

16th November, 2023

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Llandybie Community Council held on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 16th, November, 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Councillors Mrs A.J. Evans D. Thomas
 Mrs C. Thomas J.W. Tandy

Apologies Mrs K.D.L Davies

Absent : P. H. Roberts, S. Roberts, I. Rh. Llewelyn, G. Harris

343.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

344.

Matters arising from the Environment committee held on the 15th of August 2023.

Cllr D. Thomas asked if there was progress on point 199 and reference to the Clerk contacting Carol Rio regarding the Banc Y Ddraenen project. The Clerk explained that it was part of the action plan to be discussed later in the agenda of this meeting.

Cllr D. Thomas asked if the Paperless Office and Meeting Policy had been passed, The Clerk explained that at the Ordinary Meeting of October 25th it was agreed that the policy be agreed in principle and be discussed for ratification once the Clerk reported what the cost of IT Tablets would be.

345.

To consider the Action Plan for Banc Y Ddraenen.

The Clerk opened discussion by explaining the action plan circulated and contained within these minutes below. The key message from the Clerk was that buy in from both members and the public was important along with the initial confirmation that grants and support via Carmarthenshire County Council and One Voice Wales was still available. The Clerk further confirmed that he had emailed the parties concerned on the 10th of November and was waiting for a response, and if favourable would begin the public consultation exercise.

The Clerk lastly explained that 7% of certain grants could be put towards funding a project officer.

Chair

Project Action	By Whom	When	Budget
<p>Scale and scope of project;</p> <p>1. Orchard area and fruit trees on current grassed area next to play area.</p> <p>2. Veg boxes and raised planting beds/community garden on the hard standing area formally Capel Hendre Hall.</p> <p>3. Wild meadow area at the rear of the site along with bat boxes, bird boxes and historical interpretation.</p> <p>Improve footpaths and offer accessibility.</p>	Environment Committee to agree on outline of Scale and Scope	November 16th	£0
<p>Sounding out One Voice Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council for Grant eligibility and availability.</p> <p>Carms County; Gary Baxter and Isobel Macho. One Voice Wales; Rachel Carter</p>	Clerk	Email sent 10 th of November 2023	£0
<p>Community buy in and consultation;</p>	Clerk and Administrative Assistant.	December and January 2023/24	Clerk and Admin Officer time plus cost of;

<p>Clerk to contact and action;</p> <p>Primary Schools, Coleg Sir Gar, Local Community Groups.</p> <p>Design poster for distributing at Schools, Shops and Prominent businesses and information boards.</p> <p>Distribute poster as a flyer with contact details and a questionnaire to the immediate area of Banc Y Ddraenen.</p>			<p>Posters Approx £150.00 (A4) Questionnaire Approx £100.00 (A4)</p> <p>Local Travel; £50.00 (Clerk and assistant clerk at .45p per mile)</p>
<p>Reporting on consultation;</p> <p>Clerk to report to the next Environment meeting which he purposes for March 2024.</p>	Clerk	March 2024	£0
<p>Possible escalation;</p> <p>Agreeing a mission and project goals via an Action Committee with local volunteers and Community Councillors, Schools, Colleges and other community groups.</p>	<p>Cllrs C. Thomas, (current Chair), Cllr J. Tandy, Cllr P. Roberts, Cllr K. D. Davies, Cllr D. Jones, Cllr G. Harries and Cllr R. Barnes and Ysgol Y Blaenau, Ysgol Penygroes, Ysgol Saron, Coleg Sir Gar, local groups and local people such as Carol Rio.</p>	April 2024	£ time
<p>Possible next steps;</p>	Clerk plus action committee.	May to June 2024	£ time

Business Plan and financial projections. Formal project costings and tendering.			
Project plan and delivery time table	Clerk plus action committee.	July 2024	
Formal grant application	Clerk with support of action committee	September 2024	£ time
Appointment of project manager if application is successful on 7% of total project award.	Environment Committee and the Clerk with support from the Action Group recommendations.	October/November 2024.	£ time
Possible project start and groundworks	Contractors and Project Manager	Spring of 2025	£ as per project budget.

Cllr J. Tandy welcomed the action plan but felt that points 3 and 4 on section 1 of the plan should be merged, members agreed this and it has been amended accordingly for presentation of these minutes.

Cllr J. Tandy further noted that it would be prudent to adopt a phased approach to the project, as the veg boxes and raised planting beds/community garden and the orchard area and fruit trees could be done relatively easily while the more complex part three wild meadow area is being planned.

The Chair and Cllr J. Tandy also wanted clarification that the aerial pictures emailed from Isobel Macho be scrutinised to retain the hard standing area at the park. The Clerk confirmed he would note these observations and clarify this during the project application and planning stage.

Cllr A. J. Evans wanted consideration given within the planning to the fact that seasonally habitats need to be managed carefully and any works minimise the impact on indigenous wildlife that might be present such as Dormice.

Cllr J. Tandy explained that it was key to have surveys done such as Bat Surveys before work be planned, Vice Chair Cllr D. Hopkins agreed and said that he had had experience of this in the past and it can be very prohibitive.

The Clerk explained that this would be part of Carmarthenshire County Council's input.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk identify get clarification on the funding available and then begin the local consultation phase to judge the 'buy in' of the local community and ascertain what budget requirements may be needed from the Community Council.

Chair

346.

Discussion of ideas ahead of the Community Development and Finance Committees on the 23rd of November.

The Clerk asked if there projects of an environmental nature to be considered for discussion at the Community Development and Finance Committees next week.

The Chair asked that the Saron Welfare Hall Association land and rights of way trails and area of SSI that is behind the hall in Saron be considered. The Clerk confirmed he would raise this in the Community Development meeting. He further confirmed that he would offer the Banc Y Ddraenen project to be considered also in light of the Chair and him having visited the site earlier on November 16th and identifying a prevalence of Knotweed that will also have a negative environmental impact on the local area.

Cllr J. Tandy and Cllr A. J. Evans asked if the issue of Leylandii Trees be relooked at as they are not an indigenous species to the British Isles and the Clerk reinvestigate the possibility of removing these tall trees at Cwm Gwili Park and replace them with carefully chosen indigenous species.

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.

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

347.

Update on adoption of Fossil Fuel Mining, Humane Mole Policy and Paperless Office and Meetings Policies.

The Clerk updated members on the reports on the agenda explaining that the Mineral and Fossil Fuel Mining policy was passed at the Ordinary Meeting on October 25th.

Vice Chair Cllr D. Hopkins wanted it noted that he had researched the matter and that for example 6.3 tonnes of coal had been imported from countries such Columbia in the last year and this was stopping local more environmentally transported coal supply from being used. He also wanted it noted that much of the higher-grade local coal was used for filtration.

The Chair felt strongly that the time had come for fossil fuel extraction to be phased out and Cllr J. Tandy wanted to clarify that the policy was mineral and fossil fuel extraction on nit specifically referring to opencast mining.

Chair

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Cllr D. Thomas interjected by saying that as a Community Council we were in a difficult position as there is a ruling from Welsh Government against any new extraction applications such as this.

The Chair asked that the discussion be noted.

The Clerk further explained that the Humane Mole Policy had now been adopted by the Policy Committee and ratified in the Ordinary Meeting of October 25th.

The Clerk further explained that the Policy on Paperless Office and Meetings had been agreed in principle subject to the Clerk presenting costings of IT Tablets to the next Ordinary Meeting on November 29th.

The Clerk explained that these policies would be translated into Welsh and uploaded to the Council website.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk present his findings on the cost of IT Tablets to the next Ordinary Meeting.

348.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7pm.