

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 16th June, 2025, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: **Councillors:** N Lloyd,
I Griffiths, G Thomas, I M Williams,
E Evans, M I Slader, A J Parry,
L M Morgan, J A Seward (delayed)
L D J Armishaw

APOLOGIES: **Councillor:** H J Davies

1. **Condolences**

The Chair informed the meeting that it is with great sadness that she has to announce that Councillor G R Jones has passed away some two weeks ago. It is a great loss to the Council, the village and personally to her. The Council and members expressed their deepest sympathy to Councillor Jones's family and held a minute silence in tribute to Councillor G R Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor E Evans declared an interest when the LBSA request permission to locate a shed in the Recreation Ground is discussed later in the meeting.

3. **Public Participation**

There was no one in attendance.

4. **Minutes of the Meetings held on the 7th April and 22nd May 2025**

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

It was so RESOLVED.

5. **County Councillor Report**

Councillor J Seward reported there has been no meetings at the County Council and has no other matters to raise.

6. Income and Expenditure Statement and Annual Return for Year Ended 31st March 2025

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 to the Financial Statement prepared at estimates time last February.

Total RESERVES of the Council fell from £178,220 at 31/3/24 to £122,334 at 31/3/25. The General Fund has reduced from £125,790 to £69,904 and the main cause of this was the expenditure of £84,400 on the new playground in the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk stated that he believes that the General Fund is overstated because there appears to be a fault with the gas smart meter at the Community Centre resulting in no gas bills for some 3 years. The fault has been reported to Totalenergies several times but no action taken. The Clerk estimates that the gas bill should be at least £6,000 per annum.

The Clerk referred to the debtors figure which stands at £5,728 and this is mostly the Carmarthenshire County Council share of Community Centre costs which will be claimed later in the year.

The Clerk referred to the Creditors figure which stands at £38,214 at the year end. There are three significant sums included in this figure and they are LBSA maintenance of the recreation ground field at £6,460, Audit fees of £2,050 and grave digger fees for some 6 years at £26,080. The grave digger is likely to send in an invoice for part of this sum later this year.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the Income and Expenditure Statement for year ended 31st March 2025.

The Clerk then referred to the Annual Return and Accounting statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2025, the Clerk commented that the figures contained in 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 2025.

Finally the Clerk referred to the Internal Auditor report prepared by V L Llewellyn for the Year Ended 31st March 2025.

The Internal Auditor stated that assurance can be expressed in the governance arrangements and the Financial Statement for Llangennech Community Council for the Year Ended 31st March 2025.

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 2026 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.

7. Appointment of Surveyor/Facilities Manager

The Chair referred to the membership of the Personnel Committee which is the Chair, Vice Chair, Councillor I M Williams and the two County Members and to the fact that the County Member, Councillor G R Jones has passed away resulting in a vacancy on the Committee in the short term.

She proposed that Councillor I Griffiths be the substitute member until the County Councillor vacancy is RESOLVED.

After due discussion it was so RESOLVED.

Councillor I Griffiths reported that there had been 3 applications received for the post but he believed one of the applicants could be discounted because of his background and where he resides.

Councillor Griffiths also reported on his discussions with Llannon Community Council regarding how they deal with the role. In fact they split the role into two functions, grants officer and facilities officer.

Councillor Griffiths was uncertain as to how Llannon compares to Llangennech in terms of precept set and population. The Clerk has established that Llannon Community Council has precepted a sum of £561,518.08 for 2025/26 which compares to £313,738 for Llangennech.

Councillor Griffiths proposed that the Council proceeds to interview the two candidates remaining as they reside in Llangennech.

Councillor G Thomas referring to the fact that Llanedi Community Council has been successful in gaining significant grant moneys for the Council and services.

Councillor I M Williams stated that Llanedi Community Council did have a grants officer.

The Chair stated that she is more inclined to favour that the appointee would be more experienced in obtaining grants than the facilities side of the job.

Councillor G Thomas asked if the Llanedi Council's Grants Officer was a full time officer. She also asked whether this person could have a secondment arrangement with Llangennech Community Council.

Councillor M I Slader suggested that the Council proceed with interviewing the two candidates and offer the post for a six month period and reviewed later..

Councillor L Armishaw felt that the grants side of the job was more important at the present time.

After due discussion it was agreed to proceed with interviewing the two local candidates. The interviews will take place on the evening of the 10th July 2025 at 7.00pm at the Community Centre.

8. Local Authority General Power of Competence as Per Section 24 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

The Local Authority's general Power of Competence Grants:-

- (i) A qualifying local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do, even if that thing is in nature or extent otherwise –
 - a) Unlike anything a qualifying local authority may do apart from this section
 - b) Unlike anything that other public bodies may do
- (ii) Where subsection (i) confers power on an authority to do something it confers power to do it in any way whatsoever, including –
 - (a) Power to do it anywhere in Wales or elsewhere
 - (b) Power to do it for commercial purpose or otherwise for a charge, or without charge
 - (c) Power to do it for, otherwise than for, the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area

- (iii) The generality of the power conferred by subsection (i) on a qualifying local authority is not limited by the existence of any other power of the authority and any other power of the authority is not limited by the existence of the general power
- (iv) For the purpose of this Chapter each of the following is a qualifying local authority
 - (a) a principal council
 - (b) an eligible community council

9. **LBSA – Request to locate a Shed in the Recreation Ground**

The LBSA requests permission to locate a shed in the Recreation Ground somewhere adjacent to the pavilion to provide refreshments to players, spectators and communities visiting the ground.

A catering facility had been provided previously from a window in the pavilion kitchen. This proved to be lucrative for clubs to raise much needed funds to reinvest into the clubs,

At present there is provision for cooking devices at the venue but currently rely on outdoor operation for point of sale. The provision of some form of covered shop facility - independent of the kitchen alcove area - would provide clubs with a solution to the problem currently being experienced.

An offer of a shed, free of charge, by Sheds and Chalets has been made to the LBSA.

The Chair commented that in her view there are too many of these temporary type buildings in the Recreation Ground. It could also lead to increasing vandalism.

Councillor E Evans stated that it is proposed that the shed be located next to the LBSA container in the recreation ground.

Councillor M I Slader asked if the recently completed Cricket Club building could be shared with the LBSA.

Councillor E Evans stated that there is a problem at present with the design of the kitchen window in that it restricts the ability to provide the required service to those on the outside and that if a new window was installed then the problem would be solved.

The Chair suggested that a new kitchen window be installed as per the proposal by Councillor E Evans.

After due discussion it was agreed that a new window in the kitchen be provided by the Community Council rather than providing the shed requested.

10. **One Voice Wales – Area Committee Membership**

At present the Community Council is represented by Councillors I Griffiths and L D J Armishaw.

It was agreed that these two Councillors continue to represent the Council at the Area Committee meetings.

11. **Mr R Mitchell, 2 Aber Llwchwr**

The Council representatives have attempted to meet Mr Mitchell on site but Mr Mitchell failed to attend.

Finally Councillors I Griffiths and M I Slader met him recently and it was made clear to him that the Council agrees, in principle, to provide the necessary permission to access the rear of this property over Council owned land. This permission would be subject to receipt of a written indemnity to the Council and specific detail and plan at what is proposed.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED that Mr Mitchell be requested to provide specific details and plan of the proposal together with a written indemnity of possible damage to Council property and injury to persons using the Cemetery and Cae Pownd.

12. **Temporary Closure of the B4306 Llannon to Hendy Road on the 10th August 2025**

The County Council has given notice that it is proposed to close the above road near Rhyd y Gors on the 10th August so that Open Reach can carry out pole replacement work.

13. **Merched y Wawr**

A request has been received from Merched y Wawr for grant aid. The organisation apologises for the late application.

It was agreed to make a grant of £100 to the organisation.

14. **Planning Applications**

It was RESOLVED not to object to the following applications.