**Items 3 to 6**

**Reports of the Clerk to**

**Llanllawddog Community Council of 14 April 2025**

**3. Parc y Rhyd, Rhydargaeau**

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of the report is to update Members on progress on Parc y Rhyd play area.

3.2 Play Area Design

Council at its meeting on 6 March 2025 requested the Clerk to investigate the feasibility with Sovereign Play of rotating the positioning of the play tower by 90° so that the slides face away from the road and the possibility of introducing a balance beam into the design. Discussions have been ongoing with the company by the Chairperson and Clerk to find a final design solution. Sovereign have confirmed it would not be possible to rotate the play tower by 90° due to its width. However, Sovereign have agreed to and designed into the play area a connecting balance beam with a zig zag weaver and rope wall. Sovereign have also replaced the bug drum with larger rainbow bongo drums. There is no additional cost to the project and the Council will have enhanced features to the play area. Sovereign have produced a 3-D image of the play area, which is attached.

The Chairperson, Councillor Dean as Lead Member for the play area and Clerk have discussed changing the configuration of the log swing so that it has 1 cradle seat and when conventional swing seat. This is so that siblings can play together on the swings as opposed to having 2 toddler cradle seats. Sovereign initially advised that this would not be possible as the height of the log swing is 1.8m. Information is awaited from Sovereign as to whether the height of the log swing can be raised to above 2m, so that adults assisting their children with the swing can do so without the risk of hitting their head.

Once a final design for the play area has been agreed details of installation will follow.

**Recommended:** That Council approve the revised final design layout.

**4. Response to Consultation on Green GEN Cymru Towy Teifi Project**

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of the report is to agree a response to the recent consultation on the Towy Teifi Project by Green GEN Cymru to meet their deadline for responses of 16 April 2025. This is the second phase of Green GEN Cymru’s consultation and Members will recall submitting a response to the first consultation in the Spring of 2024 objecting to the proposals for a new 132kV electricity connection between Lan Fawr, Ceredigion to Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire passing directly through Llanllawddog from north to south.

4.2 Standards Committee Dispensation

Due to the significant effect the proposals will have on the community, Members will also recall that a dispensation was granted by Carmarthenshire County Council’s Standards Committee to enable Councillors Dean, Gibbon, Havard Hughes, Lewis, Mason and Williams to speak, vote and respond to the consultation as their homes or those of their families are directly affected by the proposal. The dispensation remains in place throughout the consultation process.

4.3 Green GEN Cymru Phase 2 Consultation and Proposals

Green GEN Cymru have updated their proposals in response to the 2024 consultation, by producing a draft route alignment including proposed pylon locations and placing some sections underground. Green GEN Cymru believe that the proposed location of the pylons seeks to keep the effect on communities and the landscape as low as possible. In its first consultation, Green GEN Cymru proposed a wide corridor which stretched west of the A485. The company as part of the second phase to the consultation proposes a narrower corridor for the electricity line to the east of the A485. Two sections of route run through Llanllawddog, namely section 4 Alltwalis to Rhydargaeau and section 5 (north section) Rhydargaeau to Llandyfaelog. The draft route alignment in Section 4 follows a southerly direction crossing Afon Gwili and to the east of Pontarsais, crossing Nant Corrwg and then east of Rhydargaeau. This section spans 4.2km and supported by 20 steel lattice pylons at an average height of 29.5 metres. The route has been chosen to increase distances away from properties in Pontarsais and Rhydargaeau.

Section 5 continues southwards from Rhydargaeau towards Peniel ending in Llandyfaelog. The total length of section 5 is 10km with approximately 10 pylons proposed to be located in the Council’s area. Parts of southern section 5 are proposed to be situated underground at Merlin’s Hill and Llandyfaelog.

4.4 Consultation Event

Green GEN Cymru held a series of consultation events during March 2025, although it must be noted that none were held in Llanllawddog despite representation being made. The nearest consultations took place at Peniel and in Llanpumsaint which is outside the proposed electricity route.

The Clerk attended the consultation at Llanpumsaint and was able to pose questions to the company’s staff on the project, particularly on undergrounding the whole line and especially so given there is a cable ploughing company based in Carmarthenshire, which would create economies of scale and provide employment opportunities for local people. The company explained that it would not be feasible to place the entire line the length of 53km underground as it would be five times more expensive than connecting the line on pylons. A representative of the company explained that Green GEN Cymru as part of their OFGEM licence are required to achieve best value.

A request was made to the company that they hold a consultation event as part of the third and statutory consultation, in Llanllawddog and they undertook to do this.

4.5 Feedback

The Clerk left feedback at the consultation event as follows:

1. That consideration be given to realigning pylons numbered 148 to 155 which are proposed to run through farmland at Derlwyn and Pantygof farms in an easterly direction to avoid as much farmland as possible.
2. Consideration be given to having shorted pylons than the average of 29.5m proposed to minimise the visual impact on the environment.
3. The lack of Community Council consultation event held as part of the second consultation unlike in the company’s first consultation. Could consideration be given to an event for community councils in the statutory consultation. The consultation will need to be interactive as there was no opportunity for it to be so in the previous webinar. Llanllawddog Community Council is disappointed that Llanpumsaint was chosen as the venue when this community is not affected by the proposals. It is suggested that the next consultation has an event in Llanllawddog Church Hall as it is within the community affected by Green Gen’s proposals.

4.6 Council’s response to the First Consultation

Members will recall at its meeting on 4 March 2024 (minute no. 175 refers) submitting the following response to Green GEN Cymru as part of the first consultation.

***That the Community Council gave consideration to the project having been present at the Community Councils Webinar and Public Consultation events that you held. Several Members of the Community Council attended the public meetings with residents convened by County Councillor Neil Lewis.***

***The Community Council in weighing up the evidence heard during the first consultation to the project resolved to make the following comments.***

***Whilst the Community Council was grateful for arranging to consultation with the Community Councils affected by the Tywi Teifi project, it was disappointed that the company chose to do so by means of a webinar which did not allow the attendees the opportunity to address the company’s representatives other than through the Question-and-Answer function on the webinar. The perception was that the company you did not want to engage meaningfully and have an exchange with the representatives of the Community Councils who attended on the merits of the proposed project. In addition, it was not possible to see which other Community Councils were present at the webinar, as it looked like the Council was attending in isolation.***

***The Community Council is concerned that Green GEN Cymru has not had experience in managing, delivering and operating projects similar to that proposed, given the significant impact the project will have on the communities along the route of the overhead line. Although the Council does recognise that you have assembled a team of experts to the project. The Council is further concerned that Green GEN Cymru does not have the requisite Independent Distribution Network Operator (”IDNO”) licence from OFGEM.***

***The Council is heartened that the company is actively investigating the issue of cable ploughing with a specialist cabling company based in Pencader. This is especially so as the company has stated in the consultation that it wishes to help the local supply chain and create jobs.***

***The Community Council overriding duty is to its residents and it has to have cognisance to their concerns and has listened to their views expressed at two public meetings which were convened by County Councillor Neil Lewis, where 242 residents were overwhelmingly against the proposal for the overhead line and pylons, expressing a clear preference for underground cabling. Residents’ reasoning is that the pylons and overhead cables will detract and have a detrimental impact on the ecology, environment, economy and landscape of the Community. The residents also believe that if new cables are necessary they must be put underground and that a new proposal should be submitted by Green Gen Cymru for consideration, alongside a new consultation process.***

***The Council’s position is that it is supportive of renewable energy, but it needs to have at the forefront the scale and size and impact the project will have on the community it serves. The Council has a clear preference for the deployment of cabling ploughing to lay the cable undergound as opposed to the current proposal to erect an overhead line connected by 27m pylons.***

**Recommended:** ThatMembers are requested to revisit the response to the first consultation agreed at the meeting on 4 March 2024, given that many of the concerns raised previously remain, and give consideration to a response to the second consultation to meet Green GEN Cymru’s deadline of 16 April 2025.

**5. To receive a report on the Council’s financial position for the year ending 31**

**March 2025**

5.1 Introduction

The Council’s unaudited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 March 2025 are presented for approval. This is to enable them to be passed to the Council’s Internal Auditor. Once audited, the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet together with the Annual Governance and the report of the Internal Auditor will be submitted to Council for approval.

5.2 Audit of Accounts 2024/25

The Council has recently received the audit notice from Audit Wales which notifies that the accounts for 2024/25 will be subject to a full audit as anticipated. This is part of Audit Wales triennial cycle of full audits. As part of the full audit, the Councill will in addition to submitting financial records of all its transactions need to evidence the following:

* Training Plan
* Standing Orders
* Financial Regulations
* Bank Statements
* Asset Register
* Grant Offer Letters
* PAYE Records
* VAT Returns
* Clerk’s Contract of Employment

It is for this reason the unaudited accounts are being brought to the Council for earlier approval than is customary to enable the Internal Auditor to have sufficient time to scrutinise the above information prior to final approval of the audited records by the Council which must be approved by 30 June 2025 at the latest.

**Recommended:** That the Council approve the unaudited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 March 2025.

**6. Bills for Payment**

The Council has the following liabilities for which approval is requested to make payments:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300106 | Carmarthenshire County Council | Public Lighting and Electricity Charges for 2024-25 | 1031.15 |
| 300107 | Huw Evans Carpentry and Joinery Services | Erection of Noticeboard | 193.56 |

Following the last meeting, a number of cheques were declined to be paid by the Council’s Bank as it considered that the signatures varied from the mandate. Replacement cheques have been issued as follows

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300076 replaced by cheque no. 300101, further replaced by cheque no. 300105 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – November 2024 and January 2025 | 80 |
| 300079 replaced by cheque no. 300100 | HMRC | Payment of Income tax for January and February 2025 | £188.20 |
| 300080  replaced by cheque no. 300102 | Councillor N Bowen | Annual Allowance 2024-25 (pro rata from May 2024) | 143 |
| 300088 replaced by cheque no. 300103 | Councillor Nia Bowen | Reimbursement of consumables from working from home (Pro-rata from May 2024) | 47.67 |
| 300098  replaced by cheque no. 300099 | Signs of Cheshire Limited | Purchase of Noticeboard | 1056.00 |

**Recommended:** (1) That the Council approve the above payments;

(2) That the Council note the replacement cheques issued.

**Andrew Rees, Clerk to Llanllawddog Community Council**