

26th January, 2022

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

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

Apologies

Councillors	Mrs J.E Collins	Mrs Ll. Latham	E.W. Nicholas
	D. Nicholas	A.W Jones	

1023.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1024.

GILFACH IAGO

The meeting was attended by Caroline Ferguson and Hugh Towns of Carmarthenshire County Council who informed Members of the details of the proposed reinstatement of Gilfach Iago which had been approved by the Full Council of Carmarthenshire County Council on the 8th December, 2021. Brief details had already been given to Members and is recorded under Minute 1011.

Members were informed that an invoice of £320000 had been sent to Celtic Energy but that none of the legal processes would commence until the funds had been received. The legal department of the County Council had given approval that the proposed work was lawful. The Clerk informed Members that he had received an e-mail from Mr Phil Snaith, a member of Cycle UK's Cycle Advocate network, who had also been in contact with the County Council. Mr Snaith wished to inform the Council that the proposed width of the shared bridleways / cycle routes fell short of the required width. Carmarthenshire County Council are sympathetic to the concerns but funding restrictions are limiting the options. There is also a potential funding boost from Active Travel which may come to fruition and potentially allow the width to be increased.

Councillor P.H Roberts questioned why the county rate payers would now have to part finance the project whereas Celtic Energy had reneged on all their promises over the years and were now being asked to contribute a small fraction of their site earnings, and providing no monetary community benefits which had been promised during earlier discussions. Hugh Towns of CCC informed Members that with no 'bond' in place and land sales having been made to different landowners by Celtic Energy, it had not placed the County Council in a strong position and the negotiated settlement had been difficult to achieve.

Councillors debated the merits of the proposal with a general consensus given that the project would provide the area with much needed new leisure facilities and should proceed. When the invoiced funds are received from Celtic Energy an application to the Magistrates court could be heard with 3 months and a possible project start during the summer period. Concern was expressed that a failure to execute this new project would

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result in yet another stalemate and that the work would not commence to provide these new amenities.

Llandybie Community Council had previously given permission for the project, but a new consultation seeking fresh opinion was now necessary as the previously intended project had not been delivered. This would be considered on receipt of the consultation document from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Chair thanked Caroline Ferguson and Hugh Towns for attending and they then left the meeting.

Councillor Mrs S. E Thomas and County Councillor D. Thomas entered the meeting at this point.

1025.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 1st December, 2021

Minutes of the Planning Meeting of Council held on 1st December, 2021

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 committee.

1026.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1st December, 2021

i) Minute 1009 – Access policy to parks

The Clerk had made enquiries with Carmarthenshire County Council who had informed the Council that access requirements to parks fall under the Equalities Act 2010 and that reasonable adjustments should be made to ensure access to all goods, services and facilities. This could involve suitable management arrangements such as unlocking gates or even making physical alterations to the access points to enable disabled access. There are no specific access policies for individual parks available.

It is good practice for a Council to keep a record showing that it has considered the identified need. The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment will identify issues and allow the Council to look at any reasonable actions to mitigate the impact.

The decision taken at the last Full Council to await the reopening of the pavilion at Penygroes park is sufficient for now. All options have to be considered for practicality, costed and the impact on people using disability scooters taken due regard of in the final decision.

Chair

ii) Minute 1010 – Review of Primary Education provision in the Blaenau and Llandybie area

The Cabinet of Carmarthenshire County Council had agreed to abandon the proposals as consulted upon and re-consult on a proposal in relation to the investment in Primary Education in the Llandybie area only. These proposals will commence as soon as practically possible. The future of Ysgol Blaeanau will be considered in detail with every other school as part of the full review of the Modernising Education Programme

iii) Minute 1013 – Lease of Office and Chamber – work on the projected costing is ongoing.

CORRESPONDENCE

1027.

Police reports

No crime reports had been received for December 2021 and January 2022.

1028.

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

a) Carmarthenshire Well Being Assessment Consultation

b) The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils.

The Act had previously been noted in Minute 863 during Full Council in March 2021. It was further **resolved** to note the draft guidance provided.

Councillor Mrs S. E Thomas wished it noted that it would be unfair on councillors to be penalised for a lack of training when not all courses were being made available in the welsh language. One Voice Wales had made many courses available in welsh recently, and course notes for all courses could be made available in welsh if requested.

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

1029.

Glastir woodland creation proposal

A letter had been received from H W Forestry Ltd acting on behalf of a landowner on land bordering Saron Road. The applicant intends to plant 5 hectares of native broadleaved woodland under the Glastir woodland creation scheme. Information had been sent to councillors during the December recess, and based on the responses received the Clerk had responded with positive support for the project subject to

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access corridors remaining open for public access routes and that a positive woodland strategy be implemented to ensure that the trees planted get full support to grow.

1030.

Jubilee party

A letter had been received from Mrs Marion Jones of Penygroes asking for permission to use the area in front of the pavilion at Penygres park to hold a jubilee party on June 5th, 2022.

It was **resolved** to approve the request.

1031.

St Davids Day Bank Holiday

Councillor Mrs C Thomas had written to the Clerk asking that the Council formally support a request to Carmarthenshire County Council for St David's Day to become a public holiday.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk should write to Carmarthenshire County Council recommending that it, as the Local Authority, should grant a public holiday on March 1st for all its staff, and support the concept of a national bank holiday being introduced. Additionally, a letter requesting that St David's Day become a national holiday should be sent to the Senedd in Cardiff and to the UK Government at Westminster.

It was further **resolved** that Llandybie Community Council should grant St David's Day as a holiday to its staff.

1031.

CLERK'S REPORT

a) Rights of Way

i) Footpath 51/O/52 at Cwmfferws

Carmarthenshire County Council have recently inspected this footpath and found the bridge over which the footpath passes to be in a dangerous state of repair. They have placed a temporary closure notice on the path to safeguard the public. Negotiations are continuing with residents who use the bridge privately to access their properties on a joint funding agreement.

ii) Footpath 51/120 at Llandybie

Carmarthenshire County Council have sought to renew the footpath closure for a further 6 months from the 22nd January, 2022 as they have been unable to secure a bridge repair/ replacement arrangement.

Chair

b) Attendance at Council meetings and Co- option of Members

Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, any Member of a local authority who fails to attend a meeting for a period of six months, shall, unless the absence was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the Council.

Councillors N. Evans and S.J Roberts had been informed that due to an absence of six months, both would no longer be Members of Llandybie Community Council. This a decision not made by the Council, but it is set in legislation.

The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) 2006 Act, provides that if a casual vacancy arises within 6 months before the normal retirement of the councillor, the Community Council may after the expiry of 14 days post a notice of co-option and may co-opt new members if they wish.

A notice of vacancy for 2 councillors had been posted on the council website and Saron ward notice boards on the 10th January, 2022. Thereafter, a notice of co-option can be posted after 14 days and the Council may co-opt to fill the vacancies. There had been no interested parties.

It was **resolved** that due to the forthcoming elections in May 2022, that the Council do not issue a notice of co-option for new councillors to cover this short period. The Council will remain quorate during this time.

It was **resolved** that a letter of thanks should be sent on behalf of the Council to Nigel Evans and Steven Roberts thanking them for their work as local councillors for the Saron ward.

Councillor Ll. Hindley questioned the 6 month ruling during these unprecedented Covid times. She had only been able to attend this meeting as it had reverted to Microsoft Teams, otherwise she would also have fallen foul of the 6 month rule. The Clerk explained the current legal position, in that any Councillor must have a period of absence beyond 6 months approved before the expiry of six months, at a Full Council meeting.

To help alleviate this issue, it was **resolved** that the next Full Council meeting be held on Microsoft Teams to allow the Clerk sufficient time to research and test a new system which will allow hybrid meetings to commence with compatibility for online and face to face attendance.

c) Parks

i) Saron park

An invoice for £8090 had been received from MBP Fencing for the replacement fence along part of the children' s play area, and land adjoining the car park, which had been satisfactorily installed as per recent quotations agreed at Full Council. The invoice had been paid with the agreement of the chair.

Chair

ii) Gorsddu park

Section 106 funds of £13,724 from Carmarthenshire County Council had been received in lieu of the payment made for the recently installed item of play equipment

iii) Park bench replacement

An invoice of £1050 with no VAT charged, had been received from I L Merrills for three replacement park benches. The work had been satisfactorily completed

iv) Park inspections

An invoice for £2340 plus VAT had been received from Sunshine Playgrounds Ltd for park inspections from Feb 2021- Jan 2022.

d) Park inspection quotations

Two quotations had been received for a two year tender issued for operational inspections for the eleven parks. One other contractor had declined to quote. The Clerk and Chair had reviewed the submissions and the contract had been awarded to Sunshine Playgrounds Ltd at an annual cost of £2430 per annum.

It was **resolved** to approve the decision taken to award the contract.

e) Llandybie Parish Church

An invoice for £380.40 had been received from Llandybie Parish Church for the annual service of the church clock. It had previously been agreed that this should be paid on presentation of the invoice.

f) Website

An invoice for £300 had been received from Vision ICT Ltd for website hosting and support for 12 months from February 2022.

1032.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Payment of accounts

The following invoices had been received in December 2021 and January 2022 and been paid after discussion with the Chair.

5711	Llandybie Parish church	Service of parish church clock	£380.40
5712	EDF	Capel Hendre park – Nov 2021	£12.92
5713	EDF	Llandybie bowls shed -Nov 2021	£21.09

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5714	EDF	Llandybie pavilion – Nov 2021	£43.27
5715	Ammanford food bank	Grant	£1000.00
5716	EDF	Llandybie MUGA – Nov 2021	£12.92
5717	EDF	Saron pavilion – Nov 2021	34.32
5718	Hefin Jones	Translation services	£255.00
5719	Welsh Water	Saron pavilion 36/5/21- 1/12/21	£188.77
5720	S Griffith	Salary for December 2021 and use of home as office allowance	£2298.23
5721	R Thomas	Salary for December 2021 and use of home as office allowance	£667.46
5722	HMRC	December 2021	£935.17
5723	Welsh Water	Penygroes Public conveniences 11/6/21- 2/12/21	£128.60
5724	JEMS Environmental Ltd	Water hygiene services – Nov 2021	£234.38
5725	Martin Davies	Translation of minutes	£134.70
5726	EDF	Penygroes park – Nov 2021	£13.36
5727	Morgan and Morgan	Outlook 365 – email license amendments	£96.00
5728	J T Services	Opening and Closing of Public Conveniences during Dec 2021	£930.00
5729	Dynevor Tree Services	FP 51/105 footpath and drain clearance maintenance contract	£140.00
5730	MBP Fencing	New fencing at Saron park	9708.00
5731	SSE Swalec	Penygroes Public conveniences 16/9/21 – 24/12/21	£38.90
5732	EDF	Capel Hendre park – Dec 2021	£13.36
5733	EDF	Llandybie bowls shed -Dec 2021	£21.64
5734	EDF	Llandybie MUGA – Dec 2021	£13.36
5735	EDF	Saron pavilion – Dec 2021	£24.92
5737	EDF	Llandybie pavilion – Dec 2021	£33.81
5742	EDF	Penygroes park – Dec 2021	£13.80
5743	SSE Swalec	Llandybie public conveniences 15/10/21- 10/1/22	
5744	Welsh Water	Llandybie Bowls and Tennis pavilion – 3/10/21 – 7/1/22	£285.68
5746	Welsh Water	Llandybie public conveniences 8/7/21- 13/1/22	£122.90
5750	BT	Clerk's telephone bill 15/1/22- 14/4/22	£171.32
5752	SSE Swalec	Electricity at Office and Chamber – 22/10/21 – 13/1/22	£45.02

The following invoiced had also been received :-

5736	Vision ICT Ltd	Annual website hosting and support to February 2023	£300.00
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5738	JEMS Environmental Ltd	Water hygiene services – Dec 2021	£281.26
5739	S Griffith	Salary for January 2022 and use of home as office allowance	£2298.03
5740	R Thomas	Salary for January 2022 and use of home as office allowance	£667.46
5741	HMRC	January 2022	£935.37
5747	J T Services	Opening and Closing of Public Conveniences during Jan 2022	£930.00
5749	Sunshine Playgrounds Ltd	Park inspections Feb 2021- Jan 2022	£2808.00
5751	I L Merrills	Replacement park benches for Penygroes and Derwydd	£1050.00

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

(ii) Monthly monitoring of the budget - April 1/4/21 to 31/12/21

2020/21		
Estimate	Actual YTD	
£	£	
180,000	180,000	Precept
150	14	Interest: Lloyds
400	0	Interest: investment accounts
3000	3,000	Rights of way
	13,274	Section 106
4700	2,350	Hire Agreements
	1,776	Rates refund
<u>188,250</u>	<u>200,414</u>	
<u>45,889</u>	<u>38,358</u>	Staffing
17,650	8,735	Premises
4,750	3,032	Office Services
3,100	270	Member costs
10,000	3,581	Services and Subscriptions
} 18,000	7,080	Section 137
	0	Payments under other powers
	850	Public open spaces

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	2,750	Village halls
	3,200	Burial grounds
}	6,230	Rights of way - maintenance
10,000	0	Rights of way - improvement
28,000	630	Grass cutting/ litter/ facilities
50,000	32,298	Park repairs and replacement
}	0	Public lighting - energy
		Public lighting -
8,500	0	improvement
28,000	5,059	Community development
		Public
13,000	8,245	conveniences
<u>236,889</u>	<u>120,318</u>	

		Balance for the year
	80,096	(period)
	311,004	b/f
<u>0</u>	<u>391,100</u>	c/f

		Cash and
	385,811	investments
	5,289	Debtors
	0	Creditors
	<u>391,100</u>	

The budget to 30th November, 2021 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 2022/2023

Carmarthenshire County Council had written to the Clerk asking for confirmation of the 2022/2023 precept and informing Members that the tax base for 2022/23 was £4461.56

It was **resolved** to confirm to the County Council that the precept for 2022/2023 had been set at £180.000

(iv) Cash reconciliation

A quarterly cash reconciliation to the 31st December, 2021 had been undertaken by Councillor Mrs K.D. L Davies on the 13th January, 2022. There had been no issues to report.

1033.

Report on Section 106 funds

Councillor Mrs K.D.L Davies informed Members that Section 106 funds for Saron ward had been allocated to Nant Y Ci park.

County Councillor D. Thomas of Penygroes, who was present at the meeting as a member of the public, reported that a further £3000 had been requested for Penygroes RFC pavilion.

1034.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

There were none.

1035.

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council be held on the 23rd February, 2022 on Microsoft Teams.

1036.

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