**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 30 June 2025 at 7.11pm.**

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

**Councillors:** Nia Bowen, Beth Gibbon, Havard Hughes, Darrell Lewis and Peter Williams.

**Clerk to the Council:** Andrew Rees

1. **Minute’s Silence and Period of Reflection**

 A minute’s silence and a period of reflection was observed by all attending as a mark of respect for Mr Daniel Barrett the husband of Councillor Dean.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean and Philip Hughes and County Councillor Neil Lewis.

1. **Declarations of interest**

 Councillor Bowen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda Item 16 – Planning Applications – application no. PL/09345 Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DT as she and her family are the applicants. Councillor Bowen withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the entirety of the item on Planning Applications.

 Councillor Gibbon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda Item 16 – Planning Applications - PL/09345 Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DT in that they are friends and work colleagues and additionally are fellow Members of the Council. Councillor Gibbon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in application no. PL/0924 - Geryllan, Llanllawddog SA32 7JE as the applicants are known to her. Councillor Gibbon withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the entirety of the item on Planning Applications.

 Councillors H Hughes, Lewis, Mason and Williams declared a personal interest

in agenda Item 16 – Planning Applications – application no. PL/09345 Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DT as the applicant is a fellow Member of the Council.

Andrew Rees, Clerk to the Council declared a personal interest in agenda Item 16 – Planning Applications – application no. PL/09345 Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DT as the applicant is known to him by virtue of being a Member of the Council.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 12 May 2025 and the minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

1. **Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund**

Moishe Merry, Fund Manager of the Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund was welcomed to the meeting and who addressed the Council on the funding applications approved to date within the Council’s area. Of which 6 applications had been approved by the Fund from the Council out of a total of 21 applications. She stated that the Fund had provided the Church Hall with the support of a consultant to set up the Church Hall Committee with a constitution, distinct from the Church in Wales. A consultant was also supporting 13 halls within the Fund’s area of benefit to deliver energy efficiency.

Councillor Williams questioned the reason why the Church Hall had received significant support from the Fund when from the outset the Fund was established not to support religious activity. The Fund Manager commented that the support received by the Church Hall was for wider community activity and not to support religious purposes.

The Fund Manager commented that Llanllawddog as a community had received less funding than other areas. The Chairperson stated that Rhydargaeau which is the largest village in Llanllawddog does not have a centre for the community and that the majority of funding to date had benefitted the Church Hall. The Fund Manager commented that the Church Hall has benefitted from having several volunteers to support its various activities. The Fund Manager also commented that the Council is progressive and has a Clerk who was able to complete grant applications in a timely manner. She also stated that the Council is different to other Community Councils in the area of benefit as it does not have its own hall or community facilities. The Council could be supported to acquire land to develop public facilities, such as a hall provided that the Fund had assurances that sufficient activities took place there. The Council could receive the support of Arts Care and the Family Foundation to carry out community consultation. The Chairperson stated that it would be in the Council’s interest to actively look for land for acquisition for development as a hall with car parking. The Fund Manager stated that a procurement process would have to be followed if there was to be a lan acquisition. She did not believe that activities at the Church Hall would be affected as they were well established.

Councillor Williams expressed concern that many people in the community had no knowledge of the Fund and asked how its awareness could be raised. The Fund Manager stated that awareness raising of the Fund could be done through social media and with the support of the Family Foundation, however there was a lack of constituted groups within Llanllawddog which would be eligible for support from the Fund. The Fund Manager also stated that the forthcoming play area opening could be used to carry out community consultation facilitated by Arts Care, the Family Foundation and the Fund Manager in shaping future public facilities. The Clerk stated that he intended applying for a Grant Bach to fund the opening event for the play area.

1. **Parc y Rhyd Play Area**

The Clerk reported that installation of the play equipment at Parc Y Rhyd commenced on 3 June 2025 which took 3 days to complete. Installation of the surfacing commenced on 19 June 2025 and was scheduled to take 1.5 days to complete. However, given the extreme heat at that time it was not possible to complete all the surfacing as planned as it cannot be laid in temperatures above 28°.

The Chairperson stated that completion of the surfacing work was planned for 5 July 2025, being the darker green surfacing for the safety zones for the play tower and swings. He stated that installation of the bongo drums had taken place. The Council would have to wait 10 days for the removal of spoil and portable toilet from the site, the Council would then be able to request the removal of the Heras fencing it had hired. The cost of the hire of the Heras fencing from RP Hire for the duration of the work to the play area was quoted as £52.80. Authorisation was sought to make payment to RP Hire although the final cost could not be established as this was dependent on Sovereign returning to complete the surfacing of the play area.

The Chairperson stated that the resident in the bungalow next to the play area had kindly allowed Sovereign to use her water supply during the construction of the play area. He suggested that the Council purchase a voucher as a thank you to the resident.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Bowen had worked on designs with Just Print to develop signage for the play area who have produced the signs. The cost of the signage was £64.25 and authorisation was sought to make payment to Just Print.

The Clerk also reported that the Hywel Dda University Health Board Speech and Language Therapy Department has embarked on an initiative of producing Communication Boards for play areas. One has been ordered for the play area and will help the play area be more communication friendly. It will allow people who find communication difficult to be able to communicate in a visual way. It will also offer an opportunity to teach vocabulary to young children as the Boards are bilingual it will also help with the repertoire of Welsh words. This fits with the Council’s vision from the outset of the play area being inclusive.

Councillor Bowen drew the Council’s attention to the availability of BSL trilingual and bilingual signs which were available from the School Signs Shop.

The Clerk also reported that to enable planning for an opening event for the play area to commence a date of Saturday 26 July 2025 had been chosen due to the availability of the pizza van. A children’s artist from Arts Care had been booked and who was also able to conduct community consultation. An ice cream van would also be sought when sourced. An application for a Grant Bach to the Brechfa Wind Farm would be submitted to cover the costs associated with the opening day.

The Chairperson expressed concern as to the adequacy of parking in the vicinity of the play area to hold an opening event. Councillor Bowen believed that as the opening event was to take an afternoon that parking could be managed by the Councillors and key was to communicate with residents to ensure they were aware of the event.

Concern was also expressed as to amount of space available for a pizza van which might also need to have space for a generator and the amount of space required by the artist. Councillor Bowen did not believe that the opening of the play area would draw a large amount of people as it would likely be attended by people from the village. She stated that she was prepared to contact the artist to establish the amount of space required. The Clerk would establish with the pizza man the space he would require for his van and if he would be brining a generator. Councillor Williams suggested that if those answers were forthcoming quickly that Councillors and the Clerk meet on site to map everything out.

The Council considered the need to devise some publicity for the opening event.

**RESOLVED:**  (1) That payment be made to RP Hire for the hire of the Heras fencing, with the final amount being dependent on the duration of the hire period;

(2) That payment of £64.25 be made to Just Print for producing the signage for the play area;

 (3) That the Council purchase a voucher for £100 as thank you to the resident who had allowed Sovereign the use of the water supply;

(4) That the Clerk be authorised to place an order for a trilingual and 3 bilingual BSL sings from the School Signs Shop;

(4) That Councillor Bowen establish from the artist the amount space required and the Clerk establish do likewise with the pizza man and if those answers were forthcoming, the Council meet on site on 7 July 2025 at 7.00pm to map the opening event out;

(5) That the Clerk draft publicity flyers for the opening event for Councillor to design and that Councillor Havard Hughes deliver them and knock on doors to speak to residents to make them aware of the event.

1. **Budget Monitoring Relative to the Period Ending 30 June 2025**

The Clerk reported that the Council held a balance of £3,854.81 in its current account and a balance of £40,643.70 in its savings account, with the Council’s resources totalling £44,498.51. He stated that the Council had yet to pay the balance of the cost of the play area to Sovereign Play as the final balance would become due when the play area has been completed.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Council note the Budget Monitoring for the period ending 30 June 2025.

1. **Accounting Statement 2024-25 and Annual Governance Statement**

The Clerk reported that the Council was subject to a full audit of its accounts for the 2024-25 year as part of Audit Wales triennial programme of audits. He stated that Audit Wales has provided the Council with a template for the Accounting Statement 2024-25 and Annual Governance Statement requiring their approval by 30 June 2025.

The Clerk reported that the Council at its meeting on 14 April 2025 approved the Financial Statement and unaudited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025 (Minute No. 313 refers) as a pre-cursor to the accounts being audited by the Internal Auditor. The Financial Statement together with the Accounting Statement 2024-25 and Annual Governance Statement have been audited by the Council’s Internal Auditor and are presented for the Council’s approval. There were no matters which the Internal Auditor wished to be brought to the Council’s attention or to report on.

The Internal Auditor’s fee for conducting the audit is £110 and authorisation was sought to pay the fee.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Accounting Statement 2024-25 and Annual Governance Statement be approved;

 (2) That the Chairperson and Clerk be authorised to sign the Accounting Statement 2024-25 and Annual Governance Statement for submission to Audit Wales;

 (3) That payment of the Internal Auditor’s fee of £110 be approved.

1. **Preparations for Christmas**

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of preparations for Christmas be deferred to the next meeting.

1. **Bills for Payment**

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

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| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300116 | Andrew Rees | Administrative Expenses May and June 2025  | 60.09 |
| 300117 | Andrew Rees | Salary of Clerk for May and June 2025  | 765.60 |
| 300118 | HMRC | Payment of Income tax for May and June 2025 | £191.40 |
| 300119 | Llinos Humphreys  | Internal Audit Fee 2024-25  | £110 |
| 300120 | RP Hire | Hire of Heras Fencing for the Play Area  | £52.80 |
| 300121 | Just Print Digital Limited  | Production of 2 Aluminium Signs for the Play Area  | £64.25 |

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

1. **Road Safety on the A485**

The Clerk reported that County Councillor Lewis had emailed the Traffic Management Officer pursuing a reply to the Council’s concerns. Those concerns being greater enforcement, consideration to the introduction of measures such as a raised crossing, speed bumps, speed table, widening the pavement or a chicane where the existing bollards are to improve road safety and the introduction of revised road markings to reduce the speed of traffic. He stated that this was heightened by a request for assistance received by Councillor Lewis and the Clerk from Mr and Mrs Dobbing of Rhydargaeau who themselves had been emailing the County Council and GoSafe for greater enforcement to tackle speeding on the A485.

The Clerk reported that the Traffic Management Officer had now replied to Councillor Lewis to inform that he had met with Chief Inspector Steve Thomas and colleagues from Dyfed Powys Police and GoSafe to look at how an improved partnership approach can be established in Carmarthenshire to road safety and its links to other issues such Anti-Social Behaviour. The Traffic Management Officer had a further meeting planned with Sgt Price and GoSafe and would feedback on the outcome of that meeting. No feedback had been received to date.

The Clerk also reported that he had sent a further reminder to the Traffic Management Officer requesting that the Council’s previous concerns be addressed. As he had not received a response the Clerk had escalated the matter to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways in accordance with the Council’s decision at its meeting on 12 May 2025 (minute no. 335 refers). To date, a reply remained awaited. As no reply has been forthcoming since its escalation to the Cabinet Member, Councillor Lewis has escalated the matter to the Leader of the County Council.

1. **Work Programme**

The Clerk reported on the Work Programme which was being reported to each meeting of Council to aid planning

**RESOLVED:** That the content of the Work Programme be noted.

1. **Application for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported on an application received for financial assistance from CWLWM which is a local Welsh-language community paper.

**RESOLVED:** That the application received from CWLWM be not supported.

1. **Footways and Bridleways**

The Clerk reported that training for the footpaths survey took place on 29 May 2025 for the members of the Llanllawddog walking group. Footpaths in need of maintenance are reported to the County Council’s Rights of Way Team.

1. **To Receive Correspondence**

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

He also reported that One Voice Wales had expressed concern at the lack of attendance at meetings of its Area Committees. Councillor Havard Hughes is the Council’s representative on the Carmarthenshire Area Committee. Both Councillor Hughes and the Clerk are regular attendees and contributors at these meetings. To increase attendance at future meetings One Voice Wales will allow each Member Council to have two representatives, although if items require a vote, Councils will only have one vote.

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

1. **Planning Applications**

The Clerk reported that the Council had been consulted on the following planning application since the last meeting.

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| **Application No.**  | **Proposal** | **Site Address** | **Application Type** |
| PL/09345  | Proposed local needs dwelling and associated works | Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau SA32 7DT | Full planning permission |
| PL/09344  | Storage of farm machinery, equipment, husbandry and animal feeds | Troedrhiwcefn, Alltwalis Road, Llanllawddog SA32 7JB | Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development  |
| PL/0924 | Proposed replacement of existing implement and domestic storage outbuilding (damaged during recent storms) with new implement shed plus home office outbuilding | Geryllan, Llanllawddog SA32 7JE  | Full planning permission |

Councillor Havard Hughes requested that the Council making representations to planning application PL/0924 - Geryllan, Llanllawddog SA32 7JE on the grounds that the proposed construction is substantially larger and in a slightly different location. He considered that from the designs the height of the dormer could be twice that of the existing shed and with no dimensions it was difficult to get a real sense of it. If the structure was tall, it would strongly visually impact the valley and the view from Llanllawddog Church. The proposed development would be a very substantial building for a home office in a prominent location near the Church and Glangwili Mansion. Councillor Hughes also expressed concern that given the large dormer, two floors, internal partitions and proposed building materials, it looked more like a dwelling than a tool shed. With the proposed materials to be used with internal partitions and central staircase, the development was more domestic in character rather than agricultural and being more of a habitable space rather than somewhere where tools or equipment are stored.

The Clerk reported on thefollowing planning applications determined by Carmarthenshire County Council within 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/07466 | Demolition of existing cow shed and erection of two bay car port and office | Llwyn Rhydargaeau SA32 7AH | Householder planning permission | Granted |
| PL/09344 | Storage of farm machinery, equipment, husbandry and animal feeds | Troedrhiwcefn, Alltwalis Road, Llanllawddog SA32 7JB | Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development | Prior approval not required |

**RESOLVED:** That the Council object to planning application PL/0925 - Geryllan, Llanllawddog SA32 7JE on the grounds being one of visual impact in Llanllawddog in that it will be a very prominent development and will be seen by drivers as they drive from the A485 heading along the Gwili Valley towards Llanllawddog Church and beyond. The proposed development consisting of two storeys and stairs to facilitate an office will be large in nature and likewise with the existing dwelling at Geryllan will be very prominent and can be seen by drivers due to the topography of the area. The applicant states that the proposed development is to replace the storm damaged building, however this development is not a like for like replacement in that the applicant is seeking to create an additional office space, thereby creating two offices, whereas the present development has the one office space. The application does not provide detail of the height of the elevation of the proposed development. If the Local Planning Authority is minded granting the application, the Council requests that it be conditioned so that its use for residential purposes is not permitted. The Council is further concerned that given the development's proximity to the Glangwili Mansion Hotel, which is used as a wedding venue, that the developer does not seek to use it as an Air BNB.

1. **Reports of Meetings**

The Clerk reported that the Council was represented at a meeting on 27 May 2025 to discuss Pylons and Wind Turbines convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council and attended by Andrew Rees.

The Clerk stated that Members of Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council had met the company which specialises in undergrounding via the cabling ploughing method to establish the feasibility and costs of undergrounding the entire of the cable. Costs were awaited from the company. Green GEN Cymru believe that the cost of undergrounding the entire length of the cable was 6 to 7 times greater than using pylons. The representatives attending the meeting were disappointed that only 4 community councils were represented at the meeting. If an invitation were to be extended to MPs and MSs to attend, attendance by community councils would need to be greater for a show of strength.

The Clerk also reported that Llandyfaelog Community Council had been consulted on proposals for a sub-station by National Grid. An Environmental Impact Assessment pre-screening had been submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council for consideration. It was pointed out at the meeting there was a need for Community Councils to avoid pre-determination and to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officers in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion County Councils. It was also suggested that it would be better to work with Green GEN Cymru than against them.

A further pylons meeting took place on 24 June 2025, attended by Councillor H Hughes and Andrew Rees. At that meeting, the Solicitor representing some of the landowners attended. Her experience lay in public law, challenging public authorities on consultations, equalities and human rights. Since her engagement by the landowners Green GEN Cymru had not issued further Court proceedings, and her defence had yet to be tested. She has expressed her concern that Green GEN Cymru was not in possession of the correct insurance cover to enter on to land and relied on the insurance cover of their parent company.

Councillor Gibbon informed the meeting that some landowners had been sent maps and forms for completion.

The Clerk reported that the Council will be represented at the following events:

• One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee – 1 July 2025

• One Voice Wales Advanced Local Government Finance Training organised by the Society of Local Council Clerks West Wales Branch – 4 July 2025

• Carmarthenshire County Council - Code of Conduct Training – 10 July 2025

• One Voice Wales Bootcamp for Clerks – 16 July 2025

The Meeting closed at 9.28pm