

**MINUTES OF LLANDYFAELOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM**

1. Present: Cllrs Elfyn Williams (Chairman), Nicola Jones, Philip Davies, Janet Knott, Richard John, Shan Rees and Arfon Davies (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Viv Davies, Meinir James, Mair Stephens, Rheinallt Jones and Eifion Jones.

The Chairman wished all members a Happy New Year and thanked them for attending the annual Christmas Dinner at the Red Lion. He expressed the Council's best wishes to Cllr Mair Stephens following a recent hospital stay.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

3. Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 2nd December 2021 were confirmed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

- 1. Road safety at the Llandyfaelog junction with the A484 –** Council awaited provision of a date for a site visit with the Public Lighting Department from Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss an improvement project for the junction. Noted.
- 2. Concern regarding traffic speeds along Heol y Lan –** Council awaited provision of the speed monitoring results for the location. Noted.
- 3. Lighting project at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin –** Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 4. Planning application, PL/02147 in property in woodland area – Idole to Pentrepoeth –** The Clerk noted that the application had not yet been decided. Noted.
- 5. Planning Application PL/02381, Maeshyfyrd, Pentrepoeth –** The Clerk noted that the application had not yet been decided. Noted.
- 6. Concerns relating to parking on double yellow lines in Llandyfaelog –** Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 7. Audit of the Council Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 –** Concern was expressed that the Council had still not received the audited accounts from Audit Wales. The Clerk noted that he had contacted One Voice Wales on the matter and that they had raised the issue with Audit Wales.
- 8. Road surface at Pwll y Baw –** The County Council had undertaken further patch repairs of the road. However there appeared to have been an altercation between the workers and local residents due to what was felt to be lack of appropriate action. Full resurfacing was noted by the County Council as not being possible until further resources become available. In the meantime, the Clerk had requested a site visit. Noted.
- 9. Vehicles not stopping on the give way at Pibwr Bridge on Bolahaul Road –** A reply was received from the Police who had looked into the matter and found that there had been one accident at the location over the previous 4 years, it was felt that with just one incident it was not possible to justify having

staff monitoring the area. Additionally it was noted that the nature of the road also doesn't provide adequate safe parking areas to enable action to be undertaken. It was noted that improvement could be made to the hedge on the Llangunnor side of the give way, which may be causing visibility issues at the location. The Clerk will raise with the County Council.

- 10. Traffic issues in Croesyceiliog** – An email was received from the County Council noting the difficulties with the issues experienced, however clarifying that it was difficult to identify possible solutions due to the right of access through the village by the public. Information was also noted of previous speed data investigations in the village. Consideration will also be given to possible provision of pedestrian warning signage. Noted.
- 11. Water running into Llandyfaelog from the highway and consequent flooding** – A site visit had been undertaken on the 9th December with the County Council Flood Management Team in order for them to understand the issues caused in the village. Confirmation had since been received that the matter was being discussed internally with an update awaited. The Clerk will request that the County Council confirm where the water in the watercourse adjacent to Brynhawddgar was directed, in case it was exacerbating the problems experienced. Noted.
- 12. Croesyceiliog village sign** – It was noted that the sign was on the list for replacement when resources become available. Noted.
- 13. Signage improvements at Cloigyn** – The Council awaited a response on the matter.
- 14. Code of Conduct Training** – Cllr Nicola Jones noted how useful the code of conduct training session had proved. The Clerk noted that the application for a bursary to fund the training had been approved. Noted.
- 15. Croesyceiliog Post Box** – It was noted that an updated collection time had now been provided for the post box, however it was at an early time of 9am.
- 16. Bancycapel Notice Board** – It was noted that the notice board had been repaired.

5. Correspondence

- 1. Barclays Bank** – Statements. The bank reconciliation was counter signed by Cllr Nicola Jones.
- 2. Welsh Government** – Information from the Minister for Social Justice on the national milestones under the seven well-being goals along with the second edition of the Future Trends report. Noted.
- 3. Welsh Government** – Information on the Eligible Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021 which set out the qualification requirements on Community and Town Council Clerks should they wish to resolve themselves as an eligible Council under the general power of competence. Noted.
- 4. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Carmarthenshire Period Poverty Project seeking suitable distribution points within the Community to support the project. It was agreed to raise the matter with the Llandyfaelog Community Hall Committee. Noted.
- 5. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Information on the forthcoming Town and Community Council Elections. Noted.
- 6. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Notification of a temporary road closure of the U2210 in Cwmffrwd on the 20th December for a period of 3 days which was required for Welsh Water to carry out mains repairs work. It was noted

that this had been the result of a burst pipe which had then caused damage to the highway. The matter had been rectified by the County Council. Noted.

7. **Welsh Government** – Consultation on the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Draft Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils. Noted.
8. **Welsh Government** – Climate Change Bulletin December 2021. Noted.
9. **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue** – Winter Newsletter. Noted.
10. **Hywel Dda Community Health Council** - Newsletter. Noted.
11. **Carmarthenshire Public Services Board** – Consultation on the Carmarthenshire Well-being assessment. Noted.
12. **Welsh Government** – Information on two reports on ‘Councillor Remuneration and citizen engagement in Wales’. Noted.
13. **Hywel Dda University Health Board** – Feedback report on Building a Healthier Future after COVID19. Noted.
14. **Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner** – Public consultation on local feelings of safety. Noted.
15. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Confirmation of payment of 1/3rd of the 2021-22 precept being £7,833.33. Noted.
16. **Barclays Bank** – Letter informing the Council that due to lack of use, the bank intended to close the Council’s Llandyfaelog Pump bank account. The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to the bank to confirm that the account was still required. Noted.
17. **Planning Enforcement – Field at Idole** – The Clerk noted that he had been contacted in relation to concerns on engineering works at the entrance of the field which had been subject to Planning Application W/33310. The matter was now being considered by the Planning Enforcement Department at Carmarthenshire County Council.
18. **Litter collections – Maesglasnant, Cwmffrwd** – The Clerk noted that he had been contacted in relation to the litter collection service at part of the Maesglasnant Estate in Cwmffrwd which appeared to be being impacted by the ongoing planning dispute between the developer and the County Council. The matter had been forwarded to the County Council who had noted that due to Health and Safety issues relating to the current condition of the highway in the estate that it was not possible to carry out a kerbside collection. In these instances, steel bunkers were often provided, but this was not felt to be a solution to the problem at this location. Noted.
19. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Pageantmaster** – Letter updating Council’s on plans for events to mark Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to place the issue on a future meeting agenda.
20. **Welsh Government** – Draft Welsh Government Budget 2022-23. Noted.

6. Idole Field and Community Amenities

1. An update was received in relation to the insurance claim for the damaged fence at Idole Field that the solicitors request to the third party's insurers has not been responded to meaning that the third party responsible was not confirming their identity. They were now awaiting a DVLA report on the vehicle which could be relied upon in providing the third party drivers name and their address, though this may not be conclusive evidence that the registered keeper of the vehicle was the driver at the time of the incident. It was noted that the accident had been subject to a court case brought forward

by the police and the Clerk will ask if this could be pursued to obtain the name of the third party.

2. Cllr Mair Stephens continued to seek information on the ownership of the area of land in front of the Idole Field where ash die back was affecting trees. The Clerk will request a meeting with the relevant County Council Officer to discuss the matter.
3. It was noted that the work on the hedge cutting had been completed at Idole Field with an invoice received for £150.00 plus VAT to Mark Richards approved.
4. The Clerk noted that the Idole field notice board had been repaired by the Council Handyperson.
5. The Clerk circulated a draft tender document for the grass cutting contract at Idole Field and Glanmorlais for 2022. Council approved the tender and will seek prices in readiness for the next meeting.
6. Council received an invoice for £40.00 plus £8.00 VAT from Wrenvale Nurseries for the treatment of the Himalayan Balsom at Idole Field. This was approved for payment.

7. Community Handyperson

The Clerk confirmed 28 hours worked in December with a cost of £420.00 approved.

8. 2021-22 Budget Report

The Clerk presented the 3rd quarter budget report for the 2021-22 Financial Year. Council carried out the quarterly budget monitoring and accepted the report.

The Chairman carried out an audit of the 2021-22 financial records.

9. 2022-23 Precept, Priorities and Budget Report

The Clerk presented the report and noted the likely financial position for the end of the 2021-22 Financial Year.

Council considered the report and agreed to request a precept of £23,700 for 2022-23 (£23,500 in 2021-22). The sum would lead to a Band D Council Tax of £37.11 (£36.73 in 2021-22). The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to complete and sign the necessary paperwork to be returned to Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Clerk confirmed that it was good practice for Council to hold between 3 months and one year's precept in general reserves and that any further funds held should be allocated in specific reserves.

Council further considered its priorities for Council reserves. Specific reserves were agreed to be allocated as follows:

Public Lighting Improvements (including the annual £1,077.25 cost of the LED Lighting upgrade)	£4,000
Amenity Improvements	£3,000
Idole Play and Amenity Area	£7,000

10. 2022-23 Investment Strategy

The Clerk presented the draft Investment Strategy. The Strategy was approved as Council Policy for the 2022-23 Financial Year.

11. Biodiversity and Environmental Development Action Plan 2022-24

The Clerk presented the draft Biodiversity and Environmental Development Action Plan for 2022-24 under Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 which included detail of the actions undertaken under the 2019-21 Action Plan. Council reviewed the document and approved the Action Plan.

12. Planning

1. **PL/02474** - Variation of Condition No. 4 of PL/00750 - Nantyoetre Isaf, Ferryside, SA17 5YA. It was agreed that while no objections were to be raised, the Council would request that any extension of the period for discharge of condition No. 4 should be strictly time limited and enforced if not met appropriately.

2. **PL/03253** - Retention of single-storey rear extension (as built) - Maes Yr Haf, Pantglas, Croesyceiliog, Carmarthen, SA32 8DS. No objections.

13. Accounts

The following payments were approved:

1. **Wrenvale Nurseries** **£48.00** Himalayan Balsom treatment - see item 6.6 (£40.00 plus £8.00 VAT)

2.	Description	Salary	Expenses	Total Gross	Tax Deducted	NI Deducted	Net Pay
Arfon Davies	December Salary and costs	£624.78	£26.00 £7.00 £15.84 £20.70	£694.32	£126.20	£0.00	£568.12

3. **HMRC** **£378.60** Income Tax deductions (October – December)

4. **Mark Richards** **£180.00** Hedge cutting Idole - see item 6.3
£150.00 plus VAT £30.00

5. **Michael Leefe** **£420.00** Handyperson December – see item 7

14. Any other business

1. It was noted that a number of lighting columns were not working in the Idole and Cwmffrwd area. The Clerk will report to the County Council.
2. A pot hole was noted on the Sgwar Bryncochbach junction on the Llansaint side of the junction. The Clerk will report to the County Council.
3. The lack of lighting being provided by the new LED lighting columns was noted.
4. The Chairman gave a report of the Carmarthenshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales meeting he had attended.
5. It was agreed to send flowers to Cllr Mair Stephens to wish her a speedy recovery.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 3rd February 2022.