

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Council held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Bryn Hall, Bryn.

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

**APOLOGIES: Councillors:** G F Davies, J A Seward, R Willock,  
S Hughes

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including representatives of the public.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

Councillors W D Griffiths, J C Lee and M I Slader declared an interest when grants to organisations were to be discussed.

### **3. Public Participation**

- i) The Chair asked the member of the public who wished to raise the issue of dog mess to speak.

She stated that she has approached the County dog warden requesting whether a service is available for collecting/disposing of dog waste .

She was informed that dog waste is to be disposed of in the black bags which are collected on a fortnightly basis. There is no specific system to deal with disposal of dog waste. Councillors I M Williams stated that County policy is for dog owners to dispose of dog waste through the normal black bag collecting system.

Councillor G R Jones will raise the matter at the next Environmental Committee Meeting of the County Council. The Chair informed members that no one has contacted her regarding this matter.

- ii) The Chair then asked the resident who wished to raise further matters regarding Maes Ty Gwyn Park to speak.

She stated that a residents group has been formed with amongst other reasons the aim to raise money for improvements at the Maes Ty Gwyn Park.

The Surveyor informed her and members that he has had discussions with Wicksteed regarding the condition of the safety surfacing provided at the Park. He had obtained one quotation for replacing the present surface with wet pour rubber at a cost of £15,000. The Council is not in a financial position to take up this quotation. A smaller scale project could be considered later this year to replace the circle. The Surveyor hopes to be able to report back by the next Council meeting in April on this.

The resident from Maes Ty Gwyn reported that a quotation to install fencing with a gate at the park would cost £10,500.

The Surveyor replied that serious shortfalls at the park were known prior to the Community Council taking it over from the County Council. If the Community Council had not taken it over then the County Council would have closed it down. It is going to take a considerable time to address all the problems at the park.

The resident informed members that her group has the intention to raise funds to spend and improve the park. She asked if the Community Council could accept the funds and be responsible for controlling the money raised. The Clerk replied that he had previously approached the External Auditor to establish whether this would be possible. The External Auditor was to make enquiries with the Welsh Audit Office but no response has been received to date. The Clerk will follow up this query again with the External Auditor. The Clerk also stated that if this was allowed moneys raised would have to be kept completely separate from the normal finances of the Council.

The Chair also remarked that the Community Council took over the three parks from the County knowing that there were problems at two of the parks.

The Chair also gave information on the present position regarding the matter of the problems on the footpath from Llys Cennech to the School which was raised by a resident at the last meeting of the Council. The County Council will carry out improvements to this footpath in the near future.

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor I M Williams and seconded by Councillor G R Jones that the Minutes be accepted subject to amending Minute 9 iv) by inserting the words “School Governors Meeting”.

It was so RESOLVED.

**i) Mr & Mrs Dyer, 73 Penllwyngwyn Road**

The Chair referred to the “E” Mail she had sent and the response received from M Jacob, County Council regarding the request for additional speed retarders.

Mr Jacob replied that the “Go Safe” website be used and the Chair passed this information on to Mr & Mrs Dyer. They requested that the Community Council do this on their behalf.

**ii) Rhandir Terrace**

The chair reported that the County Council has commenced the survey work on this road. She has also asked for the County to carry out survey work on Penllwyngwyn Road.

**iii) Police Report**

An “E” Mail has been received from PCSO Joshua Chapman which sets out a proposal to produce a quarterly report that will be prepared by him. He provided a copy of the first quarterly report which was circulated to members.

The means of contacting the police was included in the report.

**iv) Heol y Parc**

The contents of a series of “E” Mails between Councillor G R Jones and County Officers regarding trees along the road and other matters including clearing debris from the Mwrwg River was referred to.

Councillor G R Jones stated that a meeting is to take place with the appropriate County Officers but no date has been fixed yet. Councillor Jones also referred to the break-in to the electric sub station with apparently no damage or theft. Councillor W D Griffiths has discussed these issues with Councillor GR Jones

v) **Japanese Knotweed**

Councillor N Lloyd reported that a local resident will come to the next Council meeting to discuss the problem.

vi) **Local Development Plan**

There has been an extension to the consultation period and the closing date will be the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

vii) **Community and Town Council's Conference 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

This has been postponed and will now take place in the Autumn.

viii) **Cricket Club letter – Fencing at the Park for Sponsorship Boards**

The Clerk reported that a letter has been sent to the Cricket Club informing them that the request has been agreed to, in principle. There will be a need to meet them to discuss the exact location of the fencing.

The Surveyor has met a representative of the Cricket Club and the exact location of the fencing has been now been agreed.

**5. Surveyors Report**

- i) A copy of the report prepared by the Surveyor on matters regarding responsibility for maintenance work on the Mwrwg River had previously been circulated to members.

The Surveyor stated that technically the County Council is not responsible for maintaining the River Mwrwg. Under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991 the owners of the properties on each side up to the centre of the river are responsible for the maintenance of the river. The Act outlines procedures for the Servicing of appropriate Notices to require cooperation of adjoining land owners when required including financing the cost of any work deemed necessary.

The mechanism for legally enforcing this position is difficult. County Councils tend to exercise “good will” in dealing with these matters. The County Council could undertake works and recharge landowners and possibly levy a “land charge” for non payment.

The main concern regarding the River Mwrwg starts at Bridge Street continuing along Heol y Parc and through the Recreation Ground to the tidal flap near the railway line.

Over the last 25 years the County Council has maintained the river and in addition major infrastructure work has taken place with a new bridge at Bridge Street and work near the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

The Surveyor suggests that the Community Council should consider carrying out some clearance work itself including cutting back vegetation on this stretch of the river. The cost of doing such work would not be significant and could amount to some 3-4 days work annually.

The Community Council does carry out some maintenance work on the river near the Community Centre at present.

Councillor I M Williams has been monitoring the operation of the flap near the railway line and informed members that during the last month it had been blocked in the open position. He did contact the County Council and checked its operation tonight and it seems to be operating properly now. It is important that this flap works at all times and that the County Council takes the maintenance work as a matter of urgency.

Councillor G R Jones has been in discussion with a resident of Estuary Park who will contact the landowner of the site asking that maintenance of the river takes place. He has also arranged with others to carry out clearance work on the river bed later this week.

The Surveyor states that vegetation is growing out of the wall and he is concerned with the present safety aspect of the wall.

Councillor W D Griffiths believes that the County Council has obligations as well and has invested considerable sums near the Bridge Inn and the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

The Surveyor agrees that the County Council is responsible for the two culverts but is of the view that "good will" could be lost if too much pressure is put on the County Council with regard to maintenance of the River Mwrwg.

Councillor W D Griffiths asked whether approaches should be made to Peter Hughes Griffiths.

Councillor M I Slader proposed that the Community Council carry out some maintenance work itself.

Councillor N Lloyd suggests that the landowners on either side of the river be contacted and discuss these issues with them.

Councillor G R Jones will have further discussions with the Chair of the Estuary Park residents group and again stated that clearance work will be carried out later this week.

Councillor W D Griffiths asked that the Community Council concerns be raised with the County Executive Board.

After due discussion it was agreed to carry out some clearance work and also raise the issues raised above with the County Council.

Councillor G R Jones will discuss that above issues when he meets the County Council officer to deal with Heol y Parc matters.

Councillor W D Griffiths believes that there is a lack of clarity at national level in setting out who is responsible for various works regarding flood prevention issues.

Councillor G R Jones agreed to raise this with the local AM, Lee Waters, in the near future.

**ii) Possessory Title**

Still awaiting completion.

**iii) Wicksteed**

Work on the Bryn Park is to commence on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and will be completed by the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**iv) Bridge Inn – Sale of Land**

Solicitors for both parties are dealing with it.

**v) Recreation Ground**

The three trees have been cut down and removed.

**vi) Cemetery**

The contractor is about to start working at the entrance area to the cemetery.

## 6. County Councillor Report

County Councillor G R Jones reported:

- i) A seminar is to be held in the near future at the County Council regarding tree replacement policy following the need to cut down trees throughout the County (Ash Die Back work).
- ii) Councillor Jones asked as to what is the Community Council policy in dealing with the Coronavirus issues.

The Clerk replied that if any member of staff or person that has visited a Council property has been diagnosed positive then that location would have to be closed down and decontaminated. Any member of staff affected would have to stay away from the building for an appropriate period of time. Government policy would have to be followed.

Councillor W D Griffiths stated that national guide lines would have to be followed.

The Chair remarked that the Council needs to be vigilant and exercise awareness.

Councillor M I Slader asked that the Council be immediately informed if anyone tested positive has visited a Council property or had been in contact with Council Staff..

County Councillor G Thomas reported:

- i) There will be a full County Council meeting tomorrow and Council Financial Strategy will be considered.
- ii) A meeting is to be arranged with the Bryn School and members will be invited to attend. Discussion will take place regarding the provision of a medal for a School Council. The Community Council presented a School Council medal to Llangennech School four years ago.
- iii) **Social Care Meeting**

The issue of suicide will be discussed and consideration will take place on the fact that the suicide rates in Wales are higher than in England. A report will be prepared.

**iv) Red Cross**

Support is being provided at home for those that have been recently discharged from hospital.

**v) Transport to School**

The Welsh Government is to re-examine present arrangements. Councillors G Thomas and G R Jones attend a meeting last week which looked at this problem.

Councillor M I Slader asked if anyone from the village is affected by present arrangements.

**vi) Millennium Coastal Path – lack of toilets**

There are no public toilets available at present at the North Dock former visitor centre building since it became a restaurant/cafe.

**7. Absence of Councillor S Hughes from Council Meetings**

Under the six months consecutive absence from meetings rule Councillor S Hughes would automatically cease being a member of the Community Council if he did not attend the March meeting of the Council unless he has a Statutory excuse or the Council approves the reason for his absence from meetings before the end of the period.

Councillor G R Jones reported that Councillor S Hughes is away at University and his graduation takes place in a few months time. He was planning to attend the December 2019 meeting but failed for travel reasons and will attend the April meeting of the Council. He is looking for employment in the area after graduating.

After due discussion it was agreed that the Council approves his absence from Council meetings on the grounds that he is studying at University and therefore unable to attend Council meetings during term time.

**8. Ten Year Licence in favour of the Llangennech and Bryn Sports Association for land beyond Cricket Outfield**

A copy of the draft licence had previously been circulated to members. The licence is similar to that granted to the Cricket Club in 2015.

Discussion took place on the terms and conditions set out in the licence and the matter of whether a gate should be erected at the entrance to this area of land. The Chair suggested that this be included in the licence.

The Surveyor recommended that the possibility of a gate could be considered at a later date and that there is no need to do anything at present.

It was agreed to accept the pro forma ten year licence document as presented and to await a progress statement from the LBSA in due course.

## **9. Flowers on Roundabouts**

A copy of the Surveyors report had previously been copied for members perusal.

The report set out 3 different forms of landscaping.

### **i) Wildflower Mixture**

There would be a need for ground preparation and scarifying to enable the flower seed to germinate. This would provide a colourful display in spring and summer but during late autumn and winter the area would degenerate into a very rough area of dying/dead flowers. This option would have a recurring annual cost.

### **ii) Permanent Tree and Shrub Planting**

This option would be planting a variety of decorative trees and shrubs as a “one off” scheme. This option would require little ground maintenance and therefore no ongoing annual cost.

### **iii) Mixture of Flower, Tree and Shrub Planting**

This option would incur annual costs and is likely to be the most expensive scheme with the provision of plants and maintenance on an annual basis.

The Surveyor stated that traffic management measures would have to be provided by a specialist Traffic Management Company. All the work and future maintenance would have to be provided by an external source.

Councillor I M Williams has been in discussions with a landscape company and a quotation has been obtained to provide flowers on the two roundabouts, Penprys and Llwynifan. The costings are as follows:

### **Penprys Roundabout 452 sq. metres**

Provision of 3 beds with flowers and topsoil at a cost of £4150 per bed.

### **Llwynifan Roundabout 907 sq. metres**

Provision of 4 beds with flowers and topsoil at a cost of £4150 per bed.

### **Wildflowers**

Sowing of wildflowers costs £4.50 per sq. metre

There would be a design charge of £400 for each location which would be reimbursable if the work was allocated to the company.

The Surveyor summarised the position by stating that there would be a need for a tendering process and a bill of quantities drawn up. The Community Council would have to take full control of the project and County Council permission would have to be sought.

Councillor W D Griffiths suggested that the Surveyor draw up a plan for Council consideration.

Councillor M I Slader questioned whether the Council should proceed with such a scheme. She asked that the Council look at the Burry Port scheme and perhaps take that as a basis for a scheme in Llangennech.

Councillor L M Morgan asked if the Council had finances to proceed with the scheme.

The Clerk replied that the scheme has not been budgeted for. The estimates show for 2020/21 that there will be a surplus of income over expenditure of £11,363. This is dependant on the sale of the land to the landlord of the Bridge Inn which will bring in an income of £15,900. Even with the surplus of £11,363 the General Balance at £62,659 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 will be in line with a recommended balance of 3 months expenditure.

Councillor N Lloyd believed that if the Council has money to spare then the Maes Ty Gwyn Park would be a greater priority for the Council to invest money in.

Councillor W D Griffiths believed that the roundabouts need to be “spruced up” and asked what would be a reasonable sum to spend on them.

The Surveyor suggested that the Council approach the County Council to determine whether it could carry out work on the roundabouts on a rechargeable basis.

Councillor J C Lee put forward a suggestion for the Council to approach local businesses asking whether they could sponsor environmental improvements to the roundabouts.

Councillor G R Jones suggested that a Sub Committee be formed to look at various options and to report back.

Councillor W D Griffiths suggested that the Council write to the County Council in the first instance to discuss options.

After due discussion it was agreed to approach the County Council in the first instance.

## **10. Grants to Organisations**

After due discussion it was RESOLVED to make the following grant payments to local organisations:-

	<b>£</b>
Capel Salem	100
Capel Bryn Seion	100
Llangennech Parish Church	100
Capel Bethesda	100
Cymdeithas Llan ar Bryn	100
Clwb Hwyl y Llan	100
Merched y Wawr	100
Bryn WI	100
Troserch Woodland	200
Clwb Bowlio Mat Byr	100
WEA	100
Wales Air Ambulance	100
Llangennech AFC	200
Bryn Senior Citizens	50

## **11. Planning Applications**

It was RESOLVED not to object to the following applications:

S/40195 - Single storey rear extension at 13 Maenol Glasfryn

S/40233 - Proposed ground floor rear extension at 14 Llwynifan

S/40236 - Proposed detached garage at 8 Afon Road

**12. The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018**

This regulation came into force on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. This implements the EU Directive on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (Directive (EU) 2016/2102).

The purpose of the 2018 Regulations is to improve the accessibility of public sector websites/mobile apps so that they can be used by as many people as possible.

There will be an effect on how the Community Council operates its Web Site.

