

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held at the Council offices, High Street, Llandybie and online via Teams on Wednesday, 29th of January, 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Attending online | Cllr K. D. L. Davies | Cllr D. Thomas | Cllr A. W. Jones |
| | Cllr A. L. Thomas | Cllr E. J. Davies | |

Apologies There were none

583.

To Receive apologies for absence.

There were none.

584.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

585.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 27th of November, 2024.

The minutes were proposed as correct by Cllr S. Roberts and seconded by Cllr A. Evans.

- Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 27th of November, 2024

The minutes were proposed as correct by Cllr S. Roberts and seconded by Cllr E. Nicholas.

Acceptance of the minutes;

The Chair asked for a proposal to accept all the minutes and this was **Proposed** by Cllr J. Tandy and **Seconded** by Cllr D. Thomas with no amendments.

586.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair

There were none.

587.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

588.

CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Police reports as 1st of December 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Llandybie Area | |
| Violence and sexual offences | 8 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 1 |
| Other theft | 1 |
| | |

| | |
|--|----------|
| Penygroes including Blaenau and Caerbryn; | |
| Violence and sexual offences | 3 |
| Drugs | 1 |
| Public Order | 1 |
| | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Saron and Capel Hendre | |
| Violence and sexual offences | 11 |
| Burglary | 1 |
| Other theft | 1 |
| Drugs | 1 |

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)

(i) Email from Cllr Simon Roberts regarding dog fouling.

The Clerk read out an email received from Cllr Simon Roberts regarding the problem of Dog Fouling in Llandybie Village, this problem and the concerns regarding it were echoed by many members present.

The email covered the problems of public health and the nuisance of Dog Fouling whilst offering solutions of educating then public via direct publicity, school projects and through local groups along with placing news bins in problem areas.

The Clerk explained that in general these areas could be looked at but we must be mindful that we cannot just add bins to locations where we do not own the asset or land which it is on, it is also the fact that we would also need to offer resource to empty the bins. The County Council he explained were in fact rationalising the bins. V. Chair Cllr J. Tandy offered a contact in Llandeilo Town Council who had undergone an exercise regarding this for consultation.

Cllr C. R. Thomas felt that the risk to health implications should be publicised in the South Wales Guardian and on other media. Cllr N. C. Davies was in agreement but felt that a means of disposing of the 'Dog Poo Bags' was also important. He also asked that we place bins at the entrance of footpaths that join roads and residential areas. Cllr Thomas further felt that other rubbish was being put in dog bins

Cllr D. Thomas said that there was no reduction of bins in Penygroes but he had had many complaints. He also offered ideas as to solutions.

Cllr A. W. Jones felt all areas have problems and that a joint approach we looked with other Community Councils with an advert in the local press. He also that we need to fight the County Council for more bins.

Cllr K. D. L. Davies stated that Saron Ward had only lost one bin whilst Cllr A. J. Evans felt that take away food wrappings were also an issue but that better surveillance by Dog Wardens might be a solution.

It was **Resolved** that the Clerk explore options and report back at the next Ordinary Meeting.

589.

Clerk's Report 29/01/25

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.

Chair

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.

(ii) Damage to play equipment at Llandybie Park;

Clerk will report on the incident on the Trampoline that was reported to Police and falls within our warranty cover from the contractor that installed the equipment.

(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 is still chasing the County Council for an update. 51/33 is to get the landowner to cut the overhanging branches. The Clerk will as within our right get our Footpath Contractor to cut the branches that directly overhang the path.
- **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.
- **51/106;** This path is now being reopened after neglect and storm damage with the County Council having installed a new gate near on the edge of the wooded area concerned.
- **51/13;** This was reported by Cllr D. Thomas and will be investigated in the coming week.

(c) Banc Y Ddraenen Park Project;

An update: This project is now actioned and will be undertaken over the coming months.

- The Hedge line along the length of the park along to the main road with two planting benches had now been agreed to be installed by Carmarthenshire County Council at no cost to our budget week beginning 27th of January.
- The wildlife and nature reserve area has taken a step forward with an Ecology Report completed in conjunction with the council's planning dept. This will be discussed the next Environment Committee.
- The Bird Box and Schools project was in hand and would be carried out in the coming months once the work on the nature reserve is realised in more detail.
- The two Apple Trees that failed to root are being replaced at no cost in early spring by the County Council.

- The Clerk has not yet looked the ‘Vision Sign’ for the park to inform residents, as the project is current ever changing with the nature reserve due to be confirmed.
- The concrete post and chain mail fence that was getting unsafe was removed earlier this month. This has opened up the area.
- The Clerk is also working with the council on managing the meadow and scrub areas with sympathetic cutting and planting schemes, this is being discussed within the 2025/26 cutting regime.
- Basically the only undeveloped area not yet decided on is the old hard surface foundation of the demolished Capel Hendre Hall. This will further be discussed at the Environment Committee.

(e) Llandybie Tennis Courts;

Work is now set to start in late February on the new surface, site visits by the successful contractor South Wales Sport Grounds having taken place and site-specific Risk Assessment & Method Statements along with the Site set up and Traffic Management Plan has now been received and is being reviewed by the Clerk in conjunction with the Memorial Hall to ensure no disruption to the hall and post office business.

The contractor is happy to invoice on completion of the project in late March and for the invoice to be paid out of the new budget in April, upon which time the Clerk will draw down £15,000 from the successful application from the Betws Wind Farm Fund.

Discussion;

Cllr R. A. Davies drew attention to a draft proposal that the Memorial Hall had received from the Clerk regarding access to undertake the project and felt it was unsatisfactory on a few points including proximity to the Children’s Play area, Cllr A. W. Jones joined the discussion saying that the Memorial Hall had shared the proposal with him and he had many concerns.

The Clerk explained that he was disappointed in the Memorial Hall for sharing the report and that it was in fact a draft for discussion prepared by the contractor as a starting point to put a formal plan in place, the plan he explained had already been rejected by him on Monday when he received it, a fact that had already informed both councillors of in an email, and in the case of Cllr R. A. Davies in a phone call on Monday morning. He also explained that Ordinary Meetings were not the place to discuss early draft plans which were still in discussion with partners of the project and further, he did not understand why the Memorial Hall would have shared the information in the first place.

Cllr R. A. Davies once again raised his concerns about the storage area on the car park next to the Children’s Play Area, the Clerk again explained he had already informed him this had been reject on Monday as he had just explained in the opening explanation of the item.

V. Chair Cllr J. Tandy intervened and felt it was not a productive use of meeting time discussing something that was an ongoing draft and in the case of the storage area was not going to happen.

The Chair agreed that the Clerk continue with his report.

(f) Heating System at Bowls and Tennis Pavilion;

The Clerk has now met three specialist local contractors onsite who have surveyed the building and have quoted on the work with one quote left to be received, all three contractors have confirmed that we are eligible for a Green Voucher Grant of £7,500 towards the cost. The Clerk will further apply for to the Betws Wind Farm Fund for circa £8,000 to match fund our budget allocated of the £26,000 budget figure allocated.

The Clerk will meet with the Bowls and Tennis Clubs to explain the project and to try and tie in with the playing seasons.

(g) Community Grants Update;

We have now received circa 23 grant applications for consideration at our February Finance Committee thanks to the Administrative Officer putting reminder emails, letters and making phone calls.

(h) Caerbryn Community £20k contribution from reserves;

The Clerk has now informed that the completion of the children's play area is now imminent and they will be requested the earmarked funds from our reserves to be paid. The Clerk on agreement of tonight's meeting pay the amount once a letter with bank details have been received.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

January 29th 2025

590.

Update on Gilfach Iago.

The Clerk confirmed that no update had been received.

591.

Monitoring Budget & Financial Matters.

(i) Monthly monitoring budget.

Chair

INCOME

| HEADING | BUDGET | ACTUAL INCOME | DIFFERENCE |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Precept | 180000.00 | 180000.00 | 0.00 |
| Vat Return (Rebate) | 17000.00 | 14613.18 | -2386.82 |
| Administration | 20000.00 | 13685.12 | -6314.88 |
| Bank interest | 800.00 | 8192.32 | 7392.32 |
| Hire Agreement/Grants/106 | 4700.00 | 24126.17 | 19426.17 |
| Total | 222500.00 | 240616.79 | 18116.79 |

EXPENDITURE

| HEADING | BUDGET | ACTUAL EXPENDITURE | DIFFERENCE |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Grass Cutting | £31,500.00 | £14,853.25 | £16,646.75 |
| Staff Salary and PAYE | £61,864.00 | £48,438.74 | £13,425.26 |
| Office Services | £6,000.00 | £8,382.12 | -£2,382.12 |
| Insurance | £2,500.00 | £3,240.60 | -£740.60 |
| Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetery) | £20,000.00 | £14,140.81 | £5,859.19 |
| Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds) | £54,500.00 | £49,439.79 | £5,060.21 |
| Services & Subscriptions | £6,050.00 | £3,639.34 | £2,410.66 |
| Members Allowances & Paye | £15,875.00 | £1,055.00 | £14,820.00 |
| 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 | £173,605.91 | -£81,683.09 |

(i) Payments for December and January;

| | |
|--|--------|
| EDF Floodlights Electric C Hendre Inv 000021031502 Inc Standing Charge | 138.96 |
| EDF Shed Bowling green 2 x Months, Inv 000021952135 | 27.23 |
| EDF Pavilion Penygroes Electric Inv 000021895261 | 35.23 |
| Yorkshire Gas & Power, Toilets Llandybie | 44.37 |

Chair

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|--|---------|
| Dwr Cymru Dec Inv 5082301045 Toilets Llandybie 7mths | 188.34 |
| M Voyle Electrical, Repair of Floodlights Inv 0123 | 360.00 |
| Yorkshire Gas & Power, Electric Toilets Penygroes Inv 898192 | 102.67 |
| EDF Bowls & Tennis Llandybie Electric Inv 0000212184169 | 118.34 |
| HMRC Dec 2024 Ref L/5670 | 1523.95 |
| Dynevor Tree Services 2nd Cut Contract, Inv 414 | 1185.00 |
| Dynevor Tree Service Fallen Tree Footpath 51/121 Inv 415 | 190.00 |
| M B Philips Safety Gate for Penygroes Park Inv 0124 | 1425.00 |
| Yorkshire Gas & Power, Offices High Street Inv 895049 | 136.96 |
| BT Broadband Inv M025G2 | 61.44 |
| NEST Pension Unti Dec 2024 D. Nicholas, S Taylor | 289.12 |
| EDF Floodlights Electric C Hendre Inv 000021031502 | 48.60 |
| EDF Sport Pavilion Saron Electric Inv 000021895445 | 37.26 |
| EDF Shed Bowling green 2 x Months, Inv 000021952135 | 95.28 |
| EDF Pavilion Penygroes Electric Inv 000021895261 | 29.76 |
| Salary D. Nicholas Jan 2024 | 2625.63 |
| Salary S Taylor JaN 2024 | 782.70 |
| HMRC Jan 2024 615/L5670 | 1243.53 |
| Dwr Cymru Dec Inv 5080623749 Sports Pavilion Saron 7mths | 353.66 |
| Dwr Cymru Dec Inv 5082301045 Toilets Llandybie 7mths | 137.95 |
| Dynevor Tree Services Tree Storm Damage Inv 1.10.2025 | 1020.00 |
| One Voice Wales Module 12 Training Chair Inv 7763 | 38.00 |
| MB Phillips Fencing Fence Removal Capel Hendre Inv 0120 | 975.00 |
| One Voice Wales Time & Motion Staff Report Inv 8751C | 460.00 |
| Morgan & Morgan Office Stationary Inv 00122254 | 52.98 |
| Dynevor Tree Services Sign Cleaning 11 parks Inv 15.01.2025 | 400.00 |
| Vision ICT Ltd, Annual Website Hosting & Support Inv 19571 | 322.50 |
| Clerks Vodafone reimbursement Chamber connection 4 mths | 98.76 |
| Clerks Travel Expenses Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan 2025 | 136.54 |

Payments pending;

BT Phone and Broadband £61.44

One Voice Wales Training £40.00

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water 7 months at Bowls and Tennis Pavilion £803.58

(ii) Balances

| 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 |

Chair

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|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|
| | | | | | |
| Add Income in the year | | | | | £240,616.79 |
| | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | £501,477.62 |
| | | | | | |
| Less outgoings | | | | | £179,710.57 |
| | | | | | |
| Closing Balance Finance Spreadsheet (receipts - payments) | | | | | £321,767.05 |
| | | | | | |
| Unpresented payments/cheques | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| TRUE STATEMENT BALANCE | | | | | £321,767.05 |

(iii) Update on External Audit for 2023/24.

The Clerk reported that there had been no further requests for information and no conclusion had been received.

The financial report by Cllr S. Roberts and Seconded by Cllr L. Wilkins.

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

592.

The Clerk asked that the Budget for 2025/26 that he had circulated as part of the Public Papers for this meeting be formal accepted and that included the Annual Precept figure of £193,860.

It was proposed to accept the budget by Cllr N. C. Davies and Seconded by Cllr D. Thomas and unanimously agreed by the Councillors present.

It was **Resolved** to accept the Budget for 2025/26 and the Precept amount within it.

593.

Section 106 funding.

There no update from County Councillors present.

594.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

The Chair expressed his enjoyment of attending the N. East Carmarthenshire's Chairs & Mayor's get together where there was good discussions on common issues facing Community and Town Councils.

595.

Chair

29th of January 2025

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 26th of February and the Finance and Environment Committees to be held on the 19th of February 2025.

596.

As there was no further business to discuss, the **Chair declared** the meeting closed 7.50pm.