

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 9th January 2023, at the Bryn Hall, Bryn.

PRESENT: Councillors: I M Williams (Chair)
G Thomas, H J Davies, M I Slader,
N Lloyd, L M Morgan, G R Jones

APOLOGIES: Councillors: J A Seward, I Griffiths, L D J Armishaw,
J Leeuwerke, A J Parry

1. **Ben Kathrens, County Flood Defence and Coastal Protection Manager**

The Chair asked Mr Kathrens to address members.

Mr Kathrens gave a brief outline of the work of his department. He is one of eight members in the team and five members deal with flooding issues. His department and the County works closely with Welsh Water and National Resources Wales.

The department manages flood risk, surface and ground water issues and water courses. Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales have responsibility for tidal and Morlais River issues.

In Llangennech the County has responsibility for the Mwrwg River and it has powers to take action but it does not have statutory powers.

The department targets the Community with the greatest risk of flooding. The County has been fortunate recently with money coming in from the Welsh Government.

The County has to manage reservoirs, coastal protection, drainage and flood risk.

In Llangennech Mr Kathrens referred to work done in the recent past on the culvert near the Bridge Inn, monitoring the industrial estate and the culvert on the bypass and also there has been some work around the recreation ground. Ideas have been considered on how to manage risk primarily from the Mwrwg River.

Councillor M I Slader asked as to ideas and options on dealing with water in and around the bypass area.

Mr Kathrens referred to the need for water retention near the bypass area and moving more water down the bypass culvert towards Park Lane and the Morlais River. This needs to be carefully considered. He also referred to possible retention of water in the park. There is a hydraulic study proposal and an application for funding from the Welsh Government is being prepared to deal with flood risk. A risk assessment and a cost benefit statement is being proposed.

The Surveyor referred to instances of flooding over recent years and asked about the possibility of water storage areas with regard to the Mwrwg River. He referred to drawings identifying areas for possible water storage.

Mr Kathrens stated that an evaluation needs to be carried out to identify areas for water storage. The County does not have powers for compulsory purchase of land for such a purpose. There would be the need for amenable landowners to provide areas voluntarily for such a purpose.

The Surveyor also referred to the system whereby water is diverted from the Mwrwg River to the Morlais River and perhaps increasing the flow at times to the Morlais River. He also thought that some further work is required down the lower end of the Mwrwg.

Councillor M I Slader stated that the water coming down the Mwrwg is from the Mwrwg Fach and water from the Mwrwg Fawr goes down to the Morlais via the culvert.

The Chair raised the matter of creating a holding area referred to previously by the Surveyor. County officer, Mr Rhys Williams looked at such a possibility previously. The Chair also brought up problems with the flap at the bottom end of the Mwrwg over the last 20 years or so. Debris collects from time to time which negates the workings of the flap.

Mr Kathrens agrees that something could be done to hold back the debris. Currently maintenance is based on people coming down regularly to clear this debris. This is not a good practice and contractors are carrying out this work at present. He referred to the other tidal flap near the station which is also regularly maintained.

The Surveyor referred to the last flooding near the entrance to the park which occurred before Christmas which in his view was caused by the volume of water coming down the Mwrwg which coincided with exceptionally high tides.

Councillor G R Jones stated that the Old Tinworks Arms property does not have flood prevention gates at present and it and other properties should be supplied with them.

Mr Kathrens replied that the County does not have funding for flood prevention schemes for individual properties but the Welsh Government has provided some funding for this type of work in the past.

Councillor G Thomas referred to the fact that some properties were originally supplied with floodgates which have been lost or misplaced. Mr Kathrens referred to the Flood Alleviation Scheme – proposed stakeholder engagement which is organised by the County's Cath Abbot and will take place in February/March of this year. The Community Centre has been earmarked to hold this event in the village and will be open to residents, landowners and other interested parties to discuss options.

Mr Kathrens also mentioned that a company in Carmarthen supplied floodgates and the cost is around £400 each.

The Chair commented on three flood warnings he received recently and asked if the County supplies sandbags to individual properties and the reply was in the negative.

Councillor M I Slader asked as to what is the consequence if more water is diverted to the Morlais from the Mwrwg.

Mr Kathrens replied that an assessment would have to be carried out and there is no automatic system in being at present and such a procedure would be a manual adjustment.

The Chair stated that an adjustment to the culvert to divert water from the Mwrwg to the Morlais could cause flooding in the Industrial Park area.

The Chair thanked Mr Ben Kathrens for attending tonight's Council meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

3. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk had received a telephone call from the resident of the first bungalow in Heol y Parc raising issues concerning trees and their condition and the effect of leaves falling in and around his property. He again asks as to whether they can be removed or trimmed back.

After due discussion it was agreed that Councillor G R Jones will take up the matter with the resident. The County Council did carry out some tree removal approximately eighteen months ago.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th December 2022**

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor N Lloyd that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

i) **Youth Club**

Councillor M I Slader informed members that it is planned to start the Youth Club on the 3rd February 2023. An assessment will be carried out later this week on equipment requirements.

ii) **Bridge Inn**

The Surveyor reported that there has been no movement to date with regard to any communication etc. from the landlord and/or his Solicitor.

iii) **Warm Hubs**

The service started back last Wednesday, 4th January 2023, but there are no visitors coming in to use the service. Councillor M I Slader informed members that the plan is to run it for another two weeks and if there is no improvement then it is planned to terminate the service.

Councillor G Thomas asked if posters could be prepared for distribution in the village.

iv) **Surveyor – Notice of Retirement**

Councillor G Thomas wished to express her gratitude to the Surveyor for his suggestion regarding hours of work for 2023/24 which the Council has accepted.

v) **“E” Mail from Llangennech School**

The Clerk reported that contact will be made with Gemma Davies, Senior Teacher, in the near future following commencement of school term.

vi) **Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported that Nicholas Richards – Ozzati had informed him that he would supply details of the specifications of cabinets etc. to purchase. He has not done so to date and the Council would have to purchase a cabinet itself.

After due discussion it was agreed to contact Mr Richards - Ozzati and to invite him to the March meeting of the Council.

5. **Surveyor’s Report**

i) **Pavilion Grill Gate and Side Panel**

The Surveyor had supplied details and drawing of the gate that will be installed. Fitting will be carried out in the near future.

ii) **Recreation Ground – subsidence near Welsh Water drains area**

The Surveyor reported on excavation work carried out by D N Davies and it was found at a shallow depth that there is a missing section of pipe and there must have been some water passing through and taking the topsoil with it causing the surface to continually collapse. The pipe is estimated at some 15 inches diameter which must have been part of the original sewer system. This must have been damaged when the new drainage system was installed. It is planned to replace the missing section with a suitable PVC pipe which will therefore connect the two pipes. This will be covered by a liner and backfilled with larger hardcore.

6. **County Councillor Report**

i) Not much has happened in the last month.

ii) **LDP**

A second revised Delivery Agreement has been agreed by the Welsh Government and it is anticipated that the second deposit LDP will be published for public consultation from December 2022 to January 2023.

The second Deposit LDP will incorporate previously agreed Focused Changes and will also reflect and respond to Covid 19 recovery, the net zero carbon decarbonisation agenda, the new Technical Advice Note 15 and Revised Flood Maps and Future Wales : The National Plan 2040.

The new LDP incorporates the following planned developments:-

Box Farm 7 units.
Golwg yr Afon 50 units
Land opposite Parc Morlais 32 units

iii) **Section 106 Agreement**

Councillor G R Jones reported that progress on this is now at a “dead end”.

An “E” Mail from Planning Contributions states that the Section 106 Legal Agreement Clause require such money to be spent on affordable housing only and it cannot be repurposed.

County Councillor D Cundy is to place a motion in front of Council requesting that County Members be present when such discussions take place.

iv) **Aber Llchwyr – tree removal**

Some trees were taken down by Network Rail but someone else has also removed trees. Councillor Jones will contact Natural Resources Wales with regard to this and report back.

v) Budget consultations will commence next week.

vi) There has been some discussions regarding staff working from home and perhaps greater use of hubs.

vii) There is an issue with regard to continuing with the bottle bank in the recreation ground. The bottle bank opposite the Gelli Garage is to be removed. There is also an issue whether all glass including broken glass will be collected under the new scheme being introduced by the County.

7. **Combination Goal Posts**

The proposal is likely to cost in the region of £400 and Mr Emyr Williams, LBSA asks as to whether the Council can make a financial contribution towards the purchase and installation of these.

Councillor M I Slader proposed that the Council make a contribution of £200 from the Council’s grant budget.

The Chair proposed to make a contribution of £200 from the chair allowance budget.

It was so RESOLVED.

8. Community and Town Council Liaison Form

There has been an invitation received for Community and Town Councils to attend the meeting schedules for Thursday, 19th January 2023 at 6.00pm. Setting the County's budget will be the focus of the meeting. The meeting will be multi location either in County Hall or via Teams.

Councillor M I Slader, G Thomas and H J Davies will represent the Council.

9. Budgetary Control Statement for Year Ended 31/03/2023

The Clerk had prepared the following statement which indicates that more or less there will be a break even position for this financial year.

Budgetary Control Statement for Year Ended 31/03/2023

Forecast Variances on budget as at 31/12/2022

Favourable (F)

Adverse (A)

	£
Salaries and Wages	9600 (A)
Bowling Green Benches	1300 (A)
Day Club	1000 (F)
Pavilion Heat and Light	1500 (F)
“ Security Grill Gate	1400 (A)
Cemetery - plinth	400 (F)
Equipment – mower and blower	1000 (F)
Bryn Hall – heat and light	1000 (F)

	£
Centre - rates	2600 (F)
“ - heat and light	1500 (F)
“ - tree felling	3400 (F)
Contingency	2000 (F)
Total	2100 (F)
General Fund Balance as at 31/03/2022	<u>91760</u>
Forecast General Fund Balance as at 31/03/2023	<u>93860</u>
Recommended General Fund Balance	<u>64000</u>

10. **Planning Applications**

The Council resolved not to object to the following application.

PL/05068 - The proposal seeks to facilitate the crossing of the Afon Morlais with ducted power lines associated with the permitted but not yet implemented Penderi Solar Farm – Afon Morlais Bridge, Llangennech

11. **Chair Allowances for G Thomas and N Lloyd**

There are unspent sums in the account and consideration is in hand to use the money to decorate the walls of the underpass near the bypass roundabout.