

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of Llandybie Community Council held at the Council offices, High Street, Llandybie and online via Zoom on Wednesday, 24th of April, 2024 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

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

Attending online Cllr K. D. L. Davies Cllr A. W. Jones Cllr S. Roberts

Apologies Cllr I. Rh Llewelyn Cllr R. Barnes Cllr R.A. Davies

438.

To Receive apologies for absence.

Cllr R. A. Davies, Cllr R. A. Barnes, Cllr I Rh. Llewelyn

439.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none

440.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following meetings as circulated were considered:

- Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 27st of March, 2024.
- Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 27th of March, 2024

441.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was one comment, Cllr S. E. Thomas asked for clarification on the attendance of Cllr A. W. Jones in the previous Ordinary Meeting. Cllr A. W. Jones confirmed that he had left the meeting due to a bad signal and no sound and had left a message on Zoom Chat. This was confirmed by Cllr E. Davies who had also experienced difficulties and along with the Clerk who had noted the comments about having to leave the meeting.

The Chair accepted this explanation.

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442.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

Incident at Amman Valley Comprehensive

The Chair expressed shock at sorrow the incident that occurred at Amman Valley Comprehensive earlier in the day and asked Councillors if a letter of support at a very difficult time be sent to the school.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk draft up a letter to be added to by the Chair and sent to the school.

443.

CORRESPONDENCE**(i) Police reports as at 1st of March 2024**

Llandybie Area	
Violence and sexual offences	0
Criminal damage and arson	0
Antisocial behaviour	1
Possession of weapons	0

Penygroes including Blaenau and Caerbryn;	
Antisocial behaviour	1
Public order	0
Criminal Damage and Arson	0
Drugs	2

Saron and Capel Hendre	
Violence and sexual offences	0
Criminal Damage and Arson	0
Anti-social behaviour	0
Public order	0

For members and wider public information, Llandybie Community Area Crime figures below are available using the link below. The Clerk recommends that the

 Chair

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)

The Clerk confirmed our local PCSO and a new PCSO would be attending the next meeting if the shift pattern allows, they were unable to attend this evening due to a serious incident at Amman Valley Comprehensive School.

(ii) Letter from Penygroes Memorial Hall.

The Clerk read out a letter from Penygroes Memorial Hall that thanked the Community Council for the grant award of £4,000 received following the Finance Committee held in February. The thanks were gratefully accepted by all members

444.

Clerk's Report 24/04/24

To: Chair and Members of Council.

(a) Parks;

(i) Saron and Capel Hendre 106.

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.

(ii) Park Inspection Training.

The Clerk and Administrative Officer have now completed the Routine and Operational Park Inspection Training.

(iii) Swings at two parks in Penygroes.

These have now been ordered and the Clerk has asked for completion by the end of May 2024.

(b) Footpaths. There are no further updates on the below Footpaths below except 61/106.

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.

- **Bonllwyn 61/106;** The Rights of Way Team at Carmarthenshire County are negotiating with the landowner to redirect the route and get the landowner to undertake the works this year to reinstate the route, this includes a small

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footbridge and styles and then putting a cutting machine to the reinstate the footpath.

- **Caerbryn 51/56;** The Clerk is still pressing the Rights of Way Team who have committed to repairing the foot bridge. The damage to the route has, they say, been caused by a water run-off from the highway. The Clerk has now written again to Carmarthenshire Highways team to begin dialogue and The Administration Officer has followed up with a request for an update.

Comments; Cllr D. Thomas asked the Clerk to follow up by enquiring to the council on more urgent progress, the Clerk agreed to contact the County Council Rights of Way Team.

- **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.
- **51/24;** The Chair Carey Thomas has highlighted this footpath and County Council has paid a visit and discovered the landowner had done some work on land next to it and the County Council legal team will investigate.

(c) Annual External Audit 2022/23;

The Clerk is currently waiting for final confirmation from the Wales Audit Office having answered all queries to date.

(d) Penygroes RFC and Gate locking at night.

A meeting of three Community Councillors has taken place at the Park and it was agreed to get costings for the current contractor who open and closes the Penygroes toilets to offer a price if they wished to undertake the task.

The Clerk has now had confirmation from Carmarthenshire County Council who are the landowners that they are happy for us to lock the gate in agreement with Menter Cwm Gwendraeth.

Menter Cwm Gwendraeth have agreed provided the gate is open by 6.15am each of four mornings a week. The Clerk is now waiting for a formal price from K. D. Landscaping for the extra cost of opening and locking the gate. The Clerk will provide the final price and the response at the April Ordinary meeting.

(e) IT Tablets for council business.

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The Clerk has received seven requests and would urge any further requests to be forthcoming and will order the tablets in May 2024.

Comment; During the meeting it was established that eight IT Tablets were required and two as spare.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk order ten IT Tablets.

(f) The Rights of Way Maintenance.

This has now been awarded once gain to Dynevor Tree Services who were £2,000 cheaper than the second of three quotes received.

(g) The Parks Grass Cutting and Bowls Maintenance Update: The contract has been prepared by the Clerk and the Administration Officer and been sent out to 5 contractors with submissions expected week ending 26th of April.

(h) Banc Y Ddraenen;

The posters are now being distributed for feedback in a public consultation exercise. The Clerk will then look at the funding for the project moving forward with One Voice Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council.

(i) The Asset Management Business Plan.

The Clerk is still working on this and will conclude the work after he has completed the Internal Audit for 2023/24.

(j) Preparation of Internal Audit.

The preparation is now at the final stages with the Clerk looking to meet with the Internal Auditor in early May 2024.

(k) Our archives.

As per the agreement of the council in its Ordinary Meeting of the 27th of March the Clerk has now engaged with the officers and will be meeting them in early May.

(l) Meter readings and electricity costs at the Bowling and Tennis Pavilion.

The Clerk will present a spreadsheet on the increased energy costs incurred due to the cost of the Floodlights in the winter months.

(m) Saron Park CCTV.

The Clerk as per the agreement in the Ordinary Meeting of March 27th has now sought three quotes with one already received and two more pending.

(n) Election at Saron Ward.

The election has now been arranged for Wednesday 15th of May 2024, four candidates are standing and are described as follows; two from Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales, one Independent who is presently a member of Gwlad Party and one from the Welsh Liberal Democrats / Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru.

Dai Nicholas – Clerk

April 17th 2024

445.

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.

446.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following financial information was circulated 3 days prior to the meeting by the Clerk;

INCOME as at 17th of April 2024

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL INCOME	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
Precept	180000.00	180000.00	0.00	
Vat Return (Rebate)	12000.00	9863.32	-2136.68	11260.63 TO CLAIM
Bank interest	800.00	7014.80	6214.80	
Hire Agreement/Grants	7700.00	16516.86	8816.86	RoW CCC £3,000 Paid April 2nd 2024
Total	200500.00	213394.98	12894.98	

EXPENDITURE

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
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24th of April 2024

Grass Cutting	£54,000.00	£39,495.35	£14,504.65	
Staff Salary and PAYE	£51,225.00	£49,462.19	£1,762.81	
Office Services	£12,350.00	£13,311.21	-£961.21	
Insurance	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,500.00	
Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetary)	£20,000.00	£9,850.00	£10,150.00	
Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds)	£33,550.00	£36,032.65	-£2,482.65	
Services & Subscriptions	£2,300.00	£2,488.00	-£188.00	
Members Allowances & Paye	£7,134.00	£6,993.00	£141.00	
Election Costs	£10,000.00	£18,999.26	-£8,999.26	
Section 137	£10,000.00	£6,100.00	£3,900.00	
Vat	£12,000.00	£5,206.00	£6,794.00	
Community Development	£42,000.00	£65,118.00	-£23,118.00	£28,000 106 money pending in April/May 2024
Total	£257,059.00	£253,055.66	-£4,003.34	

Payments to End of March 2024.

27/03/2024	Online	Cllr Huw Davies Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	261.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr G J Davies Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	306.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr A J Evans Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	486.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr K D L Davies Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	366.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr E W Nicholas Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	366.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr P H Roberts Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	456.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr C R Thomas – Annual and Chairs Allowance 2023/24	1046.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr D O Thomas Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	456.00
27/03/2024	Online	Cllr J E Davies Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	235.00
27/03/2024	6387	Cllr R A Davies Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	411.00
27/03/2024	6388	Cllr S Roberts Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	411.00

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24th of April 2024

27/03/2024	6389	Cllr R Barnes Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	381.00
27/03/2024	6390	Cllr D Hopkins Cllr Annual & V. Chairs Allowance 2023/24	1031.00
27/03/2024	6391	Cllr I Rh Llewelyn Cllr Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	291.00
28/03/2024	Online	Cllr S E Thomas Annual & Meeting Allowance 2023/24	276.00
28/03/2024	Online	Hefin Jones Translation for Jan/Feb/March	170.00
28/03/2024	Online	Carmarthenshire County Council - 97551960	6463.30
28/03/2024	Online	Martin Davies - 27/02/2024	241.06
28/03/2024	6406	Penygroes Welfare Hall grant 15/02/2024	4000.00

Payments to 17th of April in new accounting year;

- Carmarthenshire County Council, Lighting and utilities £6,463.30
- Mrs S E Thomas, Cllr Allowance £276.00
- Hefin Jones 2 Months Meeting Translations £170.00
- J. Tandy Cllr Allowance £381.00
- EDF Energy Llandybie Bowls and Tennis Pavilion £463.63
- EDF Energy £457.19 Bowls and Tennis Pavilion inc Floodlights over winter
- EDF Energy £46.63 Saron Sports Pavilion
- EDF Energy £21.57 Capel Hendre Floodlights
- EDF Energy £29.24 Pavilion Penygroes
- EDF Energy £36.00 Pavilion Woodfield Rd, Off peak
- EDF Energy £32.21 Shed – Llandybie
- Sian Taylor Travel and out of Pocket Expenses Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March £272.95
- Sian Taylor Salary inc back payment at Sc 5 rate to August £1235.61
- Environment and Finance Minutes 15/02/24 £152.68
- Ordinary Meeting and Planning 27/03/24 £233.74
- Translation of new Standing Orders £478.25
- Cacennau Campbell Cakes, Rhian Campbell Buffet for Grant Evening £326.00

Pending at 17th of April 2024;

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- A Jones, Cllr Allowance £336.00
- Carmarthenshire County Council Grounds Maintenance; £8,613.25
- Morgan & Morgan, Monthly Fibre Broadband Subscription
SOGEA 80/20 12 Month Contract £35.99
- ICO Data protection fee £40.00
- Dinefwr Electrical £181.00
- Election fees for July 2023 £8,028.26
- Quarry Clock at Chapel Smith of Derby £210.00
- Harcourt Litho Posters for Banc Y Ddraenen £277.13
- Wales Audit Office audit fees for 2021/22 £661.00

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDYBIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL				
Mantolen 2023-2024 Accounts from April 1st				
Prepared by - D Nicholas				
Financial year ending 31/3/2024				
BALANCE OF ACCOUNTS				
				£
Finance Spreadsheet			Balance from Cash Book £279,663.56	
Brought Forward (opening balance at Bank) including uncashed cheques				£312,607.63
Add Income in the year				£213,394.98
Total				£526,002.61
Less outgoings				£258,212.96
Closing Balance Finance Spreadsheet (receipts - payments)				£267,789.65
Unpresented payments/cheques				£7,801.54
TRUE STATEMENT BALANCE				£267,789.65

The Clerk closed by acknowledging the concerns of both Cllr R. A. Davies and Cllr A. W. Jones via phone and email that he should amend the entry for Penygroes Memorial Hall to reflect 'grant' rather than 'hire', this the Clerk explained was a typing error.

Chair

The Clerk further acknowledged comments by Cllr S. E. Davies the entry for two Councillors on expenses was misleading, the Clerk offered to amend the entry to say ‘Chair and Vice Chair Annual Allowances’.

Cllr E. Davies asked for clarification on the PAYE of Councillor Allowance payments as the minutes were rather ambiguous. The Clerk offered to seek exact wording from One Voice Wales and circulate to all Councillors.

Members **resolved** to ask the Clerk amend the entries and approve the budget and payments as correct.

447.

Chairs Annual Report 2023/24

The Chair, Cllr C. R. Thomas read out her annual report, contained below. Cllr S. E. Thomas wanted it noted that it was one of the best annual reports she had listened to and asked if a press release could be sent to the media, the Clerk offered to send it out to English and Welsh titles.

I have been honoured to act as Chairman for Llandybie Community Council during 2023/2024. It has been a both interesting and rewarding experience having gone through the learning curve of the procedural and statutory side of being a Chair of a Community Council and having privilege of meeting some hard-working community champions within our communities.

The work of the Community Council has seen some positive achievements for the people of our communities and I would like to note the following;

Health and Wellbeing;

The maintenance work to over 90 of our rights of way footpaths in conjunction with Carmarthenshire County Council has meant that access to stunning countryside is kept and to compliment that within a vision of health and wellbeing we have installed open air gym facilities so that all of our community have access to fitness equipment. This was made possible by a mix of our community improvement budget and 106 grant monies that made it possible to upgrade the Multi Use Games Area and install a Bouncy Mini Trampoline facility.

Accessibility;

Within the improvements to our 11 parks in the ward, we have seen access gates installed at both Penygroes and Llandybie Parks with a picnic area an accessibility ramp installed at the later, the bouncy mini trampoline, it must be noted, is also accessible to those with varying abilities.

Maintaining services;

Public conveniences at Llandybie and Penygroes have remained open with a programme of annual maintenance continuing to ensure that our stock remains in good order.

Improving our green credentials;

We have in my time implemented a digital banking policy and a paperless office and paperless meeting policy meaning we are resolute in our work to limit the use of paper and support our environment along with the creation of environmental policies of greening our communities.

Supporting our key community groups;

It was with great personal satisfaction that I have chaired our finance committees and, in that role, we have overseen the award much needed community grants to support the work of volunteers and groups that provide key services and facilities as a lifeblood to many in our communities. Our presentation evenings at Saron and Penygroes saw us celebrate and support those groups.

Parks and play areas in our community;

We have continued to provide safe and inclusive play areas for both health and social interaction for our young people across 11 parks and continue to invest in maintaining and improving facilities to a high standard, we recently approved the upgrade of swings at Spien Road and Gors Ddu in Penygroes and have started a project of regeneration at Capel Hendre Park with the support of our local primary schools, the County Council and local residents.

The Community as a whole;

The Community Council now has a duty to publish an annual plan and incorporates a community action plan which complements the work at all levels which is required under the Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015) section 40(1) and links directly to the objectives of the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board and the National Wellbeing Goals.

On a personal note, I would like to say how of much an honour it has been to serve Llandybie Community Council, however, it was very difficult at the beginning with councillors not respecting the protocol of addressing council debate through the Chair. Also, there were occasions when councillors did not respect the right of colleagues to have a different viewpoint and party politics became an issue instead of putting community issues first. At one time I almost took the decision to stand down as Chair but I am so happy that I persevered in continuing as Chair because I now feel these issues have been addressed and meeting are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I would too like to thank the Clerk and the Administrative Officer for their hard work and diligence.

Lastly, I wish the new Chair my best wishes and will offer support in the familiarisation process when taking over after our Statutory Meeting in May.

Diolch yn fawr

448.

Section 106 funding.

There was no further information offered by County Councillors present.

Request on Seminars / Joint meetings

There was no information offered.

449.

Date of next meeting

Members **resolved** that the next Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 29th of May 2024.

450.

As there was no further business to discuss, the **Chair declared** the meeting closed 7.00 pm.