

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

Present: Councillors Caroline Jones, Rhydian Davies, Les Murphy, Alison Wells

In the Chair - Councillor Alison Wells

Member of the public.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** - Cllr Morgan and County Cllr Phillips
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Jones in respect of all and any matters concerning the Bryn Chapel Hall (of which she is a trustee) and in particular matters 4.2 and 4.4.1.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2023 and 9 January 2024** - Formal approval of the minutes of 14 November 2023 to be taken forwards to the May meeting due to Cllr Morgan having sent his apologies and there being insufficient overlap of attenders to formally propose and second. It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 January 2024 were approved and were signed as correct record.
Proposed by Cllr Wells and seconded by Cllr Murphy.
- 4. Existing business:**
 - 4.1. Llangynin Park** – It being recorded that an offer for the sale/transfer of the park from the trustees to the community council on 19 January 2024 (after the last meeting) which had been circulated to members upon receipt and further that terms appeared acceptable. The members considered various quotes of a very similar sum from local solicitors who might be instructed, all of whom appeared well qualified and appropriate. It was RESOLVED that the council would, via the clerk, approach JCP Solicitors in Carmarthen to seek to retain them. The Clerk and RFO being authorized to secure and sign on behalf of the community council a retainer letter (subject to her review and that she is satisfied that there are no unusual terms). The clerk advised that it was likely that any firm of solicitors would require a sum on account of costs and disbursements for the transaction (one of the firms approached indicating that their usual request was for £300). On that basis it was RESOLVED that a reasonable request for sums on account in relation to the transaction would be approved in the usual manner once the sum was known. Clerk to secure formal costs on account request from the appointed solicitor, circulate to members and then set up the same for payment in the bank.
 - 4.2. Light at Lleifor** – the clerk reported that Cllr Morgan had dropped a light down there for a trial. No further update at this time so matter carried forwards.
 - 4.3. To consider and agree final form of letter re traffic damage to road and damage to village sign** – an updated version had been circulated before the meeting incorporating the members comments on the first draft. Members had no further comments, other than express the view that one letter on its own was unlikely to change much and this had to be taken as part of a wider review of what might be done. It was RESOLVED that the letter be sent to the relevant person in the CCC Highways team, Go Safe and the Police and Crime Commissioner (as attached).
 - 4.4. Update on position re financial assistance for the benefit of the community:**
 - 4.4.1. grant/financial support to the Bryn Chapel for efficiency and heating improvements** – Cllr Jones withdrawing from the meeting. In line with the minute 5.4 of the meeting in January, it was RESOLVED that the sum of £2812.56 would be provided as a grant to the Bryn Chapel for efficient heaters and LED lights.

The quote from the electrician who had attended had been circulated upon being supplied to the community council. The estimate for wiring in the lights and heaters and removing the coin meter was £720 plus VAT, therefore £864. The total amount of the grant sought by the Bryn Chapel to improve heating, lighting and above all electricity usage was therefore £3,676.56. It was RESOLVED that this grant sum be transferred upon receipt of a letter application/formal confirmation of the contracts for purchase/installation being pursued.

- 4.4.2. **Financial support for a community coffee morning:** members who had attended the second coffee morning confirmed that it had been well attended and enjoyed by all there. The clerk had received figures for the spend for the first two, which had been created into a simple document. At the first coffee morning donations had been collected for the Bryn Hall in the sum of £55. At the second coffee morning there had been no expectation of a collection but one had arisen spontaneously with a view to collecting for new goal posts for the park. The sum of £30 had been raised so far. With the one off spend on Welsh Cakes for the March morning, the coffee morning was £45 down on the funds previously supplied. This is in addition to the hall rental included for payment at 9.4.3 below. It was RESOLVED that the sum of £45 would be provided as a further grant to the coffee morning, upon signature/initialing of the accounting summary prepared and the provision of receipts for sums spent.

The Chair, at this point, gave permission for a member of the public to speak about a local event that was planned. This is to be an Easter Egg painting competition for the village children – painting on hard boiled eggs; four age categories, a judge from outside the village. The prize money and all costs were covered by donations. The event will take place in the Bryn Hall on 30 March. It was agreed that flyers/posters for the event should be placed on the tables at the Bryn Hall Bingo evening on 27 March. It was anticipated that the children would pass on flyers – and get the word around. A poster can also go up in the Defib/phone box. The clerk will put the event on the news section of the website.

- 4.5. **Replacement of stiles with stock proof fencing** – there was no clear update on where things were on this and whether Blossom Hill had contacted the footpaths team. The clerk will email Jason Lawday for an update. It was noted that a light spring on the gates might be useful to ensure that they close properly.

5. New business:

- 5.1. **Consideration of potential contribution (if any) of a Community Speed Watch and value of submitting Go Safe Community Concern form.** Some concerns were expressed by members as to whether the community speed watch was the best use of time (given that repeat speeders get a letter only) – and whether it in fact might just create anger and threats from passing drivers. It was agreed by all that building up a body of evidence of speeding in the village was likely to be a necessary step, however. Cllr Davies referred to Operation SNAP which was also part of the GoSafe website. This was an online page which allowed the public to upload video and photographic evidence relating to driving offences. It was agreed that it would be possible to photograph a vehicle passing the speed monitoring signs, thereby recording the number plate and the speed. If this was reserved for vehicles going significantly over the speed limit, it might offer evidence to start more enforcement generally. The Operation SNAP web page to be noted in the minutes: <https://gosafesnap.wales>. Again it was noted that the sign at the southerly end of the village rarely seemed to work since being installed, though it appeared to have been repaired a few times. Clerk to check if sign failure has been reported/logged. It being noted that there was also a page for logging “Community Concern” <https://www.gosafe.org/report/community-concern/> and this could be used to provide a copy of the letter referred to at minute 4.3.

- 5.2. **Consideration of current S6 report and whether any update appropriate** – the members had nothing to add to the current version of the S6 report but agreed that it might be further reviewed in the light of the prospective purchase of the village park. RESOLVED that it remained approved in current form.

6. **County Councillor's update.** – n/a as apologies sent by County Cllr Phillips.

7. **Clerk's Report and Correspondence** (other than existing or new business) – the clerk reported that there had been correspondence relating to the pole in the middle of the pavement. This remained an issue as it precluded anyone in a wheelchair from attending events at the Bryn safely or visiting the post box. It was agreed that the clerk would respond indicating that there was a further avenue being explored currently (after the minuted decision in January 2024) which, if it progressed to a satisfactory conclusion, might improve access past the pole.

8. **Planning matters** - None

9. **Finance and payments** (Contractual and invoiced)

- 9.1. Budget monitoring – review of budget and end of financial year. Bank balances as at 1 March 2024 (to reflect clerk's February wages) £5848.40 current account and £5144.43 savings account (bank statement). The members reviewed the budget monitoring spreadsheet and the payments to be made. There would be the opportunity to review the final figures for this year as part of the cross over to the new financial year at the May meeting.
- 9.2. Confirmation of payment of clerk's wages monthly (and HMRC) at each month end January and February 2024. Noted by Members.
- 9.3. Confirmation of payment of Mandatory Payments in line with policy. Noted by Members.
- 9.4. The clerk reported that Urdd Gobaith donation not made as no response to emails/calls. She had phoned and emailed but no one had responded, thus the bank details were not known and the payment consequently not made.
- 9.5. Noting confirmation and thanks for donations; Y Cardi Bach, Wales Air Ambulance, St Clears YF.
- 9.6. Carmarthen County Council Lighting charge due but no invoice currently received. The members noting that the invoice will be sent on strict 30 day terms. It was RESOLVED that if it arrived more than 30 days before the meeting in May, it should be dealt with by the clerk in line with Financial Regulations.
- 9.7. Payment requests/authorization. The following payments were approved. Clerk to set up in the bank for authorization:
- 9.7.1. Reimbursement of the clerk – 50% of Zoom subscription paid by her in January. Although reimbursement payment authorized at January meeting it had not been set up by the clerk as she had given an incorrect figure. The figure on the notice to her had not included VAT and 50% of the total figure was £77.94. Members approved that this be paid.
- 9.7.2. Financial assistance payments as agreed at item 4.4 above -both such payments being subject to the conditions set out in 4.4.1 and 4.4.2.
- 9.7.3. Hall hire for coffee mornings in February and March 2024: £40. The clerk had been provided with an invoice by the Bryn hall for the hall hire for two coffee mornings.
- 9.7.4. W3 Designs – Annual hosting charge and domain name renewal £149 (invoice number INV-2544)

10. Date of next meeting – 14 May.
Meeting closed 20.25

Dear []

This letter is sent on behalf of Llangynin Community Council and the numerous members of the community who have raised the matters below with them. It concerns the nature and levels of traffic passing through the village of Llangynin and generally on the county road.

1. In the week before Christmas 2023 and on the weekend after Christmas, there was a very significant quantity of slurry transported through the village. There were several very large tractors moving slurry in rotation from a location in the valley (which may have been Llan-y-Bri) along the A40 and up to a location on the Blaenwaen road. The transportation was from early morning until the evening - and continuous.

2. The tractors and their slurry trailers are too wide for the county road. To stay within the white line on the roads, the vehicles went over the edges of the road. This created significant damage to the verges and mud on the roads (the damage to the edge of the roads and verges is still visible). You will recall that the week before Christmas 2023 was exceptionally wet and the roads were already running with water.

3. For those that do walk locally, it is frequently necessary to step off the road to avoid traffic. It is harder to do so where the tractors have damaged the verge. This is not just because of the mud created but because there is a drop off from the tarmac and a step up to the remaining bank. This is not only bad for walkers but a car could get into difficulty.

4. Carmarthenshire Highways Planning Liaison is already well aware that the width of the County Road at Llangynin is restricted with limited visibility at certain points (we attach a copy of its letter to Head of Planning dated 10 January 2024 in respect of PL/06936/PO51557 (H&T)/MD). In short, the county road was not designed for the heavy traffic that uses it - and this is certainly the case with the large tractors used to transport slurry and silage (outside the winter months). Properties that exit onto the county road often have difficult exits with poor visibility. With the traffic through the village getting heavier and continuing to speed, those exits are becoming increasingly dangerous/difficult to use.

5. During the same week as the continual slurry transportation ie the week before Christmas 2023, the village sign on the St Clears side of the village was knocked over, presumably by a large vehicle, given the amount of damage done.

6. The size of the tractors and the speed at which they appear to be travelling gives rise to some serious concerns about the safety of pedestrians in the village. The Department of Transport Guidance on the regulatory requirements for tractors confirms that most tractors may travel at speeds of up to 40km/hr (around 25mph). It seems likely that the tractors being used to transport slurry may be of a higher specification and therefore permitted to be driven at speeds up to 40mph. However, they also may well be over 2.55 metres wide and therefore their speeds are limited to 20mph on all roads not just where there is a 20mph limit. Given that the width measurement includes tyres and any trailer, these vehicles may need to notify the police of their journeys.

7. We have been informed by the County Councillor that the Highways Team have indicated that they are unable to do anything. Given that the slurry is being transported from large dairy facilities to land on the hills on the other side of Llangynin, it is going to be something that happens frequently. The village is in any event being used as a major thoroughfare for the transportation of silage and maize, both again utilising very large tractors and trailers. You will appreciate that it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt or substantial damage is incurred to property. There is also the matter of the significant noise levels and the smell (in relation to slurry) for those on the route.

8. This issue sits in a wider context of the county road through the village being treated as a main highway. From the northern end of the village there is a narrow straight road and whilst many are observing the new speed limits, many are not. The road then bends through the village and remains narrow and with poor visibility (bends in the road, hills and parked cars). Indeed, since the introduction of the 20mph limit, there has been a significant increase in accidents in and around the village. Many people have reported seeing vehicles overtaking in the 20mph area. In addition to the damage done to the village sign in the week before Christmas, since then there have been two further incidents of note in February - with the sign on the Northern exit of the village demolished by a vehicle (bits of the vehicle being left all over the lay-by) and a van involved in a serious incident trying to overtake a lorry in the 20mph zone and finding it did not have the space to do so. The community council will be looking to discuss the applicable speed limits on heavy agricultural vehicles and the recent spate of accidents with the police.

9. As to what the County Council can do, the community council has the following comments:

1. The county council has permitted extensive building in Llangynin over the last 40 or so years. The village has been transformed from a few rural holdings with a chapel to a ribbon development along

the road. This has taken place without, it seems, the regulatory consideration of safe roads that would apply to any new development. The pavements are not good, being narrow in places with gaps and, in one instance, having been built around a telephone pole so that pedestrians either have to shuffle round the rear of the pole or step into the road. Of importance is that a wheelchair user cannot use that footpath.

2. The County Council agreed to put in a crossing point. This has been done - but without any signage or paint on the road. The crossing is therefore not very visible (particularly to speeding vehicles coming round the bend or up the hill) and any child gains no additional safety by using the crossing.

3. the speed indicator signs are either not working or working slowly.

4. there is nothing physical (such as traffic islands/buildouts) to slow vehicles or dissuade them from overtaking/speeding.

5. The community council is not averse to funding improvements - or match funding improvements but is reliant on the County Council for skilled input on what is workable and will improve safety. The council would welcome some acknowledgement that the road through Llangynin is an issue and that the county council will engage to work with the community to design something that creates a safer environment for all, including the children of the village, who are using the park and the pavements.

We are genuinely concerned about the noise, the smell and the danger associated with high levels of slurry transportation in addition to the ongoing concerns about the road being used as a main transportation route for lorry and other commercial transport. Given that Llangynin has been permitted to develop into a village - with children playing and using the park, it is necessary to review the facilities in the village to ensure that they are fit for purpose. It cannot be left until someone is seriously hurt for this to be treated with seriousness.

The community council looks forward to hearing from you.

etc

Coffee Morning expenditure:

February 2024

Tea Coffee Milk Biscuits	£32.15
Electricity	<u>£10.00</u>
Total	£42.00
Less - Grant funding from Community council	<u>£40.00</u>
Shortfall to date	£02.00

NB - £55 collected in donations for the Bryn

March 2024

Tea Coffee Biscuits from first coffee morning

Welsh Cakes	£26.00
Electricity	£15.00
Milk	<u>£02.00</u>
Total	£43.00
Shortfall to date	£45.00

NB- £30 collected in donations for goal posts for the park