

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 July 2021 at 7 pm.

PRESENT – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Keith Mouldsdales [Vice-Chair], David Baker, Owen Evans, D Eilir Jones [joined at 7.20 pm], Osian Owen, Ceri Ranson, Steve Whipp and Eirwen Godden, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE 2 members of the public. The Chair reminded everyone that the session would be recorded [destroyed when minutes are approved] and anyone wishing to receive more information on items discussed to email the Clerk.

APOLOGIES – Councillor Wini Davies [family commitments] and County Councillor Hugh Evans [work commitments]

PART 1

797 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors Keith Mouldsdales as a trustee of Neuadd Eleanor’s Management Committee, David Baker as a member of Llanfair Church Council and Osian Owen as an applicant – planning application 20/2021/0567.

798 MINUTES – RESOLVED

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 June 2021 were approved.

799 COMMUNITY MATTERS

799.1 Former School Site and Playing Field Llanfair DC [779.1, 789.1] Submitted – Llanfair Steering Group progress report dated 12/07/21 and prospectus for the former Llanfair village primary school. The Community Council has been advised that the community asset transfer [CAT] process would be managed by Rebecca Williams, Principal Valuation and Estates Surveyor. DCC has forwarded draft Head of Terms documents similar to those sent to Llandrillo Community Council. Various options are still being considered including the possibility of a shop. Janine Cusworth provided the group with information about her role with reSource – a reuse store which repurposes and upcycles scrap waste items, such as donated furniture, from industry and trade. Janine, also a local resident, expressed an interest in joining the steering group to effect further liaison and explore opportunities. The steering group saw a lot of synergies between reSource and the options being considered for the former school. The steering group’s next meeting is on 14/07/21.

The next step in the process is to attend the CAT training on 16/07/21, the steering group to develop a business case for the playing field for submission to the next Council meeting on 13/09/21 followed by instructing a solicitor [quotations will be required] to act on its behalf with the aim of handover in December 2021. The steering group would, in the meanwhile, continue developing a final solution for the former school building. Councillor Steve Whipp stated that he had written to Llandrillo Community Council for an indication of legal costs and a specification brief to obtain quotations from solicitors.

799.2 Feedback – “Join the Conversation” Open Event held on 10/07/21 which was organised by the Llanfair Steering Group. The event was well attended, feedback was positive, people contributed by putting forward a lot of information/ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. The questionnaire analysis and other information will be available at a later meeting.

799.3 Elizabeth Owen Almshouses [789.2,779.2,767.1] – Following a discussion it was agreed that contact be made with the Charity Commission to express concerns that Grwp Cynefin’s board of trustees do not appear to be fulfilling their duties and to seek advice how the Community Council can assist. The Chair agreed to draft a letter for Councillors to approve.

800 CORRESPONDENCE

800.1 Submitted Email dated 28/06/21 from Welsh Government re ‘*Eligible Community Councils (General Power of Competence) (Qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Regulations 2021*’ This consultation is open until 24 September 2021. The link to the consultation and how to respond can be found here: <https://gov.wales/community-council-clerk-qualifications-regulations> **RESOLVED** that the following response be submitted –

Q 1 Type of Qualification. Without detailed description of the competency requirements for the stipulated qualifications it is not possible to comment on whether they would give confidence. There is a need to define competencies in terms of “the clerk should know....., be able to....., have an understanding of.....” across a range of topics, legal, managerial, financial as well as core skills such as communication. The CiLCA Training Needs Analysis provides a matrix of skills that can be used to develop a continuing professional development plan (CPD) for any individual.

Q2 Qualifications. No. A more detailed competency framework should be set out in the consultation.

Q3 Other sectoral qualifications. There are other competencies such as team working, communication skills which are essential qualities that a clerk should have. It would be relevant to have core behavioural competencies as a part of any qualification. It may also be relevant to have skills in procurement and in project management for some councils. The clerk works in a team of councillors which will have varying skills and strengths in any setting. It may be necessary to define specific skill such as in making grant funding applications.

Q4 Effects on the Welsh Language. Llanfair DC Community Council is committed to supporting the use of the Welsh language and adopts a bilingual approach to communications. It is highly desirable, as is currently the case for Llanfair DC CC, that the clerk should be fluent in both languages. For clerks who are not bilingual consideration of language training should be given in developing their CPD.

Q 5 Formulation of Draft Regulations. Nothing further to add.

Q6 Additional Issues. The context of developing competency requirements for clerks is supported in striving to improve the effectiveness of community councils. It is noted that there has been increasing onus on community councils in the general drive to devolve power to a local level over the last few years. It is noted that the CiLCA qualification has a cost of £410 currently although bursary support of up to £100 may be available. Llanfair DC CC would suggest that if this is stipulated as a requirement of any council, that the funding should be fully supported and be met from central funds. The recruitment and development of individuals to meet the standards proposed in the draft

regulations needs some practical consideration. It may be that in certain councils the incumbent clerk will not be able to meet the standard. There would be benefit in ensuring that sufficient numbers of people with the required skills and experience were available to be recruited or could be trained to meet the standard within a practical timescale. It would also be necessary for councils to undertake a "health-check" to determine whether they have the skills and experience to recruit or develop an individual. This may entail consideration of the skills and experience held by the whole council as well as services it may procure from time to time as required eg legal advice.

Llanfair DC community council is truly fortunate to employ one of the most competent and professional clerks whose CPD is fully supported by the council and whose performance is reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair. The clerk fulfils the necessary roles and also ensures compliance with legal and financial instruments. For any council there would be a need to consider succession planning to ensure that a clerk was in place to take up the duties on retirement of a previous clerk. This would add cost and place further employment duty on councils. It is good that the CiLCA competency framework recognises that development of a clerk is a journey that may take several years to achieve. Remuneration of the clerk would also be linked to competency achievement to encourage CPD. There is a potential for councils to strive to achieve a standard of performance from their clerk which is much higher than to meet basic needs. The clerk could ultimately be developed to the point at which they were acting as a Chief Executive Officer. [Consultation reference 172226320].

The Clerk added that it could take about 200 hours to work towards attaining the CiLCA qualification leading to more costs for a community/town council.

801 Feedback/Report[s] on Conferences/Training/Meetings

801.1 SLCC Branch Meeting 15/06/21 The Clerk explained that she could not join on this occasion as she was away but had obtained a recording and would share with Councillors information about any important issues raised.

801.2 Community Asset Transfer Training It was confirmed that arrangements had been made for Paul Egan from One Voice Wales to deliver a virtual training session on 16/07/21 to Councillors and Steering Group members 6.30-8.00 pm.

802 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

802.1 Planning Applications RESOLVED that the action taken by the Clerk to send a response to Planning following consultation with Councillors be confirmed, that is, no objections or queries had been raised regarding

20/2021/0565 Tyn Llwyn, Pentrecelyn submitted on 11/06/21 by Mr J Sharples - Erection of rear and side extensions and alterations to incorporate attached outbuilding

20/2021/0614 Bryn Chwarel, Pentrecelyn submitted on 16/06/21 by Jayne Davies & David Starkey - Erection of 2 storey side, rear extensions and alterations to dwelling. Formation of access, hardstanding, landscaping and associated works

20/2021/0567 Gilfachwen, Graigfechan submitted on 18/06/21 by Osian Owen - Erection of shed for storage of caravan, garden and hobby equipment

20/2021/0631 Garreg Lwyd, Pentrecelyn submitted on 22/06/21 by Mr & Mrs M & A Mosley - Erection of extensions, alterations to dwelling and associated works

20/2021/0518 Glascoed, Bodlwydd Road, Llanellidan submitted on 22/06/2021 by Hywel Evans - Erection of 2 storey rear extension, detached garage and associated works

802.2 Application 20/2021/0637 Land at Clover Bank, Llanfair D C submitted on 25/06/21 by Mrs Ann Hughes – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission code 20/2018/0448 to vary the list of approved plans to allow amended design and access details. **RESOLVED** that the following concerns be submitted to Planning –

- a] Increase in the footprint of the revised proposal of 16% from the original proposal.
- b] Increase in hard surface area through provision of a separate driveway.
Both a] and b] will lead to increased surface water run-off.
- c] Overdevelopment of the site. Building forward of notional building line and out of character / incongruous with the street scene.
- d] Proximity of new bungalow to existing the Clover Bank.
- e] Erection of fencing within the site to delineate properties.
- f] Drainage – the site known to be subject to localised flooding lying immediately below the new Llanfair school playground. This would impact the Public Right of Way adjacent to the site.
- g] Connection to existing drain will exacerbate the flooding issues at Eyarth and downstream in the catchment.
- h] Loss of trees, hedging and planting. Contrary to condition of granted permission and the Biodiversity Action Plan of Community Council.
- l] Reduction of garden space. Detrimental to well-being of inhabitants.

803 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT - General Update on Ongoing Highway and Other Matters –

803.1 Footpaths [790.1] Submitted – report by the Chair and Councillors Eilir Jones and Osian Owen. They had formed a working group to develop a footpath/cycling scheme for the section of the A525 between Llanfair and Ruthin. They concluded that improving the path would bring significant benefits to the wider community – people would be able to walk into Ruthin to access amenities and emissions could be reduced through fewer car journeys. It is already well used but users are frequently complaining of feeling unsafe. Members suggested at the last Council meeting that DCC be requested to consider upgrading the footpath under the active travel scheme.

It was acknowledged that developing a scheme was difficult. Agreement from seven landowners to move the path beyond the hedge was unlikely involving the possibility of compulsory purchase orders. It was, however, felt that the existing footpath should receive attention as soon as possible in restoring it to the original width. It was also suggested that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit between Llanfair and Ruthin.

RESOLVED that contact be made with Ruthin Town Council for support in putting pressure on Denbighshire County Council to cut back the verges, restoring the footpath and regular maintenance to maintain the original path which had become overgrown over time. Copy correspondence to be forwarded to Darren Millar MS, Sustrans and County Councillor Hugh Evans.

803.2 Speeding on the A525 [793.4] Submitted – copy correspondence between the Community Council, Senedd Members and North Wales Police regarding the matter. Darren Millar MS had recently tabled a Written Parliamentary Question to ask what

consideration Welsh Government has given to installing average speed cameras along the A525 because of the displacement of traffic following the installation of average speed cameras on other routes in the area. DCC is responsible for road safety along this road and £79,000 was provided to DCC to implement live vehicle survey monitoring equipment in collaboration with North Wales Police. The N Wales Police Operation Darwen is in place to tackle the issue of speeding motorcyclists. Residents are asked to highlight their concerns directly via <https://gosafe.org/contact-us/community-concern/>. Carolyn Thomas MS also shares the concerns of the Community Council. Welsh Government is planning to reduce 30 mph areas to 20 mph and have already begun trials in some areas of Wales. Recently appointed Andrew Dunbobbin, Police & Crime Commissioner is also undertaking a consultation process to seek views about what is important to the people of N Wales <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SMDKY8R>

The matter was serious and would need a broad N Wales traffic management strategy so that the problem is not relocated elsewhere. **RESOLVED** Responses received to date noted. Residents should be encouraged to take part in the Police & Crime Commissioner's consultation process by following the survey monkey link above.

803.3 Response/Update from Ben Wilcox-Jones DCC on Speeding/Survey Issues

[a] Graigfechan The speed indicator device was deployed in Graigfechan near the property known as Llys Mynach, facing southbound vehicles, between 15/12/20 to 15/03/21. The 85 percentile speed of southbound vehicles throughout this period was 32.8mph. This is 5.2mph lower than the 85th percentile speed recorded in August 2020, for southbound vehicles, at a similar location. The SID recorded showed consistent effectiveness throughout the period that it was deployed on site.

Additional Speed surveys were undertaken in Graigfechan in February 2021. The details, and comparison to 2017 and 2020 data, are as follows:

Site no 202 (Village centre near property known as Sycharth)

2017 85th%ile speed = 29.5mph; 2020 85th%ile speed = 29.5mph

2021 85th%ile speed = 29.65mph; Site no 692 (Near property known as Llys Mynach)

2017 85th%ile speed = 42.15mph; 2020 85th%ile speed = 38mph

2021 85th%ile speed = 32.8mph (Southbound - obtained from SID)

The surveys, adjacent to Sycharth, do not demonstrate that there is a speeding issue in the village centre that would meet the Go Safe criteria for speed enforcement.

Speeds have historically been higher at the northern end of the village, particularly between the Three Pigeons pub and the northern village boundary. This part of the village is less developed, and the properties are typically only on one side of the carriageway. This section does not fit much of the criteria for a 30mph restriction and motorists typically find it difficult to conform to the speed limit. A variety of traffic calming options have been considered in the past, including speed cushions and buildouts, however these have not been taken forward for a number of reasons, including a lack of supporting evidence to satisfy the criteria of the grant funding bodies.

Other Community Councils in Denbighshire are now working closely with DCC to introduce 'Community Council funded' Speed Indicator Device signs. This may be something that Llanfair DC Community Council may wish to consider for Graigfechan.

[b] A515 Nant y Garth Reduction in Speed Limit Order This was delayed by the pandemic situation and because of resource issues. DCC is now planning to advertise the order on 14/07/21.

[c] Llanfair DC Survey The speed survey was undertaken as planned; however the survey contractor has undertaken the survey at the incorrect location. A new survey, at the correct location, has been commissioned.

[d] Pentrecelyn – Request to extend 30 mph DCC's Traffic Management Engineer has been asked for some advice with respect to this request. If the request can be accommodated, by simply re-positioning the signs, it will be programmed in to take place in the next 2 months. However if an amendment is required to an existing Traffic Regulation Order it may take up to 18 months to make the change. This is because of a large backlog of similar requests.

RESOLVED Comments were noted. Councillor Steve Whipp agreed to contact Ben Wilcox-Jones for further details and costs associated with purchasing/installing a speed indicator device sign at Graigfechan.

803.3 Flood Prevention Schemes [761.1, 751.2, 741.2] The Clerk had been asked at a previous meeting to write to Alex Bebbington for an update. A response was still awaited.

804 FINANCIAL MATTERS

804.1 Submitted – Summary of Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments Cashbook for the period 1 April to 30 June 2021 The Clerk reported that as of 30 June 2021 there was £24855.43 in the Community Account and £8566.56 in the Business Account. Expenditure for the period under review amounted to £3678.82. **RESOLVED** that the accounts be approved as presented.

804.2 Payment of Accounts/Invoices Agreed as follows:

£368.94 AVOW [Clerk's July salary inc payroll fee] SO payment

£348.94 Clerk [Expenses]

£479.76 Sandra Williams [Translation Service] Invoice 1410

£48.10 Victoria Collins [Supply of items to comply with Covid requirements including stationery/promotional materials for the Open Event at Llanfair DC 10/07/21]

804.3 Requests for Financial Aid None Received

805 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS [Venues TBC, Councils have the option of holding remote meetings beyond May 2021 - LG & Elections (Wales) Act 2021]
13/09/21, 11/10/21, 08/11/21, 13/12/21, 10/01/22, 14/02/22, 14/03/22

Reported - that the Clerk had written to Elin Roberts at Llysfasi with a request that consideration be given to Llysfasi's new community hub being available free of charge for local groups. Llysfasi is in the process of looking at the list of users including fees and will respond in due course.

PART 2 806 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following items:

806.1 War Memorial Reported that renovation work should be complete by the end of July.

806.2 Church Wall Reported - that Mr John Pugh had confirmed that the Community Council has responsibility for maintaining a section of the church wall. Relevant

documents are lodged with Denbighshire Archives. The chair is researching the information.

806.3 Clerk's Hours Reported that the Clerk's workload had increased during the period April to July 2021 amounting to 28 additional hours worked. Even though payment was offered, the Clerk declined saying that she wished to donate these hours to the Council on this occasion. She agreed to keep a detailed record of time spent on routine duties and to separate out time spent on the CAT process.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm CHAIR

DATE