**Items 5 to 17**

**Reports of the Clerk to**

**Llanllawddog Community Council of 30 June 2025**

**5. 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.

**6. Parc y Rhyd Play Area**

Installation of the play equipment at Parc Y Rhyd commenced on 3 June 2025 taking 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 darker green surfacing being the safety zones for the play tower and swings has not been laid. In addition, Sovereign Play could not install the bongo drums as they are waiting delivery from their supplier, a date is awaited from Sovereign for this installation. The Chairperson has spoken to Sovereign to establish when the company will return to complete the play area. Sovereign have scheduled the completion of the surfacing work for 5 July 2025.

The Council has hired Heras fencing from RP Hire for the duration of the work to the play area. A quotation of £52.80 has been received but this was dependent on Sovereign completing the installation of the surfacing by 20 June 2025. Authorisation is sought to make payment to RP Hire although the final cost cannot be established as this dependent on Sovereign returning to complete the surfacing of the play area and installation of the Bongo Drums.

In terms of signage for the play area, Councillor Bowen has worked on designs with Just Print and who have produced the signs. The cost of the signage is £64.25 and authorisation is sought to make payment to Just Print.

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.

To enable planning for an opening event for the play area to commence a date of Saturday 26 July 2025 has been chosen due to the availability of the pizza van. A children’s artist from Arts Care has been booked and who is also able to conduct community consultation. Arts Care were involved in a similar event in Pencader. An ice cream van will also be sought when sourced. An application for a Grant Bach to the Brechfa Wind Farm will be submitted to cover the costs associated with the opening day.

**Recommended:** (1)That payment of £52.80 be made to RP Hire for the hire of the Heras fencing;

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

(3) That the Council consider further ideas for the opening day.

**7. Budget Monitoring Relative to the Period 30 June 2025**

The Council holds a balance of £3,854.81 in its current account, and a balance of

£40,643.70 in its savings account resulting in a total of £44,498.51. To date, the Council has yet to pay the balance of the cost of the play area to Sovereign Play as the final balance becomes due when Sovereign complete the play area.

Attached is the spend profile for the financial year to date.

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

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

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

Council at its Annual 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 are no matters which the Internal Auditor wishes to draw the Council’s attention to or report on.

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

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

(2) That the Chairperson and Clerk be authorised to sign the Financial Statement, 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.

**9. Preparations for Christmas**

The Parc y Rhyd play area is nearing completion and Council may wish to consider ideas to mark the festive period with a small event. The Council may wish to consider purchasing a Christmas tree and lights and siting it at the play area. As the play area does not have an electricity source, solar lights could be purchased. The location is one which is safe and away from traffic on the A485 for a gathering of people.

An alternative location for a Christmas tree could be on the grassy bank adjacent to the former telephone kiosk which houses one of the defibrillators. There is an electricity supply to the telephone kiosk, however its location is on the A485 where there is a narrow pavement. This cannot be regarded as a safe location for a gathering of people, given the Council’s longstanding concerns as to the speed of traffic.

**Recommended:** That Council consider ideas to celebrate Christmas to enable planning to begin.

**10. Bills for Payment**

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

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

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

**11. Road Safety on the A485**

Following the last meeting of the Council, County Councillor Lewis 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. This was heightened by a request for assistance received by Councillor Lewis and the Clerk from Mr and Mrs Dobbing of Rhydargaeau who themselves have been emailing the County Council and GoSafe for greater enforcement to tackle speeding on the A485.

The Traffic Management Officer has replied to Councillor Lewis indicating to inform that he has met with Chief Inspector Steve Thomas and colleagues from DPP 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 will be meeting Sgt Price and GoSafe and then feedback on the outcome of that meeting. To date, no feedback has been received.

An opportunity was given for a reply from the Traffic Management Officer to the reminder to address the Council’s concerns. However, there has been none forthcoming and in accordance with the Council’s decision at its meeting on 12 May 2025, the matter has been escalated to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways (minute no. 335 refers). To date, a reply remains 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.

Councillor Lewis has helpfully provided details of Safe Routes in Communities funding which is administered by the County Council. Successful applications for funding are predicated on joint applications being made by Community Councils and schools. Contact has been made with the Transport Planner responsible for the funding who has advised that whilst speed reduction, traffic calming and an enhanced crossing is something that would be considered but the main point of the funding is to enhance active travel routes in and around a community. The Transport Planner has further advised that Ysgol Peniel has already received Safe Routes in Communities funding, and it is unlikely it would benefit from further funding especially as funding is restricted to one rural and one urban scheme per year.

**12. 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.

**13. Application for Financial Assistance**

The Council has received an application for funding from CWLWM which is a local

Welsh-language community paper. CWLWM plays a key role in promoting culture, sharing local news, and strengthening community connections in the Carmarthen area. As printing and layout costs continue to rise, it has sought the Council’s financial support to help with the increasing costs. The paper has also requested the Council’s support in promoting CWLWM through its communication channels such as social media, noticeboards, or community events. This would help raise awareness and encourage wider readership. It is also looking for opportunities to sell CWLWM at local events, and for volunteers who could assist with this. The Council may wish to consider CWLWM to sell their paper at the forthcoming play area open day.

The Council has not previously received requests for funding from CWLWM.

The Council has a budget of £1,000 in 2025-26 to support charitable organisations, of which £800 is yet to be committed.

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

**14. Footpaths and Bridleways**

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.

**15. Correspondence**

To receive correspondence from the following:

**Public Sector Network**

* May Newsletter

**One Voice Wales**

* Joint One Voice Wales / Society of Local Council Clerks Event on Ethical Framework in England and Wales
* National Conference Press Release
* Latest Practice Development Notes
* Cost of Living Crisis Webinar Reminder – Effective Community Engagement
* Section 6 Overview on Biodiversity
* Social Farms & Gardens Community Management Awards 2026
* E-Bulletins
* Cost of Living Crisis Support Team Forthcoming Events
* Innovative Practice Conference Agenda
* Keep Wales Tidy Webinar
* Practice Development Note: Annual financial actions: important lessons emerge
* Cost of Living Crisis Team June Newsletter
* Cost of Living Crisis Upcoming Online Events
* Area Committees
* Training Dates June - September 2025
* Carmarthenshire Area Committee Draft Minutes
* Area Committee AGM and Meeting – 1 July 2025
* Celtic Wildflowers Nature Tour – 8 July 2025
* Updated Practice Development Notes

**Carmarthenshire County Council**

* Temporary Road Closure - A484, Bronwydd Road SA31 2AR
* Temporary Road Closure - C1301 Bronwydd
* Temporary Road Closure: C1250 Peniel SA32 7AR
* Temporary Road Closure B4310 Felingwm
* Urgent Road Closure B4310 Felingwm, SA32 7QL
* Application for road closure B4310 Brechfa SA32 7RG
* Town and Community Councils Update
* Mid and South West Wales Community Cohesion Fund 2025
* Pride In Your Patch Spring / Summer Newsletter
* Review of Electoral Arrangements
* Allotment and Community Growing Grant

**Welsh Government**

* Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru – Electoral Review Programme
* Improving the Administration and Enforcement of Council Tax in Wales
* Community mentors to work with the Welsh Government to deliver the childcare and playwork actions in the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan
* Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Post-legislative Scrutiny
* Consolidation of Planning Law in Wales - Publication of Draft Planning (Wales) Bill

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

* Eisteddfod yr Urdd
* Announcement of New Chair and Deputy Chair

**Planning Aid Wales**

* Latest News
* Training Schedule
* Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Training

**Llais Cymru Health and Social Care**

* Monthly Newsletters

**Carmarthenshire Shopmobility**

* Letter of Thanks Following Donation

**Marie Curie**

* Letter of Thanks Following Donation

**Natural Resources Wales**

* Stakeholder Consultation for Forest Management

**Coleg Sir Gar**

* Training Opportunities in the Agricultural Department

**Hywel Dda University Health Board**

* Clinical Services Plan Consultation: Invitation to a meeting for Town and Community Councils
* Stakeholder Reference Group

**Victim Support**

* All Wales Training Sessions

**Carmarthenshire Local Places for Nature**

* Himalayan Balsam Blitzing
* Update
* Balsam Blitz Johnstown

**Gallagher Insurance**

* Community Matters Summer Newsletter

One Voice Wales has 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.

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

(2) That Council consider an additional nomination to attend meetings of the One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee;

(3) 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/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 |

Planning application PL/09345 - Plot adjacent to Awel y Grug, Rhydargaeau has been made by Councillor Nia Bowen and her family. Given that all Members of the Council know the applicant, all Members will be advised at the meeting to declare an interest. Some Members may have a closer relationship with the applicant in that they may socialise together and have a close friendship, those Members will be advised to withdraw from that part of the meeting. For transparency, the Clerk will also declare an interest. Councillor Bowen will be required to declare an interest as the applicant and will be advised to leave the meeting at that point.

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

The following planning application has 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/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 |

**17. Reports of meetings**

The Council has been represented at the following meeting:

* **Pylons and Wind Turbines Meeting – 27 May 2025**

The Council was represented at a meeting of Community Councils affected by Green GEN Cymru’s Pylons and Wind Turbines proposal convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council. The meeting was Andrew Rees and was the third meeting of Community Councils.

Members of Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council have 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 is 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. It was hoped that the solicitor representing the landowners in defending action taken by Green GEN Cymru would attend the next meeting of the group. Llandyfaelog Community Council have been consulted on proposals for a sub-station by National Grid. An Environmental Impact Assessment pre-screening has 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.

Feedback will be provided at the meeting of the next pylons meeting to take place on 24 June 2025.

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

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