

# CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

**PRESENT:**                    **Councillors:**                    G R Jones (Chair)  
I Griffiths, I M Williams, G Thomas,  
M I Slader, N Lloyd, J Leeuwerke,  
L M Morgan, A J Parry, J A Seward

**APOLOGIES:**                    **Councillors:**                    H J Davies, L D J Armishaw

## 1.        **Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

## 2.        **Public Participation**

E Williams from the LBSA was in attendance. He was asked to address members with regard to a document he had prepared regarding proposals for the Recreation Ground.

The LBSA proposals are:

- i)        Remove the old Bowls Club container and move the present sports container onto this location.
- ii)       Extend the hardstanding concrete slab to cater for a new 40ft container which will be a joint use container.
- iii)      To create a hardstanding area between the sports pitch and cricket field to house portable seating and a storage solution.
- iv)      The relocated container will house the portable seating stand. The relocated container will be utilised, when not storing the seating unit, as a “project bootup” which will provide a kit exchange program.
- v)        To provide a new fencing project.

Mr E Williams requests permission from the Council to move forward on the above proposals.

Councillor M I Slader asked as to the view of the Surveyor on the above proposals and whether he has sight of the document.

The Clerk replied that the document was received today and he will provide a copy for the Surveyor and discuss it with him.

Councillor J A Seward asked whether all sporting bodies are aware and in agreement with the proposals.

Mr E Williams replied that the LBSA is representative of all sporting bodies in the village and all are in agreement with the proposals.

It was agreed, in principle, to accede to the request subject to the views of the Surveyor.

It was also agreed that the Recreation Sub Committee meet on site to be fully briefed on the proposals.

Mr Williams asked as to the latest position in setting up a CCTV system for the park. Councillor M I Slader stated that the cost be £2K plus.

Mr Williams gave an update of possible proposed developments at Cae Pown. There has been a recent site visit and discussion with FAW officials on creating a training pitch at the location. Consultants have supported the proposed development and costings are to be provided in due course. This will result in a detailed statement and whether it is a feasible project. The project, if successful, will provide a training area and not a full size pitch.

The Chair thanked Mr Williams for his input and report to tonight's meeting.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

It was proposed by Councillor I M Williams and seconded by Councillor A J Parry that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

#### **i) Bridge Inn**

The Chair reported that it has not been possible to meet with the owners of the Bridge Inn because Mr Giovanni's mother passed away and after the funeral he and his wife went on holiday.

A meeting did take place with Huw Thomas, Centre Committee, Chair and Clerk following the last meeting of the Council.

Mr Huw Thomas set out his concerns regarding the present arrangement and also issues that need to be resolved with any future arrangement.

Mr Thomas raised concern with the recent sign erected pointing to “overflow car park” and this was not agreed as part of the trial period agreement to commence from the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

His other concerns included communication issues, misuse of the terms and conditions of any agreement and enforcement of such an agreement. Mr Thomas stressed the point that the Centre car park use by Bridge Inn customers should not result in Centre customers suffering and therefore resulting in the latter having difficulty in parking. He also raised ongoing issues of parking along the entry roadway in particular when events take place in the Centre.

Councillor J A Seward stressed the need for two way traffic requirements when events take place at the Centre.

Councillor I M Williams believed that the problem could be solved by moving the present barrier or erect another barrier at the entrance of this roadway.

Councillor L M Morgan was unhappy with the fact that a sign was erected by the Bridge Inn pointing to “overspill car park”.

The Chair suggested that the situation be monitored during this Friday’s event, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024, with the Jersey Boys concert. He also agreed to carry out the “communication function” with the Bridge Inn.

The Chair also proposed that plenary powers be given to a Sub Group of himself, Vice Chair, Councillor H J Davies, Clerk, Surveyor and Huw Thomas to make a decision on a future agreement including possible termination.

This was agreed.

The Clerk reported that the owners of the Bridge Inn have not made any payment to date for use of the Centre Car Park.

ii) **Youth Club**

Councillor M I Slader reported that the County Council have not to date appointed supervisors and therefore the Youth Club meetings cannot be held.

iii) **Replacement of Emergency Doors in the Hall of the Community Centre**

These have now been repaired at a cost of £230.

iv) **Entrance Gates – Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported on his discussion with Mr Martin Williams and a price of £250 plus VAT per month has been agreed.

He has not been able to commence his duties yet because repair work is required on the entry gate to bring it back into working order.

A quotation of £1750 plus VAT has been received from Harries Plant to carry out the repairs. There was an option to carry out powder coating over the galvanising at a cost of £240 plus VAT.

It was agreed to accept the quote for £1750 plus VAT without powder coating.

A sum of £1300 has been included in the budget for this work.

v) **Day Club**

Councillor G Thomas reported that the Club has now met for 3 sessions with numbers attending ranging from 8 – 10 people.

Councillor Thomas asked as to whether cleaning the Centre forms part of the duties of the caretaker and assistant caretaker of the Centre.

The Clerk replied that this was the case.

**4. Surveyor's Report**

The Surveyor was not able to be in attendance at tonight's meeting following recovery after hospitalisation for a medical procedure.

He reports that he is dealing with the play area tenders. He has received back some tenders but is awaiting the return of one more. He will then prepare a synopsis of each submission for consideration by the Sub Committee. He asks that the Sub Committee meet in February for a decision to be ratified in the March meeting of the Council. He asks for plenary powers to be granted to the Sub Committee to move progress on the matter.

After due discussion it was agreed that plenary powers be granted to the Sub Committee.

## **5. County Councillor Report**

Councillor J A Seward reported:

### **i) Children's home in Mwrwg Road**

A meeting is to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February with residents and County Officers to discuss concerns.

Councillor M I Slader reported that there does not appear to be any traffic issues at present.

### **ii) Glass collection at Bring Sites**

The County Council has decided to reduce bring sites from 116 locations to 24 from the end of March this year. The glass recycling bins in the recreation will no longer be available and will be removed.

Councillor J A Seward stated that there has been very little consultation on this proposal.

There will be a need to monitor the situation in the future.

### **iii) Community Centre entry roadway**

Councillor J A Seward reported on her discussions at County level and stated that it is possible to place yellow lines from the roadway to restrict parking along it but this action will not be legally enforceable.

Councillor G R Jones reported:

- i) He attended budget consultation meetings and it is the proposal of the County to cut the schools budget by £3 million. There was a proposal to increase Council Tax by 6.5% but this could be influenced by additional grant money being made available.
- ii) Warm Hubs. There will be no more money made available for this.
- iii) **Senior Citizen's Hall**  
Members are using the Castle Inn for meeting purposes.
- iv) **Aber Lluchwr Footpath**  
A resident has built an extension and the wall is on the path. County officers are to investigate.
- v) **Maes Ty Gwyn**  
Stray animals are a problem at present.

#### 6. **Precept for 2024/25 Financial Year**

The Clerk had prepared a financial statement which had previously been circulated to members setting out the likely outcome for 2023/24 and estimates for 2024/25 based on increasing the precept per property by 5%.

The probable for 2023/24 and estimates for 2024/25 are as follows:

#### **Probable 2023/24**

There is likely to be an overspend of expenditure over income of £12,592, leaving a total cash balance of £150,678 at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. This is analysed as follows:-

|                               | £          |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| General Fund                  | 98,248     |
| Community Centre Capital Fund | 45,000     |
| Youth Club                    | 6,817      |
| Repair/Renewal Fund           | 503        |
| Dr T R Davies                 | <u>110</u> |
|                               | 150,678    |

## Estimates 2024/25

These have been based on the following:

- i) Costs have been increased in general by 5%, wages by 6% and salaries by 4%.
- ii) There is included expenditure of £85,000 on improving the playground in the Recreation Ground. To fund this expenditure a sum of approximately £35,000 has to be borrowed from General Reserves. This will mean General Reserves will stand at £25,000 at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which will be some £35,000 less than the recommended level. This sum will have to be repaid in the General Reserves over the following 3 years.
- iii) The precept per property will be £143.88 per property for 2024/25.
- iv) Inflation has been considerably greater than 5% over the last 18 months and the pay awards for 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the lower grades has been in excess of 10% for each year. This has meant that the above 10% increase over the last two years has resulted in an overbudget sum of £15,000.
- v) The gas meter at the Community Centre appears to be faulty and has not been repaired by EDF and therefore there has been an undercharge for gas consumption for some 2-3 years. The probable for 2023/24 and estimates for 2024/25 include a likely gas consumption but not an undercharge likely for prior years.

Discussion took place regarding the content of the financial statement.

Councillor G Thomas asked as to whether the planned expenditure of £85,000 on the playground should be reconsidered.

Councillor J A Seward commented that the public do not look at the details of any budget statement.

After due discussion it was proposed by Councillor I M Williams that the precept per property be increased by 6% rather than 5%.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor N Lloyd.

It was unanimously agreed to increase the precept per property for 2024/25 by 6%. This will result in a charge of £145.25 per property and a total precept sum be set of £292,357.

It was so RESOLVED.

The 1% increase from 5% to 6% will generate a sum of £2758 which is planned to be used to purchase a CCTV system for the Recreation Ground.

**7. Cylch Meithrin – Pavilion**

The Cylch asked the Council to consider providing internet facility for the Pavilion. Internet availability has become almost essential for their administration purposes and for the iPads for the children.

It was agreed, in principle, to provide internet facility and for the Clerk to make enquiries as to costs.

The Cylch also asked if they could paint the entry door in a brighter colour. The Surveyor is to be asked as to his views on this.

**9. Remote Meetings for the Council**

Councillor J A Seward asked as to whether it will be possible for Council meetings to be organised so that remote access will be possible. She has difficulty attending meetings at present because of personal reasons.

The Clerk will make enquiries as to what is required to provide this facility.