**Items 3 to 17**

**Reports of the Clerk to**

**Llanllawddog Community Council of 12 May 2025**

**3. Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund**

To receive an overview of the Fund by Moishe Merry, Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund Manager. The Fund Manager has recently advised the Council in writing that since the inception of the Wind Farm Community Fund six years ago, funding of £171,109 has been awarded to projects in the community of Llanllawddog, compared to £95,236.79 reported in 2024. There will be an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for future funding applications to be made to the Wind Farm.

**4. Report of the County Councillor**

To receive a verbal update from Abergwili Ward Councillor, Councillor Neil Lewis in relation to his Ward work.

**5. Parc y Rhyd Play Area**

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 have subsequently sent a revised plan (attached) in accordance with the decision of Council. Sovereign have informed the Council of the following milestones:

* 3 June 2025 – Installation of play equipment over 4 days
* 19 June 2025 – Installation of surfacing over 1.5 days.

The above dates have formed an Installation Agreement to enable the dates to be confirmed. The 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.

**Recommended:** That the Council consider funding the cost of Hears fencing in the sum of £630.88 should it not be able to obtain the Heras fencing locally as planned.

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

The Council holds a balance of £ 5,292.62 in its current account, and a balance of

£ 40,643.70 in its savings account resulting in a total of £45,936.32. The balance on the current account is reflective of the Council receiving the first payment of the precept which is £2,827.00. Attached is the spend profile for the financial year to date.

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

**7. Bills for Payment**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Amount £** |
| 300108 | Llanllawddog Church Hall | Hire of Church Hall – March and April 2025  | 80 |
| 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 |

**Recommended:** That the Council approve the above payments.

**8. Road Safety on the A485**

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 have been forthcoming yet.

**9. Work Programme**

The purpose of the report is to update Council on the Work Programme which will be reported to each meeting of Council to aid planning.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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
 |
| 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
 |
| January | * To agree on a budget for the next financial year, review reserves and to decide on the Council’s precept
 |
| March | * Renewal of Council’s Insurance
* Request for Late Cut of Verges
 |
| 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
 |

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

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

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) determines the remuneration available to Councillors and Co-opted Members. This will be the last report of the IRPW as its functions have transferred to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru with effect from 1 April 2025. Future reports on remuneration will become the responsibility of the Commission.

The IRPW Annual Report linked here <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”. Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils are relevant Authorities for the purpose of remuneration. Consequently, individuals who have accepted office as a Member of a Community or Town Council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. It is 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 continues to mandate payments for the extra costs of working from home and payments for office consumables. There is no change to the Determination made last year in relation to:

• **Mandatory Payments**

Payment for extra costs of working from home. All councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power, and broadband) of working from home. 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. It is a matter for each Council to make and record a policy decision in respect of when and how the payments are made and whether they are paid monthly, yearly, or otherwise. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.

• **Compensation for Financial Loss**

Compensation for financial loss is an optional payment. The amount for financial loss was not increased last year. Previously, the Panel determined that an appropriate level of payment should be set at the daily rate of ASHE. To maintain this link, the figures for 2025 are now set at £126.74 for a full day and £66.37 for a half day.

• **Reporting Requirements**

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. The Panel has provided a template return for clerks to use.

The Panel has determined that Returns to the Commission need only show the total amounts paid in respect of the mandatory payments mentioned above. That is the £156 contribution to the costs of working from home and the £52 set rate consumables allowance and the travel and subsistence expenses paid. This brings it line with the reporting of the costs of care and personal assistance allowances.

**Recommended:** 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.

**11. Applications for Financial Assistance**

The Council has received applications for funding from the following organisations:

**SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity** – An application for financial assistance has been received from SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity. The charity has been providing practical, emotional and financial support to our Forces and their families since 1885. In 2024, SSAFA assisted 391 families or individuals in Wales drawing down £620,000 to support them, with 134 clients in the South West Wales area. The Council has not previously received requests for funding from SSAFA.

**Marie Curie** **Great Daffodil Appeal** - The Council’s support has been requested towards the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2025. The appeal raises vital funds to support its local services, all money donated supports the local Marie Curie nurses, the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice, and local services in the Council’s area, benefitting patients locally. The Council at its meeting on 4 March 2024 supported the Appeal by awarding the sum of £100.

**Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod –** An application has been received from the Artistic Director of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod seeking the Council’s assistance as part of their annual fundraising appeal to local authorities and town and community Councils. The Eisteddfod is a community led initiative, with support from some 600 volunteers. It brings community benefits to North East Wales and attracts around 4,000 competitors each year and audiences of around 20,000 throughout the week. It brings an estimated £1.6 million in economic benefits to the area while the festival is taking place. The Eisteddfod will be taking place between 8 and 13 July 2025. The Council at its meeting on 13 May 2024 declined to support the request.

**Kids Cancer Charity -** An application for financial assistance has been received from the Kids Cancer Charity towards its activities to improve the quality of life of children affected by cancer and to support their families through the stress they live with. The charity is based in Swansea but is currently supporting several families that has a child affected by cancer living in Carmarthenshire. The Council last year declined to support the organisation as its work was principally in the Swansea area, but the charity has now indicated that it is supporting families in Carmarthenshire. The Council at its meeting on 13 May 2024 declined to support the request.

**Carmarthen Shopmobility** - An application for financial assistance has been received from Carmarthen Shopmobility which is a registered charity providing electric mobility scooters and wheelchairs for hire to both residents and visitors across the county. Its mission is to promote independence, accessibility, and inclusion for people with mobility challenges, enabling them to take part in everyday activities and enjoy all that our local communities have to offer. The charity faces an increasing demand for its service particularly as it supports a population with increasing mobility needs and as tourism returns to the area. It maintains a small fleet of electric mobility scooters and wheelchairs, which are available for hire at low cost to ensure accessibility to all, regardless of financial circumstance. This is the first time the Council has received a request from this organisation.

The Council has a budget of £1,000 in 2025-26 to support charitable organisations.

**Recommended:** That the Council consider the requests for funding.

**12. Community Litter Pick**

The Council is requested to consider holding its next Litter Pick.

**Recommended:** That the Council consider holding its next Litter Pick on either a Saturday morning or on a Friday evening to take advantage of longer daylight hours.

**13. Footpaths and Bridleways**

A walking group has been established in Llanllawddog in recent months, organising walks of footpaths on Saturday mornings commencing from the Church Hall. One of the leaders of the walks, Rosie Carmichael is a recently retired Ecology Officer with the County Council and has offered to survey the footpaths identifying those in need of maintenance, whilst also undertaking the walks. Rosie Carmichael 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.

**14. Noticeboards**

One of the Council’s Noticeboards has been filled with material advertising businesses and events which are not within the community of Llanllawddog. Some of the flyers have been placed over statutory information which the Council is required to publish. The Council will permit notices advertising events within its community but is not able to endorse advertisements from local businesses.

**Recommended:** That the above be the Council’s position on material being placed in its Noticeboards with the proviso that it does not obscure statutory information the Council has to publish.

**15. Correspondence**

To receive correspondence from the following:

**Public Sector Network**

* March Newsletter
* April Newsletter

**One Voice Wales**

* Annual General Meeting
* Child Poverty Innovation and Supporting Communities Grant Fund
* Cost of Living Crisis Support Team – Upcoming Online Events
* National Awards Conference Agenda
* Digital Guidance
* Training Dates – March to June 2025
* Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty Webinars
* Launch of New Website
* Cost of Living Crisis Team – Consultation on Regional Transport Plans
* Cost of Living Crisis Team – Forthcoming Webinars
* Carmarthenshire Area Committee – 14 April 2025
* Motions for Annual Meeting
* E-Bulletins
* Independent Member of Audit Committee
* Joint One Voice Wales / Society of Local Council Clerks Event on Ethical Framework
* Carmarthenshire Area Committee Draft Minutes
* Cost of Living Crisis Team Newsletter
* Biodiversity Pilot Group

**Carmarthenshire County Council**

* Application for road closure HTTR-1880 Rhydargaeau
* Application for road closure B4310 Felingwm SA32 7JS
* Application for Road Closure - C1250 From Rhydargaeau to White Mill SA32 7AN
* Emergency Road Closure - C1317 Llanllawddog SA32 7JE
* Temporary Road Closure - U5552 from Llanpumsaint SA32 7DT
* Temporary Road Closure - A484, Bronwydd Road SA31 2ARU
* Carmarthenshire Sustainable Communities Fund - Grant Opportunity for Community Projects
* Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033
* Community Councils Update
* Ysgol Peniel Governing Body
* Approval to the Request for the Late Cut of Verges
* Request for Code of Conduct Data
* Vacancy on Schools Admissions Forum
* Code of Conduct Training

**Welsh Government**

* Role, Governance and Accountability of Community and Town Council Sector
* Draft Diversity and Inclusion Guidance for Registered Political Parties – Summary of Reponses to Consultation
* Senedd Review of Constituencies
* Independent Remuneration Panel of Wales Cessation
* Democratic Engagement Grant

**Audit Wales**

* Audit Notice 2024-25

**Dyfed Powys Police**

* Problem Solving Survey

**Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service**

* Graig Search and Rescue Exercise in Llandysul
* Calon Tân Magazine: Spring 2025
* Wildfire Wise Press Release
* Chief Fire Officer Response to Tackling Grass Fires Press Release
* High and Dry Training Exercise in Llanelli

**Planning Aid Wales**

* Training Event
* Understanding the Planning System
* Welsh Government Consultation on Managing Traveller Sites

**Llais Cymru Health and Social Care**

* Monthly Newsletters

**Cancer Information and Support Services**

* Letter of Thanks Following Donation

**Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Club**

* Invitation to Rally

**Transport for Wales**

* Active Travel Act Guidance

**Urdd Gobaith Cymru**

* Invitation to Attend Fund for All Reception at the Urdd Eisteddfod

**Carmarthenshire Local Places for Nature**

* Nature News March 2025 Update
* Nature News April 2025 Update

**South West Wales Regional Transport Plan**

* Regional Transport Consultation

**The Circuit**

* Spring Newsletter

**Race Council Cymru**

* National Windrush Day Grant Applications

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

 (2) That Members indicate any One Voice Wales training modules they wish to attend for approval by Council.

**16. Planning Applications**

The Council has been consulted on the following planning application as a statutory consultee since the last meeting of the Community Council:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 following planning applications have been determined by Carmarthenshire County Council within the Council’s area since the last meeting of the Community Council.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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  |

**17. Reports of meetings**

The Council has been represented at the following meetings:

* **Pylons and Wind Turbines Meeting**

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.

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 meeting hosted by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council was also attended by representatives of Llanfihangel ar Arth, Llandyfaelog and Llangunnor Community Councils. The meeting discussion focused on Green GEN Cymru’s consultation and on the responses to the consultation submitted by the Community Councils, which is 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 have also requested Green GEN Cymru furnish them with a comparison of costings of pylons versus undergrounding. Concern has also been 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 have 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.

A further meeting of Community Councils will take place on 22 May 2025.

* **Hywel Dda Health Board Stakeholder Meeting**

Councillor Havard Hughes represents the Carmarthenshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales at the Hywel Dda Stakeholder meetings. Councillor Hughes has 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 has launched a consultation on its future and operating hours, with more patients attending A&E at Glangwili. Due to the increasing numbers of patients attending Glangwili, the Health Board has responded to this demand by reaching an arrangement with the Steam Railway that the staff now use the railway car park so freeing up space. This was thought to free up so much space that the Park and Ride scheme would not be re-instituted as it had resulted in a net gain of 171 parking places. 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.

* **Code of Conduct Training**

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. There is no charge for the training.

**Recommended:** That Members indicate whether they wish to attend the Code of Conduct Training so that the Clerk can make the bookings.

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