

## **MINUTES OF LLANDYFAELOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

**1. Present:** Cllrs Shan Rees (Chairman), Philip Davies, Janet Knott, Eifion Jones, Rheinallt Jones, Meinir James, Nicola Jones, Elfyn Williams, Jenny Jones, County Councillor Tyssul Evans and Arfon Davies (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Cllrs Carys Thomas and Viv Davies.

The Chair noted the Community Council's best wishes to Cllr Carys Thomas who was getting married on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations.

### **3. Public Participation**

It was noted that no Members of the public were in attendance on this occasion.

**4. Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were confirmed and signed.**

### **5. Matters Arising**

- 1. Lighting project at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 2. Planning application, PL/02147 in property in woodland area – Idole to Pentrepoeth** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 3. Concerns relating to parking on double yellow lines in Llandyfaelog** – It was noted that two vehicles had recently been booked in the area.
- 4. Water running into Llandyfaelog from the highway and consequent flooding** – Confirmation was received that work had been carried out to install a larger gully grating. Noted.
- 5. FP29/4 Pentrepoeth** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 6. Planning Enforcement Issues at field in Idole** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 7. PL/04973 – Gelligaeros Industrial Estate, Idole** – Council awaited further updates on the planning application.
- 8. Carmarthenshire Enlightenment** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 9. Carmarthenshire County Council – Consultation on the proposed 20mph speed limit changes** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 10. Accidents at Bancyapel** – A report was received of a further accident at Bancyapel. The Clerk confirmed that he had made a Freedom of Information request for the police reports into recent accidents in the area. Confirmation was received that the County Council and Police were developing proposals for the area with consultation to be carried out soon with the Community Council.
- 11. Bin for Rama Chapel** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.

- 12. Defibrillator Training Event** – The Clerk confirmed that following discussion with the Community Hall Committee that suggested dates would be provided to St John's Ambulance with confirmation awaited on availability. Noted.
- 13. Bute Energy consultation events** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
- 14. Bus shelter cleaning** – Confirmation was received that the County Council would soon commence the bus shelter cleaning programme. Noted.
- 15. Pot holes for repair between Cilgadan and Bryncochbach** – Confirmation was received that these had been repaired. Noted.
- 16. Road surface at the Llwynyreos turning in Cwmffrwd** – Confirmation was received that the area had been assessed and noted to be in a poor condition, it was therefore included as a potential capital works site for the year, however should this not be possible to fund, patching works will be carried out.
- 17. Anti-skid surfacing generally in the Community** – Confirmation was received that repairs would be carried out where felt appropriate following safety inspections, however there were no budget available to re-lay these surfaces currently. Noted.
- 18. Water pooling between Capel Farm and Fforest** – Confirmation was received that the drains and ditches had been checked and cleared. Noted.

## **6. Correspondence**

- 1. Barclays Bank** – Statements. Noted.
- 2. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Latest News. Noted.
- 3. One Voice Wales** – Carmarthen Area Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. A report of the meeting was given by Cllr Janet Knott. Noted.
- 4. One Voice Wales** – April and May training events. Noted.
- 5. One Voice Wales** – Request for motions for the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Noted
- 6. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Invitation to attend Code of Conduct Training on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> July. Members will confirm availability to the Clerk.
- 7. St David's Cathedral** – Invitation to a Service of Celebration to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and The Queen Consort on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The Chair will attend on behalf of the Council.
- 8. Carmarthenshire County Council** – Confirmation of payment of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the 2023-24 precept, being £8,460. Noted.
- 9. Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine** – Noted.
- 10. Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs** – Invitation to the Carmarthenshire YFC Rally on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Chair or Vice Chair will attend on behalf of the Council.

## **7. Idole Field and Community Amenities**

- 1.** Council awaited a further update on the excess insurance claim for the vehicle damage to the field fence.
- 2.** Cllr Nicola Jones declared her interest and left the meeting for the item. The Clerk noted that the bench at Bolahaul road had now been replaced. The invoice from Star Forge Fabrication for £380.00 plus VAT was approved.
- 3.** The Clerk confirmed the cost of a sealant product for the historical information panels at £13.99.

## **8. Community Handyperson**

The Clerk confirmed 28 hours worked in April with a total cost of £560.00 approved. Payment was also approved of £280.00 for works carried out under the grass cutting contract at Idole and Glanmorlais for the 2023 year.

## **9. 2021-22 Annual Financial Return**

The Clerk noted receipt of the audited Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The audit had been completed with an unqualified report received. The Clerk confirmed that the report had been advertised as required. The Clerk was thanked for his work with the Council financial arrangements.

## **10. General Power of Competence**

The Clerk noted that Llandyfaelog Community Council currently met the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to remain an eligible Council able to exercise the general power of competence.

Council considered the issues and unanimously agreed a resolution confirming that Llandyfaelog Community Council continues to meet the conditions in accordance with Schedule 4, Part 1 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and therefore wished to remain an eligible community council able to exercise the general power of competence.

## **11. Members Payments and Allowances 2023-24**

Consideration was given to the deliberations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for the 2023-24 year as follows.

**Cost of Care –** The Council must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs.

This would be reimbursed at the meeting following a claim being submitted to the Clerk. This was noted.

**Costs and Expenses 1 –** The Council must make available a payment to each of its members of £156 per year towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home.

This will be paid in February of each year unless a member confirms to the Clerk that they do not wish to claim all, or part of it. This was noted.

**Costs and Expenses 2 -** Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

It was agreed to provide for reimbursement for the cost of office consumables. This will be paid in February of each year unless a member confirms to the Clerk that they do not wish to claim all, or part of it. This was noted.

**Senior Roles** – The Council may make available an annual payment of £500 each to from one and a maximum of three members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £156 and £52 payments for costs and expenses. It was agreed not to take forward this payment.

**Travel** – The Council can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. This is optional. This was noted and approved.

**Overnight stays** – The Council, if a duty requires an overnight stay, may authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates as published. This is optional.

This would be reimbursed at the following meeting after a claim is submitted to the Clerk. This was noted and approved.

**Financial Loss** – The Council can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as published.

This would be reimbursed at the following meeting after a claim is submitted to the Clerk. This was noted and approved.

**Attendance Allowance** – The Council can pay an attendance allowance for members. The mandatory maximum for each qualifying event is £30 and a member in receipt of financial loss compensation will not be entitled to claim attendance allowance for the same event.

If the council decides in favour of attendance allowances, it must produce a scheme for formal adoption and make provision for it to be publicly available.

Payments for attendance must be in respect of official business or approved duty which are identified in the council's Standing Orders or alternatively by specific resolution. The scheme should specify for which events payments will be made.

All members of the council will be entitled to the payment for attendance at the events specified in the scheme, but an individual member may decline to receive payment by informing the Clerk (in writing). It was agreed not to take forward this allowance for the Council.

**Civic Head** – The Council can provide a Civic Head payment to the Chairman up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £156 and £52 payments for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed by that member. This payment is in addition to the budget of £400 that is allocated to the Chair's activities. It was agreed not to take forward this allowance for the Council.

**Deputy Civic Head** – The Council can provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the Vice-Chairman up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £156 and £52 payments for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed by that member. It was agreed not to take forward this allowance for the Council.

## 12. 2023-24 Insurance Agreement

Consideration was given to the Council Insurance Policy for the 2023-24 Financial Year with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 5 year agreement noted and approved at a cost of £598.86.

## 13. Community Events 2023

Council discussed Community Events in 2023 as follows:

- Garden Competition;
  - Arwyn Edwards had agreed to carry out the judging for the competition.
- Scarecrow Competition;
  - A possible shield for a Community effort competition had been discussed with the family of Mair Stephens and approved. The Clerk will provide some examples for consideration to the Council.

## 14. Planning

1. **PL/05807** - Proposed detached dwelling & associated works - Plot 3, Croesyceiliog, Carmarthen, SA32 8DS. No objections.
2. **PL/05677** - Earth banked nutrient store, together with dirty water below ground store, to comply with Environmental Permitting Regulations and SSAFO Regulations, and proposed Welsh Agricultural Pollution Regulations - Gelli Farm, Llandyfaelog, Kidwelly, SA17 5PD. No objections.

## 15. Accounts

The following payments were approved:

1. **HM Revenue and Customs**      **£793.19**      January – March deductions and reversal of NI deduction (September 2022)

2.	Description	Salary	Expenses	Total Gross	Tax Deducted	NI Deducted	Net Pay
Arfon Davies	April Salary and costs	£679.06	£26.00 £14.40 £7.00 £8.05	£745.10	£281.40 -£0.40	-£29.61	£483.14

3. **HM Revenue and Customs**      **£281.40**      April deduction
4. **Star Forge Fabricators**      **£456.00**      Bolahaul Road bench  
£380.00 plus £76.00 VAT  
(See item 7.2)
5. **Michael Leefe**      **£560.00**      April payment (see item 8)
6. **Michael Leefe**      **£280.00**      Grass cutting (see item 8)
7. **Zurich Municipal**      **£598.86**      2023-24 Insurance policy  
(see item 12)
8. **Information Commissioner**      **£40.00**      Data protection registration  
2023-24

**16. Any other business**

1. It was noted that a speed data collection exercise was being undertaken in Cwmffrwd. The Clerk will request the findings.
2. The Clerk will request information on number of unfulfilled journeys by bus providers in the Community.

**The next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.**