**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 3 March 2025 at 7.00pm.**

**Present Councillors:** Nia Bowen, Deborah Dean, Beth Gibbon, Philip Hughes, and Peter Williams.

**Clerk to the Council:** Andrew Rees

1. **Election of Chairperson for the Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Councillor Nia Bowen was elected Chairperson for the meeting.

(Councillor Bowen Presiding)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Havard Hughes, Darrell Lewis, Steven Mason and County Councillor Neil Lewis.

1. **Declarations of interest**

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in the Minute No. 290 (280 - Noticeboard) of the meeting of 6 January 2025 ras he would be assisting Mr Huw Evans with erecting the Noticeboard.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of 6 January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

1. **To Receive a Presentation from the Vincent Wildlife Trust on the Feasibility of Restoring Wildcats in Wales**

Council was addressed by Max Henderson, Project Officer of the Vincent Wildlife Trust to explain the restoration of wildcats in Wales project.

The Project Officer explained that the study will provide a platform for stakeholders to contribute their thoughts on wildcats and the potential for their reintroduction in Wales through group workshops and semi structured interviews. He stated that the outcome of the study would be used to inform the decision on whether the prospect of reintroducing wildcats in Wales should be explored in greater detail. He explained that if the study results indicate that there was scope to continue, the Trust would aim to develop an appropriate framework for ongoing stakeholder collaboration based on the principles of co-design.

The Project Officer stated that it was proposed to introduce a European / Scottish cat which was formerly native in Wales and larger than a domestic cat. He explained that the population of wildcats in Scotland has declined due to predators and coming into conflict with grouse shooting. He stated that a likely location in West Wales would be in the Brechfa Forest. As part of the project’s feasibility he was visiting various groups, such as the farming community, field sports and cat welfare charities and developing relationships with landowners.

The Project Officer then responded to questions asked of him by members of the Council and Clerk. He stated that their extinction was a consequence of the Grain Acts introduced following bad harvests in the 1700s. He indicated that a decision on the feasibility of the project was likely to take place in March 2025 and that he would be recommending further work take place prior to the release of cats. He stated that wildcats carry the same diseases as domestic cats, and the threat of disease posed more of a threat than to domestic cats. Wildcats were unlikely to carry TB as they are solitary animals.

The main challenge to introducing wildcats is people working together and to get buy in from landowners and to work with cat welfare charities. He had spoken to approximately 50 members of the farming community to date. Councillor Gibbon that the Project Officer contact the National Farmers Union and the Young Farmers Club and an opportunity to address farmers at the weekly mart in Carmarthen. He stated that wildcats survive on a diet of rabbits, voles, rodents and poultry but there was no evidence of attacking lambs. There was a risk of attack on domestic cats although the risk of an attack was lower than that by a fox. He also stated that there could be a risk to ground nesting birds in some regions and there was a need to do more work within the project on ecology. It was hoped that wildcats would not be hunted and on release they would be tracked. He stated that the wildcats are bred in captivity.

The Project Officer thanked the Council for allowing him the opportunity to discuss the wildcats project and he welcomed the opportunity to discuss the project further with the Council as it developed, and he hoped that it would bring positive benefits to the area.

1. **Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund**

 **RESOLVED:** That the overview of the Fund by Moishe Merry, Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund Manager be deferred to the next meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that a Pre-Installation Survey was carried out by Sovereign Play on 23 January 2025 in accordance with the Installation Agreement entered into by the Council. He stated that he and the Chairperson had met the company’s surveyor who did not identify any issues on site, apart from recommending that the existing gate to the play area open outwards. Since then, Sovereign had made some amendments to the plan by introducing some necessary safety requirements. This involved the creation of a clear walkway in line with the gate and running towards the rear of the play area along the right-hand boundary fence. Rotating the play tower through a 180° so that its rear backs on to the left-hand fence, with two safety landing zones being provided at the foot of the slides. The company will upgrade the roof of the double tower so that the rear panels are fully enclosed as an additional safety feature. It was proposed that the Basket Swing and Log Swing be switched around so that the Basket Swing be located at the front of the play area, and Log Swing towards the rear of the play area, as it required a longer landing zone. The Play Tower would remain in the middle as a centrepiece for the play area. The Clerk stated that the amendments would be at no additional cost to the Council.

The Clerk reported that the Council had not been given any indication by Sovereign that the start on site on 10 March 2025 for the installation of play equipment and the surfacing of the play area on 17 March 2025 will be affected by the design changes. Although it was acknowledged that there now existed a risk to those timescales. He stated that prior to a start being made on site, the Council would remove the artificial turf from the play area and secure the area with Heras fencing and placing a sign to inform the area cannot be accessed during the construction period. Temporary signs had been drafted and printed in readiness to close the play area.

The Clerk further reported that the Council at its meeting on 6 January 2025, (minute no. 278 referred) approved an opening event for the play area takes place on Easter Saturday 19 April 2025 and an application be made to Grant Bach to fund a pizza van at the play area consideration and if feasible an Easter egg hunt take place. He stated that he had booked the pizza van and an application for its funding will be made to the Wind Farm’s Grant Bach Fund.

He also reported that a separate application would be made to fund the cost of bilingual signage at the play area, with two signs be required. Firstly, to display safety information stating that all children have to be supervised at all times and excluding dogs. The second sign would feature the branding of the National Lottery and Brechfa Wind Farm as per their grant funding requirements.

Councillor Williams noted the absence of the bug drum from the latest design. The Clerk stated that he would pursue its omission with the company.

Councillor Bowen suggested that the swings be located next to each other so that supervising children could be easier. Councillor Dean asked whether a balance beam could be designed into the scheme. The Clerk undertook to take this up with the company.

Councillor Williams asked whether the play tower could be turned by 90° so that it backed away from the road and that the play panels remain as per the drawing.

The Clerk reported that consideration was given at the previous meeting of creating a Council logo as did not have one. He stated that a logo would feature on the play area signage, the Council’s website, its social media presence and on all official correspondence. Councillor Bowen had produced a suggested design which featured the bell tower of Llanllawddog Church, trees depicting the Brechfa Forest, the roof line of properties and a Red Kite. Councillor Bowen had also sought a quotation for both A2 and A3 signage from Just Print. Councillor Williams stated that consideration could be given to a large sign filling the rear wall to the play area featuring the Council’s logo as a silhouette.

The Council considered naming the play area Parc y Rhyd.

**RESOLVED:** (1)That the Clerk approach Sovereign Play requesting that they consider rotating the play tower by 90° locating it at the front of the play area but facing inwards from the road; a balance beam be incorporated into the design and the bug drum be re-introduced into the design;

 (2) That the design below be adopted as the Council’s logo;

 

 (3) That the Council approved the play area be named Parc y Rhyd.

1. **Report of the County Councillor**

There was no report of the County Councillor.

1. **Budget monitoring relative to the period ending 28 February 2025**

The Clerk reported that the Council holds a balance of £8,056.19 in its current account and a balance of £40,389.41 in its savings account, with the Council’s resources totalling £48,445.60.

He outlined the spend profile for the financial year to date.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council note the Budget Monitoring for the period ending 28 February 2025.

1. **Renewal of Council’s Insurance**

The Clerk reported that the Council had received notification of the renewal of its insurance policy from its brokers Gallaghers in the sum of £865.57, who had recommended the renewal of its policy with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited, who specialise in providing insurance policies to local councils and not for profit organisations. He stated that the increase in the premium would be funded by the increase in the Council’s precept in 2025/26.

He stated that during the renewal process he had advised the Council’s Brokers in writing of the land transfer to the Council of the play area and following advice from their Underwriters had added it to the schedule for the current year. This resulted in an increase in premium in the current year of £22.86.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council’s insurance policy be renewed with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited in the sum of £865.57 and the increase in premium of £22.86 in the current year to reflect the Council’s ownership of the play area be approved.

1. **Bills for Payment**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300076 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – November 2024 and January 2025  | 80 |
| 300077 | Andrew Rees | Administrative Expenses January and February 2025  | 20.20 |
| 300078 | Andrew Rees | Salary of Clerk for January and February 2025  | 753.67  |
| 300079 | HMRC | Payment of Income tax for January and February 2025 | £188.20 |
| 300080 | Councillor N Bowen  | Annual Allowance 2024-25 (pro rata from May 2024) | 143 |
| 300081 | Councillor Deborah Dean  | Annual Allowance 2024-25  | 156 |
| 300082 | Councillor Elizabeth Gibbon  | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300083 | Councillor Havard Hughes | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300084 | Councillor Philip Hughes | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300085 | Councillor Darrell Lewis  | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300086 | Councillor Steven Mason | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300087 | Councillor Peter Williams | Annual Allowance 2024-25 | 156 |
| 300088 | Councillor Nia Bowen  | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home (Pro-rata from May 2024) | 47.67 |
| 300089 | Councillor Deborah Dean | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300090 | Councillor Elizabeth Gibbon  | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300091 | Councillor Havard Hughes | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300092 | Councillor Philip Hughes  | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300093 | Councillor Darrell Lewis | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300094 | Councillor Steven Mason | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300095 | Councillor Peter Williams  | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home | 52 |
| 300096 | Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited | Addition to Insurance Premium 2024-25 | 22.86 |
| 300097 | Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited  | Renewal of Insurance 2025-26 | 865.57 |
| 300098 | Signs of Cheshire Limited | Purchase of Noticeboard | 1056.00 |

**RESOLVED:** That the above payments be approved.

1. **Road Safety on the A485**

The Clerk reported that the Traffic Management Team had placed speed monitoring equipment at two locations on the A485, one being located by the former Bluebell Public House, Rhydargaeau and as requested near to the junction with Dan y Dderwen, Rhydargaeau. The equipment had now been removed to analyse the speed which had been gathered. This will aid GoSafe which has enforcement powers as to what course they deem necessary. Following analysis of the data from the monitoring equipment, the Traffic Management Team will arrange to provide the Council and County Councillor Lewis with an update.

**RESOLVED:** That the outcome of the data analysis from the monitoring equipment be awaited.

1. **Request for Later Cut of Verges**

The Clerk reported that the Council at its meeting on 13 May 2024 resolved to request the County Council to cuts all verges in the Council’s area in late summer or autumn (minute no. 208 refers). He stated that request was granted by the County Council and accordingly, verges in the Council’s area were cut later in the summer to improve biodiversity to enhance wildflowers and pollinating insects. An exception to the late cut of some verges was agreed by the County Council at junctions, certain bends or on busy roads, which were needed to be cut for driver and pedestrian safety. Residents were very supportive of the initiative, with two adverse comments received. It was explained to the residents that the initiative was to improve biodiversity.

The Clerk reported that given the success of the initiative in 2024, Council was requested to consider requesting the County Council for the late cut of verges in 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the County Council be requested to cut verges in the Council’s area later.

1. **Nomination of Community Council Representative to the Governing Body of Peniel School**

The Clerk reported that the Education Department had informed the Council of a vacancy for an additional Community Governor on the Governing Body of Ysgol Peniel. He stated the Council had nominated Mrs Helen Davies at its meeting on 1 March 2021 whose term of office ended on 28 February 2025. It was therefore necessary for the Council to consider nominating a representative. He informed the Council that the Education Department had advised that the vacancy could only be filled through nomination from a Community Council, but the nominee did not need to be a community councillor. He stated that the appointment to the role would be made by the Governing Body. He informed the Council that Councillor Nia Bowen had expressed an interest in being nominated to the role.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Nia Bowen be nominated to serve as a Community Council representative on the Governing Body of Ysgol Peniel.

1. **Work Programme**

The Clerk reported on a proposal to introduce a Work Programme for Members to be aware of future agenda items and when decisions are required to be made during the life cycle of Council meetings and to improve future planning. He stated that the Work Programme would develop during the year and be subject to change as items are added to it and reported to each meeting for information purposes. He set out the Work Programme.

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| **Date of Council** | **Work Programme Items** |
| All Dates | Standard Items Discussed Each Meeting* County Councillor’s Report
* Budget Monitoring
* Bills for Payment
* Applications for Financial Assistance
* Planning Applications
* Play Area
* Correspondence
* Reports of Meetings
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| May Annual Meeting | * Election of Chairperson
* Election of Vice-Chairperson
* Chairperson’s Report
* Annual Report
* Review of Training Plan
* Review of Asset Register
* Approval of Dates of Future Meetings
* Statement of Accounts
 |
| June | * Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement and Internal Auditor’s Report
* Christmas Planning
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report
 |
| September  | * Standard Items of Business
 |
| November | * Completion of Audit
* Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Draft Annual Report
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| January | * To agree on a budget for the next financial year, review reserves and to decide on the Council’s precept
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| March | * Renewal of Council’s Insurance
* Request for Late Cut of Verges
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**RESOLVED:** That the introduction of a Work Programme be approved.

1. **Model Financial Regulations 2024**

The Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils had produced for One Voice Wales new Model Financial Regulations 2024 to be issued to Town and Community Councils in Wales to replace the 2019 version. He explained that the Model Financial Regulations can be adapted to reflect the needs of the Council and had accordingly made amendments to the Regulations to reflect local choice, particularly the Sections relating to Banking and Electronic Payments as the Council solely makes payment by cheque. He stated that text in bold in the Financial Regulations indicated legal requirements and could not be changed or suspended.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Council adopt the Model Financial Regulations 2024 as amended;

(2) that the Model Financial Regulations 2024 be published on the Council’s website.

1. **Risk Management Policy**

The Clerk reported that Risk is the chance or possibility of loss, damage, injury, or failure to achieve objectives caused by an unwanted or uncertain action or event. He stated that risk management is a planned and systematic approach to the identification, evaluation and control of those risks which can threaten the assets or financial and organisational wellbeing of the Council.

He explained that the Council has a responsibility to manage risks effectively to control its assets and liabilities, protect its employee and community against potential losses, minimise uncertainty in achieving its goals and objectives and

maximise the opportunities to achieve its vision.

He submitted a draft Risk Management Policy for consideration and adoption.

**RESOLVED:** That the Risk Management Policy be adopted subject to an amendment made to section 4 of the Policy with the addition of the following wording “ Where a risk has been identified, an Extraordinary meeting of Council will be called in a timely manner.”

1. **Application for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported on an application received for financial assistance towards supporting Cancer Information and Support Services which provides information, counselling and emotional support to cancer patients, their carers, families and friends. The charity supports people in Carmarthenshire and all donations received go directly to assisting cancer patients in the community and those close to them.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council awarded the sum of £100 to Cancer Information and Support Services.

1. **Community Litter Pick**

The Clerk reported that the 10th Great British Spring Clean will take place from 21 March – 6 April this year and Council is requested to consider holding its next Litter Pick during that fortnight.

**RESOLVED:** That the next litter pick take place on Saturday 29 March at 10.30am.

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 been consulted on the following any planning application since the last meeting.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application No.**  | **Proposal** | **Site Address** | **Application Type** |
| PL/08512 | Change of use of existing outbuilding to self-contained one bedroom studio-style holiday let comprising of small kitchen and wet room style bathroom | 2 Dan Y Dderwen, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DQ | Full Planning Permission |

The Clerk reported that an objection to the application has been submitted to the Planning Department requesting its refusal as the application is a material change of use from a family home to a partial holiday let. Its proposed use as a holiday let would be removed from the previous use as a family residence.

The Clerk reported that whilst the property is not part of the wider Cefn Farm development, which is also located on Dan y Dderwen and at Clos y Fedw, the Council considers the proposal would also not be in keeping with the original intention of the development, which was to provide a family home, thereby having an impact on the character of the area.

As many of the properties on the Cefn Farm development are large in scale the grant of this application will set a precedent and give rise to further applications for holiday lets. This again will alter the character and nature and original intention of the development which was to provide family homes.

The proposed development could give rise to noise nuisance and be intrusive to neighbours by people using the holiday let, albeit the holiday let is small in terms of scale. Additionally, the Council is concerned the impact the proposed development will have on parking at the property.

In addition, whilst Policy H3 in the existing Local Development Plan supports the conversion or subdivision of existing dwellings, there is no reference within this policy to the conversion or subdivision to a holiday let. The Council is of the opinion that the proposed development does not accord with Policy H3 of the Local Development Plan.

The Clerk also reported that there have been no planning applications determined by Carmarthenshire County Council within the Council’s area since the last meeting of the Community Council.

1. **Reports of Meetings**

The Clerk reported that the Council was represented at a meeting on 18 February 2025 to discuss Pylons and Wind Turbines convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council. It was attended by Councillors Nia Bowen, Beth Gibbon and Havard Hughes and Andrew Rees.

He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to enable the views of the Community Councils affected along the route of the pylons and wind farm proposal to be shared with the intention of having one voice on behalf of the communities that are affected by Green GEN Cymru’s proposals. The meeting hosted by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council was also attended by representatives of Llanfihangel ar Arth and Llandyfaelog Community Councils. All Community Councils attending shared the Council’s concerns which it had expressed to Green GEN Cymru in the initial consultation on the grounds that the pylons and overhead cables would detract and have a detrimental impact on the ecology, environment, economy and landscape of the communities affected. He stated that this was the overwhelming view of residents who were against the proposals submitted by Green GEN Cymru. Concern was expressed at the meeting at the pressure being put on landowners and farmers to access their land by the developer and their land agents. The Community Councils attending shared the Council’s preference for the cabling to be put underground as a less harmful solution to the environment. Concern was expressed at the meeting at the large road infrastructure required to construct the wind farm and sub-station and for the erection of the wind turbines.

The Clerk also reported that the conclusion of the meeting was that there is a need for knowledge sharing and a co-ordinated response by working together as one group and having one voice representing the communities affected by the proposals by Green GEN Cymru. A further meeting of the Group would be convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council in 1 month to 6 weeks.

Councillor Gibbon asked whether the Farmers Land Impact Statement referred to at the meeting could be shared with the Council.

The Council has been represented at the following event since its last meeting:

• 22 January 2025 – Carmarthenshire County Council Community and Town Councils Liaison Forum - Attended by Andrew Rees.

* 22 January 2025 – One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee – Attended by Andrew Rees.

The Meeting closed at 9.17pm