

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 6th October 2025, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: Councillors: N Lloyd (Chair)
I Griffiths, G Thomas, M I Slader, A J Parry,
C Colasanto, E Evans, L D J Armishaw,
J A Seward

APOLOGIES: Councillors: I M Williams, H J Davies, L M Morgan

1. Declaration of Interests

There were none.

2. Public Participation

There was no one in attendance.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st September 2025

It was proposed by Councillor J A Seward and seconded by Councillor G Thomas that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

i) Mr R Mitchell, 2 Aber Llwhwr

The proposed works have not commenced yet. Councillor I Griffiths had been informed by Mr Mitchell that the works will commence in some 6 weeks time.

Councillor Griffiths also informed members that the wooden barrier at the lower entrance to Cae Pownd has fallen down and is now located in the cemetery. This needs to be taken away. The replacement barrier has now been manufactured by Harries Plant at a cost of £420 but will not be installed by the groundsman until Mr Mitchell has completed his planned works.

ii) **Pencoed Ganol Solar Farm Proposal**

Councillor C Colasonto reported that the residents group opposing the proposal were using an advisor who it was originally thought to be a barrister but it has now been established that he was not a qualified barrister. The applicant is expressing urgency to complete the process before next year's Senedd Election.

iii) **Litter Picking/Community Action**

Councillor A J Parry reported on the latest litter picking exercise that took place last week.

Councillor E Evans reported on a planting project being developed by the Cylch Meithrin and there is a request for volunteers to take part in the project.

iv) **79 Brynhyfryd**

The work to be carried out on clearance of trees/shrubs is still outstanding and it is hoped that this will be carried out in the near future.

v) **Morlais Colliery**

Councillor J A Seward reported that the person carrying out the installing of the cabinet has been in the Centre recently to take measurements.

vi) **Revision of Charges**

The Clerk reported that he has not received any adverse comments on the proposed increases in Council charges.

vii) **Ramblers Walk on 25th October 2025**

The Clerk reported that refreshments will be provided by Scatter and Graze.

Councillors G Thomas and M I Slader have agreed to help on the day when ramblers return to the Community Centre.

4. **Facilities Manager Report**

Emyr Williams reported as follows:

i) **Asset Register**

The hard copy asset register kept by the Clerk has now been reproduced in digital format with a breakdown of items and categorised into sections in chronological order.

The Asset Register is updated annually and has to be presented for audit annually.

ii) He has now been supplied with a new Council laptop as agreed in the last meeting of the Council.

The E Mail address is lbcc.facilitiesmanager@gmail.com

A Google Drive for data storage and central project workspace for collaborative work has been created.

iii) **Playgrounds**

The Clerk had supplied hard copies of previous inspection reports for all 4 playgrounds to the Facilities Manager.

The reports were examined to establish whether they contained any red or amber flags so that an application for grant funding could be made to the County for repair or replace purposes. There were no amber or red flags but numerous lower risk advisories which recommended minor repairs to be carried out. There is no evidence that these were carried out.

He met Mr Gareth Davies, a local Bryn resident, on Friday, 19th September at the Bryn Park regarding equipment at the Bryn Playground. The condition of the artificial football enclosure and Gym Equipment were a concern. There has also been reports of digging of earth by children to create a ramp for bikes. Children at the park raised the matter with him at the same time.

The Facilities Manager recommends that a new inspection of the equipment at all Council parks be carried out by an independent specialist company.

The Clerk reported that the previous inspection of playgrounds had been carried out by Wicksteed together with inspection by a company employed by the County on the transferred playgrounds.

After due discussion it was agreed to request the company employed by the County to carry out the inspection.

The matter of the retention of £1,000 plus VAT will be considered after the completion of the inspection of the new playground in the recreation ground.

There is a damaged post at the entrance to the Bryn Park which needs to be repaired. It was agreed to carry out repairs to this post.

iv) **Cemetery**

He has taken photographs of the Cemetery and Cae Pownd.

v) **Contractor**

He reported that the Contractor, D N Davies, employed by the Council has now to register for VAT. This will mean that invoices issued by D N Davies will include VAT at 20%.

The Clerk reported that the Council is not VAT registered at present and that the present arrangement is that the Council claims up to a maximum of £7,500 per annum from HMRC. This limit has not changed for a number of years and the Clerk requested a number of years ago whether this limit could be increased which was refused. It is likely that under the present arrangement with HMRC the VAT charged by D N Davies will not be recoverable because the £7,500 limit will be exceeded.

Discussion took place on whether the Council should consider becoming VAT registered. The Clerk reported that the Council did consider this some years ago but decided against since Council charges then would have to be subject to VAT. It was agreed that the Council will defer this matter to a future Council meeting.

vi) **Cylch Meithrin & Sporting Bodies**

He has had discussions with the Rugby Club and Soccer Club for stakeholder engagement purposes and will meet the Bowls Club later this week.

The Cylch Meithrin has again requested that the Youth Club equipment be moved out so that extra space is provided in the Hall for Meithrin use. There does not appear to be a likelihood that the Youth Club will restart in the near future.

After due discussion it was agreed that the Youth Club equipment be moved out for the time being and stored in the Cylch's container.

The Clerk reported that the door facing the Cricket field will be repaired by Barry Gould in due course.

There has been issues with WIFI at the Pavilion and the Centre recently and the Clerk reported that WIFI is now operational at both locations since Friday, 26th September.

- vii) The LBSA has yet to get someone out to look at the design of the proposed covered spectator area.
- viii) Pavilion extension. Mr A Clement will be approached to establish whether his offer of carrying out building work on a cost basis is still a possibility.

5. County Councillor Report

Councillor J A Seward reported:

- i) There will be a County Council meeting this coming Wednesday.
- ii) Planning Application PL/09646 -
Creation of two family Gypsy/Traveller pitches at Gypsy Lane.

There is nothing to report on this application.

- iii) Family Traveller Pitches at Maesydderwen.

Councillor N Lloyd raised the issue that it appears that a fishing business is now to start on this land. It is being advertised as Park Farm Lake and the lake was created by diverting the River Morlais.

There are issues regarding whether Planning Permission conditions have been breached and whether Natural Resources Wales are aware of what has happened.

It was agreed that County Councillor J A Seward will take up the matter at County level and there will be the need to contact Natural Resources Wales.

Councillor C Colasanto reported:

i) **Pencoed Ganol/Solar Farm Project**

A lot is going on with this proposal.

ii) He is planning to carry out an engagement exercise with residents at the Community Centre and Bryn Hall on a regular basis.

The Social Club will also be a possibility for this exercise.

6. Local Government Services Pay Award 2025

Agreement has been reached on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2025 (covering the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026). The new pay rates have each increased by 3.2%.

After due discussion it was agreed to adopt the new payscales.

The Clerk reported that the Council had budgeted by 2025/26 for an increase of 4.5% on wages and 2.5% on salaries. The pay agreement reached will be some £1,200 below budget.

7. Training Dates – September to December 2025

One Voice Wales had provided details of training courses for the period September to December 2025. These are on a remote training basis and the cost for members of One Voice Wales will be £42 each. Some of the training sessions will be through the medium of Welsh.

Councillors interested in the courses should contact the Clerk.

8. Notice of Conclusion of Audit for Year Ended 31st March 2025

The Auditor has given an Unqualified Audit opinion and on the basis of his audit and in his opinion no matters have come to his attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:-

Has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices.

That relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements.

That the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

However, it does comment on other matters, which does not affect the Audit opinion, as follows:

i) **Power of Competence**

The Council did provide a positive response in assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement which should not have been the case. The Council was not eligible to make such statement since the statement requires the Clerk to have one of the following qualifications:

Certificate in Local Council Administration

Certificate of Higher Education in Community Governance

Certificate of Higher Education in Community Engagement and Governance

Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy.

The Clerk reported that it does not seem to matter that he is a graduate in economics and a professionally qualified accountant with nearly 50 years experience in Local Government.

ii) **Clarity of Information provided**

The Auditor raised the issue of having difficulty in reading and interpreting the additional papers provided by the Clerk for the Audit and recommends typed responses in future.

The Clerk commented that he completes forms provided by the Auditor and that there has been no issues in all previous years responses and secondly the Clerk stated that if there was a problem in reading responses he would have been available to receive a telephone call and deal with any queries that arose. For the last two years there has been no contact by telephone or E Mail from the Auditor.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the Auditor's report on the Year Ended 31st March 2025.

9. **Community Centre Access Road**

Councillor G Thomas commented that illegal parking on the access road appears to be on the increase and she referred to the position this evening with cars parked up to the junction with the main road.

The Facilities Manager asked whether investigations should be restarted on the intentions of the Bridge Inn landlord to purchase the land from the Council to provide additional parking for Bridge Inn customers.

The Clerk commented that the position some months ago according to solicitors was that the signing of documents by both parties was near to completion, but there has been no movement since.