

**MINUTES OF LLANDYFAELOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM**

1. Present: Cllrs Shan Rees (Chairman), Janet Knott, Philip Davies, Jenny Jones, Meinir James, Eifion Jones, Carys Thomas, Nicola Jones, Elfyn Williams and Arfon Davies (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Rheinallt Jones and Viv Davies.

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 7th December 2023 were confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

1. **Lighting project at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. The external lighting levels were noted to have decreased recently. Noted.
2. **Planning application, PL/02147 in property in woodland area – Idole to Pentrepoeth** – It was noted that the matter remained in progress with the Welsh Government and had 3 cases in front of it awaiting provision of an assigned inspector.
3. **Concerns relating to parking on double yellow lines in Llandyfaelog** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
4. **FP29/4 Pentrepoeth** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
5. **Planning Enforcement Issues at field in Idole** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
6. **PL/04973 – Gelligaeros Industrial Estate, Idole** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
7. **Highway improvement proposal at Bancycapel** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
8. **Community Speed Watch** – Confirmation had been received from the Police that:
 - There was no expectation on how often volunteers carried out speed watches;
 - A minimum of 2 individuals were expected to be ‘on shift’ together;
 - With regards the transgressions noted, the lead co-ordinator will receive an email with a link that takes them through to the CSW portal. They would then input the required details date, time, vehicle reg etc. This information is then received by North Wales Police who send a warning letter to the offending vehicle owner.

An email was also received from the Welsh Local Government Association on an information session being held on the 8th February on the subject. Cllrs Nicola Jones and Jenny Jones will look to attend.

9. **Bin for Rama Chapel** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. It was agreed to also request provision of a bin at Heol y Lan.
10. **Possible visit to Carwe Water Treatment plant** – Council awaited further updates on the matter.
11. **Actif Sir Gar** – Confirmation was received that the Council's nomination of Jamie Stiles for Sports Personality of the Year had been shortlisted for the awards ceremony. It was agreed for the Chair to attend the event on behalf of the Council with the £10 cost approved.
12. **Donations made to Carmarthen and District Youth Opera and Llandyfaelog Community Hall** – Letters of thanks were received in relation to the contributions made. Noted.
13. **Bin at Capel Penygraig** – Cllr Meinir James confirmed that a replacement bin would be provided at the location. Noted.

6. Correspondence

1. **One Voice Wales** – Cost of Living Crisis survey information. Noted.
2. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Notification of a temporary road closure of the U2207 in Idole on the 4th March. Noted.
3. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Planning Enforcement presentation. Noted.
4. **West Wales Woods** – December 2023 Newsletter. It was noted that the newsletter had been posted with insufficient postage, meaning that a payment of £2.50 had been made to the post office. The correspondent will be made aware of this issue. Noted.
5. **National Access Forum** – Countryside Code, December update. Noted.
6. **Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner** – Bulletin. Noted.
7. **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service** – Calon Tân Magazine. Noted.
8. **One Voice Wales** – January, February and March Training Dates. Noted.
9. **National Grid** – Update on proposed new Substation at Llandyfaelog. The update provided for a consultation to the Community Council on the properties to receive consultation letters on the upcoming proposal. It was agreed to request that this area includes all properties including businesses in the Llandyfaelog Community Area.
10. **Senedd Cymru** - Consultation: Fiscal Intergovernmental Relations. Noted.
11. **Welsh Government** – Consultation: Future spending purposes for dormant assets funding in Wales. Noted.
12. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Confirmation of payment of 1/3rd of the 2023-24 Precept being £8,460.00. Noted.
13. **Older People's Commissioner Wales** - December Newsletter. Noted.
14. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Community and Town Council Update. Noted.
15. **Hedgehogs R Us campaign** – Request that the Council considers providing roadside hedgehog warning signs. Noted.
16. **Barclays Bank** – Statements. The bank reconciliation was countersigned by Cllr Jenny Jones.

7. Idole Field and Community Amenities

1. Defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that he had met with the ambulance service, who confirmed they were able to provide pads and batteries for Zol AED Plus Defibrillators.

These were the defibrillators used by the Council in all but Cwmffrwd and Idole, which were Zol AED 3 units. The pads at both these were due to expire in May.

It was noted that the Croesyceiliog Unit had recently been used in an emergency, replacement pads had therefore been provided.

2. Play Area Inspection

The Clerk confirmed that the parts ordered were due to be received during January.

3. Trees for Idole Field

The Chair and Clerk noted possible tree costs for various species. Purchase of two trees with a budget of £200 available was approved.

4. 2024 Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk circulated a draft tender document for the grass cutting contract at Idole Field and Glanmorlais for 2024. Council approved the tender and will seek prices in readiness for the next meeting.

5. Speed Signs

The Clerk provided information on the cost of Speed Recognition signs from Westcotect. It was noted that if approved by the Police these could be used to provide evidence for warning letters or fines to vehicles committing offences, the Clerk will check with GoSafe as to whether this could be the case for the Dyfed Powys Area.

8. Community Handyperson

The Clerk confirmed 28 hours worked in December with a total cost of £560.00 approved. A suggested hourly charge proposal was provided by the Handyperson for the 2024-25 year, the Clerk will discuss this further with the contractor.

9. 2023-24 Budget Report

The Clerk presented the 3rd quarter budget report for the 2023-24 Financial Year. Council carried out the quarterly budget monitoring and accepted the report.

The Chairman carried out an audit of the 2023-24 financial records.

10. 2024-25 Precept, Priorities and Budget Report

The Clerk presented the report and noted the likely financial position for the end of the 2023-24 Financial Year.

Council considered the report and agreed to request a precept of £27,320 for 2024-25 (£25,380 in 2023-24). The sum would lead to a Band D Council Tax of £41.68 (£39.13 in 2023-24). 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

The Clerk was thanked for his work with the Council financial arrangements.

11. 2024-25 Investment Strategy

The Clerk presented the draft Investment Strategy. The Strategy was approved as Council Policy for the 2024-25 Financial Year.

12. Accounts

The following payments were approved:

1. Audit Wales		£200.00		Audit 2022-23			
2.	Description	Salary	Expenses	Total Gross	Tax Deducted	NI Deducted	Net Pay
Arfon Davies	December Salary and costs	£722.43	£26.00 £7.00 £25.00 £10.50	£790.93	£298.60		£492.33
3. HM Revenue and Customs		£1,000.20		October – December deductions			
4. Michael Leefe		£560.00		Handyperson December (see item 8)			
5. Carmarthenshire County Council		£1,292.70		LED Lighting upgrade charge 2023-24 (£1,077.25 plus VAT £215.45)			

13. Any other business

1. Damage was noted to have been caused to the Bancycapel Bus Shelter. This had been reported to the Handyperson.
2. The Clerk noted that there had been flooding at the Old Vicarage property at St Anne's Cwmffrwd. This had been reported to the County Council.
3. Flooding issues were noted in Croesyceiliog with a resultant need for the County Council to mechanically sweep the area.
4. The County Council were noted to be carrying out their annual budget consultation.
5. Flooding issues were noted near Cilgadan, where the possibility of removing the pavement to aid drainage will be raised with the County Council.
6. Flooding was noted on the Llandyfaelog to Pontantwn Road.
7. The Clerk will request clarity of the position in relation to frequency of X11 services with First Cymru.
8. Road side warning bollards were noted to have been damaged on the Llandyfaelog to Idole road.
9. It was noted that a quiz evening would be held on the 26th January at Llandyfaelog Community Hall.
10. It was noted that the St Ishmael's YFC were celebrating their 90th year with a meeting to discuss events to be held on Sunday the 7th January at 8.00pm in Llandyfaelog Community Hall.
11. The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the Council Christmas Dinner.

The next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 1st February 2024.