

27th January, 2021

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 27th January, 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors	R. A. Davies	Mrs S.E. Thomas	P.H. Roberts
	D. Nicholas	I. Rh. Llewelyn	Mrs Ll. Hindley
	Mrs K.D. L. Davies	Mrs Ll. Latham	Mrs A. Evans
	Mrs C. Thomas	D. Hopkins	E.W. Nicholas
	C.J Harris	Mrs J.E Collins	B. Rees

Apologies

Councillors	W.D. Evans	N. Evans
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816.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P.H Roberts declared an interest in Minute 823 as he is the Chairman of Governors at Blaenau CP School.

Councillors R. A Davies declared an interest in Minute 823 as the vice Chairman of Governors at Llandybie CP School.

Councillors D. Nicholas and D. Hopkins declared an interest in Minute 823 as Governors of Llandybie CP School.

817.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 2nd December, 2020

Minutes of the Planning Meeting of Council held on 2nd December, 2020

The Chair asked the attendees if there were any issues and it was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of these meetings as a true record. It was further **resolved** to confirm the recommendations of the committees.

818.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE

819.

Police reports

Crime reports for the month of December 2020

Llandybie (17)

Chair

Criminal Damage to Vehicle 2
Assault 2
Theft 1
Malicious communication 1
Drug related offences 1
Harassment 1
Theft from Vehicle 6
Stalking 1
Other 2

Saron (incl. Capel Hendre and Penybanc) (19)

Criminal Damage 3
Assault 3
Malicious communication 1
Drug related offences 1
Harassment 4
Taking vehicle without consent 1
Stalking 2
Assault Police 2
Other 2

Penygroes (9)

Criminal Damage (Vehicle) 1
Assault 2
Malicious communication 1
Harassment 1
Blackmail 1
Public order Threats 1
Other 2

820.

The following items of correspondence had been received and sent to Members prior to the meeting.

- a) Dyfed Powys Police and crime Commissioner – policing priorities and funding survey.
- b) Your town, Your future – survey from One Voice Wales
- c) Local Development Order for Ammanford Town Centre- a consultation will run from 12/1/21 to 26/2/21.

It was **resolved** to note the correspondence.

821.

Coop Local Community fund

Co-op are distributing boxes of local produce during February 2021 to help celebrate local businesses across Wales. Food boxes are available across Wales and the Council have been offered 25 of these boxes for distribution in the Council area.

It was **resolved** that the food parcels should be donated to Ammanford foodbank.

822.

Lighting at Penybanc park

A letter had been received from a resident of Trefrhiw, Penybanc asking the Council to consider lighting the new park which had been recently installed. The park had been well received locally but the dark nights were restricting availability for local children. There are no lights available in any of the eleven children's play areas maintained by the Council.

It was **resolved** that lighting should not be installed at any of the children's play areas.

823.

Proposal to review primary school education at Llandybie and Blaenau primary schools

Carmarthenshire County Council had launched a consultation on the 11th January, 2021 to review primary school education at Llandybie and Blaenau. The consultation period will end on the 21st February, 2021.

Notices to inform local residents had been posted on the Council notice boards in Llandybie, Blaenau and Caerbryn and a link to the consultation posted on the Council website.

Councillor P. H Roberts, the Community Council representative, and Chair of governors at Blaenau CP School informed Members that the governing body had been in detailed discussions with Carmarthenshire County Council over the future of the school, including falling roll numbers and the financial deficit. Reluctantly, he agreed that the current proposal was the best outcome for the school, and that close collaborative working arrangements with the governors at Llandybie C P School could ensure a smooth transition for the children. He had concerns that the consultations had by necessity been virtual and that ideally a delay would have been preferable so that the community could have met to discuss the options available.

Members were informed that 'drop in' sessions organised by Carmarthenshire County Council had been held, with concerns expressed by some parents who had opted for their children to be educated in a small school, but now having to move their children to a larger establishment. Concerns were also expressed at the loss of a recreational area in Llandybie, and that communication to local residents had been

Chair

poor. Parents of all current pupils at both schools had been informed of the proposals.

Members were encouraged to emphasise that the new school would have excellent community facilities, and were reminded that the merger of two AmmanValley primary schools as Ysgol y Bedol a few years ago had been successful in that area.

824.

CLERK'S REPORT

a) Rights of Way

i) Footpath 51/120 - Traffic Regulation Order extension

Carmarthenshire County Council had informed the Clerk that they intend applying to Welsh Government for an extension to the Traffic Regulation Order in place on the bridge at Blaenau Road, Llandybie. The Order had already been in place for over a year and the Clerk had responded to the County Council expressing concern at the length of time for this footpath closure on what is a popular route for walkers. The design of the bridge has required the Council's engineering department to specify the construction details for the replacement options and quotations had now been obtained. The preferred options will now be discussed between the landowner and engineering team.

ii) Footpath 51/71 at Blaennantgwynne, Pentregwenlais - a complaint had been received that the landowner has locked a gate on this footpath preventing walkers proceeding along the path. CCC had logged the issue and will address.

iii) Footpath 51/65 at Pentregwenlais – a complaint had been received that a water pipe was emptying water directly on to the path making it very muddy and wet. CCC had logged the issue and will address.

iv) The Clerk had reported 5 foot bridges in need of maintenance work to CCC Rights of Way team – two at Pontamman, and three in Llandybie.

v) Footpath 51/75 at Bonllwyn – an overgrown hedge had to be cut back along this path. R Gleaves of Bonllwyn had satisfactorily completed the work at a cost of £70 and the invoice paid with the agreement of the Chair. It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the payment.

vi) A track classified as an 'other route with public access' from Kings Road to Glynhir Road, Llandybie had been reported to the Highways team at Carmarthenshire County Council as the Clerk had received complaints that the surface of the route was very wet and unstable in places.

vii) The Clerk had been informed by local residents that many stiles along the local footpaths were in need of replacement and very dangerous to the public. With the agreement of the Chair, the Clerk had asked Carmarthenshire County Council's

Chair

27th January, 2021

Right of Way team to supply 8 stile kits at a cost of £25 per kit, and arrangements will be made with local contractors or landowners to replace the broken stiles.

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the order and payment of the invoice when received.

b) Parks

i) A quotation document had been issued for the following work at eleven parks which are now maintained by the Council :-

Litter Collection / Grass cutting / Leaf clearance / Hedge maintenance / Football pitch maintenance / Herbicide application

The contract will be offered for a 12 month period.

ii) A quotation document had been issued for the preparation and maintenance of Llandybie Bowling Green for a 24 month period

A bilingual newspaper advert for both quotations had been placed in the South Wales Guardian for the 6th and 13th January, 2021 editions at a cost of £500 plus VAT payable to Newsquest Ltd.

The closing dates for both quotations is the 5th February, 2021 and it was **resolved** that all quotes will be opened after the prescribed date by the Clerk, Administration Officer and Chairman and evaluated as per the quotation guidelines. The preferred supplier will be confirmed at Full Council on the 24th February, 2021 and notified thereafter.

iii) Old park equipment and benches replaced over the last 3 years had been stored locally and a skip had been ordered to remove the contents. An invoice for £210 plus VAT had been received from M W Tench and Son Ltd and paid with the agreement of the Chair.

iv) Five locks had been purchased from Barnsley Lock and Safe company Ltd at a cost of £84.60 to secure the games areas at the parks which had to be locked under the latest government restrictions. Cable ties had not proved sufficiently secure on previous lockdowns. Immediate payment had been requested by the company and made by the Clerk, and subsequently reimbursed with the permission of the Chair.

c) Annual Audit

The new cycle for annual audit of Town and Community Councils in Wales has been announced by the Wales Audit Office. Llandybie Community Council will be audited as follows:-

2020/2021 – Full transactional audit

2021/2022 – Basic audit

2022-2023 – Basic audit

An invoice for £322 had been received from Audit Wales for the 2019/2020 audit.

Chair

d) Financial support signage

A further 20 signs had been ordered at a cost of £900 from the Engraving Centre Ltd. The invoice had been received and paid. A letter had been sent to the annual grant recipients asking them to prominently display the sign at their premises.

e) Council notice boards locks

Small maintenance work to the notice boards and broken locks at Bonllwyn and Cwmgwili had been replaced by P Bishop at cost of £50.

e) Saron pavilion

A burst pipe at Saron pavilion had required the services of an emergency plumber to rectify the leak. Next- Gen Plumbing and Heating had satisfactorily completed the work at a cost of £110

f) Website hosting

An invoice for £250 plus VAT had been received from ICT Vision Ltd for the annual hosting and support for the Council website.

g) Office and Chamber lease

The final draft lease had now been received from the St David's Diocesan Board of Finance and vetted by CCW Law Solicitors on behalf of the Council. The document had been signed on behalf of the Council by the Chair and Councillor W D Evans.

An invoice for £660 plus VAT had been received from CCW Solicitors had been received and it was **resolved** that it should be paid. It was further **resolved** to pay 6 months rent to 31/5/20.

It was **resolved** that all payments made with the agreement of the Chair be retrospectively approved

h) Hendre road, Capel Hendre pavement

The provision of a new pavement along Hendre Road at Capel Hendre was discussed at the Community Development meeting in November 2020. It was agreed that further information was needed from Carmarthenshire County Council prior to any consideration as a project. They have now informed Councillor Mrs K.D.L.Davies that they propose taking the application forward for funding via the Safe Routes in the Community scheme. No costings have as yet been prepared.

It was **resolved** that the project should be supported 'in principle' and that monetary support would potentially be available from the Council if the project was agreed.

i) Penygroes RFC – fence

It had been previously **resolved** by Members that a new fence should be considered but that the height of the fence be reduced to one metre, provision of up to date trading accounts, and confirmation from the club that they had applied for other sources of funding which could help finance the project.

Penygroes RFC had informed the Clerk that a one metre fence would not alleviate the issue of dog fouling on their pitches and have asked whether their original request of a 1.8M fence could be positioned on the bank at a suitable height so that it would be no higher than how a 1 metre fence would appear to the public in terms of obstructing any views. Alternatively, the fence could be erected at the bottom of the bank on land owned by Penygroes RFC. Both options would extend to the current park boundaries with gated access to the land.

It was **resolved** that the original offer of support be made available, and that the other options were not agreeable to the Council.

825.

GILFACH IAGO

Celtic Energy had sent a ‘without prejudice’ offer to Carmarthenshire County Council which requires further negotiation as the proposal is unacceptable to CCC. County Councillor D. Thomas informed Members that he had been asked to attend a meeting with Ruth Mullen of CCC and that he will update the Clerk on the current impasse.

Councillor Mrs C. Thomas informed Members that she was very concerned at the footpaths across the Gilfach Iago site and that she was aware of members of the public suffering falls as a result of the poor quality paths. Other paths on other areas of the site were also in poor condition and in some cases a danger to the public.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk should write to Carmarthenshire County Council to inform them of the issues.

826.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Payment of accounts

The following invoices had been received in December 2020 and January 2021 and been paid after discussion with the Chair.

5376	EDF	Saron pavilion – Nov 2020	£27.11
5377	EDF	Capel Hendre park – Nov 2020	£10.93
5378	EDF	Llandybie MUGA – Nov 2020	£10.93

Chair

27th January, 2021

5379	EDF	Llandybie pavilion – Nov 2020	£23.32
5380	EDF	Llandybie bowls shed – Nov 2020	£19.66
5381	SLCC	Annual membership renewal	£262.00
5382	S Griffith	Salary for December 2020 and use of home as office allowance	£2296.23
5383	R Thomas	Salary for December 2020 and use of home as office allowance	£661.06
5384	HMRC	December 2020	£944.26
5385	Martin Davies	Translation of Minutes	£110.75
5386	Welsh Water	Saron pavilion 20/5/20 – 30/11/20	£228.66
5387	The Engraving Centre Ltd	Wall plaques for grant recipients	£900.00
5388	S Griffith	Expenses including Broadband, travelling, postages and Ani Virus software.	£490.91
5389	EDF	EDF – Penygroes park Nov 2020	£10.58
5390	Dynevor Tree Services	Leaf clearance and drain unblocking on FP 51/105	£120.00
5391	Jeff's Tipper Hire	Opening and Closing of public conveniences	£868.00
5392	Newsquest Media Group Ltd	Newspaper adverts for parks and bowling green maintenance	£600.00
5393	hsl Compliance Ltd	Water hygiene service – Dec 2020	£221.54
5394	M W Tench and Son Ltd	Hire of skip	£252.00
5395	SSE Swalec	Electricity at Llandybie public convenience 12/9/20 – 11/12/20	£46.62
5396	P Bishop	Park maintenance and noticeboard lock changing	£50.00
5397	S Griffith	Reimbursement for lock purchases	£84.40
5398	Newhall Janitorial	Cleaning materials for public conveniences	£196.96
5399	SSE Swalec	Electricity at Penygroes public convenience 11/9/20 – 17/12/20	£33.20
5400	EDF	Llandybie pavilion – Dec 2020	£22.84
5401	EDF	Llandybie MUGA – Dec 2020	£10.93

Chair

27th January, 2021

5403	EDF	Llandybie bowls shed – Dec 2020	£20.14
5404	EDF	Saron pavilion – Dec 2020	£45.09
5408	R Gleaves	Hedge cutting on FP 51/75 at Aberlash, Bonllwyn	£70.00
5411	EDF	Penygroes park – Dec 2020	£10.76
5412	SSE Swalec	Office and Chamber 15/10/20-13/1 21	£42.91

The following invoiced had also been received :-

5405	S Griffith	Salary for January 2021 and use of home as office allowance	£2296.43
5406	R Thomas	Salary for January 2021 and use of home as office allowance	£660.86
5407	HMRC	January 2021	£944.26
5409	Audit Wales	External audit fee 2019/2020	£322.00
5410	Vision ICT Ltd	Website hosting and support 3/21 to 2/22	£300.00
5413	hsl Compliance Ltd	Water hygiene service – Jan 2021	£221.54
5414	BT	Clerk's telephone bill – 15/1/21-14/4/21	£121.90
5415	Jeff's Tipper Hire	Opening and Closing of public conveniences	£868.00
5416	Next-Gen Plumbing and Heating Ltd	Emergency pipe repairs at Saron pavilion	£110.00
5417	EDF	Llandybie pavilion – Jan 2021	£81.05
5418	EDF	Llandybie MUGA – Jan 2021	£10.24
5419	EDF	Capel Hendre park – Jan 2021	£10.24
5420	EDF	Llandybie bowls shed – Jan 2021	£18.24
5421	EDF	Saron pavilion – Jan 2021	£14.44
5422	Morgan and Morgan	Stationery	£129.91
5423	Newhall Janitorial Ltd	Cleaning materials for public conveniences	£299.80
5424	CCW Law Solicitors	Legal fees for new lease for Office and Chamber	£792.00

Members **resolved** to approve the payments and to retrospectively approve the payments agreed by the Chair.

Chair

(ii) Monthly monitoring of the budget - April 1/4/20 to 31/12/20

2020/21		
Estimate	Actual YTD	
£	£	
180,000	180,000	Precept
150	53	Interest: Lloyds
400	0	Interest: investment accounts
3000	3,000	Rights of way
	726	Maintenance Grant
4700	0	Hire Agreements
<u>188,250</u>	<u>183,779</u>	
45,889	37,227	Staffing
17,650	9,675	Premises
4,750	3,734	Office Services
3,100	562	Member costs
10,000	4,060	Services and Subscriptions
}	5,920	Section 137
	0	Payments under other
	18,000	powers
	1,150	Public open spaces
	2,470	Village halls
	2,900	Burial grounds
}	4,575	Rights of way - maintenance
10,000	0	Rights of way - improvement
28,000	1,425	Grass cutting/ litter/ facilities
50,000	56,787	Park repairs and replacement
}	0	Public lighting - energy
	0	Public lighting -
8,500	0	improvement
28,000	11,887	Community development
		Public
13,000	5,688	conveniences
<u>236,889</u>	<u>148,058</u>	
	35,721	Balance for the year
	(period)	
	337,001	b/f
0	<u>372,720</u>	c/f

27th January, 2021

	Cash and
363,255	investments
9,465	Debtors
0	Creditors
<u>372,720</u>	

The budget to 30th November, 2020 was also provided to Councillors. The Chair invited questions or comments. Members **resolved** to approve the accounts as above.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for his report.

(iii) Precept confirmation for 2021/2022

Carmarthenshire County Council had written to the Clerk asking for confirmation of the 2021/2022 precept and informing Members that the tax base for 2021/22 was £4395.03. This figure enables the Council to translate the precept requirement into the Council Tax to be levied for a band D property and to all other bands.

It was **resolved** to confirm to the County Council that the precept for 2021/2022 had been set at £180.000

(iv) Cash reconciliation

A quarterly cash reconciliation to the 31st December, 2020 had been undertaken by Councillor W.D Evans. There had been no issues to report.

827.

Report on Section 106 funds

Carmarthenshire County Council had informed the Clerk that the current funds available were as follows :-

Llandybie ward - £401
Saron ward - £5626
Penygroes ward - £ 25348

County Councillor Dai Thomas of Penygroes informed Members that he had been in discussions with the Clerk for a potential replacement item of the Multi Play Toddler unit at Gorsddu park.. The Unit had been regularly reported by park inspectors as having deteriorating rotten timbers, lifting edges on the surfacing causing trip points, and there was overall wear and tear on the surface area.

The Clerk had discussed the options available from three suppliers with verbal quotes of up to £13000 plus VAT quoted to which Councillor Thomas had agreed to pay in full from Section 106 funds.

The Chair thanked Councillor Thomas for his support.

Chair

27th January, 2021

828.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

There were none.

829.

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council be held on the 24th February, 2021.

830.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.