

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

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

In the Chair – Cllr Rhydian Davies

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Councillors Wells and Bulford
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 10 September 2024** - It was agreed that the draft September minutes had omitted the resolution that Cllr Jones be added to the bank account. With those words being added into the draft, it was **RESOLVED** that the words minutes of meeting of the council held on 10 September 2024 be approved and signed as the correct record. Proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Morgan.

The Chair and Members agreed that item 6 on the agenda would be taken after items 4.1 and 4.2 as County Cllr Phillips had to leave by around 7.30pm.

4. **Existing business:**

- 4.1. **Llangynin Park** – the clerk reported that, as at the date of the meeting, JCP had heard nothing from Red Kite further on the matter of agreeing the scope of undertaking in respect of the sellers' costs. Members shared concern that the absence of progress might impact the budget process for the next financial year.
- 4.2. **Letter re traffic damage to road and to village signs along with speeding issues** – the members discussed the current position including agreeing a date for the GoSafe representative to meet. The date of 28 November was agreeable to most. Those unable to attend then would pass on any specific points to ensure that they were made. County Cllr Phillips said that he had managed to meet last week with M Jacobs who had said that a cable would be laid to record road speeds and that the signage for the park should have been put up at the same time as the crossing was created. He said it would now be done. The members noted that this was part of what had been promised a couple of years ago (and the cable had been put down then) and was not a response to the terms of the letter sent. Anne Davies MP had responded to the community council email positively and had raised questions to secure some additional details. She had said she would be liaising with Cllr Phillips. GoSafe representative, John Williams, had contacted the clerk and said that no enforcement action could be taken due to the absence of correct road markings (roundels stating 20mph). He had reported this to GoSafe. He intended to make a full report after meeting in the village with members at the time arranged. The members agreed that a copy of the report would be requested and then further follow up correspondence could be put together to relevant parties at the County Council and to the MP.

6 – **County Councillors Report**

In addition to the contribution made by Cllr Phillips to the discussion at 4.1 and 4.2 above, he reported that there was movement in relation to the provision of fibre broadband in outlying areas. There was to be a new grant and Open Reach would be carrying out the work. As to timing, it was to be assumed that it would be a year at least before the connections would be undertaken.

Cllr Phillips leaving – members thanking him for his contribution.

- 4.3. **Replacement of stiles with stock proof gates** – The exercise was now complete and the matter can be removed from the agenda.
- 4.4. **Repairs the bench by bus stop** – Cllr Murphy has the wood and other parts needed to undertake the repairs. The members expressed their thanks to DP Builders for the generous provision of the materials needed.
- 4.5. **Annual Review of Policy in relation to Mandatory Payments** – the clerk had drafted in a limited number of proposed amendments to address optional payments available and mandatory payments for “Cost of Care” or “Personal Assistance”, if appropriate. The members reviewed those amendments and it was **RESOLVED** that they be adopted as part of the updated policy. The clerk noted that the current consultation on the draft IRPW report for 2024-2025 ended 30 November 2024. It was agreed that if the outcome changed the recommended figures then this policy would be reviewed in the light of that outcome or otherwise in 12 months time.
- 4.6. **Confirmation of insurance arrangements** – In line with the minutes of September 2024, the clerk had contacted Gallagher and Clear Councils (formerly known as BHIB). The responses had been circulated to members and the members wished it recorded in the minutes that,, as anticipated the products on offer from those brokers were more expensive (primarily due to being sufficient for a higher level of cover). Given that renewal was due on 31 October (before this meeting) the members had reviewed the options on or around 14 October and agreed to renew with Zurich for a further year with the premium of £264. That sum had been paid by bank transfer on 28 October 2024.
- 4.7. **Consideration of the current condition of the footpaths** – Cllr Phillips had personally cleared the path leading to the forestry. No member had recently been down the path 20/8B/1 which had been very overgrown earlier this year. A working party will be put together, if required, to clear that path.
5. **New Business**
 - 5.1. **Microsoft 365 purchase and email addresses** – the clerk confirmed that she had taken up the offer of a “Digital Health Check” on offer from One Voice Wales. It had been useful. The report confirmed that for a council of this size, what was in place was compliant. There were a few recommendations – including purchase of Microsoft 365 licence for the council. One licence would be sufficient and with that would come Teams which would negate the need to renew Zoom in January. The cost with VAT was £71.56. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk proceed to secure the licence and put the payment into the bank for approval. There was discussion amongst members relating to the matter of the domain name. The report had suggested that a llwy.cymru or gov.wales might give greater credibility to some councils. The cost was likely to be in the region of £150 for the domain name rather than the £25 currently paid. Members were on balance in favour of not spending the additional sum, given that the website was not yet seeing high levels of traffic. Members were in favour of securing separate email addresses for council work to be in line with best practice (as had been previously discussed) and also protecting individual members. This would be taken forwards.
 - 5.2. **Consideration by members of action plan for financial year 2025-2026 and draft budget.** – the members reviewed the draft budget. The clerk noted that it was currently very hard to identify where the likely figure would end up, given the uncertainty around the status of the park transfer. The members discussed also the

potential of installing acoustic panel in the Bryn hall – the cost of which is as yet unknown. The clerk noted that there had been unexpected expenditure on street light maintenance this year but so far little of the anticipated spend on the park. Members agreed that these unknowns would require investigation and decision making before agreeing the final budget figure at the January meeting. Taking into account the likely reserves at year end, this would allow setting of the precept request.

Cllr Davies having to leave at 8pm due to work commitments.

- 5.3. **Consideration of New Model Financial Regulations with a view to adoption** – in view of the time spent discussing key issues at the meeting so far and the need for the members to make decisions on certain paragraphs in these wholly revised regulations, it was **RESOLVED** that this be carried forward to the January meeting.
- 5.4. **Renewal of clerk's membership of SLCC** – it was **RESOLVED** that her membership renewal be supported by the council and that the payment of £105 for the fee be paid.

6. – dealt with above

7. **Clerk's Report and correspondence not otherwise on the agenda** – the clerk said that whilst requests for donations were usually dealt with in January, she had received a request from Carmarthenshire County Council for a donation to the Toy box Appeal for this year. The appeal is to provide Christmas gifts for nominated children who would otherwise receive nothing or very little (letter providing details attached to the minutes). As it was for Christmas the clerk raised it at this meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that £100 would be donated and that this would be added to the list of payments.

8. Planning Matters – No planning matters.

9. Finance and Payments (Contractual and invoiced).

- 9.1. Budget monitoring – the members reviewed the current financial position in relation to budget as set out on the spreadsheet provided (attached). Current Bank balances noted for current account £2923.13 as at 6 November 2024. Instant access savings account £5251.36.
- 9.2. It was noted that no invoice had been received from the county council in respect of the cost of repairs to lighting pole numbered 725-04. Further noted that it may be the intention of the county council to invoice at the same time as the annual charge is rendered. Members expressed the hope that the invoices are sent out promptly this year so that they can be paid within this financial year otherwise it complicates the audit process.
- 9.3. Remembrance Sunday wreath – the cost had been approved at the last meeting but due to internal issues at the Royal British Legion, the local branch had asked to receive a cheque rather than bank payment. This was being organized with current signatories.
- 9.4. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 24/25 – The members **RESOLVED** to implement the increase in hourly rate which is to be back dated from 1 April 2024. The back pay to be added to the clerk's wages in November with the new rate applied as well.
- 9.5. Confirmation of payments made:
 - clerk's wages monthly in September and October 2024.
 - Insurance Premium payment as per decision at paragraph 6.2

- Donation made for pumpkin carving competition in the sum of £30 - bank transfer with receipt given.

9.6. Payments authorized:

- Hall hire for Community Council meeting November- £20.
- SLCC annual payment in the sum of £105.00 as per item 5.4 above.
- Purchase of Microsoft basic subscription at £4.90 per month plus VAT (£5.88) as per item 5.1 above.
- Donation of £100 to the Carmarthenshire Christmas Toy Appeal

10. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 14 January 2025

Meeting closed 20.36

Dear Councillors,

Christmas Toy Appeal

I'm writing to respectfully ask if you can support the Carmarthenshire County Council Christmas Toy Box Appeal. Founded in 2011, the appeal is run by staff from the Department of Education providing Christmas gifts for families in need. Many can't afford to buy gifts or toys for their children and the appeal has ensured that local children, who might otherwise receive nothing or very little, are given a gift at Christmas.

Last year we provided 1,550 children with over 9,300 gifts. Nominations are received via schools, social workers, youth workers and family centres. A database of nominations is kept to ensure that there are no duplications. All the gifts and toys are either donated by the residents of Carmarthenshire or purchased in Carmarthenshire stores using financial contributions received.

The past few years have seen the number of nominations sadly increasing. Coupled with the cost of toys and gifts increasing and donations decreasing, the project is becoming more and more challenging.

I would be very grateful if as a council you could discuss supporting the appeal through a financial contribution. If you require any additional information or would like someone to attend a council meeting to speak with councillors, please contact Nia Thomas on 07814 716380 or by email NThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

You can donate on-line through the County Council website (link below). If you have a cash or cheque donation, please call 01267 246504.

https://myaccount.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/en/service/Donate_to_the_Toybox_appeal



Cynghorydd | Councillor

Linda Evans

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