

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 10th June 2024, at the Bryn Hall, Bryn.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors: G R Jones, L D J Armishaw

1. The Chair wished to thank everyone for their kind messages following the recent and sudden passing away of his mother.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

3. **Public Participation**

Two members of the public were present and PCSO L Evans.

Mr B Holding began by referring to incidents in and around the recreation ground last weekend. He asked as to the provision of CCTV in the recreation ground.

The Clerk replied that CCTV installation in the recreation ground is imminent. He had discussions with Bay Security today who will visit the pavilion and surrounding area next week to advise the Council on matters including the exact location of the monitor. WIFI is only required for remote access purposes and not for the operation of the equipment. There has been a delay by BT in installing WIFI at the pavilion and the reasoning is not clear at present.

Mr Holding also asked regarding maintenance of the defibrillator located on the pavilion wall. It is currently operational and he is the nominated guardian for the unit. The Clerk replied that where maintenance costs are incurred the Community Council has agreed to fund the expenditure necessary.

Ms M Howell raised the issue of dog fouling in the park and how best to deal with the problem. She asked whether another bin can be provided.

Councillor I M Williams stated that the problem lies with dog owners.

Councillor G Thomas proposed that the Council purchase another bin. This would result in waste disposal issues. She then stated that any decision should be deferred until after CCTV is installed and whether this could have a beneficial effect on matters.

The Chair agreed that the issue be considered after CCTV installation takes place and to review matters thereafter.

PCSO L Evans stated that CCTV cameras will help to resolve dog fouling and have a beneficial effect on controlling bad behaviour. Evidence would be available which would provide basic information in dealing with the problem.

She also stated that following the weekend incidents 2 anti social behaviour warnings are to be issued.

Councillor N Lloyd was also concerned that the behaviour of the youths could result in injury to those individuals which could have serious consequences for them and there could be liability issues.

Councillor G Thomas asked as to whether there was any response from the parents/guardians of the youths involved.

PCSO L Evans replied that one parent did show concern but the other did not.

4. Minutes of the Meetings held on the 8th April and 13th May 2024

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

It was so RESOLVED.

i) Day Club

Numbers attending vary but generally it is working well.

ii) Entrance Gates to Recreation Ground

Repair work has now been completed and they have been reinstalled.

Mr Martin Williams needs to be informed and the Security Service commenced. This service will cost £250 per month plus VAT.

iii) **New Children's Playground**

Work is to commence on the 8th July 2024 and the playground will be closed for some two weeks.

iv) **Cae Pownd Access Point**

To provide two access points will cost £10,000 and not £20,000 as referred to in the Minutes.

Councillor G Thomas asked if there had been any development in discussions with the County Council as to financial assistance for the work. The answer was in the negative.

5. Surveyor's Report

- i) The Surveyor had prepared a written report on the control of parking on the access road to the Community Centre. This included preliminary advice received from the Council's solicitor and the Surveyor's recommendation for cancellation of the Transaction for the Sale of land to the Bridge Public House.

The Surveyor met with Council Solicitors on the 26th April 2024 to discuss problems of unauthorised parking of vehicles and abuse of the Traffic Barrier at the Access Road to the Community Centre.

Detailed response is awaited, it is evident from provisional discussion that the principle of "Aggravated Trespass" applies and is actionable through the police as a criminal offence.

- ii) The Surveyor recommends that the Council do not proceed any further with the Transaction for the Sale of Land to the Bridge Public House. The reasoning for the proposed cancellation is linked as part of the notification process relating to unauthorised parking.

- iii) An "E" Mail has been received today from the Council's Solicitors which states that they have been informed by the Solicitors, Paul Carpenter, Partner, that they have spoken to their client Bridge Inn Public House, and that the latter has indicated that they are now looking to finalise matters. They ask that confirmation be given with regard to signed paperwork being available in readiness for agreeing a completion date.

The Chair asked for members views on the matter including whether to defer a decision until further discussions take place with the Bridge Inn proprietors.

Councillor J A Seward was of the view that if the sale does not take place then the problem will not go away.

Councillor M I Slader believed that having a meeting with the Bridge Inn would be a good idea.

Councillor I M Williams referred to the meeting held with the proprietors before Christmas when it was promised that they will go ahead with the purchase of the land sometime towards spring time.

Councillor Williams put forward the proposal that the Council go ahead with the sale of the land as previously set out.

Councillor J A Seward seconded the proposal.

Councillor N Lloyd stated that it is uncertain what will happen with the parking issue if the sale of the land goes ahead. She asked whether the present barrier could be moved further forward to near the proposed new access to the Bridge Inn.

Councillor G Thomas felt that extra car parking provision at the Bridge Inn might resolve the present car parking issue on the access road.

The Chair asked members to vote on the proposal and the result is as follows:-

In Favour of completing the sale of the land	6
Against completing the sale of the land	2
Abstentions	1

It was therefore RESOLVED that the sale of the land to the Bridge Inn go ahead.

6. County Councillor Report

Councillor J A Seward reported:

- i) A protest was held outside County Hall recently.
- ii) A meeting is to take place this Wednesday at the Rugby Club with Nia Griffith being present to discuss Mwrwg Road problems and the new home.
- iii) She referred to issues with water flooding along the access road adjacent to the Bryn Hall. The road is owned by St Michael's School.

Councillor N Lloyd reported for Councillor G R Jones as follows:

- i) Issues with the Mwrwg Road and the children/youth home.
- ii) Anti Social behaviour issues in the village.

7. Income and Expenditure Statement and Annual Return for Year Ended 31st March 2024

Copies of the above documents had previously been circulated to members including the Internal Auditor Report.

The Clerk commented on significant variances from the previous year and differences on the Financial Statement prepared at estimates time in February of this year.

Total RESERVES of the Council had increased from £163,270 at the 31st March 2023 to £178,220 at the 31st March 2024. The General Fund has increased from £110,840 to £125,790 for the same period.

The Clerk stated that he believes the General Fund is overstated because there appears to be a fault with the Smart meter at the Community Centre which is understating gas consumption for the last 3 years or so. The fault has been reported to Totalenergies, the gas supplier but with no action following. The Clerk estimates that this could be £15,000 to £20,000 for this period but it is impossible to verify this estimate. Even taking this fact into account the Council has some £45,000 or so in excess of the recommended balance and therefore available to fund the playground project which is likely to commence in July of this year.

The Clerk referred to the debtors figure and analysed its content as follows:

There is an outstanding sum from the Karate Club of £900 at the 31st March 2024 for the period October 2023 to March 2024. The last payment received was on the 13th November 2023 in respect of the period to September 2023. There have been no payments received to date in the current financial year.

Councillor L M Morgan asked that he be requested to set up a direct debit payment agreement so that sums are paid monthly into the Council's bank account.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED that he be requested to bring his account up to date by the end of this month and also that in future payments are made monthly in respect of the month it applies to.

Other debtors include £400 from Silcox Family Funerals which has now been paid and a sum of £5089 from Carmarthenshire County Council in respect of the share of costs for the library, which will be claimed later this year.

The VAT sum outstanding of £14,676 includes a sum of £7,490 for the previous year which was paid on the 3rd April 2024. The other sum will be claimed later in the year.

The Clerk also gave details of the creditor figure and the most significant sum relates to an outstanding debt to Alan Thomas the grave digger. This amounted to £22,980 in respect of the period from 2018/19 to date. The other significant sum was a debt to the LBSA of £6,460 in respect of ground maintenance at the Recreation Ground which has now been paid.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Referring to the Annual Return and Accounting Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2024. The Clerk commented that the figures contained on this statement are exactly as included in the Income and Expenditure Statement for the same period but presented in a format required by the External Auditor.

The Annual Governance Statement is a confirmation that the Council has followed proper procedures in all matters during the year.

After due consideration it was RESOLVED to accept and approve the Annual Return which included the Accounting and Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2024.

Finally the Clerk referred to the Internal Audit Report prepared by V L Llewellyn for the Year Ended 31st March 2024.

The Internal Auditor stated that assurance can be expressed in the governance arrangements and the Financial Statement of Llangennech Community County for the Year Ended 31st March 2024.

It was RESOLVED to accept the report and it was agreed to appoint Mr Llewellyn as the Council's Internal Auditor for the Year Ended 31st March 2025 and that he be allowed as much time as necessary to complete that Internal Audit Work which is to take place within the deadlines for completion and approval of the Annual Return as set out by the External Auditor.

8. Code of Conduct Training

A training session is to be held on the 28th June 2024 at 2.00pm via Zoom.

It was agreed that Councillor H J Davies and the Clerk attend.

9. Chamber of Trade and Commerce

The Llanelli Chamber of Trade and Commerce is striving to support the process of improving the Community's social and economic wellbeing and is running a campaign to obtain City status for Llanelli and asks for support.

The Council agreed to note the Campaign.

10. Unauthorised works to trees subject of a Tree Preservation Order at Public Footpath at Aber Llwhwr

A letter has been received from the County regarding the above.

Councillor I M Williams does not believe that there are tree preservation orders in existence at this location.

Councillor N Lloyd raised the matter of a possible planning issue with regard to building work at this location.

11. Barrier on access road at the Community Centre

Huw Thomas has asked if luminous paint could be applied to this barrier.

12. Flags on Access Road to Community Centre

Two new flags need to be purchased.

13. Grant Requests

The Council considered requests and agreed the following payments.

Merched y Wawr	£100
Clwb Bowlio Mat Byr	£100
Menter	£ 50

14. Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor I M Williams and seconded by Councillor M I Slader that the following accounts be passed for payment.

It was so RESOLVED.