

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Llandybie Community Council held on Microsoft Teams on Thursday 24th, October, 2024 at 7.50 p.m.

Present

Councillors	Mrs A.J. Evans	D. Thomas	L. Wilkins
	J.W. Tandy	D. Hopkins	H. Davies

Attending online; None

Apologies: G. J Davies, C. R. Thomas, P. H. Roberts, A. Thomas

531.

To receive apologies of Absence;

Cllr G. J. Davies, Mrs C. Thomas, P. H. Roberts and A. Thomas had notified the Clerk they were unable to attend.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

532.

Clerks Update on the Banc Y Draenen Project.

The Clerk offered the following 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 Schools 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.

533.

Cwmgwili Community Garden Project and wider Community Hall Project.

The Clerk explained that he had engaged with bulb planting at Cwmgwili Community Garden which had led to him introducing Carmarthenshire Tree Conservation officers to them and a scheme of planting and landscaping was being looked at on the site along with village hall site adjacent to the children's play area.

He also had introduced a local Beekeeper who will engage to discuss possible sites for Beehives.

534.

Offer of Beehives from local Beekeepers.

The Clerk explained he had spoken to a local Beekeepers who had Beehives that could be placed on council land assets, The Clerk asked that members email him if they felt they had suitable sites in their wards that were secluded and not too close to populated housing areas.

535.

Discussion of Green Heating Solution for Llandybie Pavilion.

The Clerk noted that in the Finance Committee earlier in the evening that the heating system at Llandybie Pavilion had been passed as a budget item for the coming 2025/26 with a new heating system and Air Source Heat Pump to be costed and this was welcomed by the committee in being within our green policies.

536.

Discussion of Nature Emergency Document.

The Clerk noted that he had received the 'State of Nature' document via Carmarthenshire County Council and had reviewed it with the V. Chair. He offered some key points as a precis of points relating to our policies currently in place.

Cllr A. J. Evans noted that it was particularly interesting that ecology surveys were being encouraged.

It was decided that the V. Chair and the Clerk review these and advise the next Environment Committee on any projects or additions to our policy that this could affect.

537.

Update on Cilyrychen Quarry.

The Clerk updated the committee on the suspended Planning Committee to discuss the Inert Waste Recycling Plant being applied for to Carmarthenshire Planning Authority and explained that although the site visit had taken place the subsequent meeting had to be suspended and arrange for a future date due to a technical issue of quorum at the meeting. He further advised that our Planning Committee had already submitted comments and we could make no further comments.

538.

Update on the Opencast Application for Glan Lash.

The Clerk updated the committee on the application by explaining that the previous application had been turned down to extend the Opencast Working for a limited period last year.

The application that will be before our planning committee on the 30th of October was for a new application where the applicant had submitted a 100% Mineral Extraction application for sale to Water Filtration and Technology Markets. The Clerk asked for observations which could be read out at the Planning Committee.

The Chair of Council Cllr David Hopkins felt strongly that there was a good case to support this application in terms of jobs in the local economy and to negate to import of coal from other countries such as Peru and Brazil which increased the impact on carbon footprint. He also felt that as this was non fossil burning supply need that it be accepted and that extend workings were acceptable for a limited period.

Cllr Lynne Wilkins was sympathetic to the use of materials for water filtration and technology but was torn on whether that outweighed the damage to ecology.

Sitting Chair Cllr J. Tandy felt that our policy was in place with a clear steer away from encouraging opencast workings and felt ecology was of prime importance. Cllr Huw Davies and Cllr A. J. Evans concurred with this, with Cllr Huw Davies asking that all views be read out in the forthcoming planning committee so that observations could be made from a balanced argument and that he felt jobs were indeed important.

It was agreed that the Clerk note and relay the observations offered to the Planning Committee on Wednesday 30th of October 2024.

539.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.