

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held at the Council offices, High Street, Llandybie and online via Teams on Wednesday, 30th of October, 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.J. Evans	Cllr L. Wilkins	Cllr E. J. Davies
	Cllr S. Roberts	Cllr P.H. Roberts	

Attending online Cllr K. D. L. Davies Cllr D. Thomas Cllr A. W. Jones

Apologies Cllr A. L. Thomas Cllr L.Jones

540

To Receive apologies for absence.

The following councillors offered apologies Cllr A. L. Thomas, Cllr L. Jones.

541.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were two;

Cllr J. Tandy declare an interest in a planning item on Application No. PL/08317 in the Planning meeting to follow in that he is a neighbour of the applicant.

Cllr E. W. Nicholas declared an interest in the minutes of the Finance meeting on the budget for Llandybie Tennis Courts and the interest is that he is the Club President.

Cllr A. W. Jones declared a verbal interest whilst attending online regarding the Matters Arising in the minutes regarding the proposed spend by the Clerk on the budget spend for Riverway Park, Ammanford.

542.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 25th of September, 2024.
- Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 25th of September, 2024
- Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 24th of October, 2024
- Minutes of the Environment Meeting held on the 24th of October, 2024

Chair

543.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr D. Thomas asked that it be noted and amended that it was Cllr E. J. Davies that proposed the changes to councillor expenses on the item in the Finance Committee on reviewing the councillors rate of £15.00 per meeting. The Clerk confirmed that he would amend this.

V. Chair Cllr J. Tandy brought to the Clerks attention that a final line was missing that should refer to his attendance at Llandeilo's Mayors Meeting on the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that he would amend this on the minutes.

Cllr A. W. Jones wanted it noted that the refusal of the Clerks recommendation that £5k be retained in the budget to support the reinstatement of Riverway Park next to the border with Heol Ddu Ward was shortsighted and whilst he agreed that there are independent minded people on the council that had a right to an opinion that as stated in the minutes this was a quirk of boundary and this was a good opportunity to develop partnership working.

The Clerk offered the information that the housing estate was built after the boundary commission had set the boundary and that circa 120 properties were paying a precept to Llandybie Community Council, Cllr R. A. Davies agreed that this was the case.

Cllr A. W. Jones further offered the information that more homes were scheduled to be built and that the argument made that Llandeilo for example with Derwydd Park had not been approached for budget help was not a fair comparison and the approach was a naïve approach and a lost opportunity to work jointly.

The Clerk confirmed that he had taken advice from One Voice Wales and there was no statute that prevented spending budget on neighbouring authority projects.

Cllr A. J. Evans proposed that this be taken to the next Finance Committee for further consideration and this was seconded by Cllr R. A. Davies.

Cllr A. W. Jones wanted it noted during the discussion on the Planning Minutes of the 25th of September regarding the application to extend the Glan Lash Opencast Site that he strongly supported the application on the grounds that there was a local company providing local employment and that there was a strong argument that importing coal of lower quality was not cost effective or ecologically better.

Chair Cllr D. Hopkins concurred and offered the information that the company were selling a 100% of the coal extracted to water filtration companies locally which in turn offered employment locally. The previous submission he wanted noted was that 50% was for fossil fuel and this was a new and stronger application that should be supported.

Cllr P. H. Roberts, V. Chair Cllr J. Tandy and Cllr C. R. Thomas all agreed that whilst the jobs locally were important to consider that our policy that was agreed by full council last year clearly stated that we were apposed as a council to any new forms of Opencast Mining.

The Clerk intervened to ask that he record these personal opinions from individual councillors and that they be note in the planning committee that was to follow and that it be made clear that there was a policy in place but there was a split in councillor opinion and that we are only asked to offer ‘observations’ in our planning deliberations.

It was **proposed** by Cllr P. H. Roberts that this approach be accepted and **seconded** by Cllr A. J . Evans.

Acceptance of the minutes;

The Chair asked for a proposal to accept all the minutes and this was **Proposed** by Cllr R. A. Davies and **Seconded by** Cllr D. Thomas with amendments to be made as indicated.

544.

PUBLIC PARITICIPATION

There was none.

545.

CORRESPONDENCE

Police reports as 1st of September 2024

Llandybie Area	
Violence and sexual offences	12
Anti Social Behaviour	7
Public order	6
Drugs	2

Penygroes including Blaenau and Caerbryn;	
Violence and sexual offences	2
Anti-Social Behaviour	2
Drugs	1

Chair

Saron and Capel Hendre	
Violence and sexual offences	9
Criminal Damage and Arson	4
Anti-Social Behaviour	2
Burglary	1

Cllr D. Thomas wanted to ask why we still did not have a clear indication if there was a doubling up on the statistics offered and if some of the crimes recorded were not the same case or connected. The Clerk offered the information that the map on the Police Website did offer more detail when clicked on, but he would raise it at the next Cuppa with a Coppa event and offered the information that these were now being held monthly at Llandybie Memorial Hall, Cllr K. D. L. Davies wanted it noted that these were also being held in Saron.

Cllr D. Tomas mentioned they were also being held at Penygroes but the advertised venue post code was wrong, the Clerk said he would relay this information to the local PCSO.

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)

546.

Clerk’s Report 26/10/24

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.

Discussion at the meeting;

Chair

V. Chair Cllr J. Tandy asked for clarification on why Cwmgwili Was specifically mentioned and if both Saron and Cwmgwili funds could be spend in the wider community context, the Clerk confirmed that the funds were earmarked to specific wards against specific developments in proximity to project spend and specific budget headings such as ‘parks and recreation’.

(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.

- **Penygroes 51/34 and, 51/33;** the Clerk will investigate and update on these at the meeting. 51/33 is to get the landowner to cut the overhanging branches.
- **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. Clerk to update councillors at the meeting.
- **Bonllwyn 51/75;** Overgrown footpath shared with Ammanford area at Bonllwyn to Nantlais, the Clerk has walked the path and taken pictures, there does not seem to be a problem.

Discussion at the meeting;

The Clerk discussed the Bonllwyn 51/75 footpath and Cllr A. W. Jones confirmed that it seemed to be resolved, bit would speak to the resident concerned.

The final cut of paths has been undertaken by contractors within the budgeted amount set for 2024/25.

(c) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

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.

Update; the Clerk as of writing this report has not received a reply.

Discussion at the meeting;

Cllr P. H. Roberts pressed the Clerk to get a response and the Clerk agreed to do this.

(d) Banc Y Ddraenen Park Project;

An update:

- The Hedge line along the length of the park along with two planting benches had now been agreed to be installed by Carmarthenshire County Council at no cost to our budget.
- The Bird Box and Scholls project was in hand and would be carried out in the coming month.
- The two Apple Trees that failed to root are being replaced at no cost.
- The Clerk has not yet looked the ‘Vision Sign’ for the park to inform residents, but was planning to tackle that in the coming months and was looking at the cost of planting tubs for veg and flowers on the hard surface area.
- He was also working with the council on managing the meadow and scrub areas with sympathetic cutting and planting schemes.

(e) Job Evaluation/’time and motion’;

Paul Egan of One Voice Wales has now completed the interviews and is submitting his report, the Clerk will update on this at the Ordinary Meeting. An Employment Meeting will be called for November to discuss the findings. The Clerk suggests it be arranged following the Finance Meeting on Thursday November the 14th.

(f) Community Grant Awards Evening.

48 community representatives attended the presentation evening with buffet at Llandybie RFC on Friday 18th of October. Pictures have been sent to the South Wales Guardian.

(g) Update on Budget;

The Clerk has submitted the Draft Budget and is updating the draft for presentation at the next Finance Committee in November, he is proposing to arrange it for Thursday November 14th. The minutes and decisions will then be presented to the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday November 27th.

Discussion at the meeting;

Cllr R. A. Davies asked for a breakdown of the budget item on councillor expenses. The Clerk confirmed that he would email the information to all councillors.

(h) 5 Year Asset Plan;

The plan was presented to the Finance Committee and the Clerk is drawing attention to members that it is a ever evolving document and they can suggest ideas in community project for the years ahead, the Clerk is happy to meet councillors to discuss projects and opportunities in their wards and subsequently research grant opportunities that might be available and help increase or support the budget.

(i) Staff Pension;

The staff pension has now been set up with the NEST pension scheme as per the agreement of the Employment Committee and ratified by the September Ordinary Meeting.

(j) National Pay Award;

The Clerk has received the national pay award notice ; ‘The Local Government Association has informed us that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. We encourage employers to implement this pay award as soon as possible.’

The raise has been catered for within the draft budget presented to the Finance Committee and has an impact of around 2.5% on the pay of the Clerk and Administration Officer. This it has been advised is to be backdated to April 1st 2024. The backdated amount still means the staff budget falls well within the set budget for 2024/25.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

October 26th 2024

547.

Monitoring Budget & Financial Matters.

(i) Monthly monitoring budget.

INCOME

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL INCOME	DIFFERENCE
Precept	180000.00	120000.00	-60000.00
Vat Return (Rebate)	17000.00	14613.18	-2386.82
Administration	20000.00	13685.12	-6314.88
Bank interest	800.00	1336.17	536.17
Hire Agreement/Grants/106	4700.00	24126.17	19426.17
Total	222500.00	173760.64	-48739.36

EXPENDITURE

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
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Chair

30th of October 2024

Grass Cutting	£31,500.00	£12,458.25	£19,041.75
Staff Salary and PAYE	£61,864.00	£23,742.25	£38,121.75
Office Services	£6,000.00	£7,150.84	-£1,150.84
Insurance	£2,500.00	£3,240.60	-£740.60
Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetary)	£20,000.00	£14,140.81	£5,859.19
Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds)	£54,500.00	£38,239.08	£16,260.92
Services & Subscriptions	£6,050.00	£2,578.71	£3,471.29
Members Allowances & Paye	£15,875.00	£1,017.00	£14,858.00
Election Costs	£16,000.00	£8,028.26	£7,971.74
Section 137	£20,000.00	£8,550.00	£11,450.00
Lighting	£6,000.00	£0.00	£6,794.00
Community Development	£15,000.00	£13,838.00	£1,162.00
Total	£255,289.00	£132,983.80	-£122,305.20

Payments made to 25th of October;

Reembersment to Clerk for Dffodil Bulbs x 50kilo's Wynnstay	99.84
Boxap Ltd Supply and install of outdoor table tennis Inv 324422	1971.00
The Play Inspection Co Ltd Post Inspection of Swings Inv72273	474.00
EDF Electric Bowls Floodlights Capel Hendre Inv 20657032	41.45
EDF Electric Pavilion Saron Inv 20656780	42.90
EDF Electric Pavilion Penygrors Inv 20657065	31.01
Travel Expenses May to Oct 1st D. Nicholas	110.53
Vodafone paid for by Clerk for Chamber Connection 4 months	98.76
Harcourt, Repayment of cancelled invoice Inv 150672	240.00
EDF Energy Electric Shed Bowlingreen Llandybie Inv 20814212	51.22
HOWLTA Membership Inv m1002s0c0d0	30.00
Audit Office legacy payment 2020/21 Inv 008496	200.00
EDF Energy Pavilion Llandybie Sept Inv 20856962	22.77
Morgan & Morgan IT Tablet Cllr Lynne Wilkins Inv 883889	190.80
Mike Voyle Elec Bulbs and Fitting Tennis Floodlights Inv 0100	360.00
SSE Energy Electric Public Toilets Penygroes Inv	146.88

Chair

1679437	
BT Telephine and Broadband Till oct 1 month Inv M023 82	58.20
G. L. Jones Buffet at grant evening 18th Oct Inv 2024-040	441.00
K. D. Gardening Toilets at Llandybie and Penygroes Inv 191	891.25
Llandybie Church Hall rent for office and chamber Inv2024/2D/SC	650.00
Recalled Ammanfird RFC Grant £240	0.00
Ammanford Food Bank Grant Oct 2024	1000.00
Llandybie Twinning Assoc Grant Oct 2024	200.00
Amman Valley Hosp League of Friends Grant 2024	250.00
Llandybie Parish Xmas Lights Grant Oct 2024	250.00
Soar Llandyfan Baptist Chapel Grnat 2024	300.00
Llandybie Parish Churchyard Grant Oct 2024	800.00
Evangelistic Church Penygroes Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Penygroes Congregational Church Grmat Oct 2024	300.00
Eglwys MC Capel Hendre Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Capel Y Drindod Crosshands Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Mynydd Sion Congregational Chapel Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Jerusalem Chapel Penygroes Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Calfaria Baptist Chapel Penygroes Grant Oct 2024	300.00
National Playing Fields Ass Grant Oct 2024	650.00
Penygroes Short Mat Bowls Grant Oct 2024	250.00
Llandybie Mothers Union Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Llandybie WI Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Young at Heart Penygroes Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Merched Y Wawr Penygroes Grant Oct 2024	300.00
Cwmcoch Church Caerbryn Grant Oct 2024	250.00
Llandybie School PTA Grant Oct 2024	250.00
Penybanc Welfare Ass Grant Oct 2024	850.00
Wales Air Ambulance Grant Oct 2024	1000.00
Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Grant Oct 2024	100.00
Llandybie Memorial Hall Special Award Grant Oct 2024	5000.00
Llandybie Memorial Hall Grant Oct 2024	1699.00

To be paid;

Morgan & MORGAN

Monthly Fibre Broadband Subscription SOGEA 80/20 12 Month Contract £35.99

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDYBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL				
Mantolen 2024-2025 Accounts from April 1st				
Prepared by - D Nicholas				

Chair

Financial year ending 31/04/2025					
BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS					
					£
Brought Forward (opening balance at Bank)					£260,860.83
Add Income in the year					£173,760.64
Total					£434,621.47
Less outgoings					£142,486.51
Closing Balance Finance Spreadsheet (receipts - payments)					£292,134.96
Unpresented payments/cheques					£300.00
TRUE STATEMENT BALANCE					£292,134.96

Cllr R. A. Davies asked if the precept had now been set at 7.7%, the Clerk confirmed that it had only been passed as an item on the draft minutes of the Finance Meeting to be explored by the Clerk and reported as a deferred item to the next Finance Committee on the 14th of November, any decision at that meeting would be ratified in the Ordinary Meeting on the 27th of November.

The financial report by Cllr R. A. Davies and Seconded by Cllr R. Barnes.

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

548.

Section 106 funding.

There were no updates offered by County Councillors present.

549.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

The Chair expressed his enjoyment of attending the Llandybie Community Council Grant Award Evening at Llandybie RFC.

550.

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 27th of November 2024. It was further agreed that a meeting of the Employment Committee be scheduled for Thursday 14th of November followed by a

Chair

30th of October 2024

Finance Meeting on the same evening. This was agreed with timings to be 6.30pm and 7.15pm respectively.

551.

As there was no further business to discuss, the **Chair declared** the meeting closed 7.30 pm.