

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 8th June, 2026, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: Councillors: E Evans (Chair)
I Griffiths, I M Williams, N Lloyd,
M I Slader, A J Parry, J A Seward

APOLOGIES: Councillors: L D J Armishaw, L M Morgan,
G Thomas, H J Davies

1. **Declaration of Interests**

There were none.

2. **Public Participation**

Members of the Llangennech and Bryn Action Group were in attendance.

Mr Jordan Sargent addressed Members by giving details regarding the work of the group over the last year ago.

There have been 30 Community litter picks to date. There has been foodbank support with collection of donations from various sources and there was a multibank project last Christmas.

The best part of the project is the range of ages of those volunteers taking part which is from 7 years to 91 years.

The producing of various videos has taken place and there is a community garden project proposed at the Llangennech Community Centre. This will be located at the previous location of a garden project at the Centre. There are still apple and cherry trees there and there is a general clean up proposed and various shrubs etc. planted.

The Clerk did ask Jordan Sargent to check whether the volunteer group's insurance policy covers the work proposed. All groups using the Community Centre must have their own insurance as the Council's insurance provides Public Liability only which covers negligence on the part of the Council.

There will be an attempt to grow the volunteer base.

It was agreed to allow the group to proceed with the proposal.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd March 2026**

It was proposed by Councillor M I Slader and seconded by Councillor

I M Williams that the Minutes be accepted.

It was so RESOLVED.

1) **Caravan on Troserch Woodland**

Councillor M I Slader reported that the caravan is still on site.

i) **Harddfan – Proposed Development**

The Planning application was received by the Clerk on the 4th March 2026 and he forwarded it to Councillors on the same day. The planning application was dated 3rd March with the consultation date of 24th March to respond.

The Community Council did not meet in April and therefore could not respond and make comments.

Full Planning Permission has now been granted to the application.

Councillor I Griffiths raised the issue that concerns put forward by residents at the two public meetings had not been taken into account in the process and residents were not given a fair chance to be listened to. One of the main concerns was the loss of green space and also the rapid conclusion of the process.

Councillor N Lloyd also raised the issue of the loss of green space.

ii) **Defibrillators**

Councillor M I Slader reported that when they were inspected recently they were all available for use including the one at the Community Centre.

4. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 11th May 2026**

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

It was so RESOLVED.

5. **Facilities Manager Report**

i) **Bryn Playground**

A meeting has been arranged with Kompan on the 10th June.

The safety of the Bryn Park Gym Equipment has previously been raised and whether they should now be removed. Further enquiries have established that they cannot be repaired because of unavailability of parts.

After due discussion it was agreed that they be removed. The reasoning needs to be made clear to the public.

There are no funds available at present to replace them.

ii) **Recreation Ground Playground**

The retention sum of £520 has now been paid leaving a balance of £680 to carry out remedial work.

Councillor M I Slader asked as to when the remedial work will be carried out.

The Facilities Manager reported that this will be carried out by D N Davies when the time is right.

iii) **Morlais Colliery Items**

The Facilities Manager reported that the South Wales Miners' Welfare Trust agreed to contribute a grant of £2,000 to fund the cabinet.

This left a shortfall of £580 to complete the project.

The previous Chair of the Council, Councillor N Lloyd agreed to fund this shortfall from the balance left in her Chair Account.

It was also agreed to carry out decorating work on the room and corridor subject to establishing the cost of such work being reasonable and able to be accommodated in the budget sum set out for maintenance of the Centre which is £2,770 for 2026/27.

It was suggested that an opening ceremony could be organised and Councillor I Griffiths suggested finding a sponsor for the event.

iv) **Sale of Land to Bridge Inn**

The Facilities Manager has had discussions with the owner of the Bridge Inn and the matter of allowing access to the Bridge Inn via the entry road to the Centre was raised.

The Clerk reported that the Council at its meeting held on the 2nd September 2024 agreed not to proceed with offering the right of way over the Centre access roadway and both parties Solicitors be contacted and that right of way would be withdrawn from the offer.

Councillor N Lloyd stated that if the Bridge Inn would be allowed access over the Centre roadway it is likely that the parking of vehicles on this road would continue. The owners of the Bridge Inn have not shown a satisfactory response to concerns raised by the Community Council.

Councillor I M Williams referred to the original planning requirement that the present access route to the Bridge Car Park would have to end and the entrance closed off.

Councillor M I Slader stated that perhaps the issue of the right of way should be revisited.

Councillor I M Williams referred to a previous proposal that the existing barrier be moved to nearer the entrance of the road into the Centre.

Councillor J A Seward suggested further discussions with the owners of the Bridge Inn and see what response is forthcoming.

After due discussion it was agreed to proceed with further discussions with the owners of the Bridge Inn.

v) **Maes Ty Gwyn Playground**

There was a report of a fire being started on the playground equipment with little damage resulting. Some clearing up work has been carried out by the Council groundsman. An attempt was made to contact the police without much success.

vi) **Bryn Hall Planter**

This has now been completed by the Council groundsman.

vii) **Aber Llchwyr Footpath**

The work on this is ongoing.

viii) **Bowls Club Request for line marking car park**

The Bowls Club have written to the Council asking if car park line markings can be redone.

The Clerk reported that there is no budget sum for such work and the Council has identified two projects to be considered later this year and these were creating a raised path to the Pavilion and shutter work on the Pavilion. These two jobs are likely to cost approximately £10,000.

The request cannot be accommodated within the Council's finances at present.

vii) **Bowls Club – Japanese Knotweed Problem**

The Bowls Club raised the issue of an infestation of Japanese Knotweed at the rear of the storage shed.

The Clerk reported on his discussions with the Council groundsman and it was established that he treats this problem twice a year and cannot carry out any further spraying because the land is on the side of the River Mwrwg. It was also established that the problem has not spread since he started his employment with the Council which is over 30 years ago.

ix) **Fly Posting by Sean Hogan – County Councillor Candidate**

Councillor J A Seward remarked that he is illegally putting up posters in the village.

The County will be informed.

6. **County Councillor Report**

Councillor J A Seward reported –

- i) County Annual Meeting took place last week.
- ii) There is a reported housing development proposal at Heol y Mynydd.
- iii) Visibility problem coming out of Estuary Park. She has visited the location and believes this is caused by growth of vegetation in the river.
- iv) There was an issue with a raised manhole cover in Pontarddulais Road which has now been addressed.

7. Income and Expenditure Statement and Annual Return for Year Ended 31st March 2026

Copies of the above documents had previously been circulated to Members including the Internal Audit Report.

The Clerk commented on significant variances from the previous year and slight difference with the Financial Statement prepared at estimates time last February.

Total RESERVES of the Council increased from £122,334 to £140,282. The General Fund has increased from £69,904 to £87,852 and the savings on Non Domestic Rates for the Bryn Hall and Community Centre being the significant reason for the increase.

The Clerk reported that Totalenergies have not billed the Council for gas supply for the three buildings it owns and an estimate of over £8,000 is included in the Financial Accounts to cover for this expenditure.

The Clerk referred to the Debtors figure which stands at £6,499 and this is in the main a debt from the Karate Club of £905 for the period November 2025 – March 2026 and Carmarthenshire County Council share of Community Centre revenue expenditure which stands at £5,053.

The Clerk has received an “E” Mail from A Bowen, Karate Club, stating that he has paid into the Council’s Bank Account a sum to cover the debt for November to January. He will pay another sum later today and plans to be up to date with payments by the end of this month.

The Clerk referred to the Creditors figure which stands at £40,933. The significant sums for this figure are Totalenergies £8,630, LBSA field maintenance £6,600, Carmarthenshire CC Public Lighting £2,470 and grave digger charges of £20,623.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2026.

The Clerk referred to the Annual Return and Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2026 and commented that the figures contained in the Statement are exactly as included in the Income and Expenditure Statement for the same period but presented in the 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 2026.

Finally the Clerk referred to the Internal Auditor report prepared by V L Llewellyn for the Year Ended 31st March 2026.

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 2026.

It was RESOLVED to accept the report and it was agreed to appoint Mr V L Llewellyn as the Council's Internal Auditor for the Year Ended 31st March 2027 and that he be allowed as much time as necessary to complete that Internal Audit Work which is to take place within deadlines for completion and approval of the Annual Return as set out by the External Auditor. It was agreed that an engagement letter be sent to Mr V L Llewellyn.

8. Notice of Councillor Vacancy

Councillor C Colasanto resigned from the Council following his election to the Senedd.

Notice of the vacancy has been published in the village and on the Council website and the closing date for a request for an election is Friday, 19th June 2026.

Councillor N Lloyd stated that if an election is requested there has been an agreed arrangement between Plaid Cymru and Labour not to put forward candidates for the by-election.

9. Employment of Facilities Manager

Clause 4 of the Contract of Employment with Emyr William states that the appointment is subject to satisfactory completion of a probationary period of 26 weeks.

It was agreed that Mr Emyr Williams has completed satisfactorily the probation period of 26 weeks that was required.

Councillor N Lloyd referred to the Annual Review Process of all staff that was agreed by Council in 2022 but not yet carried out by Council. The Personnel Committee would carry out this review exercise.

She questioned the ability of the Council to carry out such a review satisfactorily and suggested that perhaps the Council should seek professional support to proceed with this.

Councillor I Griffiths stated that he employs a specialist in his firm to provide guidance and support for Personnel matters and he also stated that Llanelli Rural Council contract with a specialist firm for Personnel matters.

It was agreed to make approaches and establish costs with such a company for Personnel Support.

10 Grant Support

Applications have been received from the LBSA and Clwb Bowlio Mat Byr for financial support. These two organisations did not apply in time when grants were considered in the Council meeting held in March.

It was agreed to make the following payments to these two organisations.

LBSA	£200
Clwb Bowlio Mat Byr	£100

10. Map of Glamorganshire 1578

Gwyn Hopkins had written to the Clerk asking whether the Council would accept a copy of Saxton's Map of Glamorganshire 1578 which includes Llangennech measuring 55 x 44cm for display in the Community Centre.

After due discussion it was agreed to accept the Map.

11. VAT Registration

The Chair had raised the matter whether the Council should consider registration for VAT.

The Clerk stated that detailed discussions would have to take place with HMRC on this matter but this would have to be carried out later this year after he has dealt with completing work on the External Audit requirements.

He also stated that there had been considerable discussions with Customs and Excise when he first started with the Council to establish that the Council could reclaim VAT which was eventually agreed. If the Council is allowed to register for VAT there could be issues regarding whether the Council would have to charge VAT on its hire rates.

12. Cemetery

The Chair had also raised the point whether this should be an agenda item on a monthly basis including safety matters and testing of headstones.

The Clerk stated that the Council did employ a company a few years ago to test all headstones and carry out necessary repairs.

13. **Planning Applications**

It was agreed not to object to the following application.

PL/10710 - Extending raised garden at rear of property –
35 Aber Llchwyr

This is raising the garden area onto additional parcel of land purchased by the applicant.

14. **Budgetary Control**

The Clerk reported that there will be an overspend this financial year on the Rates Bill for the Community Centre and the Bryn Hall of approximately £4000 because the Welsh Government has withdrawn the grant previously available to such premises. This information was not available at Budget Setting time in February this year.