

**Minutes of the meeting of Llangynin Community Council held
at the Bryn Chapel Hall
on
14 January 2025 7pm**

Present: Councillors Philip Morgan, Les Murphy, Caroline Jones. Rhydian Davies, George Bulford, Brickchand Ramruttun (by WhatsApp then by phone, due to failure of internet connection). County Councillor Dorian Phillips

In the Chair – Cllr Rhydian Davies

1. **Apologies for Absence and record of resignation** – no apologies but formal record of the resignation of Alison Wells on 13 December 2024. It was noted that whilst Alison had resigned as councillor she had said that she would assist where she could in community matters that the council organized. This offer was much appreciated by members.
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 12 November 2024** - it was **RESOLVED** that minutes of meeting of the council held on 12 November 2024 be approved and signed as the correct record. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Morgan.

The Chair and Members agreed that item 6 on the agenda would be taken after item 4.5 as County Cllr Phillips had to leave.

4. Existing business:

- 4.1. **Llangynin Park** – the clerk reported that JCP solicitors had received the sellers' pack from Red Kite and were organizing searches as required. It was to be hoped that searches would be completed in a few weeks. It remained the case that the community council would just have to make its best assessment of what funds would be required for the upcoming financial year. Cllr Bulford indicated that he was content to continue mowing the grass as a volunteer with reimbursement of the fuel costs. It was agreed that this would be something to consider within the context of the budget discussion.
- 4.2. **Letter re traffic damage to road and to village signs along with speeding issues** – as all members were aware, GoSafe had attended a meeting with a number of councillors including the County Councillor and a representative from the office of the MP. This had highlighted that no enforcement work could be undertaken until the County Council had corrected defects in the 20mph road markings. GoSafe, the County Councillor and the MP had followed this up with correspondence to the County Council. It was further to be recorded that earlier this month the markings on the roads had been corrected at either end of the village. It was noted that the speed indicator sign had disappeared from the south end of the village – and it was hoped that this was for the purposes of repair. There had been no communication of any sort from the County Council to the community council on any basis. Following the correction of the road markings, GoSafe had attended to undertake covert recording of speeds through the village. This had been undertaken on Saturday 11 January between 7.54 am and 8.24 am. GoSafe had reported that of the 39 vehicles passing during that time 100% exceeded the 20mph speed limit, with the fastest speed recorded being 47 mph. Paperwork was being completed to facilitate overt enforcement action as soon as feasible. Whilst it will not stop enforcement action being taken, GoSafe requested that the tree branches which obscure part of the 20mph sign at the south side of the village

be cut back sufficiently, if at all possible. Members agreed to try to get this done in good time. Thanks were provided to the County Councillor for continuing to pursue this matter on behalf of the community. It was agreed that the MP would be updated on the current position and thanked for her support and input. It was noted that there were many villages in the county where “gates” had been installed at either end, together with paint on the roads and even marked traffic islands – to slow down traffic. The members discussed that there should be objective criteria in place to determine which communities received these improvements. It was agreed that this enquiry would be pursued in correspondence.

- 4.3. **Repairs to bench by bus stop** – Cllr Murphy indicated that he was ready to complete the repairs but had been questioned about using plastic which would have entailed further work and cost. Members agreed that the wooden repairs should proceed as planned.
- 4.4. **Consideration of the current condition of the footpaths** – all footpaths seemed clear. Cllr Murphy said that the footpath which ran above Eithindun (20/11/1) was clear but where it ended at the road, the bank down to the road had become worn and slippery. It was dangerous, given the lack of visibility for traffic coming up the hill. Some sort of rail would be beneficial to users but not one which might get hit by traffic (it being noted that there were tyre tracks showing a number of vehicles went off the side of the tarmac on that bend). County Cllr Phillips said that he was meeting with the footpaths ranger the next day and would bring the matter up to understand how this might be best pursued.
- 4.5. **Microsoft 365 purchase and email addresses** – the clerk reported that it had been necessary to find an alternative means of purchasing the single licence – as Microsoft require a card payment and it is not cost effective for the community council to acquire a Unity charge card (Unity do not provide a debit card). The licence was being provided by the council’s web hosting company – and would be invoiced at no mark up in the sum of £70.56. It was unclear if it would be added to the annual invoice or would come separately. W3 Designs had agreed to provide the licence the day before the meeting. That W3 Designs had agreed to this is of real benefit as sorting out the issue was disproportionately time consuming. Members agreed that if the invoice was sent separately in the next weeks, the clerk had authority to set up the payment at the bank for payment and that this would then be confirmed at the March meeting. The clerk noted that she had asked for 6 email addresses for the councillors but had not received a response from W3 Designs and would follow up.

6 – County Councillors Report

In addition to the contribution made by Cllr Phillips to the discussion at 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 above, he reported that there had been a number of instances of failure to collect refuse over the Christmas period with intermittent collections and routes missed. This was due to an industrial dispute between the County Council and staff which was not, as yet resolved. He also added that Llanboidy Senior Citizens Group would be running lunches to which seniors from other local communities were invited. The lunches were for 30 at a time – dates could be obtained from the Llanboidy website.

Cllr Phillips leaving – members thanking him for his support and contribution.

- 4.6. **Consideration by members of action plan for financial year 2025-2026 and draft budget** – Members scrutinized the draft budget prepared. There was discussion on the impact of the unknown potential date for completion of the transfer of the Park. There was also discussion on the known acute need for acoustic panels to be introduced into the Bryn Chapel Hall to reduce the reverberation levels. Broad estimates have been obtained on the potential cost of this significant improvement. It was agreed that the details needed to be discussed with the Bryn Chapel hall but a

donation to the process was timely. The matter of the cost of fuel for mowing the park was felt to be incorporated into the figures. The members agreed the budget in the form annexed. Whilst there were two months to go before the year end with some uncertainty on what might be charged before year end by outside parties, the members could see from the current figures and the anticipated spend the impact upon reserves. Taking into account anticipated reserves and the projects budgeted for the upcoming year the precept was set at the rate of £10,600 – see point 9.2 below.

- 4.7. **Consideration of New Model Financial Regulations with a view to adoption** – brought forward from November, the members considered the new model regulations and provided views on the figures and options in the square brackets. The model as amended and as will be posted on the website was formally adopted. In line with the adoption of the new model, Cllr Jones kindly agreed to fulfil the role set out at para 2.6 of the model for this financial year.

5. New Business

- 5.1. **Confirmation of appointment of Internal Auditor** – Rosemarie Phillips had kindly agreed to undertake a further year of providing internal auditor services. Her rate being the same as last year. It was RESOLVED that she be formally appointed.
- 5.2. **To consider requests for donations for the benefit of the community** – various requests for donations were considered. The members noted that in November they had made a donation to the local Toy Box appeal and wished to keep any further donations local. As such, it was concluded that this year there would be a donation of £100 to Air Ambulance Wales only.

6. County Councillors report – already dealt with above.

7. **Clerk's Report and correspondence not otherwise on the agenda** – the clerk referred to two items of correspondence. The first was from the Ramblers Association working in association with Carmarthenshire's Rights of Way team. There was funding for training for volunteers to survey and monitor local paths. The clerk will circulate to members. A copy is available for any interested party via the clerk. The second was an email from One Voice Wales requesting that members complete a survey which is targeted at getting more involvement by community councils in the Area Committee. Clerk will circulate to members.

8. Planning Matters – No planning matters.

9. Finance and Payments (Contractual and invoiced).

- 9.1. Budget monitoring – the members had reviewed the current financial position in relation to establishing the budget for next year and considering the level of reserves retained and required – see item 4.6 above. The members noted the current bank balancers Current Bank balances to be noted and recorded: Current account £4940.66 as at 2 January 2025 (date to reflect clerk's wages payment for December 2024). Instant access savings account £5286.53. Last tranche of precept received on 20 December 2024.

- 9.2. Formal completion of the precept request in the sum of £10,600.

- 9.3. Confirmation of payments made:

- clerk's wages monthly in November and December 2024.

- 9.4. Payments authorized:

- Hall hire for Community Council meeting January £20.

- Carmarthenshire County Council – Replacement of lanterns annual payment £208.50
- Mandatory payments to councillors during the current financial year in accordance with Policy in place.
- Donation to AAW in the sum of £100
- Payment to W3 Designs for Microsoft 365 licence upon presentation of invoice (anticipated as £70.56)

10. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 11 March 2025

Meeting closed 20.40

Expenditure	Draft - for 25-26		
Employee Costs			
	Clerk	4236	current rate £16.65 - assumed pay rise back dated to 1 April 2025 plus 1 increment - estimated as around £1 per hour overall for year
	Expenses for clerk		not anticipating expenses as such
Service Costs			
	Footway Lighting	500	
	LED lights repayment	210	fixed sum
	Insurance	300	estimate includes increase if park purchase proceeds part way through year.
	Printing/postage/office materials	100	to include reimbursement of member costs as per policy
	Website - domain name and hosting	150	domain name £25 with annual hosting of £99
	Contractual Bank Charges	72	now monthly
	Equipment including online	71	Microsoft 365 subscription - might be less if annual payment.
	Hall rental costs	120	
Member costs			
	Training	150	
	Mandatory payments	1092	full amount is 1092 - £156 per member
Services and Subcriptions			
	Internal Audit Fees	80	
	External Audit Fees - 25-26 year	350	noting that no charge and no audited accounts have been received for last 2 years but expected before year end.
	One Voice Wales	60	
	SLCC	115	assume increase of £10 on 24-25
	ICO	35	

Grants and Donations			
	Wreath	25	
	Other donations/grants	650	donations providing services £400. Additionally coffee morning - £100 rental; consumables £60: Easter event and Pumpkin event - £60 - Arts Fest £30
Community Services			
	Street Furniture	0	
	safety measures/review/purchase of equipment - Park	1000	not spent this year - as matter did not proceed - however £850 unexpected for lighting maintenance so funds spent
	Acquisition of Park - to completion	2300	estimate in last budget £3.0k. JCP subsequent written estimate £1250-£1750 plus VAT (£250 to £350) and disbursements. £1000 for other side's costs (including VAT)- if we assume top end of estimate to completion - £3800 with VAT of which £1500 paid this year
	Bryn chapel hall	1000	
	Contingency - eg GoSafe support; visual enhancement of village	500	
Total Expenditure		13116	
Income			
	Bank Interest	150	
	VAT reclaimed	75	Will be 400 if the park transaction proceeds in this financial year - but otherwise future reclaim

Total Income		225
Use of Reserves	carried forwards from 24-25 - £5300	
	General Reserves	3000
	Earmarked Reserves - unspent sums on Park transaction which were earmarked for this purpose plus unspent on safety checks etc.	2300
Total Reserves		5300
Budget Requirement		10591

assumes that Audit Wales will invoice for 2 years o/s

reserves of £500 were retained for Audit Wales - but still not invoiced plus further year not invoiced - therefore assume another £250