

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

[www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk)

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held using a Zoom video/telephone conferencing platform on Monday 13 July 2020 at 7 pm.

**PRESENT** – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Keith Mouldsdales [Vice-Chair], Bob Barton, Owen Evans, Tim Faire, Osian Owen, Ceri Ranson, Steve Whipp and Eirwen Godden, Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE** – 4 members of the public and County Councillor Hugh H Evans OBE

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors David Baker [work commitments] and Wini Davies [family illness]

### **PART 1**

**681 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Councillor Keith Mouldsdales as a trustee of Neuadd Eleanor's Management Committee.

### **682 MINUTES – RESOLVED**

The minutes of the Annual and Ordinary Meeting held on 15 June 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **683 COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**683.1 Options for the Future Use of the former school site Llanfair D C** Submitted – Options paper written by Councillor Steve Whipp. Cllr Whipp gave a comprehensive overview taking into account how the national [Planning Policy Wales, Well-being of Future Generations Act, National Development Framework], County [DCC Corporate Plan, Public Spaces, Housing Needs] and local planning background could help discussion, including examples of where other communities have or are planning to adopt assets. Llanfair D C school was vacated in February 2020 and the Community Council has been considering the future of the school ever since the new school was announced a couple of years ago. Discussions in the Community Council and the Neighbourhood Plan had identified potential uses for the school and include in brief but in no order:

- \* Use of the school building [or part of it] as a village shop
- \* Use of the school building as a business incubator, like the Rhewl Technology Centre
- \* Creation of a Peace Garden in the school playing field
- \* Provision of a children's play area
- \* Provision of an exercise trail on the school field
- \* A cycling "pump track" to encourage development of riding skills
- \* Provision of allotments or gardening-based activity
- \* Combining several needs where the school could be used, possibly with the almshouses, to provide holiday and tourist accommodation with potential for a shop and other community use which could be Church based
- \* Provision of affordable housing.

The aim of the agenda item, therefore, was to have a discussion to decide whether there was a wish to express an interest in the school, its playground and playing field and if so to agree the next steps to taking the matter forward.

Following a debate on the matter it was **RESOLVED** that Llanfair D C Community Council should discuss and agree on the future use of the school and its grounds as follows:

[i] **formally express an interest [pre-application]** in the former school, its playground and playing field to Denbighshire County Council following the Welsh Government's framework for transfer of assets. These should be as two applications for [a] the building and playground and [b] the playing field.

[ii] **continue to hold discussions** with relevant bodies with interests in the adjacent almshouses to determine the best use of the former school building and its playground in line with the options set out in the options report; this with a view to presenting a business case for their use.

[iii] put in place measures to develop an application for the use of the **former school playing field**. Having expressed an interest in the site for the benefit of the community the Community Council should promote and support the Asset Transfer process for the playing field site. This would entail setting up a group with clear terms of reference for future use of the field in line with the needs identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. The group would report to the Community Council and would develop a plan to enable the second [expression of interest] and third stage [full application] of the Asset Transfer to take place.

[iv] **include the strategy** for the future development of the school and its playground in the Neighbourhood Plan to advise policy and responses to any planning consultations.

The Chair thanked Councillor Whipp for producing the options paper and for Councillors and residents' input before and at the meeting. It was acknowledged that the three-stage Communities Assets Transfer process would take time; proposals would have to be underpinned with evidence, identifying key residents and organisations in the village to form a group to lead and develop a strategic and detailed business plan, securing funding and so on. The first step was to arrange a public meeting in the Autumn – the Chair stressed the importance of people coming forward who are interested and prepared to put the work in to become involved at the start to work together with the Community Council to take matters forward.

**A full copy of the options paper and presentation notes have, in the meantime, been posted on the Council website's Community menu page - [www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk) Updates will be posted from time to time on the website as well as local media networks and the Dyffryn Clwyd Chronicle.**

## **684 CORRESPONDENCE**

**684.1** Submitted – email dated 30/06/20 from a resident to DCC, including response re ideas for the old school building, traffic speed on the A525 and the dangerous footpath from Llanfair to Ruthin. References to the old school building were dealt with under Community Matters; concern about traffic speed is an ongoing matter with issues raised with Denbighshire; the footpath between Llanfair and Ruthin is also an ongoing issue and has also been referred to Mr Darren Millar AM – a follow up meeting to be arranged in due course; DCC Highways has plans, in the meantime, to improve the footpath in the Autumn. The Clerk was requested to seek clarification on the black and

red 20 mph signage in Llanfair and progress on introducing a 40 mph limit on the Nant y Garth pass.

**684.2** Submitted – email dated 02/07/20 from DCC re update on community co-ordinators – Coronavirus Pandemic. In April, a team of six Community Co-ordinators were deployed across the County to ensure that those responding to local needs were themselves supported to continue to help residents in an efficient and safe way. Councillor Hugh Evans stated that it had proved to be a good positive exercise leading to a real focus on the community being supported and that Denbighshire is moving into recovery mode.

**685 Feedback/Report[s] on Conferences/Training/Meetings** The Clerk reported that she had attended several meetings with other Clerks using Zoom since the lockdown at the end of March. This is an useful way of keeping in touch and up to date with developments within the sector. Welsh Government is seeking the views of Councils on the effectiveness of remote meetings so that they will be in a position to consider whether for the future there would be merit in including provision in legislation for a continuation of some elements of the remote meeting provisions contained in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020. The Council's views on the merits or otherwise of remote meetings will assist greatly in influencing the work of Welsh Government and a response to the survey would be beneficial in this context. Initial feedback from Councillors indicate that remote meetings have been fairly effective but difficult to chair and for participants to engage in meaningful discussion. Not all could join due to intermittent broadband reception. It was considered that a face to face meeting is the preferred option.

**686 PLANNING** [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning)

**686.1 Updates on Queries** The Clerk reported that the planning office had been asked to confirm whether the conditions of approval attached to Application 20/2019/0510 to fell 5 trees at Silver Birches, Llanfair D C had been complied with. Planning has confirmed that 5 replacement trees should be planted within the residential curtilage of the property in the next available planting season [probably March/April next year] following the removal of these trees. No site visit has been carried out by planning to date. Councillor Steve Whip reported that originally there were 28 trees altogether and had concerns about wide scale removal. The owner had, however, commissioned a professional report on the condition of the trees and taken advice accordingly.

**686.2 Application 20/2020/0395** Silver Birches, Llanfair D C submitted by Rachel Davies & Alun Lewis. Demolition of existing garage, erection of two storey side extension and creation of additional parking. **RESOLVED** that a) Councillors Keith Mouldsdale and Steve Whipp arrange a meeting with the owners on site to discuss the application and [b] the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Steve Whipp be given delegated power to form a response to the application.

**686.3 Application 20/2020/0436** Tan y Graig, Pentrecelyn submitted by Mr Dean Irvin. Change of use of land by the siting of 4 no holiday accommodation units, installation of a package treatment plant, access track and associated works.

**RESOLVED** that the application be supported subject to measures being taken to address culvert issues in the area.

## **687 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT**

**687.1 Public Footpaths [676.1]** The Clerk stated that she had written to DCC about the suggestion that all applicants submitting public path diversion orders should be asked to take responsibility for the maintenance of diversion signs and keeping diversion routes clear and in good order. However, the Authority has an obligation to maintain the surface of paths, this is then transferred from the existing to the new route when a path is diverted. The Authority is unable to impose on any person the obligation to undertake its duty. The signage to promote a diversion order is usually maintained for a period of 5 years, by which time having notified the Ordnance Survey of the change, they will have changed the route on their latest printed mapping, and all current on-line mapping. Noted.

**687.2 Road Improvements and Flooding Matters [676.2]** The following matters had been reported to DCC about the condition of the highway and drains [a] past Bryn Tirion, Bryn Chwareu and Fron Ganol, Graigfechan [request ref 238964] and [b] the B5429 road from Graigfechan towards Ty Coch Ucha, Tyddyn Ucha and Pen y Bryn [request ref 238957]. A reply was received indicating that the gully emptier is currently on a programme of cleaning all cattle grids since June 2020. It was, however, noted that tarmac work had been completed.

## **688 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**688.1 Submitted - Summary of Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments Cashbook for the period 1 April to 3 June 2020** **RESOLVED** that the accounts be approved.

**688.2 Payment of Accounts/Invoices** **RESOLVED** that payments be made as follows:

£904.21 Clerk's Expenses Claim [1 April – 30 June 2020 details of which were circulated to Members before the meeting]

**688.3 Requests for Financial Aid** **RESOLVED** that grants be awarded as follows:

£200 Llanfair Church [grass cutting costs]

£200 Chapel Bethel, Pentrecelyn [running costs]

£150 Marie Curie – Denbighshire [cost of night and day nursing services]

Councillor Bob Barton asked for consideration to be given to increasing next year's budget towards the running costs of religious bodies in the area.

**688.4 Submitted - Revised Financial Regulations** [changes to para 11.1 a. ii – in accordance with the internal auditor's recommendations] **RESOLVED** that the policy be approved as recommended.

**688.5 Submitted - Draft Website Accessibility Statement RESOLVED** that the statement be approved as written. Arrangements would be made for the new website to go live soon and attention drawn to it in an article in the next edition of the Dyffryn Clwyd Chronicle.

**PART 2 689 RESOLVED** that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following item:

**679 REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE WAR MEMORIAL LLANFAIR D C**

Reported that arrangements had been made for the Chair, Vice-Chair, John Pugh and the Clerk to hold a pre-contract meeting with the contractor on 09/07/20. The meeting took place, maintaining safe distancing measures, to discuss the work programme, lead times for materials, start date, site instructions, contractor's requirements and completion date. It is hoped that despite delays in obtaining materials the work will be finished in time for Remembrance Day in November 2020. Members were reminded that the scheme includes provision for adding the name of Robert James Rivers Fuller MN [DOB 12 February 1922] and renovating the lettering on the War Memorial. This was confirmed. A quotation will be sought.

**690 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

14/09/20 [TBC Coleg Cambria Llysfasi], 12/10/20 [Ysgol Llanfair], 09/11/20 Ysgol Pentrecelyn], 14/12/20 [Genus Centre Llanrhydd], 11/01/21 [Coleg Cambria Llysfasi], 08/02/21 Ysgol Llanfair], 08/03/21 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn]

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE