**CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANLLAWDDOG**

**LLANLLAWDDOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Llanllawddog Community Council held at the Church Hall, Llanllawddog and via Microsoft Teams on **Monday 11 November 2024 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillor Steven Mason (Chairman) presiding

**Councillors:** Nia Bowen, Deborah Dean, Beth Gibbon (attending remotely), Havard Hughes, Philip Hughes, Darrell Lewis and Peter Williams.

County Councillor Neil Lewis

**Clerk to the Council:** Andrew Rees

1. **Condolences**

The Chairpersonon behalfof the Council expressed his deepest sympathies to Mr Andrew Rees on the recent loss of his father. The Clerk thanked all Members for their kind expressions of sympathy and support on his recent loss.

1. **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **Declarations of interest**

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Andrew Rees declared a personal interest in agenda item No. 12- Applications for Financial Assistance, the application for financial assistance by Eisteddfod yr Urdd Dur a Môr 2025 as his brother is a member of the Urdd Eisteddfod Working Party and is Chairperson of the Urdd Eisteddfod Music Committee.

Councillor Nia Bowen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item No. 17 – Planning Applications, application no. PL/00832 – Land to the rear of Garth as the developer requires land in her ownership to facilitate development and has objected to the application. Councillor Bowen took no part in the discussion thereon.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment to minute No. 244 Road Safety on the A485 and Response to 20mph Speed Limit Consultation in that there had been a 23% reduction in fatalities and not 17% as recorded in the minutes.

1. **Report of the County Councillor**

County Councillor Lewis reported that he and the Clerk had received correspondence from Mr Daniel Newman of Clos y Fedw, Rhydargaeau who had approached the County Council to purchase the bank adjacent to the A485 as a garden extension. The approach had been refused by the County Council as Highways officers believed the bank’s removal would affect the integrity of the A485. Councillor Lewis had requested Highways officers meet Mr Newman on site.

1. **Budget monitoring relative to the period ending 31 October 2024**

The Clerk reported that the Council holds a balance of £31,253.40 in its current account and a balance of £15,239.27 in its savings account, with the Council’s resources totalling £46,492.67. He stated that the Council’s balances have increased due to successful applications made to the National Lottery Awards for All fund to support the development of the play area. He outlined the spend profile for the financial year to date.

He stated that the Council had been informed by its bankers that the interest rate on its savings account had reduced from 2.75% to 2.62% with effect from 5 November 2024.

The Clerk also reported that the Council at its meeting on 6 January 2025 will need to set its budget and precept for the 2025-26 year. For budget preparation to commence, consideration was needed on the level of precept to be set for 2025-26. He stated that the Council’s precept had remained at £8,147 for the last 3 financial years and given the Council’s balance as indicated above, it was recommended that consideration be given to the precept remaining at £8,147.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Council note the Budget Monitoring for the period ending 31 October 2024;

(2) That consideration be given to the precept remaining at £8,147 at the meeting of the Council on 6 January 2025.

1. **Completion of Audit 2023-24**

The Clerk reported that the Council has received an unqualified report from Audit Wales for the audit of accounts in 2023-24 and the appropriate Notices had been published on the Council’s website and Noticeboards.

1. **Bills for Payment**

The Clerk reported on the following liabilities and sought approval for their payment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300057 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – June 2024 | 40.00 |
| 300058 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – September 2024 | 40.00 |
| 300059 | Andrew Rees | Administrative Expenses for September and October 2024 | 13.20 |
| 300060 | Andrew Rees | Salary of Clerk for September and October 2024 which includes back pay of £110.88 to 1 April 2024 following the Local Government pay award | 873.48 |
| 300061 | HMRC | Payment of Income Tax and National  Insurance for September and October 2024 | 223.08 |
| 300062 | Audit Wales | 2023-24 Audit Fees | 200.00 |
| **Total Payments** |  |  | 1389.76 |

The Clerk referred to minute no. 243 of the meeting of 2 September 2024, wherein it was resolved that as completion of the land transfer was anticipated to take place prior to the next meeting of the Council, payment of legal fees to Redkite Law were approved and he was authorised to make the necessary payment. Part payment of the legal fees had been made in the sum of £606.00.

Members of the Council expressed their disappointment that the Wind Farm had not agreed to meet the Council’s legal for the land transfer transaction in full. The Clerk explained that he had made an application to the Wind Farm’s Grant Bach fund where applications to a ceiling of £750 were delegated to officers to approve. He stated that he had made an application to the Grant Bach fund as he was aware that the Wind Farm had experienced applications which exceeded their budget.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the above payments be approved;

(2) That the Clerk make a request to the Wind Farm that it funds the full cost of the Council’s legal fees.

1. **Cefn Farm, Rhydargaeau Play Area**

The Clerk reported that the Council had been successful with its application to the National Lottery Awards for All fund, the funding secured was received into the Council’s bank account on 2 October 2024. The Chairperson informed the Council that the Clerk had solely undertaken the application process without the support promised by the Brechfa Wind farm. Members of the Council thanked the Clerk for securing the funding and the Chairperson for negotiating with the play area provider.

The Clerk also reported that on 10 October 2024 that he along with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson signed the land transfer documentation to take ownership of the play area. The developer had since signed the transfer documentation and on 7 November 2024 the Council received the sum agreed with developer less the balance of the Council’s legal fees. A completion notice has been received from Redkite Law.

The Clerk further reported that as funding from the Brechfa Wind farm was conditional upon the Council securing ownership of the land, he had requested the release of the grant funding awarded by the Brechfa Wind Farm along with the grant funding of £750 awarded for the reimbursement of part of the legal fees. He stated that he had contacted the Council’s insurers to arrange for cover of the play area and had been informed that there was no increase in the premium until the play area was equipped.

The Clerk reported that the Council now had the funding available to proceed with the scheme it envisaged at its meeting on 4 March 2024 comprising a play tower, a nest swing, a toddler swing and activity panels and surfacing of the play area. Final costings of the scheme had been being revised by the play area provider. He had been advised that once agreed, an order will be placed with Sovereign whose timescales are based on installation commencing 4 to 6 weeks after receiving the order. The Chairperson stated that Sovereign may require a water supply during the play area’s construction and to that end a neighbour could be approached.

Councillor Williams asked whether the Council would need to remove the existing artificial grass and benches. The Chairperson stated that Sovereign will undertake a survey prior to work commencing. He stated that the Clerk would confirm with Sovereign responsibility for the removal of the artificial grass.

Councillor Bowen requested detail of the cost and duration of the compliance package for the play area. The Clerk stated that he would provide that detail. The Council considered the need for temporary signage to be erected on the Heras fencing immediately before and during the construction period and for permanent signage for the play area. The permanent signage would need to display that the play area is for the use of all young children in the community.

The Clerk stated that after the order for the play equipment and surfacing has been placed and timelines for the installation are known, details of the scheme can be conveyed to residents via the Council’s Facebook page and website. Members of the Council considered the need to convey to residents its plans for the play area and the sources of funding obtained. Councillor Dean and the Vice-Chairperson stated that they would do some outreach work with residents of Dan y Dderwen and Clos y Fedw once a newsletter had been drafted. That newsletter would also be published on the Council’s Facebook page and website.

The Clerk reported that the Council may wish to consider a formal opening of the play area as this will be the first public amenity in Llanllawddog. Additionally, as the Council will have in its ownership the play area prior to the festive period, the Council may also wish to consider marking the time of the year with a small event, subject to the play area provider not making a start on site before Christmas. Members of the Council considered that a Christmas tree by the bus stop would be more prominent as opposed to it being located at the play area. Councillor Bowen suggested that signage could be considered at the gateways to Rhydargaeau and Pontarsais instead of a Christmas tree and she was happy to design and contact a signwriter. The signage would be reused for future years.

**RESOLVED:** (1)That the Council formally approve the final specification and cost of the play area equipment and surfacing;

(2) That consideration be given to a formal opening of the play area at the next meeting when the timescale for the play area was known;

(3) That the Councillor Bowen design Christmas signage and arrange for their manufacture with a signwriter and their expenditure be approved with details of the expenditure incurred being reported back to the next meeting;

(4) That consideration be given to a Christmas event be placed at the June Council agenda.

1. **Road Safety on the A485**

The Clerk referred to minute no. 244 of the meeting of 2 September 2024 wherein it was resolved that he investigate the feasibility and cost of installing models which look like children to aid road safety; and that County Councillor Lewis contact the Traffic Manager requesting a reply to the emails sent by the Council. (minute no. 244 refers).

He reported that the road safety models known as Billy / Belinda bollards, cost £720 inclusive of VAT.

Members of the Council considered that the bollards would work better in urban areas.

Councillor Bowen suggested that an approach be made to the County Council to revise road markings by having unbroken lines through Rhydargaeau.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Billy and Belinda road safety bollards be not pursued at this time;

(2) That County Councillor Lewis contact the Traffic Manager requesting a reply to the emails sent by the Council and requesting a site visit to look at greater enforcement of speeding traffic and the feasibility of traffic calming measures on the A485 and which would act as a crossing point to the play area.

1. **Request for Bus Shelter on Alltwalis Road, Pontarsais**

The Clerk referred to minute no. 245 of the meeting of 2 September 2024 wherein it was resolved that County Councillor Lewis make a request to Transport for Wales as to passenger numbers using the stop and establish with the County Council as to whether it is a bus stop and establish the cost of erecting a bus shelter.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Lewis has received a response from the Transport Policy and Programme Officer of the County Council which sets out the Authority’s position in terms of bus waiting infrastructure requests and the patronage at this location. The County Council has no access to current data as the service is now operated by Transport for Wales. The location is not a formal bus stop and is a request stop. The County Council has also advised there are no school pupils listed as using this location. The only usage data it has is from a survey in 2020 which shows that throughout the week of 9 to 14 March, the T1 picked up only 7 times at this location. There were 2 users (both Concessionary Travel Pass holders), one travelled 5 times during that week and the other travelled twice. At no time did the service pick up more than one user at the same time.

**RESOLVED:** That the response of the County Council be noted and that no further action be taken at this time.

1. **Pylons and Wind Farm Proposals**

The Clerk reported on an email received from the Clerk of Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council with the idea of holding a meeting either in person or online to enable the views of the Community Councils affected along the route of the pylons and wind farm proposal to be shared. He stated that its intention is to have one strong voice on behalf of the communities that are affected by Green GEN Cymru’s proposals. It could also act as a platform for sharing information, rather than each community Council in a silo and undertaking their own research. The intention is to be able to get one or two Councillors from each Community Council together and then report back to the Community Councils and take any appropriate action.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had sent a holding reply to the Clerk of Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council agreeing to the principle of being part of a forum as there was merit in being part of a stronger voice with other community Councils. He anticipated that the next stage of the consultation by Green GEN Cymru will commence in 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council agree to be part of a forum on the suggested by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council.

1. **Applications for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported on applications received for financial assistance towards supporting the work of the following organisations:

* Regional Committee of Urdd Gobaith Cymru in West Carmarthenshire
* Eisteddfod yr Urdd Dur a Môr 2025
* Radio Glangwili
* Wales Air Ambulance towards supporting its work.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Council having considered the requests for financial assistance received awarded the sums of £110 each to the Regional Committee of Urdd Gobaith Cymru in West Carmarthenshire and Wales Air Ambulance and the sum of £50 to Radio Glangwili;

(2) That the application received from Eisteddfod yr Urdd Dur a Môr 2025 be not supported.

1. **Community Defibrillator Project**

The Clerk reported that the Council was awarded funding in March 2024 for an additional defibrillator at Clos y Fedw, Rhydargaeau. One of the conditions of the grant funding is that the Council arranged CPR training. The Family Foundations receive funding from the wind farm and arrangements were made to hold CPR training in September 2024. However, due to illness at the time, the trainer was not able to deliver the training.

Councillor Williams expressed concern that the Council’s defibrillators were not registered on the Staying Alive App. The Clerk stated that the defibrillators were all registered on The Circuit which is the official site recognised by the Ambulance Service.

Councillor Williams asked whether the defibrillator pads could be used on children. Councillor Bowen stated that the pads could be used for adults and children, but the charge used on a child would be a great deal less.

**RESOLVED:** (1)That Family Foundations who will be delivering the CPR training be approached for a date in the Spring to take advantage of the lighter evenings to encourage greater attendance;

(2) That the Clerk ask the consultant who monitors the defibrillators whether the Council could apply to the Wind Farm for paediatric pads.

1. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report 2025- 2026**

The Clerk reported that the Council had been consulted on the Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales 2025-2026 requesting comments by 29 November 2024.

He stated that Determination 9 within the Annual Report related to payments to Community Councillors, with the Panel proposing that the mandatory payments of £156 contribution to the costs of working from home and the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid remain at the same level as in 2024-25.

The Clerk also reported that Community and Town Councils are required to submit an annual statement of payments to the Panel by 30 September each year and publish this on their website. He stated that the Panel had provided a template return which is already in use by the Council. The Panel proposed that from September 2024, the annual returns it receives from the Council need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments of £156 contribution to the costs of working from home and the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council make no comment to the Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1. **Community Litter Pick**

The Clerk requested that consideration be given to holding the next Community Litter Pick.

Councillor Williams stated that he had picked up 6 tyres which had been fly tipped. He also stated black bags had been fly tipped in the bus shelter opposite the Gwalia filling station.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the next litter pick take place on Saturday 11 January 2025 at 10.30am;

(2) That the Clerk report the fly tipping of black bags to the County Council.

1. **To Receive Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on the correspondence received by the Council since its last meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the correspondence received be noted.

1. **Planning Applications**

The Clerk reported that the Council had not been consulted on any planning application since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that the following planning applications had been determined by Carmarthenshire County Council in the Council’s area since the last meeting of the Community Council.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application No.** | **Proposal** | **Site Address** | **Application Type** | **Decision** |
| PL/08002 | Construction of lined slurry lagoon and associated works | Danycapel, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DR SA32 7DU | Full planning permission | Granted |
| PL/05923 | Alterations and change of use of former byre and associated lean-to into tourist accommodation | Delwyn Cottage, Alltwalis SA32 7DZ | Full planning permission | Refused |

The Clerk referred to minute no. 250 of the meeting of 2 September 2024 wherein it was resolved to contact the Planning Department to establish whether the Council and residents had been consulted on planning application PL/00832 land at the rear of Garth and whether due process had been followed. Additionally, the deadline for the Section 106 Agreement lapsed at the end of March 2024. Accordingly, County Councillor Lewis made a Member referral and was informed by the Planning Department that the application which was received on 22 December 2020 was the subject of the full statutory consultation process. This included sending consultation emails to then County Councillor D Williams and the Community Council on 31 December 2020. The wider community was consulted via erection of a site notice on an electricity pole next to the existing agricultural gate into the site on 6 January 2021.

Both Councillor D Williams and the Community Council responded to the application with written comments and 14 representations were received from the wider community. The application was considered by the Planning Committee on 18 August 2022 and verbal representations were received from a member of the community. County Councillor Lewis also addressed the Committee regarding the application. The Planning Committee resolved to grant planning permission subject to completion of a Section 106 Agreement to secure affordable housing provision.

Following the Committee’s decision, work progressed with preparation of the legal agreement. The Planning Department had requested that this be completed within 12 months of the date of the Committee’s decision. However, whilst a draft Section 106 was agreed, due to delays at the Land Registry it was not possible to complete the agreement until title details had been formally registered. The County Council’s legal team and Planning Officer were in frequent discussions with the applicant’s legal representatives to seek to exert pressure on the Land Registry. Thhe terms of the Section 106 were agreed and the only matter preventing completion was out of the parties’ control an extension of time was granted and the matter was finally resolved in May 2024 which resulted in the decision being issued.

The Planning Officer has advised that permission given is only in outline, submission of detailed plans, known as the reserved matters, will need to be submitted within 3 years of the date of the permission and subsequently approved before any development can take place. Any such application(s) will be subject of the same consultation process with the Council and wider community.

1. **Reports of Meetings**

There had been no events attended since the last meeting of the Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.14pm