

19th November, 2025

Minutes of a meeting of the Green Spaces Committee of Llandybie Community Council held on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 19th, November 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Present

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|
| Councillors | Mrs A.J. Evans | R. Barnes | N. C. Davies |
| | J.W. Tandy | A. Thomas | H. Davies |

Attending online; None

Apologies: Cllr G. J Davies and L. Wilkins,

Absent; S. Roberts and P. H. Roberts

829.

To receive apologies of Absence.

L. Wilkins and G. J. Davies had notified the Clerk they were unable to attend.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

830.

Clerks Update on the Banc Y Draenen Project.

The Clerk offered the following update;

- The hard surface area has been discussed with Carmarthenshire County Council and there is an area where there was not enough topsoil to cover the crushed concrete foundation, the Clerk confirmed he chased Matthew Collinson from the County to remedy this and the contractor was commissioned to attend to the issue during December 2026.
- As in previous meeting the Clerk confirmed the nature reserve area works had now been costed by the consultants pending a 106 grant of monies. The cost was circa £5,000 with a cost of £1,000 annually over 25 years to be deposited with Carmarthenshire County Council to be released yearly to cover the cost of the upkeep of the area in terms of cutting and mowing.

Update; This was now on hold after the Clerk had received an email in the last week saying there was a planning issue and a challenge to planning

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decision that had been lodged, he would keep councillors updated in future meetings.

It was **agreed** to offer the above points as an update to the Ordinary Meeting on November 26th, 2025, and the Clerk to update that meeting as to any progress.

831.

Update on green heating solution for Llandybie Boels & Tennis Pavilion.

The Clerk updated councillors that he had relooked at the project in light of grants not now being available after the County Council did not release the expected grant and after research had looked at an alternative solution to place ceiling and wall air source electric heaters in the main meeting room with smaller electric heaters in the small storage room and the shower room with further ceiling and wall mounted air source electric heaters in the other rooms.

A solar panel system would be installed on the roof with a battery to store energy to offer back to the electric grid whilst storing energy for our own use to lower our electricity costs in the building and the floodlights.

Solar panels would further power a hot water boiler that would service the toilets and kitchen in a more economical way.

In a meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair earlier in the month, the Clerk had explained his intention to split the project into two with the internal system as one and the solar as second project, this was to avoid too much disruption and get the project spread over a manageable period.

The Clerk explained that in the next two days he was meeting a specialist consultant on site to get a project specification drawn up to allow him to put a formal letter in place to ask for questions from at least three contractors as per our Standing Orders.

The Chair felt that the Clerk should refer to a third project element which is redecoration of the pavilion once the heating work was complete and felt that all walls should be re painted, a new carpet laid, and new energy efficient ceiling lights fitted. Cllr N. C. Davies felt that the Artex ceiling was very dated and that too should be re plastered. The Clerk confirmed that the painting of the walls was in the general maintenance budget and he was also having new locks fitted on the front door plus an Alarm System Costed.

The Chair and Vice Chair expressed their views that the internal electrical heating system should be fitted this financial year and before the start of the Bowls Club Centenary Season, the Clerk reminded the members present that in the October Finance Committee and in the Ordinary Meeting it was agreed to put the project spend into the 2026-27 financial year after he had submitted the required 6 month budget review of the current financial year.

The Chair interjected that the Clerk had indicated that the internal project could be completed before the end of this financial year in a previous meeting on site to discuss the project, the Clerk confirm that this was possible but that he needed to

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at least have a cost for the two project elements in place, and now the third element of a new carpet and lighting, and that these costs needed to be phased as a proposal and presented to full council and probably Finance Committee as it would mean taking funds out of reserves.

The Chair and Vice Chair felt that this was the best option as the project could at least be started before the Bowls Centenary Season, but the Chair felt that this needed to be agreed at the next Ordinary Meeting as a phased project approach as there would not be time to take this to Finance Committee.

The Clerk wanted it noted that he had to be compliant with standing orders and had to answer to Audit Wales annually and recommended that this be discussed at the next Ordinary Meeting on November 26th to have an agreement, ratified on the proposal to start the project this financial year.

It was **recommended** that the Clerk meet initially with consultants to explore the phased approach and attempt to get some costing before the next Ordinary Meeting and ask that a phased proposal be proposed for resolution.

832.

Update on battery project at the Quarry Clock.

The Clerk informed members that a three-week testing of a battery power solution had been very successful with the clock keeping perfect time and had now had a quote from a local business who just wanted to be paid 'cost' for the battery and the charger. There were two options a 100v and 300v battery where two could be purchased one as a replacement monthly whilst a second was being charged.

The 300v option was £1,732 inc vat and the 100v option was £884 inc vat.

The Clerk further updated the committee that Smiths of Derby had visited earlier in the day to carry out the annual maintenance check and had expressed the view that this was a good solution.

It was **recommended** that the 100v battery option accepted and be put the Ordinary Meeting for Resolution on November 26th, 2025.

833.

Discussion on policy of hedge trimming and land clearance on highways and private land.

The Clerk updated that requests had been received from various locations and as these requests were for land and assets not owned by the Community Council it was difficult for him as RFO to justify spend, however on a recent case at Bonllwyn, there was duty by the County Council on highways and public health grounds to get the land owner to act to remedy an overgrown hedge and a parcel of land.

The Clerk confirm that he had now engaged with the County Council to get them to address the matter.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk update future meetings as to progress on the matter.

834.

Discussion on adoption of a parcel of land at Penygroes.

The Chair that he had discussed with the Clerk adopting or having a small piece of overside land asset transferred to the Community Council. This was to have a tree planting and bench scheme for residents to have an added amenity within Penygroes Village.

The Clerk confirmed that he was waiting for a response from the County Council whether the approach was feasible and if further discussion could be had.

Cllrs R. Barnes and N. C. Davies questioned the need to have more assets of this nature and the extra cost of maintaining the land, the Chair felt that this could be included in the annual ground's maintenance schedule.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk update the next appropriate meeting once a reply was received from the County Council.

835.

Update on Zip Wires at Saron, Penygroes and Blaenau Parks.

The Clerk updated members that the Saron Park Zip Wire and Roundabout was costed within this year's budget and work was planned to commence in January 2026 and would take around 10 days to complete.

The Zip Wires in Penygroes and Blaenau had been scheduled for March 2026 and would be invoiced in the next Financial Year.

836.

Update on security gates at Penygroes Park

The Clerk updated the committee by saying that the gates had been manufactured and were due to be installed within the next two weeks.

837.

Digital Storage of council files.

The files had now been collected and were due to be digitised within the next two weeks, but the formal minutes of all meetings would also be kept as hard copies and bound as has been the tradition over the lifetime of the council.

838.

Discussion on solar on toilets and motion sensor lighting and solar CCTV.

The Clerk explained that he was in the process of costing solar panel and light sensors for toilets and some dark areas at night in our parks for security and energy saving measures and was meeting an electrical contractor in the coming week.

He further updated members that he had costed a Solar CCTV System at Llandybie Park to dissuade vandalism and that this cost had been around £1,700 plus VAT and as vandalism wasn't that costly maybe this could be looked at as a future budget for 2027-28.

It was **agreed** that this be discussed in forthcoming Green Spaces Committees.

839.

Update on Tree Planting and working with Morgan Marine.

The Clerk explained that he had identified planting areas for 57 trees such as small fruit trees in 6 local parks and was in the process of arranging a visit with Morgan Marine to those parks to agree a planting day, volunteers would be sought to accompany the Clerk and Morgan Marine had already committed staff to undertake the work

It was **agreed** that the Clerk update the next appropriate meeting on progress.

840.

Newsletter and Green Spaces Stories.

The Clerk confirm the quarterly newsletter was now being released in the coming week and asked for proactive stories from committee members to be fed to him if they had any that they could identify.

841.

Net Zero Training

The Chair drew members attention to the free Net Zero Training that was available and asked the Clerk to circulate the email to members.

Date of next meeting.

Chair

842.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.