

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held at the Council offices, High Street, Llandybie and online via Teams on Wednesday, 31st of July, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors	Cllr C. R. Thomas	Cllr G. J. Davies	Cllr H. Davies
	Cllr D. W. Hopkins	Cllr R.A. Davies	Cllr J. Tandy
	Cllr E. W. Nicholas	Cllr R. Barnes	Cllr N. C. Davies
	Cllr A. L. Thomas	Cllr A.J. Evans	Cllr S. Roberts

Attending online Cllr K. D. L. Davies Cllr D. Thomas

Apologies Cllr E. J. Davies Cllr A. W. Jones Cllr P.H. Roberts

476.

To Receive apologies for absence.

The following councillors offered apologies Cllr E. J. Davies, Cllr A. W. Jones, Cllr P.H. Roberts.

477.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none

478.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

- Minutes of the Statutory Meeting held on the 26th of June, 2024. Proposed; Cllr R. A. Davies. Seconded; Cllr D. Thomas
- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th of July, 2024 Proposed; Cllr H. Davies Seconded; Cllr J. W. Tandy
- Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 29th of July, 2024 Proposed; Cllr S. Roberts Seconded; Cllr A. J. Evans

479.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk offered an update on the recommendation in item 473 of the Environment Committee minutes in terms of actions. He stated that he had already met with Matthew Collinson from the County Council and the smaller project at Banc Y Ddraenen had now been started with funding and work offered to by

Chair

Carmarthenshire County Council underway to complete hedge, tree and bulb planting along with two new benches and a Scholls Workshop Initiative to create bird and bat boxes along with an ecology report set to be completed in the coming months.

480.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

481.

CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Police Crime report.

The Clerk explained that the crime reports had now began to be updated monthly on the Police Crime Website and reported the following;

Police reports as 1st of June 2024

Llandybie Area	
Violence and sexual offences	16
Public Order	3
Burglary	2
Criminal Damage & Arson	2

Penygroes including Blaenau and Caerbryn;	
Violence and sexual offences	2
Public order	1
Theft	1

Saron and Capel Hendre	
Violence and sexual offences	7
Criminal Damage and Arson	4
Burglary	2
Other Crime	2

Chair

For members and wider public information, Llandybie Community Area Crime figures below are available using the link below. The Clerk recommends that the look at the crime map of their area which offers some detail of the breakdown of the crime figures by searching ‘in my area’.

[Llandybie | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](http://www.police.uk)

483.

Clerk’s Report 25/07/24

To: Chair and Members of Council.

(a) Parks;

(i) Saron and Capel Hendre 106. Still on the list of follow up with Carmarthenshire County Council.

There is no further update on the two amounts of £22,320.00 for future education provision at Saron and £17,680.00 for Cwmgwili park. The Clerk is pressing for news before the September Budget Meeting.

(b) Footpaths. There are no further updates on the below Footpaths.

The Clerk and Administrative assistant continue to press the County Council team of the following footpaths and will keep these in the Clerk’s Report until they are resolved.

- **Caerbryn 51/56;** The Clerk has asked for a reply to his email of 4 weeks ago from the County Rights of Way team to look at removing some soils and from the top of the approach path.
- **Penygroes 51/34 and 51/35, 51/33;** Whilst 51/34 is now being looked at by our contractor, the legal team at Carmarthenshire County Council are looking at 51/13 to get the landowner to cut the overhanging branches, the Clerk has written to the Legal Dept at Carmarthenshire Country Council for an update. 51/35 is being looked at as part of the Gilfach Iago development. The Administration Officer has followed up to ask for an update.
- **51/51;** This is still being dealt with by Carmarthenshire County Council’s legal team as a resident has built a garage base over the right of way and another resident has put play equipment across it.

(c) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

Chair

The Clerk as per the agreement in the May meeting has written to Carmarthenshire County Council and asked them that offer responsibility if Community Council property is damaged overnight. He is still waiting for a reply.

(d) Banc Y Ddraenen Park Project;

A smaller project is now being looked at due to the poor response to the public consultation. The Clerk has met with Carmarthenshire County Council who have offered to fund further tree planting, two more planting benches and the hedgerow along the perimeter, a full list is expected soon via email. The County are also offering to organise a Bat Box and Bird Box workshop with local schools and advise of meadow planting and to further advise on improvement to the seasonal grass cutting to better serve nesting and flowering seasons.

(e) The Asset Management Business Plan.

The Clerk is now collating suggestions from Councillors in each ward ready to complete the plan and the Clerk will discuss this report in detail at the September Finance Committee.

(f) Our archives.

The Administrative Officer is in the process of arranging to agree a plan of action to put before Councillors to get our archives safely stored for future generations.

(g) Saron Park CCTV.

The Clerk is currently checking on the location of the CCTV tower in conjunction with planning officers at Carmarthenshire County Council.

(h) Job Evaluation.

The Staff Job Evaluation requested to be undertaken via the Employment Committee and ratified by Full Council is now in its final stages with the Clerk and Administrative Officer having completed the detailed evaluation forms and sent them to Paul Egan at One Voice Wales.

(i) Community Grant Update.

The Administrative Officer has sent out letters to all previous recipient groups and interested parties and is currently collating requests, the closing date is mid-August 2024 and will be presented at the September Finance Committee and once ratified by Full Council there will be an awards cheque presentation evening, venue to be decided. It is the turn of the Llandybie Ward.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

July 25th 2024

Chair

484.

Update on vacancy at Heol Ddu Ward.

The Clerk explained that the vacancy notice for election was uncontested and notices issued by the Electoral Services of Carmarthenshire County Council offering interested individuals the opportunity to apply for co-option had been issued and displayed on the Community Council's Website and in Notice Boards.

Cllr J. W. Tandy offered a motion that we as a Community Council advertise a three week period on our website and in notice boards offering individuals the opportunity to write to the Clerk asking to be considered for co-option and Councillors decide on the co-option at special meeting in early September.

This motion was **seconded** by Cllr A. J. Evans.

The matter was discussed and it was **resolved** that the Clerk write the suggested notices before the end of the current week and then email any application letters received at the end of a three week period to Councillors. Councillors will then have an opportunity to vote or co-opt an eligible individual at a special co-option meeting that was agreed to be organised to coincide with the Employment Committee in early September.

485.

Update on vacancy at Penygroes Ward.

The Clerk explained that this item had not been on the Agenda as the matter had only arisen in the last working day. The Chair agreed to include it and asked the Clerk for an update.

The Clerk explained that Cllr S. E. Thomas had informed him by email that she was resigning with immediate effect as of Monday afternoon for political reasons and he had now informed the Electoral Services Office at Carmarthenshire County Council in line with protocol and they had now issued notices of vacancy to be displayed no later than the 5th of August 2024 with a closing date for applications of the 23rd of August 2024. As per protocol these had now been displayed on the Community Council Website and in notice boards.

Cllr K. D. L. Davies wanted noted that she felt this was sad news and wanted to commend Cllr S. E. Thomas for the hard work and public service she had undertaken over many years to Llandybie Community Council and that the Penygroes Ward was losing a very good and knowledgeable Councillor.

Chair

The Clerk offered to note this in the minutes and apologised that he should have mentioned that he and the Chair were in the process of writing a letter of thanks to Cllr S. E. Thomas from the Community Council.

486.

Update on Asset Plan and Budget Requests.

The Clerk gave a brief update and stated that he had now met all wards and was collating the ideas and budget requests and would update the asset plan and circulate to members of the Finance Committee that will be organised in September and make recommendations to that committee on budget spend over the next 5 years.

487.

Update on response to 20mph request by Welsh Government.

The Clerk stated that he had now completed the observations on the 20mph requested by Welsh Government Minister Ken Skates and had circulated the document and a letter from Mr Andrew R. Wilson who had addressed the June Ordinary Meeting pre meeting.

Cllr J. W. Tandy requested that he email another observation given there was still a month remaining on the submission deadline.

It was **resolved** to accept the document once Cllr J. W. Tandy had given his observations to the Clerk for inclusion and both the observations and the letter from Mr Andrew R. Wilson be offered as an official response to the minister from Llandybie Community Council.

488.

Gilfach Iago Update

The Clerk confirmed that there was no further update. This was confirmed by Cllr D. Thomas.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk update future Ordinary Meetings of progress.

489.

(i) Monthly monitoring budget.

INCOME to 25th July

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL INCOME	DIFFERENCE
Precept	180000.00	60000.00	-120000.00
Vat Return (Rebate)	17000.00	14613.18	-2386.82
Bank interest	800.00	322.50	-477.50
Hire Agreement/Grants/106	4700.00	34,311.29	19426.17
Total	202500.00	109,246.97	-93253.03

EXPENDITURE to 25th July

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
Grass Cutting	£31,500.00	£12,023.25	£19,476.75
Staff Salary and PAYE	£61,864.00	£19,716.19	£42,147.81
Office Services	£6,000.00	£5,229.20	£770.80
Insurance	£2,500.00	£3,240.60	-£740.60
Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetary)	£20,000.00	£6,210.00	£13,790.00
Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds)	£54,500.00	£35,708.49	£18,791.51
Services & Subscriptions	£6,050.00	£0.00	£6,050.00
Members Allowances & Paye	£15,875.00	£977.00	£14,898.00
Election Costs	£16,000.00	£8,028.26	£7,971.74
Section 137	£20,000.00	£0.00	£20,000.00
Lighting	£6,000.00	£0.00	£6,794.00
Community Development	£15,000.00	£603.13	£14,396.87
Total	£255,289.00	£91,736.12	£163,552.88

Payments from 26th of June to July 25th 2024

01/07/2024	BT M019R8 Phone Broadband June inc £44.00 A/Charge	98.20
01/07/2024	Martin Davies translation on October Employment	40.30
01/07/2024	Llannon Community Council 4 x Park Inspections x 11 parks	1415.15
01/07/2024	Newhall Janitorial Toilet tissue and supplies x 2 Toilets	235.39
01/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan 2 months Photocopier March & June	10.18
01/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan Fibre and Broadband Chamber 1 month	35.99
01/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan 2 x extra IT Tablets	351.19

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01/07/2024	KD Gardening Services Toilet cleaning x 2 Toilets	862.50
01/07/2024	HMRC June Payment	1005.54
01/07/2024	Hefin Jones Translation x 3 months for meetings	255.00
01/07/2024	Welsh Water Sports Pavilion Saron Nov to May	321.02
01/07/2024	FC Bookbinder Annual Minutes	170.00
01/07/2024	Proludic Swings for Gors Ddu and Spien Rd Equipment Only	4891.97
16/07/2024	HMRC July Payment	1056.54
16/07/2024	Sian Taylor Pay for July	793.65
16/07/2024	D. Nicholas Pay for July	2426.20
16/07/2024	Martin Davies Translation Ordinary meeting June	203.06
16/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan Tablet covers x 10	336.00
16/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan 2 extra Tablet covers	67.20
16/07/2024	EDF Energy Electric Pavilion Penygroes	0.76
16/07/2024	EDF Energy Electric Floodlight Capel Hendre	0.76
16/07/2024	EDF Energy Electric Pavilion Llandybie	47.02
16/07/2024	EDF Energy Electric Saron Sports Pavilion	0.50
16/07/2024	EDF Energy Electric Shed Bowls Llandybie two months	77.15
19/07/2024	Dynevor Tree Services cut Path Nr Llandybie CP Inv 364	80.00
19/07/2024	Dynevor Tree Services First Cuts Contract 1 - 9 Inv 371	2860.00
25/07/2024	J J Handyman Compliance work at Saron Park 0158	550.00
25/07/2024	Martin Davies Translation July Meeting	124.93
25/07/2024	Martin Davies Translation of Committees	113.75
25/07/2024	Morgan & Morgan Ink Cartridges Ink 250724	18.67
25/07/2024	Dynevor Tree Services fallen trees Inv 378	400.00

Invoices Received and Due for payment

July 26th	BT	58.20
July 26th	K. D. Landscaping Toilet services for July	891.25

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDYBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL					
Mantolen 2024-2025 Accounts from April 1st					
Prepared by - D Nicholas					
Financial year ending 31/04/2025					
BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS					
					£
Brought Forward (opening balance at Bank)					
					£260,860.83
Add Income in the year					
					£109,246.97
Total					
					£370,107.80
Less outgoings					
					£91,736.12

Chair

Closing Balance Finance Spreadsheet					£278,371.68
(receipts - payments)					
Unpresented payments/cheques					£300.00
TRUE STATEMENT BALANCE					£278,371.68

The financial report by Cllr S. Roberts and Seconded by Cllr R. Barnes.

It was **resolved** to accept financial report presented by the Clerk.

490.

Staff Pension Scheme update.

The Clerk offered an update as requested in the minutes of the 26th of June 2024, and explained that he had taken the view that whilst he did not favour the NEST Pension scheme it was referred to on both his and the Administrative Officers contract of employment.

The intervention on these was a contribution of 3% from the employer, in this case the Community Council and 2% from staff pay.

Cllr D. Thomas disagreed that this was the best course of action and the NEST Scheme was in his opinion not in the best interest of employees and that the Community Council should follow many of the other local Community Councils and the County Council and be a part of the Dyfed Pension Scheme, this was supported by Cllr C. R. Thomas.

The Clerk explained that that this would mean that the contract of employment would need to be changed, but this would need to be agreed by Employment Committee and ratified by full council.

Cllr R. A. Davies suggested that this was a matter for the Employment Committee and suggested that a date be agreed for a Committee in September to discuss recommendations to be put on the agenda of the September Ordinary Meeting.

It was **resolved** to arrange an Employment Committee for September to explore the position further and make recommendations to Full Council.

491.

Section 106 funding.

Cllr D. Thomas offered the information that he had attended a training event on 106 funding organised by Carmarthenshire County Council and a key point he believed was that members especially on the Planning Committee and at county level intervene with requests for 106 allocation at the planning stage as after that there was

Chair

a risk that the allocation would not fit what the community needed and imposed on us as a Community Council.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

The Chair offered a positive report on attending the Friends of Glanamman Hospital event during July was very rewarding.

492.

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 25th of September 2024. The Clerk also asked that a Special Co-option a meeting of the Finance Committee and an Employment Committee be scheduled for Wednesday 4th of September. This was agreed with timings to be 6.30pm, 6.45pm and 7.15pm respectively.

493.

As there was no further business to discuss, the **Chair declared** the meeting closed 7.12 pm.