

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on the 14th February, 2022 at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: **Councillors:** N Lloyd (Chair)
G F Davies, J C Lee, I M Williams,
G R Jones, L M Morgan, S Hughes,
W D Griffiths, G Thomas, M I Slader

APOLOGIES: **Councillors:** J A Seward, R Willock

1. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

2. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present but the LBSA had sent an "E" Mail requesting that the Council be updated as to the latest position as to the tennis court project in the Recreation Ground.

The FAW Phase 2 grant application had to be abandoned and members had previously been informed of the reasons for this. Emyr Williams wished to thank Councillor G Thomas for the leads given for other potential grant sources.

Emyr Williams also referred to contacts with Tennis Wales and further information is awaited on this. They came back and pointed Mr Williams to Sport Wales but further information is awaited from Tennis Wales when details of their funding availability becomes known.

Emyr Williams has contacted Ceri Richards at Sport Wales and there has been previous discussions with this person including a site visit and further development is awaited on a grant application to this source.

Emyr Williams hopes that he will be able to report on progress in the March meeting of the Council.

The Surveyor commented that Tennis Wales would be interested in the provision of tennis specifically and Sport Wales is likely to be a better prospect for grant funding for a multi sport facility. The Surveyor also reported that he will bring a draft document on a lease/licence for Council consideration in the March meeting of the Council.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th January 2022

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

i) Fly Tipping at Aber Llchwyr

Councillor W D Griffiths reported incidents of fly tipping at this location. Tree cuttings are dumped and left in situ. The Chair asked if it is residents carrying out this tipping and asked if they can be identified.

Councillor G R Jones stated that evidence is required and if this is provided the Enforcement Officer can be contacted.

Councillor I M Williams stated that if the land in question is privately owned then the County Council will not get involved.

The Surveyor agreed to contact the landowner in question.

ii) Bridge Inn

Councillor R Willock had asked by "E" Mail whether the Council had been provided a case number by the Land Registry in respect of the application sent to the latter.

The Surveyor reported that he met the Council Solicitor on the 17th January and signed another statutory statement on oath in the presence of an independent solicitor at a different firm of Solicitors who are not involved in the Council transaction. This was carried out at the request of the Land Registry and the signed document has now been sent to the Land Registry.

iii) Mwrwg Flooding

Councillor W D Griffiths wished to thank Councillor G R Jones in his efforts to clear the logs from the river.

iv) Centre Tree Removal

The Surveyor reported that a bat survey has been carried out and in summary no signs of bats were found anywhere in or around the trees. Based on the study the conclusion was that bats are unlikely to be using the trees listed.

The report also included some recommendations which referred to climbing surveys of a few of the trees, soft felling technique to be employed, provision of roosting locations for bats, provision for nesting for birds and compensatory planting of native trees.

4. Surveyor's Report

iv) Cemetery Plinth

The Surveyor reported that he had requested three quotations.

WAM replied that they will not tender.

Gareth James Bayliss - replied that they will not tender because of pressure of work.

Stewart Moore & Son - £2167.59 plus VAT

It was agreed to accept the tender from Stewart Moore & Son. This tender is substantially lower than the price quoted and accepted by Council some 3 years ago.

v) Recreation Ground Sheds

The Surveyor will produce a detailed report later in the new financial year.

5. County Councillor Report

Councillor G Thomas reported:

1. Council tax is to increase by 2.5%.
2. Welsh Council leaders have agreed that for the forthcoming elections they will follow a policy of positive campaigning.
3. Council elections will mean less meetings after the 18th March 2022.
4. There will be a charter for foster carers.
5. There is a five year plan for housing development in respect of affordable homes in the County. The houses, flats and bungalows would be delivered by the Council in partnership with housing associations and private developers as well as properties the local authority builds or renovates itself.

The plan will cost at least £300 million and the energy efficient homes would be for older people, families, single people and those with additional needs on a rental or purchase basis.

6. Carmarthen Mart is to re-open on the 2nd March 2022 with the first sale of calves and weanlings and dairy cattle since it was closed in July 2020.
7. The County will receive a grant of over £97000 from the Senedd to prepare for free school meals for children of primary school age.

Councillor G R Jones reported:

1. Council tax increase – the fire brigade increase will be 5.3% and the police £15 per year.
2. There will be 71 new homes in Llangennech in the next 5 years at two sites.

Councillor Jones will follow up on where these sites are to be located.

3. Climate/Nature emergency at Plas Isaf – will be discussed at Cabinet.
4. Fly tipping – this seems to be becoming an increasing problem.
5. Hendy road improvements.

Councillor G F Davies asked if there was any feedback on the effect of the road improvements at the Hendy junction. He came back from Cardiff last week and was held up on the hard shoulder on the motorway. He thought that the road improvements carried out would have ended this problem.

Councillor G Thomas stated that there are still problems coming off the motorway but it is easier to get onto the motorway.

It was agreed that Councillor G R Jones will follow up on the matter.

6. Community Council Precept for 2022/23

The Clerk had prepared a financial statement which had previously been circulated to members setting out the likely outcome for 2021/22 and estimates for 2022/23 based on a precept increase of 4.5% for the latter year.

The Estimates for 2022/23 and probable for 2021/22 are detailed as follows:

Probable 2021/22

There is likely to be a surplus of income over expenditure of £3117 leaving a total cash balance of £132,359 at the 31st March 2022. This would be analysed as follows:-

	£
General Fund	80039
Community Centre Fund	45000
Youth Club	6817
Repair/Renewal Fund	503

Estimates 2022/23

This includes the following:

- i) Costs other than energy have been increased in general by 5% wages by 3%, salaries by 2% and energy charges for 2022/23 are approximately twice the current year's estimated charges in order to take account of forecasted greater activity in Council buildings and considerably greater energy prices.
- ii) The 2022/23 budget includes additional expenditure on:-

	£
Cemetery	
Gates	4475
Hedgerow Maintenance	750
New Plinth	2601
Community Centre	
Removal of trees	4000
Pavilion	
Fire Alarm System	3960
Footpath	
Japanese Knotweed Problem	400
Bulb Planting	1500

£

Equipment

New Blower and Mower 2000

Total 19686

- iii) There is a slight budget deficit of £1281 for 2022/23 leaving the General Balance at £78758 which will be some £14000 above the recommended figure of £65000.
- iv) The precept per property has been increased by 4.5% to £130.50 per property and a total precept sum of £261033 would be requested from the County Council.
- v) It was proposed by Councillor G R Jones and seconded by Councillor I M Williams that the precept per property will be increased by 4.5% for 2022/23 with a total precept sum of £261033 requested.

After due discussion it was so RESOLVED.

7. Planning Applications

- i) Planning Appeals – Land at rear of 31-47 Bridge Street

The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal on several grounds. The County Council decision took account of the three dwellings proposed being an unacceptable form of backland development.

- ii) PL/03333 - Creation of 10 additional traveller pitches to the west of PL/00775 (Plots 5-14)

The Chair referred to difficulties being encountered by residents of Maes Ty Gwyn from flooding following the original development, activities taking place on the land and sale of properties falling through because of the original development and planned future development.

Councillor I M Williams has made enquiries and it appears proper procedure is being followed and there is nothing that the Community Council can do.

Councillor G R Jones was of the view that objection to the application could be based on detrimental effect on traffic, drainage and environmental grounds. He has asked for a site visit. A reply was received from Councillor Alan Lenny setting out the procedure for site visits and to the fact no site visits have taken place for almost two years because of Covid restrictions.

Councillor G Thomas has asked for details as to the maximum number of pitches that would be allowed for the location.

The Surveyor commented that there is a major issue for consideration at this location and that other possible locations for traveller sites should be considered by the County. Reasons need to be established for limiting the number of pitches allowed at this location. Councillor W D Griffiths proposed that Peter Hughes Griffiths be contacted for clarification of County policy and to raise the concerns of the Community Council regarding this site.

It was also agreed that the Clerk send in an objection on the same grounds as put forward against the original planning application PL/00775 - Creation of Four Family Traveller Pitches.

- iii) PL/03218 - Scooter pod storage at Ty Plas Isaf - no objection.
 - iv) PL/02273 - New 4 bedroom detached dwelling at Aber Llwhchwr –
no objection
 - v) Application at 55 Maes Ty Gwyn - single storey extension - No objection
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