

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 11th February 2019, at the Llangennech Community Centre.

PRESENT: Councillors: J A Seward (Chair)
G F Davies, J C Lee, W D Griffiths,
I M Williams, R Willock, L M Morgan,
N Lloyd, G R Jones, M I Slader, G Thomas

APOLOGIES: Councillor: S Hughes

1. The Chair invited County Councillor Peter Hughes Griffiths, Executive Board Member for Culture, Sport and Tourism, to address members.

Mr Hughes Griffiths has been a member of the County Council Executive Board since 2017. In addition to the above he also has responsibility for being the link with Community and Town Councils and One Voice Wales. He remarked that Councils are working in the worst period of austerity for a considerable number of years.

His duties take him to all areas of the County Council.

Councillor W D Griffiths felt that there were 3 levels of discussion with Mr Hughes Griffiths. There is the strategic level relating to Local Development Plan with concerns about further development and the effect on school capacity, health provision, road systems and more traffic.

There is the practical level with request for improvements in the village covering road surfacing/road widening, more yellow lines, tree cutting/trimming and questions with regard to Section 106 money.

There is the personal level taking account of individual concerns regarding such things as pot holes, flooding, clearing rubbish/growth from rivers/streams and the lack of timely response from the County Council.

Councillor W D Griffiths referred to the recent problem of getting a response from County Officers with matters relating to Section 106 money. A County Officer has been away on long term leave resulting in a failure to respond to Community Council requests.

He also referred to the long delay in implementing yellow lines at Heol y Parc.

He is concerned with the number of candidate sites being put forward under the LDP for 2018/33. The present infrastructure of the village could not cope with these candidate sites if they were accepted for development.

Mr Peter Hughes Griffiths commented on the yellow lines issue is the result of the County making submissions to the Welsh Government once or twice a year because of cost reasons.

The Surveyor referred to the considerable number of “E” Mails that officers have to deal with on a daily basis. The system gets “clogged up”.

Councillor G F Davies asks that County members and the Community Council be informed when the County plans to carry out work in the village. He referred to recent work on cycle paths with no prior information. Councillor G Thomas referred to a meeting she had with County Officers some months ago regarding possible parking areas near the school but there has been no update since.

There is also the legal issue of ownership of the Maes Ty Gwyn play area and a lack of movement to resolve it.

Councillor I M Williams expressed his view that there has been a communication issue with the County for some ten years.

Mr P Hughes Griffiths agreed to follow up on the matter.

Councillor M I Slader commented that some roads are resurfaced when other roads are in greater need of resurfacing.

The Chair believes that it is not all bad news in that there are some good things happening in the village.

Mr P Hughes Griffiths referred to the fact that some £4.67 million has been allocated by the County for environmental improvements in 2019. This will be mainly work on roads.

He thanked the Council for inviting him to address and discuss matters with members.

2. The Chair informed members that Christine Thomas will be finishing as the Llangennech Notes Correspondent for the Llanelli Star at the end of February. Her last contribution to the Star will be on the 27th February 2019.

The Chair thanked her for her service to the village through her contributions to the Llangennech Notes column. She has been doing this work for over 10 years. The Chair presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the Council in recognition of her service to the Llangennech Community.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

4. Public Participation

The Chair asked the representatives of the Sports Association to comment on the document previously copied and presented to members. The document gave further information on the Cae Pwnd project.

The representatives present were Martin Williams, Phil Willock and Daniel Price.

Members were informed by Martin Williams that quotations have been requested for the work proposed but no information is available to date. Discussion has also taken place with the Planning Department of the County Council.

The Surveyor referred to his comments regarding the need to “firm up” with the proposal. There are issues with regard to planning requirements, car parking, cost of the proposal and future maintenance costs. At present the Council is in discussion with its solicitor regarding deeds for both the cemetery and Cae Pwnd and asks the Sports Association whether it is looking for a lease or licence for Cae Pwnd. Martin Williams stated that a survey is being proposed.

The Chair asked that the above matters need to be discussed at the Sub Group level and this needs to meet as soon as possible so that progress can be made.

Councillor R Willock asked as to why planning permission would be required since it is already being used for football etc.

The Surveyor replied that the use will be different in that organised sporting use will be the norm as opposed to occasional use by individuals at present and therefore planning permission may be required.

The Chair asked for names of Councillors who are prepared to be members of the Sub Group. It was agreed that Councillors I M Williams, R Willock, L M Morgan and M I Slader will be the Council representatives.

It was agreed that the Association and Councillors will consult with each other for a suitable time and date for the first meeting of the Sub Group.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th January 2019

It was proposed by Councillor N Lloyd and seconded by Councillor W D Griffiths that the Minutes be accepted subject to the following amendments.

Minute 4(x) Add Councillor G Thomas to the name of Councillor G R Jones with regard to Talyclun Roadway Pot Holes problem.

Minute 6(ii) change “litter” to “fly tipping is a major problem”.

It was so RESOLVED.

i) Maes Ty Gwyn Play Area

The Clerk reported that he has been trying to get an update on the outstanding legal ownership of the area without success to date. Councillor G R Jones is also following up on the matter.

ii) Clos Maes Isaf Trees and Heol y Parc Trees

An “E” Mail has been sent to Gary Baxter, County Council, but there has been no response to date.

iii) Footpath Accident – Path 35/16

The Clerk reported on his discussions with the solicitor acting for the Council. A further telephone discussion is to take place on the 14th February. She is in the process of preparing a defence for the Council. The defence document for the County has been received. The Solicitor has informed the Clerk that a 3 month extension has been granted by the Court to prepare the defence document for the Community Council.

It is likely that the Solicitor will want to speak to our groundsman. The Clerk and Surveyor will be present when that takes place.

iv) **Police – attendance at meetings**

The Clerk will contact PCSO S Lloyd directly regarding police attending meetings of the Council.

v) **Station Road – Back Lane**

Councillor G R Jones informed members that he has had a discussion with Gary Baxter, County Council and will meet residents tomorrow. A decision will be made on the way forward.

6. **Surveyors Report**

i) **Cemetery** – all the trees have been removed by the contractor. There has been damage to one of the gravestones and will be dealt with by the contractor. The grave is owned by Mrs J Edmunds, Oakdale, Heol y Parc.

ii) **Pavilion Water Tank.** The Surveyor has had discussions with a company regarding a possible system which would require an initial survey. The cost of a system is estimated at £4,500 plus VAT.

The Surveyor will report back to Council.

iii) **Cemetery/Cae Powned deeds** – Rodericks Solicitors have been approached and their response is awaited. It is thought that they may have acted originally in the drawing up of the deeds which were given to the old Parish Council in 1946/47.

Former Councillor Gordon Lewis has referred the Surveyor to the Alwyn Charles book on the history of Llangennech and reference was made in the book to the handing over of the deeds to the Parish Council.

iv) **Bryn Play Area – tree report**

The report has indicated a number of trees have to be removed. The cost of removal will be £750 and the County Council have been approached and requested that money be made available from the £2500 fund to carry out the work. It is estimated that a further sum of £300-£400 will be required for extra work.

v) **Playground (Recreation Ground) – Interactive Panels**

These have been ordered.

vi) **Bryn Play Area – Section 106 Money**

This will be discussed under confidential item at the end of the meeting with no member of the public/translator being present.

7. **County Councillor Report**

Councillor Thomas reported as follows:-

- i) She has received telephone calls regarding the work carried out in the cemetery with the removal of the trees. Some were happy but others were not.
- ii) The County Council is looking at its housing stock and plans to increase it by buying former Council homes and also other homes from the private sector.

Councillor W D Griffiths referred to the fact that there is quite a number of empty properties in the County.

Councillor Thomas thought it would be a good idea if a list of empty properties in the village could be drawn up.

- iii) The Task and Finish Group is looking at loneliness in the County.

She visited the Men's Shed in Ferryside and observed how it worked. There was also a visit to Llanstephan.

- iv) LDP – The consultation period has ended and a report and recommendations will be forthcoming in due course.

Councillor G R Jones reported as follows:-

- i) He is a member of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.
- ii) He attended a number of public meetings in the village and Bynea to discuss the LDP candidate sites list.
- iii) There is concern with regard to pallets being stored outside the fence of the former Thales site in Mwrwg Road. The pallets will be removed within the next few weeks.
- iv) Maes y Bryn Site. Some matters were raised regarding the building work at the site, in particular, with the creation of a bund.

- v) Sufficient funds have been raised to purchase a defibrillator for the Bryn Hall. The order has been placed and will be fixed by the Council groundsman when received.
- vi) A fundraising disco will take place at the Bryn Hall on March 1st.
- vii) He wished to thank the volunteers who helped at the recent event at the Community Centre. It was a Jersey Boys concert and £680 was raised on the bar.

8. **Precept for 2019/20**

The Clerk had prepared a detailed financial statement setting out the probable position for 2018/19 and the estimate for 2019/20.

The 2019/20 estimates are based on the following:-

- i) Costs have been increased in general by 5%. Wages have been increased by the NJC Pay Award which is 9.2% from 1/04/2018 and 5.9% from 1/04/2019. Salaries have been increased by 2% from 1/04/2019.

- ii) The Estimates for 2019/20 include for the following:-

- a) **Cemetery**

Removal of trees	£3000
Landscaping	£3500
Additional Grass Cutting	£1500

- b) **Community Centre**

Removal of trees	£3750
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- c) **Playground Maintenance** £3000

- d) **Pavilion**

New Fire Alarm System	£1500
Showers	£5300

- e) **Bowling Green**

Repair to green edge	£2000
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- f) **Bryn Hall**

Car Park Control	£1500
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There is no budget sum included in 2019/20 for translating the website to Welsh and also the translation on a monthly basis of the Council Minutes to Welsh. In the current financial year a budget sum of £2000 had been included which has not been spent.

The financial document was based on increasing the precept by 5% for 2019/20.

The financial document as presented showed that there was a deficit in 2018/19 of £13,161 with Total Balances being reduced to £95,318 of which General Balance would stand at £43,828 at the 31/03/2019. There would be a forecast deficit of £8283 for 2019/20 and Total Balances would be reduced to £87,035 and General Balances would be £35,545. This would be below the recommended level which is 3 months expenditure.

Councillor W D Griffiths stated that it was important that the Council Website have a Welsh Language provision in due course.

Councillor J C Lee suggested that the Welsh Language provision be developed over a few years.

Councillor L Morgan asked if a volunteer could be found to carry out the translation.

Councillor G Thomas proposed that a budget sum of £2000 be included for 2019/20.

The Chair asked if members wished to re-consider budget sums included for 2019/20 and/or to increase the precept by more than 5%.

Councillor M I Slader suggested that the precept be increased by 10% to cover such matters as the pay award increase of over 15% over two years with a financial impact of an additional £10,000 on Council finances.

Councillor G F Davies agreed with a Councillor J C Lee that translation of the website be carried out over a period of a few years.

Councillor G Thomas proposed that a budget sum of £2000 be included in the Budget for 2019/20 to cover translation cost. This was seconded by Councillor M I Slader.

The Chair asked for a vote and the result was as follows:-

8 For
3 Abstentions

The motion was therefore carried.

Councillor W D Griffiths proposed that the precept be increased by 6% rather than 5%. This was seconded by Councillor N Lloyd.

The Chair asked for a vote and the result was as follows:-

7 For
4 Abstentions

The motion was therefore carried.

Councillor R Willock raised the issue of whether the Council should consider contributing to the Urdd Eisteddfod which is to be held in Carmarthenshire in 2021.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED that the Council set aside £500 per annum over the next 3 years. This sum will come out of the grants to organisations budget head and will not be separately budgeted for.

The resulting Council decision to increase the Council Precept by 6% will have the following effect.

The Precept sum will be £219,490 for 2019/20 and the likely effect on balances will be a total balance of £87,098 at 31/03/2020 of which the General Balance will be £35,608 which will be below the recommended level of 3 month expenditure. It is planned that balances will be increased to recommended level over the next few years.

9. **Cricket Club Letter**

The Cricket Club informs the Council that the main mower they use for wicket maintenance requires repairs costing over £1000 plus VAT. They have concluded that this is too costly bearing in mind the age of the present mower. The Club asks whether the Community Council could dispose of its old bowling green mower either by selling or giving it free to the Club. This mower does require some maintenance work.

After due discussion it was agreed that the Council give this mower to the Cricket Club at no charge. The Council asks that this mower be made available if its new bowling green mower requires maintenance at any time and is not available to cut the bowling green.

10. **Call for Gypsy and Traveller Sites**

Carmarthenshire County Council has undertaken and published a Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) document which has identified a current unmet need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the County. As part of the preparation of the evidence base for the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan and to meet the identified unmet need, the Council is inviting landowners, developers and any other interested parties to suggest sites for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for potential consideration within the LDP.

Evidence for the need of a new site for Gypsy and Travellers relates only to Llanelli and the surrounding area.

The invitation to set for a 10 week period starting on the 28th January 2019 and finishing on the 8th April 2019.

11. **Natural Joint Council for Local Government Services**

Agreement has been reached between the National Employers and the NJC Trade Union Side on rates of pay applicable from the 1st April 2018 and the 1st April 2019.

The new pay rates document was previously copied for members consideration.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the new pay rates.

12. **National Salary Award for Clerks and Other Employees**

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed the new pay scales for 2019-2020 to be implemented from the 1st April 2019.

The new pay scales document was copied for members consideration.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to accept the new pay scales.

13. **Egni Co-op**

Councillor G Thomas has received a document regarding Egni Co-op which is a Welsh Solar pv co-op looking for building roofs in Wales to accommodate Solar Panels. The aim is to reduce energy bills and help to tackle climate change. The Feed Tariff ends on the 31st March 2019.

It was agreed that Councillor R Willock make further enquiries.

14. **Bryn Hall Senior Citizens**

An "E" Mail has been received from the Group requesting that the current service of moving tables and chairs for their fortnightly meetings be continued.

After due discussion it was agreed that the service be continued for another 6 months.

15. **Bryn Hall Committee**

The Chair of the Committee asks the Council to consider redecorating the hall in the near future.

It was agreed that the request be looked at by the Surveyor.

16. **Schools Colour Coding**

The Welsh Government categorises schools into four colour bands, green, yellow, amber and red to demonstrate the level of support they need.

The most effective schools are ranked green and require the least support.

Llangennech is in the green category and requires the least support.

Councillor G F Davies states that the school is to be congratulated for achieving this category.

17. **Planning Application**

There are no objections to the following applications:-

S/38286 - Variation of condition No. 2 at 36 Aber Llwhwr

S/38300 - Proposed demolition of existing garage and create new Garage and first floor room at 1 Hendre Park

S/38304 - Proposed rear kitchen and conservatory at 9 Penllwyngwyn Road

S/38356 - Discharge of condition 13 at land at Gypsy Lane

18. **Bryn Play Area and Section 106 Funding**

This agenda item was discussed in Camera with no member of the public and translator being present.

After due discussion it was RESOLVED that further discussions take place with County Councillor D Cundy and in due course to request a meeting with Senior County Officers to discuss Section 106 Funding.