

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

Present: Councillors Philip Morgan, Alison Wells, Les Murphy, Caroline Jones, Rhydian Davies, George Bulford.

In the Chair - Councillor Rhydian Davies

1. **Apologies for Absence** – County Councillor Dorian Phillips (due to ill-health)
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 meetings of 14 May 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes of the Annual and Normal meetings of the council held on 14 May 2024 be approved and signed as the correct record.

4. **Existing business:**

- 4.1. **Llangynin Park** – the clerk provided an update to the members. JCP Solicitors had been instructed by the community council and the costs on account provided. JCP were waiting to hear from the solicitors instructed by the trustees of the park.
- 4.2. **Letter re traffic damage to road and to village signs** – the clerk reported that no response had been received from the County council. The members discussed possible next steps. The members considered the merits or otherwise of “gates” at either end of the village, paintwork on the road, chicanes, all of which require the permission and input of the County Council. There was also discussion about steps taken in other counties such as chicanes etc. The members wished it minuted their frustration at the lack of any response, given the serious concern that was expressed and the ongoing speeding through the village. It was **RESOLVED** that a follow up letter would be sent (drafted by the clerk for agreement by the members and signature by the Chair) with a view to securing some response and the matter would be raised further with County Cllr Phillips.
- 4.3. **Update on position re financial assistance for the benefit of the community in respect of the Bryn Hall.** The clerk had been informed shortly before the meeting that an invoice for the radiators and LED lights had been sent by DP to the Hall. On the basis that it would arrive with the Bryn trustees shortly, it was agreed that it was better that the matter of provision of the long agreed grant be dealt with at this meeting rather than wait until September. It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of the grant funding already identified be added to the schedule of payments to be paid once the Bryn supplied a copy of the invoice they had received (to ensure that all sums tied up).
- 4.4. **Replacement of stiles with stock proof gates** – the gates had been delivered. The members discussed whether to install or to ask the county council team to do the work, which they said they could do around October. It was **RESOLVED** that the county council be asked to do the work, the clerk to email and ask for a date and any potential charge.
- 4.5. **Repairs the bench by bus stop:** the members considered a couple of suppliers of the recycled plastic “wood” which could be purchased for a long lasting repair to the bench. It appeared that the cost would be approximately £50. Cllr Murphy and Cllr Phillips would source any bolts required (the community council to re-imburse at the next meeting) and remove the current wooden slats for health and safety reasons.

The clerk will endeavour to purchase online with delivery. On the basis that the total sum for the replacement slats was in the region of £50, the payment would be added to the schedule to be paid before the next meeting. The precise figure for the purchase cost would be confirmed at the September meeting.

- 4.6. **Request by member of the public for a dog poo bin** – the clerk had contacted the county council in relation to the request. A response had been received. It was agreed that its terms should be included in the minutes for clarity:

“Following 'Members Seminar – Budget Consultation' that was held last year. There is now an embargo in place of adding additional bins to our network. We are currently finalising our Cleansing Review, and our litter bin policy is part of the review. We have been tasked in identifying 20% of our current bin stock that needs to be removed through a newly developed Litter Bin Matrix. This will also be used in identifying the rationale for additional bins. All request for additional bins are being logged for consideration, and we will be following the Litter Bin Matrix methodology for these requests moving forward..... We will look into our depot stores and see if we have any remaining stock of no dog fouling/pick up your dog waste signs/stickers and let you know.”

Members noted that currently there was quite a lot of dog faeces that were not being picked up, in the park (although no dogs should be in the park) and on the pavements. Additional signage to be further considered but it was hoped that whoever was not picking up dog waste would start doing so – as the current situation was not acceptable.

5. New Business

- 5.1. **Review of Grant Awarding Policy** – it was agreed by the members that the current policy no longer reflected the approach of the councillors who wished to be proactive and flexible. The members agreed that they were open to grant applications at any time of the year – given the nature of the events that were happening and that the more notice they had of ideas for which grants might be sought the better, given that the community council was a small one. A proper procedure was obviously required but the current policy needed update. The clerk will draft a proposed update to be circulated before the next meeting to allow further consideration with a revised version on the agenda in September.
- 5.2. **Grant application by St Cynin's church** for financial assistance for funding flyers for arts festival. The members noted the significant work done by the Church Warden in putting together the programme of events for the Arts Festival. The application for grant funding to cover the cost of flyers was agreed by all and the sum applied for was noted as being on the list for authorization at 9.3 of the agenda.

6. The County Councillor's Report – n/a

7. Clerk's Report and correspondence not otherwise on the agenda -

- 7.1. Good Councillor Guide 2024: new version out which is filled with practical guidance on roles and responsibilities. The clerk will circulate to members.
- 7.2. It would be feasible to have free, backed up email addresses for councillors. This would offer better protection for councillors in relation to GDPR. Members were content that this be taken forwards.
- 7.3. There is guidance available on Councillor Allowances. Any tax paid in previous years for the mandatory payment can be reclaimed.
- 7.4. Clerk had circulated a letter from Ken Skates on 5 June 2024 in relation to providing considered commentary on local application of 20mph rule. CCC want any responses by 31 July.

7.5. Code of Conduct Training – undertaken by the clerk and one councillor as a live session. The materials and access to the recording is available. Guidance on the issue of declaring personal/prejudicial interests particularly useful.

7.6. EED Forward Planning - The Revised Local Development Plan has been submitted by CCC to WG and Planning and Environment

8. Planning Matters – it was noted that no member had wished to comment on PL/07855 and the deadline had passed.

9. Finance and Payments (Contractual and invoiced).

9.1. **Budget monitoring** – the members considered the budget monitoring spreadsheet prepared. The current bank balances were noted. Current account £3236.47 as at 1 July 2024 (noting receipt of VAT recovery of £54.75 and taken to this date to include clerk's wages for the month of June which went out on 1 July). Instant access savings account £5215.21 (including receipt of interest 30 June 2024 of £35.51). Members noted that it may be necessary to transfer sums out of the instant access account in the near future but this would be kept under review.

9.2. Confirmation of payments made referencing the last minutes and specific sums:

- Costs on account to JCP solicitors of £500.
- Confirmation of payment of clerk's wages monthly (and HMRC) in May and June 2024.
- ICO direct debit payment of £35 collected.

9.3. Payments for authorisation:

- Hall hire for Community Council meeting May 2024 - £10 (due to it being clear that the meeting would be finished in 1 hour).
- Grant funding to St Cynin's Arts Festival - £28.61
- Sums associated with decision made at item 4.5 being around £50 or thereabouts with the final figure to be confirmed at the September meeting.
- Upon receipt of a copy of the invoice from DP to Bryn Chapel Hall, the payment of the long approved grant funding for the radiators and LED lights in the sum of £2812.56

10. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10 September 2024

Meeting closed 20:00