

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held using a Zoom video/telephone conferencing platform on Monday 12 October 2020 at 7 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE – 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES – County Councillor Hugh H Evans OBE [unable to connect on Zoom, tried to get through on the phone but failed] and Councillor Wini Davies [family funeral]

PART 1

703 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors David Baker as a member of Llanfair Church Council and Keith Mouldsdales as a trustee of Neuadd Eleanor's Management Committee. Councillor Keith Mouldsdales declared that he wished to make a statement later on in the meeting.

704 MINUTES – RESOLVED

The minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held on 14 September 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

705 COMMUNITY MATTERS

705.1 Former school site Llanfair D C Submitted – Notes of the virtual open meeting held on 03/10/20. The purpose of the meeting was to compile residents' views providing a further opportunity to come forward with ideas, and to explain the process which the Community Council is following. From the list of views and ideas received, one of which was a community shop, the Clerk had been asked to contact three local community shops to gain insight into their experiences and was awaiting a response. Every effort was made to contact everyone who had fed into the process to let them know that updates would be available on the Community Council website. Articles have also been published in the Dyffryn Clwyd Chronicle. County Councillor Hugh Evans has stressed the importance of drawing together a plan on how to move forward including setting up a steering group which should predominantly be non-councillors. Hugh wished to see the school building come back into use as soon as possible. The Community is considering a number of suggested options and the ideal solution will be submitted to the County Council under the Community Asset Transfer process. Meanwhile, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association officers have indicated that they are happy to participate in an initial meeting with the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Clerk to understand the various options under consideration by the Community Council especially those that relate to the Elizabeth Owen Almshouses.

Also submitted - Discussion Paper including a Summary on Llanfair School Options and Criteria Analysis prepared by Councillor Steve Whipp, Mr Phil Bennett Lloyd and Mr Richard Cotter. This included an explanatory note for the optioneering analysis. It was confirmed that all the documents had been posted on the Community Council website. Llanfair DC Community Council has been considering the future use of the former school for some time and has been in liaison with Denbighshire County Council. Since February 2020 when the school was vacated and Denbighshire County Council advised that it had no further use for the site the Community Council has been considering

options and has been liaising with residents from the villages to seek their views. A number of exciting ideas have been put forward and the Community Council is seeking to identify the best way that the site can be used for the future. A guiding principle is that future use should provide maximum benefit to the whole community.

The options for the use of the school were presented in a matrix which took all the ideas proposed for future use of the former school, the playground and playing field and considers each. The options were considered against need set out in a number of documents. For example, the Community Council has a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out a vision for the villages for the future and this identifies a number of needs. In addition, there are County and national policy and strategy documents which set out the background for needs for the future.

The matrix listed all the ideas proposed and tested them against the policy and strategy documents, local and national, to gauge how each idea meets the set objectives. The exercise had been carried out rapidly and the matrix was presented as a "straw man" to form the basis for discussion of the ideas and to help make decisions about the best outcome. The development of the matrix had been undertaken with a degree of cross checking and as objectively as possible but there will remain issues that need further discussion and clarification. The Community Council would welcome further input from all interested residents to help develop the strategy for the school and its site in order to prioritise ideas and shortlist those that present the best benefit to the community.

Councillor Steve Whipp explained that there are three stages to a community asset transfer process following general Welsh Government guidelines. The first stage is an informal expression of interest to be considered by the County Council. The Community Council had informally expressed an interest to Denbighshire County Council which has been accepted. The second stage is to make a formal expression of interest which would be considered by Denbighshire County Council. If successful the third stage would entail developing and presenting a detailed business case setting out what is required, what it entails including capital costs, maintenance and management. The initial stages of the process could typically take at least three months. Mr Phil Bennett-Lloyd stressed the importance of getting people involved who would support a scheme which might achieve a number of outcomes and to focus on whatever is chosen so that much of the community as possible becomes involved in the process. Chair Jayne Mayers stated that the community must be aware that the Community Council can facilitate but not be responsible for running any schemes, that a steering group must lead on any idea[s] and that all who have voiced comments would be invited to join a steering group.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that [a] the Community Council should formally express an interest in applying to the County Council for a community asset transfer with regard to the former school playing field at Llanfair [b] copies of the application be sent to all Councillors and residents who had made comments or put forward ideas for the site and [c] invite people to get involved in a steering group.

Consultation would continue on the potential uses of the school building and its playground and once the best use was decided a further Community Asset Transfer application [stage 2] would be presented to Denbighshire County Council.

The Chair thanked Councillor Steve Whipp, Mr Phil Bennett-Lloyd, Mr Richard Cotter and others for their efforts to date.

706 CORRESPONDENCE

706.1 Submitted – Email dated 28/09/20 from Welsh Government re Remembrance 2020 regarding Covid 19. Organisers are being urged to regularly check and monitor announcements regarding permitted activity relevant to the area. The Clerk had contacted Rev Richard Carter on the matter. The Rev Richard Carter has said that it would be usual for there to be an Act of Remembrance 1100h at the War Memorial. This is currently permissible nationally but things may change and there is a need to monitor the situation and be aware of the latest guidelines.

There is a meeting of the Llanfair Church Committee scheduled for Monday the 2nd November 2020 when a final decision will be taken as to whether, or not, to proceed with the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday this year. A decision will take into account the guidelines, as they are published then at the time, the considerations of the Church Committee, and the progress, or possible, completion of the War Memorial work. Members were in agreement that a service outside the War Memorial could go ahead provided that social distancing measures were adhered to and face coverings worn. This would also be subject to a risk assessment being carried out.

706.2 Submitted – Email dated 29/09/20 from IRPMailbox@gov.wales stating that The Independent Remuneration Panel draft Annual Report 2021/22 had been published for consultation. Section 13 relates to Community and Town Councils. Comments required by 23/11/20. It was agreed that the payments be adopted as written and as agreed at the Council meeting held on 09/03/20 minute reference no 663.4.

706.3 Submitted – Email dated 30/09/20 from DCC's Community Development Team re The Charter between City, Town & Community Councils & DCC. Areas of notable change include Use of electronic communication methods as standard, Reference to C360 Systems; being made aware of and promoting support available to community groups and information being shared mutually. Responses required by 30/11/20. Members were asked to forward their comments to the Clerk, in particular about the use of video meetings.

706.4 Submitted – Email dated 05/10/20 from OVW re Community Council Representative on the Conwy/Denbighshire Public Service Board. Anyone interested in putting a name forward to email mabowain@onevoicewales.wales with name, contact details and no more than 150 words on why they would like to be nominated, including skills/experience, by 28/10/20. Noted.

707 Feedback/Report[s] on Conferences/Training/Meetings -

707.1 Broadband Councillor Bob Barton reported that County Councillor Hugh Evans had agreed to add an introduction to a leaflet that was being put together. Councillor Barton will forward a copy in due course.

708 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

Action taken on responses made between meetings was confirmed as follows:

708.1 Application 20/2020/0655 submitted by Mr & Mrs C Rawes – demolition of existing garage, erection of new garage including store and garden room – Ffolt, Llanfair DC – No objections received; application supported.

The following application was considered at the meeting:

708.2 Application 20/2020/0741 submitted by Mr & Mrs G Evans re Erection of a reception, shop and café building and associated works – Caravan Park Llanbenwch, Llanfair DC **RESOLVED** that the application be supported. Members commented that the proposal fits in well with the Community Council Neighbourhood Plan, as an addition to the tourist infrastructure for the Vale, and local residents may well wish to use the extra facilities. It was also suggested that a circular footpath to connect all the villages within the Community Council area could be very beneficial. The landowner has already indicated that he is willing to build a new path across the field on the Ty Newydd road.

708.3 Local Development Plan DCC Planning is currently working to progress background technical evidence for Denbighshire's Replacement LDP, but the current Covid-19 crisis is impacting on decision-making, public engagement and the ability to conduct fieldwork, the timetable for the Replacement LDP set out in the Delivery Agreement will need to be revised. DCC is planning on issuing a more general update on the LDP in the coming weeks. Noted.

709 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT

709.1 Community Garden, Graigfechan & Shrubs at Bron y Clwyd, Llanfair D C Reported that DCC is in the process of consulting with local residents about proposals to develop a small piece of land near to the bungalows at Graigfechan as a community garden. A query was raised as to who would be responsible for financing the project and subsequent maintenance costs. A draft copy of the plan/questionnaire was to be forwarded to Members for comment before sending to residents. The Clerk was awaiting a response from Denbighshire Housing about the condition of the shrubs at Bron y Clwyd Llanfair DC.

709.2 Speeding No update available – response awaited. Councillor Steve Whipp stated that the speed guns used by volunteers cannot capture car registration numbers. Only police equipment can do this,.

709.3 Signage Councillor Osian Owen enquired whether it would be possible for a Pentrecelyn School fingerpost sign to be placed on the A525 at the Llysfasi crossroads. It was agreed that the matter be raised with Highways.

710 STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR KEITH MOULSDALE

Councillor Mouldsdale wished to place on record the fantastic job Councillor Jayne Mayers was carrying out as Chair under difficult circumstances particularly managing Zoom meetings and managing a certain Member who continually flouts Standing Orders. Councillor Bob Barton responded by saying that it was obvious that the reference was about him and that he refused to accept the accusation.

711 FINANCIAL MATTERS

711.1 Submitted – Summary of Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments Cashbook for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020

RESOLVED that the accounts be approved.

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

£167.61 Clerk's Expenses July – September 2020 [a copy had been circulated to members prior to the meeting] [Approval was given for the Clerk to purchase a computer monitor]

£34.09 Fiona Faire [Bedding Plants for the War Memorial Boxes] [Mrs Faire was thanked for looking after the boxes]

£116.11 Zurich [Insurance to cover additional works in progress – War Memorial]

£126.66 Sandra Williams [Translation Service]

711.3 Requests for Financial Aid None received.

711.4 Council Noticeboards The Clerk confirmed that the headteachers of both schools, Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn, had no objection for Council noticeboards to be erected on the school fence near the entrances. Contact has been made with DCC to ascertain [a] whether the local authority can arrange for the Llanfair noticeboard for community use to be relocated next to the bus stop at Bron y Clwyd [b] to seek clarification on permission to place the new noticeboards on both sites. A response is awaited. Indicative costs of purchasing a new raising front door noticeboard [8 x A4 750mmh x 1000mmw x 75mmd] made from anodised or colour coated aluminium is in the region of £500 each to allow for fitting and lettering. It was agreed that the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Clerk be given delegated power to commission new noticeboards and fitting, and to relocate the existing noticeboard in Llanfair.

711.5 Update on the External Audit Process

The accounting statements in the form of an annual return have been published on the Council's website. However, the accounts are published before the conclusion of the audit. Due to the impact of Covid 19 the Auditor General has not yet issued an audit opinion. It was reported that the date for conclusion had been extended to 31 December 2020.

PART 2 712 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following item:

713.1 REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE WAR MEMORIAL LLANFAIR D C

Reported that work commenced on 06/10/20 to remove the paving and put up safe fencing. Mr John Pugh, acting as the Council's agent had met on site with the contractor on 09/10/20 when it was discovered that the curb around the base of the

monument is grey sandstone of poor quality and requires replacing. Limestone is recommended at a cost of £485 plus VAT to be taken from the contingency sum. The Chair and Vice-Chair were informed and had agreed for the work to proceed as time is of the essence. A copy of the site meeting report had, in the meantime, been circulated to Members. Members approved the action taken by the Chair and Vice-Chair. Finding a monumental mason to update the inscription on the war memorial before Remembrance Day is however proving problematic.

714 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

09/11/20 [virtual meeting], 14/12/20 [virtual meeting], 11/01/21 [Coleg Cambria Llysfasi TBC], 08/02/21 Ysgol Llanfair TBC], 08/03/21 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn TBC]

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm _____CHAIR _____DATE