026 at 19.00.

**184/2025-2026 The meeting finished at 20.47.**

Chairman

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Date

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## LLANDDAROG BUDGET & PRECEPT 2026-2027

Please find below a report on the 2025-2026 budget, the actual expenditure to 31/12/2025 and the estimated expenditure to 31/03/2026. Reasons are given on sum difference and will be discussed in the January meeting on 14/01/2026.

HEADING	PREVIOUS BUDGET	ACTUAL SPEND TO 31/12/2025	ESTIMATED SPEND ON 31/03/2026	DIFF	REASON
Ground Maintenance	2500.00	2575.00	2575.00	-75.00	-
Staff Salary & PAYE	8600.00	4343.54	7600.00	1000.00	-
Admin, Inc Audit Fees	3000.00	1597.60	2500.00	500.00	-
Insurance	1000.00	537.44	537.44	462.56	-
Financial Assistance – Inc Standing Revenue Grants	2250.00	2250.00	2250.00	0.00	-
Seating & Asset Maintenance	1300.00	619.51	900.00	400.00	-
Street Lighting Estimate	5500.00	0.00	3500.00	2000.00	-
Misc – Inc Subscriptions	350.00	686.00	686.00	-336.00	-
Members Allowance	468.00	0.00	312.00	156.00	-
Election Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Section 137	1100.00	347.00	1100.00	0.00	-
Allocation to Special Projects & Reserve from Precept	450.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,518.00</b>	<b>12,956.09</b>	<b>21,960.44</b>	<b>4557.56</b>	-

There was a projected VAT refund in the 2024-2025 precept of £1050.00. This reduced the precept demand from £26,518.00 to £25,468.00. It was resolved to demand a precept income of £20,334.55 in 2024-2025 and for general funds to replenish the £5133.45 shortfall.

Please find below a proposed budget for 2025 - 2026 in comparison to 2024 – 2025. Reasons are given on sum difference and will be discussed in the January meeting on 08/01/2025.

<b>HEADING</b>	<b>PREVIOUS BUDGET</b>	<b>PROPOSED BUDGET</b>	<b>REASON</b>
Ground Maintenance	2500.00	2750.00	Shelter/ Bench Cleaning
Staff Salary & PAYE	8600.00	8600.00	-
Admin, Inc Audit Fees	3000.00	3000.00	-
Insurance	1000.00	750.00	-
Financial Assistance – Inc Standing Revenue Grants	2250.00	2250.00	Increased May 2025
Seating & Asset Maintenance	1300.00	950.00	-
Street Lighting Estimate	5500.00	4750.00	-
Misc – Inc Subscriptions	350.00	700.00	-
Members Allowance	468.00	312.00	Currently 2 x members
Training Budget	N/A	500.00	New
Election Cost	0.00	250.00	-
Section 137	1100.00	1100.00	Increased May 2025
Allocation to Special Projects & Reserve from Precept	450.00	1000.00	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,518.00</b>	<b>26,912.00</b>	

At the time of preparation, the only projected income for 2026 - 2027 is a VAT refund of £650.00. This will reduce the amount of the precept demand from £26,912.00 to £26,262.00. Also reducing the overall demand will be the projected bank balance remaining in the account. Full details below.

Bank balance as at 31/12/2025	£33,394.67
Less projected expenditure 01/12/2025 – 31/03/2026	£9004.35
Projected bank balance as at 31/03/2025	£24,390.32
Expenditure proposal for 2026 - 2027	£26,912.00
Less Estimated income for 2026 - 2027 (VAT Refund)	£650.00
Less projected bank balance as at 31/3/26 (based on projected expenditure)	£24,390.32
Amount required to make up the difference	£1871.68
Add 50% of projected expenditure to create a reserve of 50% of revenue	£13,456.00
Amount required as total precept for 2026 - 2027	<b>£15,327.68</b>
By using tax base <b>574.68</b>	
Amount raised by keeping the Band D rate the same as last year @ <b>£36.35</b>	<b>£20,889.62</b>
Amount raised by reducing the Band D rate to <b>£31.90</b> (-15.00% on last year)	<b>£17,757.61</b>
<p>NB. If we keep the Band D rate the same as 2025-2026, we will end up with a budget Surplus of <b>£5561.94</b> which will be added to the reserve. The reserve will then be equal to 70% of annual expenditure (8 months, 3 weeks). This is not acceptable for a council of our size.</p> <p>NB. If we decrease the Band D rate to <b>£31.90</b>, we will end up with a budget surplus of <b>£2429.93</b> which will be added to the reserve. The reserve will then be equal to 66% of annual expenditure (7.9 months). This is acceptable for a council of our size.</p>	