

**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of Llangynin Community Council
Bryn Chapel Hall, Llangynin
Tuesday 13 May 2025**

Present :

Councillors Philip Morgan, Les Murphy, Caroline Jones, Rhydian Davies, George Bulford, Brickchand Ramruttun (via WhatsApp) and County Councillor Dorian Phillips.

In the Chair - Councillor Rhydian Davies

The meeting started **10 minutes late** due to electric storm delaying the clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence - none

2. To receive the Chairman's report for the 23-24 civic year

The Chairman provided a summary of the achievements of the last year. The council:

- Welcomed a new councillor;
- had new gates installed in place of stiles on a village route, making it more accessible;
- Repaired the bench by the bus stop;
- organised the attendance of GoSafe representative to the village to monitor speeds and the road markings. His report to the County Council ensured that the 20mph markings were put in place to allow for enforcement activity by GoSafe with nearly 200 offenders.
- Liaised with Ann Davies MP in relation to community concerns about speeding and dangerous driving in the village which resulted in a meeting with M Jacobs of Carmarthenshire County Council at which various further actions were agreed.
- Made various grants and donations to local community organisations and activities eg St Cynin's church, Y Cardi Bach.
- Is in negotiations to acquire the village park;
- Thanked the clerk for her work during the year.

The Chairman also looked forward with matters that were still to do:

- Hopefully completing acquisition of the park;
- Looking at investing in new equipment for the park;
- Keeping the County Council on board to further help reduce the speeding;
- Work with the Bryn hall to support introduction of ceiling/wall panels to improve the acoustics;
- Make sure that the speed indicator sign is properly repaired.

3. To elect a Chair for Council for the 2021/22 civic year.

Cllr Murphy proposed that Cllr Rhydian Davies be re-appointed Chair for a further year (civic year 2024/25) and was seconded by Cllr Jones. **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Rhydian Davies be elected as Chair for the year and he signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To elect a Vice Chair for the 2021/22 Civic Year.

Cllr Morgan proposed that Cllr Caroline Jones be re-appointed vice chair for a further year (civic year 2024/25) and was seconded by Cllr Murphy. **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Caroline Jones be elected as Vice Chair for the year.

5. To receive a report on the Council's financial position for the year ending 31 March 2022 and to approve the paperwork for the external audit.

The Clerk provided a year-end financial report to the Council comparing income, expenditure and bank balances for 31 March 2024 with 31 March 2025. **RESOLVED** that Council accept the report. The Clerk also provided Council with a completed copy of the Accounting Statements to be returned to the external auditor and went through the Annual Governance Statement with Council. She drew the members attention to the changed format of the Annual Governance Statement which is now based upon the Toolkit. **RESOLVED** that Council approve the Annual Return and the form be signed by the Clerk/RFO and the Chair of Council.

The members considered the Internal Audit report. The checks had been completed and the Internal Auditor had stated *"I have audited the accounts and found them correct; the balance sheet aligns with the bank statement. All receipts and payments have been accurately recorded in the minutes, and all purchase invoices have been appropriately filed. Payroll controls have also been adequately managed. There are no issues to raise as all procedures have been correctly adhered to."* **RESOLVED** that the Internal Audit Report for 2024/25 be accepted by Council.

6. To consider the standing orders.

Members noted that the council had adopted the new model standing orders in July 2023 (minute 8.1 of the minutes of July 2023). **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders be approved by the council.

7. To consider the Financial Regulations.

Members noted that the council had adopted the most up to date Financial Regulations last year. It was noted that there was an amendment to those Regulations at paragraphs 5.4, 5.7 and 5.10. **RESOLVED** that amendment was adopted.

8. To revise the Code of Conduct.

Members noted that the council had already adopted the Code of Conduct in place. **RESOLVED** that the Code of Conduct remained approved.

9. To appoint representatives on the various outside bodies

RESOLVED that members would engage outside bodies on an ad-hoc basis according to availability.

10. To confirm dates of the remaining meetings of Council for the 2025/26 civic year

Dates for the year are confirmed as follows:

8 July 25– 7pm

9 September 25– 7pm

11 November 25 – 7pm

13 January 26 – 7pm

10 March 26 – 7pm

12 May 26 – 7pm (annual meeting and normal meeting)

11. Any other matters appertaining to the Annual Meeting.

No other matters were raised.

Meeting terminated at 19.30

Minutes of the meeting of Llangynin Community Council held

**at the Bryn Chapel Hall
on
13 May 2025 19.30**

Present: Councillors Philip Morgan, Les Murphy, Caroline Jones, Rhydian Davies, George Bulford, Brickchand Ramruttun (via WhatsApp) and County Councillor Dorian Phillips.

In the Chair - Councillor Rhydian Davies

Three members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence – None

- 2. Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Jones declaring a personal interest in respect of all and any matters concerning the Bryn Chapel Hall (of which she is a trustee). Cllr Jones declaring a personal interest in item 5.1 as she is part of the local Eisteddfod Committee raising money for Eisteddfod Y Garreg Las 2026. No prejudicial interest in either matter.

3. Minutes of the meeting 11 March 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes of the meeting of the council held on 11 March 2025 be approved and signed as correct record. Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Bulford.

4. Existing business:

- 4.1. Llangynin Park** – members noted that the current position was that there was an outstanding minor point about the shipping container but mostly that the council was waiting to hear from the County Council in respect of further documentation concerning the sewage processing unit sitting within the park land. Fields In Trust had the papers, but that was on hold pending hearing back from the County Council which would, it was hoped, not be too long. An inspection of the play equipment by ROSPA was anticipated to take place in June in any event. There was a concern from the members that the sewage processing unit's presence on the land (and not where the plans said it was) might create more legal costs in the resolution process. This would need to be considered as more information became available via the County Council.

- 4.2. traffic damage, village signs, speeding and road safety. Reporting on attendance by Carmarthenshire County Council on 8 May 2025.** Members noted that it had been a generally productive meeting and appreciated the efforts of the MP, Ann Davies in making it happen. It was also appreciated that Cllr D Phillips had attended along with a representative of Mrs Davies' office. The key take away points were:

- Enforcement started in February with 2 enforcement sessions in March and a couple in April. The data from these sessions have shown a slight drop-off in speeds.
- In relation to the crossing by the park, Mr Jacobs will look into placing road markings here and he noted that tree overhang means the "Play Area" signs are not visible for approaching vehicles.
- Mr Jacobs noted that there should be a clear road marking prior to the crossing (St Clears side) which he had understood as done. He will get somebody out to address this once.
- Ads to the speed indicator sign (St Clears end) this had, he understood been already repaired three times but each time those repairs failed after a day or so. If the next attempt doesn't work, the sign will need to be replaced.
- There will be a further look in detail at the data from GoSafe with a review of the data secured by the tubes laid across the road by the County Council with consideration of the times and location of the GoSafe van for enforcement of the speed limit.
- Mr Jacobs had not been aware that the village signs had both been damaged and not

repaired/replaced. He will issue instructions in this respect with a new sign ordered for the north end of the village if it can't be located.

- As to the introduction of road furniture of the type seen in other villages in the County, M Jacobs confirmed that the Llangynin road was too narrow for traffic islands. He will look into possibility of permission for gates either end of the village – if there is space.
- Timescale for the completion of this work: 2-2.5 months.
- After these initial steps, the County Council will consider relaying the tubes they'll look to put the tubes down again to gather data.
- Concerns were expressed by members at the meeting over vehicles marked “Highway Maintenance”, private HGVs and courier vans travelling at speed through the village. Mr Jacobs suggested the Community Council go straight to the police with these concerns. Dorian will investigate best police contact.
- In relation to general consideration of effective measures to reduce speed, Mr Jacobs said that speed bumps and chicanes are expensive and incur a lengthy consultation and legal process. This makes them unviable.

The Chairman gave permission for a member of the public to raise matters of concern. He expressed concern at the high level of enforcement that had taken place in the village area since the 20mph speed limit came in – when there had been no enforcement at all whilst 30mph had been in place. Moreover, outside the village there were areas seeing accidents and collisions, but no police/GoSafe presence was ever seen.

His concerns were discussed generally. It was noted that the enforcement activity taking place now rather than in the past was because the Traffic Regulation order required to undertake enforcement had (according to Carmarthenshire County Council) been incorrect and therefore no action could be taken. It had been resolved when the new speed limit came in. However, the road markings had not been correctly painted when the new limit came in – and that had not been sorted out until February 2025.

In relation to speed and dangerous driving generally in the area, the members noted that as the speed limit outside the village area rapidly became the National Speed Limit, those driving fast were usually within the speed limit. It was noted that the community council had attempted to lower the speed limit from the village down to the New House/Blaenynoed junction to 40mph but this had not been accepted. Given that enforcement or other action was being prioritised where there was a history of RTAs, the necessity was to ensure that all accidents were reported to the police. County Cllr Phillips would take up the matter of the frequent incidents just after the junction to Blaenwaun with Highways to see what might be done.

The Chair gave permission for item 5.1 to be taken next given the attendance of a member of the public to talk to members on the subject matter.

5.1 Request for Grant/Financial Assistance in respect of Eisteddfod Y Garreg Las 2026 –It was explained that for the first time the National Eisteddfod would cover more than one authority- so west Carmarthenshire, south Ceredigion and also Pembrokeshire. There were 11 areas within that and Llangynin fell within the Whitland family of villages. The Eisteddfod Y Garreg Las 2026 was budgeted to cost £7M with substantial financial benefit (estimated c. £17M) to the region as a whole. The Eisteddfod would cover culture, music, science and language. The Whitland area had a target for fundraising of £400k with £4k allocated to the local Llangynin committee. Funds were sought from businesses, individuals and the community councils. In addition to donating to fund the event itself, there were opportunities to sponsor a prize. More information was available at the website: <https://eisteddfod.wales/festival/2026>
<https://eisteddfod.cymru/2026>

The members raised various questions about the event, its funding and the anticipated participation by people from this immediate area. The members expressed the community council's support for the event and the activities being undertaken by the local fund raising

community. The first event was taking place on the evening of 14 May and there would be more going forwards.

The members of the public left the meeting at this point.

The members discussed how funding might be provided – both this year and next, given the uncertainties over the costs of proceeding on the park transaction. It was **RESOLVED** that £300 would be donated as this fell within budgeted sums with a further review as part of the budgeting process in November for the next financial year.

Moving back to agenda order:

- 4.3. **Footpath exit by Eithinduo** – The County Council had reviewed the exit and considered that there was adequate visibility for users. However, the members stated that it was not visibility but the steep gradient which was also slippery. This was potentially dangerous as cars were on a bend at that point and were frequently going fast which meant they drifted to the left and near the footpath exit. Cllr Phillips agreed to take that back to the footpaths team.
 - 4.4. **Next steps for the Bryn Hall grant application proceeding in upcoming financial year** – this had not been progressed due to the members and clerk's other commitments at this time of year. It remained to be taken forwards.
 - 4.5. **Audit Wales** – it was noted by members that shortly after the last meeting where concerns had been raised at the lack of completed audits, those for years 22/23 and 23/24 had arrived and were all in order. The clerk noted however, that no invoices had yet been supplied for 3 years.
- 5. New Business**
- 5.1. **Request for Grant/Financial Assistance in respect of Eisteddfod Y Garreg Las 2026 – see above.**
 - 5.2. **Consideration of Risk Register** – the current Risk Register had been reviewed by members and was accepted to be the correct record currently albeit that it ought now to note that cloud back up had been added to give greater security for the council's papers and records. The risk register would require a review at the point where the park transaction proceeded. This matter should remain under review so that it can be brought back onto the agenda at the appropriate time.
- 6. County Councillor's Report**
- 6.1. Ysgol Bro Brynach, Llanboidy is seeking an additional governor.
 - 6.2. Councillors are receiving significant complaints from the public in relation to tractors being driven with overloaded tankers and with allegations of the drivers texting. This has been raised with the police – who have, it was reported, said that they have to catch a driver texting to do anything. In relation to alleged overloading, there are very few places that the police can undertake checks, being mostly down on the A40. However this is an ongoing issue of public concern.
 - 6.3. Potholes are reduced in the area. The County Council's use of a hotbox to undertake repairs appears to be successful.
 - 6.4. Cllr Phillips had noticed that the trees by PenY Bont are overhanging the road and he would ask the County Council to review/write to the property owner.
- 7. Clerk's Report and correspondence not otherwise on the agenda -**
- 7.1. Code of Conduct Training is being run by the County Council in July. The members had already noted that training on planning law would be very useful.
 - 7.2. A number of further requests had been made for grants or donations to be reviewed in due course.
 - 7.3. There is to be a fundraising event for St Cynins 27 June and an Arts Fest on 12 and 13 July.

8. Planning Matters – none

9. Finance and Payments (Contractual and invoiced).

- 9.1. Budget monitoring – the members reviewed the spreadsheets which confirmed year end position on last year's budget and also of new year start – starting position as per the Financial Report of £7154 (both accounts). Bank balances: current account £5059.26 as at 6 May 2025, taking into account receipt of first tranche of precept sum of £3533.34 in the new financial year and payment of clerk's April wages. End of year balance £1834.92. Instant access savings account £5319.81.
- 9.2. The members confirmed that the Clerk to continue to be paid on a monthly basis with confirmation of payments at meeting.
- 9.3. In respect of paragraph 9.4 of the March minutes, members noted that no invoice had been submitted by JCP Solicitors.
- 9.4. Confirmation of payments made:
 - Footway Lighting Charge referred to at the March minutes at 9.3 arrived after the meeting, requiring payment in 30 days. Paid in accordance with the Financial Regulations in the sum of £421.25 on 28 March 2025.
 - Confirmation of payment of clerk's wages monthly in March and April 2025.
- 9.5. Members noted the return of £30 donation made to Llangynin Easter Egg Hunt as the event did not proceed. Received back on 14 April 2025.
- 9.6. Payments RESOLVED as authorized by members:
 - One Voice Wales – membership 25-26 - £55
 - Fees of the internal auditor – in the sum of £67.50.
 - Hall hire for Community Council meeting May 2025 - £20.
 - The sum of £300 to be transferred to the Eisteddfod bank account (which will be "credited" to the local committee's target sum)
- 9.7. Members noting that ICO annual data protection fee of £47 (£52 less £5 deduction due to payment by direct debit) will be collected on or about 17 May 2025.

10. Date of next meeting – 8 July 2025.

Meeting closed 21.28