**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 12 May 2025 at 7.30pm.**

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

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

County Councillor Neil Lewis

**Clerk to the Council:** Andrew Rees

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Darrell Lewis.

1. **Declarations of interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund**

Members of the Council considered whether to actively look at future projects where applications could be made to the Wind Farm for their funding, particularly as many other areas within the area of benefit had received greater support from the Wind Farm than Llanllawddog. The Council considered that there was a need for a community hub/hall in Rhydargaeau to be developed with support from the Wind Farm. A community hub would then act as a catalyst for community events, a warm hub and help with social inclusion.

County Councillor Lewis stated that a project to develop affordable/social housing could be considered.

**RESOLVED:** (1)That the overview of the Fund by Moishe Merry, Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund Manager be deferred to the next meeting;

(2) That the Clerk request from the Wind Farm Fund a list of projects and amounts which it had supported and not supported in the Llanllawddog area.

1. **Report of the County Councillor**

Councillor Lewis informed the Council that he had been approached by residents in Llanllawddog who are concerned that lorries from the forestry are eroding the road surface. He stated that the lorries are getting larger and the frequency of their operation was increasing. He believed that the lorries should use the Wind Farm road to gain access to and from the forestry.

Councillor Lewis also highlighted that feral pigs had been abandoned in Llanllawddog and which had caused damage to a resident’s garden. He stated that the Welsh Government had served a notice which could have resulted in the pigs being destroyed, but they had since been rehomed by a pig rescue service. Councillor Philip Hughes stated that a second lot of pigs had been abandoned but they had not yet been picked up.

Councillor Lewis also reported that speeding continued to be an issue and that he had been attempting to contact the County Council’s Traffic Management Officer on the Council’s behalf who had yet to respond to him. He stated that the next round of funding for Safe Routes to Schools was now open and that the Council could explore making an application to improve road safety particularly with the forthcoming development of the play area. Councillor Bowen expressed concern that the temporary traffic lights at Dan y Capel was resulting in traffic speeding as a result of being stopped at the traffic lights.

1. **Parc y Rhyd, Rhydargaeau**

The Clerk reported that Council at its meeting on 14 April 2025 approved a final design layout for the play area and which was conveyed to Sovereign Play who had subsequently revised the plan now submitted in accordance with the decision of Council. Sovereign had informed the Council of the following milestones, which had formed an Installation Agreement to enable the dates to be confirmed:

• 3 June 2025 – Installation of play equipment over 4 days

• 19 June 2025 – Installation of surfacing over 1.5 days.

The Clerk also reported that Council has previously agreed to borrow Heras fencing to secure the play area prior to and during the installation period. However, the owner of the Heras fencing will require it during the summer months in connection with their business at summer festivals, which may coincide with the installation of the play equipment. The Council may wish to consider requesting Sovereign Play providing their own Heras fencing, which will cost £630.88.

The Chairperson and Councillor Williams had made enquiries for the hiring of Heras fencing with locally based businesses. One business had quoted a hire cost of approximately £135.00 plus delivery.

The Council considered the importance of informing residents by publicising the impending start of the play area and showing the 3-D plan on its Facebook page and website and attaching images along with construction site signs to the Heras fencing.

The Clerk sought approval for the Council to make payment to Sovereign Play for the balance of 75% of the cost of the play area in the sum of £26,390.96. This was in accordance with the company’s terms of business, whereby payment was required on completion of the play area. He advised that completion of the play area was anticipated to take place prior to the Council’s next meeting on 30 June 2025.

**RESOLVED:** (1)That the Council hire Heras fencing from a locally based business;

(2) That the impending start of the play area showing the 3-D plan be published on the Council’s Facebook page and website and the images of the play area along with construction site signs be attached to the Heras fencing;

(3) That the Council approve payment of £26,390.96 to Sovereign Play in accordance with the company’s terms of business, whereby payment was required on completion of the play area, as completion of the play area was anticipated to take place prior to the Council’s next meeting on 30 June 2025.

1. **Budget monitoring relative to the period ending 30 April 2025**

The Clerk reported that the Council holds a balance of £5,292.62 in its current account and a balance of £40,643.70 in its savings account, with the Council’s resources totalling £45,936.32. He stated that the Council has received the first payment of the precept from the County Council in the sum of £2,827.00.

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

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

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 £** |
| 300108 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – March, April and May 2025 | 120 |
| 300109 | Andrew Rees | Administrative Expenses March and April 2025 | 13.20 |
| 300110 | Andrew Rees | Salary of Clerk for March and April 2025 | 759.81 |
| 300111 | HMRC | Payment of Income tax for March and April 2025 | £189.80 |
| 300112 | One Voice Wales | Annual Subscription 2025-26 | £142 |
| 300113 | Carmarthenshire County Council | Underpayment of public lighting charges invoice | £1.00 |

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

1. **Road Safety on the A485**

The Clerk reported that despite a reminder to the Traffic Management Team with County Councillor Lewis copied into the email for the results of the data from the monitoring equipment, no details had been forthcoming yet.

Members noted that a new bus stop had been provided at Dan y Capel and it appeared to have been incorporated into that site which appeared to be at variance to the planning consent.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council’s concerns regarding road safety on the A485 which include prior requests for traffic calming and a crossing along with the data from the speed monitoring equipment be escalated to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways as no reply had been forthcoming from the Traffic Management Officer

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. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2025-26**

The Clerk reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) determined the remuneration available to Councillors and Co-opted Members, but effective of 1 April 2025, its functions hade transferred to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru. Future reports on remuneration will become the responsibility of the Commission.

He reported that the IRPW Annual Report <https://www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales-determinations-2025-2026> sets out “Contribution towards Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CPA)” and “Payments to Members of Community & Town Councils”. He stated that individuals who had accepted office as a Member of a Community or Town Council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the IRPW. It was the duty of the Proper Officer of a Council to arrange for correct payments to be made to all individuals entitled to receive them. The Panel continued to mandate payments for the extra costs of working from home and payments for office consumables. There was no change to the Determination made last year in relation to Mandatory Payments of £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power, and broadband) of working from home. For set payment for consumables: Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable Members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

The Clerk also reported on the reporting requirements in that Community and Town Councils are required to submit an annual statement of payments to the Panel by the 30 September each year and publish this on their website. He stated that the Panel has determined that Returns to the Commission need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments, being the £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 recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales together with the determinations in relation to Community and Town Councils be noted.

1. **Applications for Financial Assistance**

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

* + SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity
  + Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal
  + Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod
  + Kids Cancer Charity
  + Carmarthen Shopmobility

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Council having considered the requests for financial assistance received awarded the sums of £100 each to the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal and Carmarthen Shopmobility;

(2) That the applications received from SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity; the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and Kids Cancer Charity be not supported.

1. **Community Litter Pick**

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

**RESOLVED:** That a Himalayan Balsam pick be held on Saturday 6 July 2025 meeting at the Church Hall and that Councillor Philip Hughes design posters publicising the event.

1. **Footways and Bridleways**

The Clerk reported that the walking group established in Llanllawddog which organises walks of footpaths on Saturday mornings commencing from the Church Hall has offered to survey the footpaths identifying those in need of maintenance, whilst also undertaking the walks. One of the leaders of the walks, Rosie Carmichael a recently retired Ecology Officer with the County Council has arranged training for the footpaths surveys to take place on 29 May 2025 at 9.30am at the Church Hall.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted.

1. **Noticeboards**

The Clerk reported that one of the Council’s Noticeboards had recently been filled with material advertising businesses and events which were not within the community of Llanllawddog. Some of the flyers had been placed over statutory information which the Council is required to publish.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council will permit notices advertising events within its community subject to them being pre-authorised but is not able to endorse advertisements from local businesses, subject to the proviso that events notices do not obscure statutory information the Council has to publish.

1. **To Receive Correspondence**

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

**RESOLVED:** (1)That the correspondence received be noted;

(2) That Councillor Dean attend the Wellbeing of Future Generations and Planning Training Modules.

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/08902 | Partial Discharge of Condition 3 on W/39159 (Watching Brief Report) | Danfforddgar House, Pontarsais SA32 7DU | Approval of details reserved by a condition |

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/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 | Granted |
| PL/08902 | Partial Discharge of Condition 3 on W/39159 (Watching Brief Report) | Danfforddgar House, Pontarsais SA32 7DU | Approval of details reserved by a condition | Discharge of planning condition granted |

1. **Reports of Meetings**

The Clerk reported that the Council was represented at a meeting on 15 April 2025 to discuss Pylons and Wind Turbines convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council and attended by Councillor Havard Hughes and Andrew Rees.

He stated that this was the second of such meetings of Community Councils affected along the route of the pylons and wind farm proposal by Green GEN Cymru. The discussion at the meeting focused on Green GEN Cymru’s consultation and on the responses to the consultation submitted by the Community Councils, indicating a clear preference for the entire route of the cable to be installed underground and via the cable ploughing method. In common with the Council, the other Community Councils had also requested they be furnished by Green GEN Cymru with a comparison of costings of pylons versus undergrounding. Concern was expressed at the significant infrastructure required for the construction of the pylon route. Further concerns were expressed akin to the Council that the company had chosen venues for the consultation events in communities not directly affected by the route. In addition, the events had taken place during lambing season at a time when farm resources are naturally focused on that important time. Concern was also expressed at the meeting of pressure being exerted on landowners to access land for survey work by the company taking legal proceedings and the threat of disproportionate costs. He stated that a further meeting of Community Councils will take place on 22 May 2025.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Havard Hughes who represents the Council on the Carmarthenshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales and in turn is the Area Committee’s representative at the Hywel Dda Stakeholder meetings. Councillor Hughes informed the meeting that he had attended a recent meeting wherein there was a lengthy discussion about the availability of the Minor Injuries Unit at Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli as Hywel Dda had launched a consultation on its future and operating hours, with more patients attending A&E at Glangwili. He stated that as the number of patients attending Glangwili is increasing, the Health Board reached arrangement with the Steam Railway that staff now use the railway car park freeing up space at the hospital car park. He stated that a discussion will take place at the next stakeholder group meeting on future plans for Glangwili now that the plan to close it would not go ahead.

The Clerk reported that the Monitoring Officer of the County Councill has written offering further Code of Conduct Training to be held online on 10 July 2025 commencing at 2.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.02pm