

15th February, 2024

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Llandybie Community Council held on Microsoft Teams on Thursday 15th, February, 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors	Mrs A.J. Evans	D. Thomas
	P. H. Roberts	J.W. Tandy
	Mrs C. Thomas	

Apologies	Mrs K.D.L Davies	S. Roberts
	D. Hopkins	

Absent :	I. Rh. Llewelyn,
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343.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

344.

Matters arising from the Environment committee held on the of November 2023.

The Clerk wanted it noted that he would correct the minutes of the meeting in November to reflect that Point 346 was referring to Knotweed being prevalent at Saron Hall not Banc Y Draenen.

The Clerk confirmed that tablet quotes had now been received for a total cost before Vat of £1,822.45 and would put this to the Ordinary Meeting on the 27th of February for approval and that the Paperless Meeting Policy would be requested at the same meeting to be active from April 1st 2024.

345.

To consider the Action Plan for Banc Y Ddraenen.

The Clerk explained that the action plan discussed at the November meeting was now on target and he had had three site meetings at Banc Y Ddraenen with representatives from One Voice Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council, he further explained that he was looking at grants from the Nature Heritage Fund and the Keep Wales Tidy fund that offer 1000% awards on the project costs with officer support. He then referred to the pre circulated project plan that reflected the progress to date and asked for observations and comments.

Cllr J. W. Tandy asked that amendments be considered to include the orchard planting on part D of the plan as well as part C and that an access be added on Waterloo Road to offer easier and better 'through access' to the site to compliment the addition of the double hedgerow and that the disability access be carefully considered at the entrance and by joining a route through part D to link up part E.

Both Cllrs A. J. Evans and Cllr C. Thomas agreed and asked that these changes be considered.

It was agreed that the Clerk meet with the agencies concerned and discuss the amendments.

The Clerk then confirmed that letters of support and feedback had been sent out to three primary schools and three Plant Meithryn to get buy in from the education sector.

The Clerk further circulated the letter and corresponding poster/flyer he had compiled that he would be posting by hand through doors on the estate and in businesses and public building throughout the area.

Cllr J. W. Tandy felt there was no need to question the content and wording but asked if more copies could be printed and circulated to Saron, Penygroes, Capel Hendre and along Black Lion Road to offer wider community input and engagement. This was welcomed by Cllrs A. J. Evans and Cllr C. Thomas.

Cllr P. H. Roberts asked that the Clerk enquire if transport costs for schools to the site could be considered as part of any grant applications, the Clerk noted this and agreed to investigate.

It was agreed that the Clerk meet with the agencies concerned and discuss the amendments and observations and a look at the wider circulation of the poster/flyer.

346.

Discussion on Tree Planting Scheme at Banc Y Draenen and wider budget for Community Tree Planting.

The Clerk explained that he was meeting with Matthew Collinson of Carmarthenshire County Council in reference to the pre circulated plan of tree planting on Banc Y Ddraenen estate. Councillors present agreed on the initiative and welcomed the county intervention. The Clerk agreed to get the community to participate in the planting.

The Clerk further confirmed that he would be seeking advice at the meeting on the Leylandii Trees at Cwmgwili and Cllr P. H. Roberts asked that the Clerk explore the recent development that Cwmgwili Welfare Association were seeking grant monies for a new hall and that this be considered when taking any action or eradicating and replacing the trees.

The Clerk further confirmed he was to take advice from the County on the general planting of trees across the communities as agreed in the budget meeting that earmarked £1,000 for wider community tree planting.

It was **recommended** that this was to be investigated further by the Clerk in terms of ownership and lease in conjunction with the Welfare Association and Carmarthenshire County Council and be included on the agenda at the next Environment Committee and that the Clerk work with the County Council to complete the tree planting at Banc Y Ddraenen.

It was **recommended** that the idea be put before the relevant committees mentioned and raised for discussion at the next full council.

347.

Discussion of Saron Hall, Walks and Gardens.

The Clerk updated members on the meeting he and the Chair had had with a representative of Saron Hall regarding help with repairing the walk way and footpaths, the community garden and in eradicating Knotweed that was prevalent on the site.

The Clerk felt that a meeting should further held to look at including projects in the site for consideration for next year community grants and community budget inclusion. He also felt that 106 monies could be explored. The Chair, Cllr C. Thomas concurred and felt that it was a key asset for the community of Saron that should be protected and nurtured.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk organise a meeting to explore the costs and possible co working with Saron Hall and include Cllr K. D. L Davies in the discussions along with Cllr C. Thomas.

348.

Discussion on Green Heating Solutions for key community hubs.

The Clerk said that he felt that discussions on the future grant requests from the key community hubs are a matter for consideration after Cllr A/ J. Evans raised the matter at the last Ordinary Meeting in January 2024.

The discussion was taken up by both Cllr A. J. Evans and Cllr J. W. Tandy the consensus backed by the Chair Cllr C. Thomas that the ongoing asset management plan being prepared by the Clerk for community council assets be extended to work in possible future costs of greener heating solutions at key hubs. Cllr J. W. Tandy reminded the Clerk that had passed on information of various agency support that was available to offer specialist advice in this area.

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I was agreed that the Clerk follow up agency support and develop a plan and the basis of a closer working relationship with key hubs on future greener alternatives and likely call upon the budgets of the community council which reflected the request in the previous Finance Committee for a review and closer working to be evidence in a forward planning exercise.

349.

Update of Paperless Office and Paperless Meetings.

The Clerk confirmed that as in the previous discussion in the meeting an acceptable quote had now been received to provide IT Tablets to put in place the Paperless Meeting policy which he will put before the next Ordinary Meeting for ratification and that he was going to request Paperless Meeting start after the 1st of April 2024.

The Paperless Office report as in progress and would be concluded this financial year.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk take these actions to next Ordinary Meeting for ratification.

350.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8pm.