

**Minutes of the meeting of Llangynin Community Council held
at the Bryn Chapel Hall
on
9 January 2024 7pm**

Present: Councillors Phillip Morgan, Caroline Jones, Rhydian Davies, Les Murphy, County Councillor Dorian Phillips.

In the Chair - Councillor Phillip Morgan

Members of the public: Trustees of Bryn Hall.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - Cllr A Wells
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Jones in respect of all and any matters concerning the Bryn Chapel Hall, of which she is a trustee.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2023** - Formal approval of the minutes of 14 November 2023 to be taken forwards to the March meeting due to Cllr Wells having sent her apologies and there being insufficient overlap of attenders to formally propose and second (although none present had objections)
- 4. Existing business:**
 - 4.1. OpenReach pole in the middle of the pavement, signage for the park and for bend in road by New House Garage** – County Cllr Phillips confirmed that the County Council were not in favour of dropping the pavement. If it proceeded and there was an accident, the community council might face contribution/liability claims. The matter having been explored extensively, it was RESOLVED that it could not be solved in a cost proportionate way, the post having been in situ since the 1970s and before the pavement and the matter now be removed from the agenda going forwards. As to signage and lightings for the crossing and park, Cllr Phillips said that this would be addressed in the Spring as the signage for the 20mph changes were still dominating the department. There was discussion concerning the bend in the road at New House Garage including whether the road might be straightened– no resolution was made.
 - 4.2. Llangynin Park** – The clerk confirmed that she had been informed that the Entertainments Committee/Park Trustees intended to meet again on 16 January 2024. That was all that was known at this point.
- 5. New Business**
 - 5.1. Confirmation of appointment of Internal Auditor** – Rosemarie Davies had kindly agreed to act as Internal Auditor for this year. Her hourly rate will be very slightly increased. It was RESOLVED that Mrs Davies be appointed.

With the agreement of the Chairman, the matter of financial assistance to the Bryn Hall was dealt with next (5.4 of the agenda), to allow the trustees/committee members who had kindly attended to leave after. Cllr Jones withdrawing from the meeting having declared an interest at the outset.

The quotation provided by CEF Carmarthen for 4 radiators (Bluetooth control and heat sensors) together with 8 LED lights totals £2812.56 with VAT. Change to this heating and lighting should cut electricity usage significantly. The quotation did not include the wiring in – or the removal of the current coin meter. The additional cost of work by an electrician is to be included in the prospective grant to be provided. It was confirmed that an

electrician was attending on Wednesday morning at the Bryn Hall at 8am to look at the meter/necessary work and then provide a quote (an estimated sum was of necessity included in the budget figures at the meeting). It was RESOLVED that a grant would be made to cover the costs of the updated and more efficient heating and lighting. It was further RESOLVED that the community council would meet the costs of an electrician to install the heaters and LED lights and remove the coin meter. The grant would be made this financial year – the final figure to confirmed at the March meeting.

- 5.2. **Light at Lleifor** – Cllr Phillips proposed that a small solar powered light be located on the lamp post in the garden next door to Lleifor. This could be trialed to see how long it lit the entrance to Lleifor and Maes Y Coed. Cllr Jones withdrawing from the meeting, it was RESOLVED by members present that the light be purchased. Cllr Phillips proposed to purchase the light himself and seek reimbursement at the March meeting. This was agreed.
- 5.3. **Recent Heavy traffic damage to road and damage to village sign** – there was discussion on what actions might be taken, the extent of the damage and the potential reasons for damage. It was RESOLVED that letters be prepared to go to the County Council (Environment and Highways) and to NRW in respect of the concerns that have been widely expressed in the community, relating to damage of verges, the detrimental effect upon village and community life and the potential for injury to pets and people. Further, the community council would look to liaise with other affected communities. Clerk to draft letter/s for circulation and agreement.
- 5.4. **To consider requests for financial assistance** for the benefit of the community including providing grant/financial support to the Bryn Chapel for efficiency and heating improvements and request for financial support for a community coffee morning commencing 4 February 2024. The financial support for the Bryn having been addressed earlier in the meeting, the members agreed that the following donations be made:
 - 5.4.1. Y Cardi Bach £100
 - 5.4.2. Welsh Air Ambulance £100
 - 5.4.3. Young Farmers Cymru £100
 - 5.4.4. Urdd Gobaith Myrddin £100

In respect of the generous proposal by two residents of the village to offer a coffee morning in the Bryn chapel, it was reported by the Clerk that the first date for the event had been agreed as 3 February (commencing 10 am). The members RESOLVED that the a grant would be made to cover the cost of the hall hire. There being 3 potential events before the March meeting, it was anticipated that a grant would be paid to the Bryn Hall direct for 6 hours total (3 x 2 hours) so £60. Further, figures had been provided to the council for the cost of purchasing tea, coffee etc for the events and it was agreed that a grant would be made for the upfront costs of £40, with any out of pocket balance incurred to be reimbursed (upon production of receipts) at the March meeting. The members also agreed that the electricity costs incurred at the events would be met as part of the grant to be provided once the figures were known (estimated to be around £30 for three events this financial year).

- 5.5. **Budgeting for 24-25.** The members considered the likely spend to the end of the financial year and the draft budget that had been prepared. Figures were agreed and it was RESOLVED that the budget was set in the form of the figures attached hereto. Taking into account the level of reserves in place and that were appropriate going forwards the precept rate would be set at £9100, a reduction on last year.

6. County Councillor's Report

- 6.1. Cllr Phillips reported that the County Council has three months to fix a pothole if it was three inches or deeper.

7. Correspondence not otherwise on the agenda and clerk's update:

- 7.1. Digital Training for councillors. It was free and provided by One Voice Wales. Details circulated – various dates January to March.
- 7.2. GoSafe online session - details circulated – 8 February 7pm. A number of prospective volunteers have put themselves forwards for the scheme.
- 7.3. Number of electors now increased to 248. This year's figure per voter for S137 is £10.81.
- 7.4. Letter of support requested for upgrade to hall in Llanboidy. It was agreed by the members that the Clerk send an email supporting the proposed grant application.
- 7.5. Correspondence with County Council relating to stock proof gates in place of stiles on village footpaths (forestry walks). Cllr Phillips confirmed that he could arrange the delivery of stock proof gates. Members will contact the landowners to see if such gates could be installed to replace stiles for ease of accessibility.

8. Planning matters:

- 1.1. **PL/06936** - Conversion of existing portal framed building to 2 units of holiday accommodation together with the conversion of two existing barns and replacement of an existing agricultural building to accommodate a yoga studio, meditation hall and treatment rooms and associated parking provision. - Llain, Llangynin, Carmarthen. It was RESOLVED that the clerk write on behalf of the members expressing their reservations about the visibility at the entrances to the site and the potential for accidents. The members did not object to the plans otherwise.
- 1.2. **PL/06787** - Reserved Matters Application to Outline PL/02561 (Two detached dwellinghouses) - Land off Trem Y Cwm, Llangynin, Carmarthen, SA33 4JQ - no comments on this matter.

9. Finance and Payments (Contractual and invoiced).

- 9.1. Budget monitoring - review. Bank balances as at 2 January 2023 (to reflect clerk's December wages) £7,666.50 current account and £5144.43 savings account (bank statement). Interest to date this financial year £101.30. Credit of final tranche of precept on 22 December 2023. Noted by the members.
- 9.2. Formal completion of precept for 2024-2025 – The precept request in the sum of £9100 was completed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- 9.3. Confirmation of payment of clerk's wages monthly (and HMRC) at each month end November and December 2023.

9.4. Payment requests – the following payments were authorized:

- 9.4.1. Reimbursement of the clerk – 50% of Zoom subscription latest date for renewal is 10 January 2024 - £64.95. The clerk to pay, circulate invoice and be reimbursed the sum.
- 9.4.2. Carmarthenshire County Council – Replacement of Lanterns (annual charge) - £208.50
- 9.4.3. Mandatory payments – these will be set up in the bank for payment to each member (pro rata where appropriate).
- 9.4.4. Financial assistance payments as agreed and set out at item 5.2 above.

10. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 12 March 2024.

Meeting closed 21.00

Expenditure		
Employee Costs		
	Clerk	3835
	Expenses for clerk (Zoom 50% reimbursement)	60
Service Costs		
	Footway Lighting	530
	LED lights repayment	210
	Insurance	300
	Printing/postage/office materials	100
	Website	200
	Contractual Bank Charges	72
	Equipment	0
	Hall rental costs	120
Member costs		
	Training	150
	Mandatory payments	925
Services and Subscriptions		
	Internal Audit Fees	80
	External Audit Fees - 24-25 year	350
	One Voice Wales	55
	SLCC	70
	ICO	35
Grants and Donations		
	Wreath	25
	Other donations/grants	1130
Community Services		
	Street Furniture	0

240*15.75 pay increase grade and national plus 120 est

estimate increased to cover 6 councillors (should have 7)

donations providing services £400. Additionally coffee morning - £480 rental; consumables £250

	safety measures/review/purchase of equipment - Park	1000	
	Acquisition of Park - additional over and above that held in earmarked reserves for this project	1127	total estimate £3k
	Bryn chapel hall	750	Review of wish list - comfy chairs, projector/screen upgrade; accoustic panels
	Contingency - eg GoSafe support; visual enhancement of village	500	
Total Expenditure		11624	
Income			
	Bank Interest	100	
	VAT reclaimed	50	
Total Income		150	
Use of Reserves	carried forwards from 23-24 (£5873)		
	General Reserves	3500	
	Earmarked Reserves	2373	to cover audit fees un invoiced in current year - est £500 for detailed audit; contribution to the Park acquisition £1873.
Total Reserves		5873	
Budget Requirement		9101	