

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 11 October 2021 at 7 pm.

PRESENT – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Keith Mouldsdales [Vice-Chair], Wini Davies, Tim Faire, D Eilir Jones, Osian Owen, Ceri Ranson, Steve Whipp and Eirwen Godden, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE County Councillor Hugh Evans. 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. It was noted that Mr Alan Edwards, a member of the Llanfair Steering Group, had passed away recently. Condolences were extended to his widow, Moira Edwards, and their family.

APOLOGIES – Councillors David Baker and Owen Evans [work commitments]

PART 1

817 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors Keith Mouldsdales as a trustee of Neuadd Eleanor's Management Committee.

818 MINUTES – RESOLVED

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13 September 2021 were approved.

819 COMMUNITY MATTERS

819.1 Presentation by Heather Martin, Paths to Wellbeing Officer, N E Wales – a project run by Ramblers Cymru. Heather explained that she was working on a project for the Denbighshire area, referred to an on-line consultation, working with the local wildlife trust to improve the local green infrastructure and building on links/networks across the region. The aim is to improve routes, way marking/posts, commissioning kissing gates to replace stiles, tools for volunteers, trees for planting/seeds and so on. Members referred to several local areas that require attention and the Chair mentioned the Community Council's efforts in linking up footpaths 79 and 80 to create a circular route. Heather expressed an interest in helping and the Chair thanked her for her interest and informative presentation.

819.2 Former School Site and Playing Field Llanfair DC [779.1, 789.1, 799.1, 809.1] Submitted –

[a] steering group meeting notes 16/09/21 and 30/09/21

[b] proposal for funding support in relation to the Community Asset Transfer [CAT] of the former school, its playground, and its playing field

[c] stage 3 detailed business plan

RESOLVED Llanfair DC Community Council supports the revised business plan for the CAT for the school playing field. It was also agreed that Llyr Williams from Swayne Johnson be instructed to act on the Community Council's behalf with respect to the Community Asset Transfer. The next step will be to produce a briefing note for Llyr Williams and then to have a meeting to answer any questions he may want to raise. The Community Council advised that a management group for the playing field would be formed in due course with volunteers from the community as well as some

Councillors and that this group would report back to the Community Council on development of the playing field and the outcomes achieved.

819.3 Proposal to Increase the Pupil Capacity of Ysgol Llanfair DC

Submitted [a] Email dated 10/09/21 from the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair referring to the following consultation document -

<https://www.ysgollanfairdc.cymru/ymgyngoriad.htm>

<https://www.ysgollanfairdc.cymru/consultation.htm>

The consultation period runs from 10/09/21 to 22/10/21. The Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair proposes to increase capacity from 15 to 126 full time pupils at Ysgol Llanfair from 31/08/22.

[b] letter from Mr D Eifion Wynne dated 18/09/21 objecting to the proposal.

Members agreed that the Community Council is in a unique situation having an interest in both schools –Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn – and the need to be impartial without favouring one school over another. However, concerns were expressed about the reducing numbers at Ysgol Pentrecelyn and why parents were choosing to send their children to other schools either within or outside the area despite the school being the nearest option for travel. Regular articles in the local newsletter could help to promote and raise the profile of Ysgol Pentrecelyn. Ysgol Llanfair, on the other hand, has been full every year and is now oversubscribed – hence the proposal for increasing capacity. The Community Council is supportive of both schools so making a response to the consultation would be difficult. The Chair encouraged individual Councillors and people in the community to put their views forward.

820 CORRESPONDENCE

820.1 Submitted - Email dated 29/0921 from the Secretariat to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales re

[Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2022](#)

Pages 43-51 relate to Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils.

Comments on the draft to IRPMailbox@gov.wales by 26/11/21. Llanfair D C

Community Council falls within Group 5 as the size of the electorate is under 1,000 – the remuneration framework is as follows:

Basic Payment	Optional	£150	Contribution towards costs and expenses
Senior Role Payment	Optional	£1500	Chair
“ “ “	Optional	£500	Vice-Chair
Attendance Allowance	Optional	Each payment must not exceed £30	
Financial Loss	Mandatory		
Travel & Subs	Optional		
Cost of Care	Mandatory		

Implementation effective from the elections on 05/05/22. Each council can decide to introduce an attendance allowance for members. The amount of each payment must not exceed £30. Councils that intend to introduce an attendance allowance must set out the details of the scheme and publish them on their website. A council can adopt any, or all, of the optional payments but it must apply to all its members and should be done at the first meeting following receipt of the Annual Report each year. Noted.

820.2 Letter dated 21/09/21 from Mr Darren Millar MS about the possibility of attending a future meeting of the Council to answer any questions and take forward any issues. **RESOLVED** that Mr Millar be made aware of the following matters and that he be invited to join the next meeting of the Council on 08/11/21. A copy of the briefing paper is to be sent to Mr David Jones, MP as there may be potential projects for the Government's Prosperity fund 2022.

Big challenges for the Community Council in building community resilience –

[a] building issues – Elizabeth Owen Almshouses, the former Llanfair School and the Neuadd Eleanor Village Hall

[b] transportation, connectivity, and traffic issues

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

821.1 OVW Conwy & Denbighshire Area Committee 06/10/21 Guest speaker was Clare Budden, CEO, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association, who spoke about the challenges facing housing associations regarding planning, encouraging the public to support new housebuilding, material shortages and general cost increases. The Clerk reported that she had raised queries about the latest IRPW report for OVW to address. OVW is urging all members to take part in the Councillor Smart Survey commissioned by the Minister for Finance and Local Government. This is about the role and value of the councillor, views of their role, workload, and remuneration – closing date 29/10/21.

821.2 Pilot of Community & Town Council Self-Evaluation Toolkit

One Voice Wales, SLCC and Welsh Government – with support from Audit Wales – have been developing a new bespoke toolkit to help your council to stay on top of governance requirements and regularly reflect on how it is serving its community. OVW is looking for 50 councils to take part in the pilot to 'road test' a developmental version of the tool in a real council environment. Closing date 31/10/21. **RESOLVED** that Llanfair Community Council expresses an interest in taking part in the pilot.

822 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

822.1 Planning Applications One application received for consideration - **Application 20/2021/0930** submitted 11/10/21 by Miss Glenda Jones re erection of an open shelter/outdoor classroom at Ysgol Pentrecelyn **RESOLVED** that the application be supported.

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

823.1 Footpaths [790.1, 803.1, 813.1] [a] **Footpaths over Llysfasi and Llanbenwch Land** Councillors Jayne Mayers, Owen Evans and Osian Owen met with Mr Dewi Jones, Llysfasi's Farm Manager on 21/09/21 and the following action points were agreed. Llanfair Council to contact Adrian Walls about a new footpath through Llysfasi land and onto Llanbenwch land. Llysfasi to advise how many stiles will be needed along the new route discussed. Llanfair Council to ask DCC to provide stiles and signage –

Llysfasi to install. It may be necessary to pipe off a small stream near the boggy area, which Llysfasi is happy to carry out the necessary work. Llanfair Council to contact Llanbenwch regarding the path through their land and about any stiles that may be necessary.

Regarding land near Eyarth Station, Llysfasi will be fencing off the path with wire fence at a width that allows machinery in for maintenance. There will be a gate (lockable) from the northernmost field onto the path (southwest corner), to allow for maintenance. There will also be a lockable gate(s) at the northeast corner of the southern field, opposite Eyarth Station. There was a discussion about the possibility of having kissing gates at either end of the path, but there may already be a stile at the A525 end. Llysfasi was asked to put some stone down at the end of the path, but it is unlikely to be a long term solution. Dewi Jones is happy if DCC want to put a soakaway there. There was a discussion about concerns where water will end up, moving from one area will cause issues further on, including aspects of planting in the field. Dewi Jones explained how the furrows follow the shape of the field, so they are parallel to the edges for machinery to be able to get round the field. Llysfasi plants grass in amongst the maize to help soil integrity, but once the water table is full, water will run off.

Mr Adrian Walls, DCC's Highways Information Officer, has, in the meantime, confirmed that if a path is provided only by permission, which could be withdrawn, DCC is precluded from funding any works on such a path. However, the Community Council may do so itself on private paths that it considers of benefit to the local community under the Highways Act 1980 section 50. Where a new path is to become public DCC would normally expect the furniture to be provided but would only be able to consider to fund the cost of hand gates as it is no longer possible to provide stiles on new public paths at field boundaries. If kissing gates were preferred by landowners then the Community Council would need to consider if it were able to fund the difference between the cost of a hand gate and a kissing gate if the landowner were not willing to do so.

Adrian Walls has been informed that the proposed path will be in addition to path 79 and will serve the public, which will mean that part of path 79 adjacent to Pentrecelyn Hall can link up with path 80, crossing the A525 at a safer location than at present. Llanbenwch landowner, Gwion Evans, is willing to construct and maintain a path along the hedge but requires advice on where to put access.

[b] **A525 Footpath Llanfair to Ruthin** The site meeting scheduled for 24/09/21 did not take place due to a variety of reasons and apologies for any misunderstanding and inconvenience to those members from Llanfair Council and Ruthin Town Council have been made. Mr Tony Ward, DCC's Head of Highways & Environmental Services, has arranged to visit the site, including other sites, with Mr Tim Towers on the morning of 13/10/21. Given the correspondence and information provided on the joint concerns of Ruthin Town Council and Llanfair DC CC, it was considered that the views of both councils are clear, and the actions required well-articulated. As a result both Councils will not be present and will be looking forward to receiving a report from Mr Tony Ward on his site visit and the actions that will be taken to address the concerns of both Llanfair and Ruthin Councils.

823.2 Speeding Device Graigfechan Mr Ben Wilcox-Jones has been asked to provide estimated costs for purchasing, installation and maintenance/management and

will be in touch again in a few weeks. He advises caution about revisiting a potential speed cushion scheme through the village of Graigfechan. Although pre-cast rubber cushions are highly effective at reducing vehicle speeds, they can generate a lot of complaints from neighbouring properties because of the noise created when vehicles pass over them. The cost of such work is likely to be substantial and there is no capital budget available currently. It was noted that some speed cushions have been removed from Llandegla following extensive complaints.

823.3 Flood Prevention Schemes [761.1, 751.2, 741.2, 803.3, 813.3] Mr Alex Bebbington, DCC's Flood risk Officer, states that the drainage issue at Eyarth Crossroads is on a list of works to be done but cannot provide further information on timeframes at this stage. Mr Bebbington is also aware of the other issues in and around Pentrecelyn; these are also on a list of works to be conducted. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of detailed information. It was agreed that Messrs Alex Bebbington and Wayne Hope be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council.

823.4 Other Matters [813.4] [a] Resurfacing between Graigfechan and Llandegla [b] Condition of Road from Graig Farm Pentrecoch to Pen y Frith on the Silff [c] Road Closure from Llanfair to Graigfechan [d] Overgrown Hedges/Bushes at Crud yr Awel and Meadowside Llanfair [e] Overgrown Hedge covering the 20 mph Sign at Hafod y Bryn Llanfair The Clerk confirmed that all matters listed had been forwarded to Denbighshire County Council in September and replies were awaited. The owner of Hafod y Bryn has, in the meantime, trimmed the overgrown hedge. The condition of the road on the Silff is worrying as there may be a subsidence issue.

823.5 Request for Provision of Litter Bin by the Bus Stop in Llanfair on the A525 The cost of a bin is likely to be in the region of £460-£500 which includes the cost of installation by DCC. **RESOLVED** that a bin be commissioned and installed by Denbighshire County Council.

824 FINANCIAL MATTERS

824.1 Submitted Summary of Income & Expenditure and Receipts & Payments Cashbook for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 [Auditor General has not yet issued an audit opinion on accounts for the year ended 31/03/21]. The Clerk reported that as of 30 September 2021 there was £26940.75 in the Community Account and £8566.77 in the Business Account. Expenditure for the period under review amounted to £11316.50. The Clerk added that £3000 had been vired from the Community Activities budget to the War Memorial budget heading. **RESOLVED** that the accounts be approved as presented.

824.2 Payment of Accounts/Invoices Agreed as follows:

£4,743.22 R W Masonry Ltd [War Memorial Works]

£368.94 AVOW [Clerk's October salary inc payroll fee]

£206.33 Clerk [Quarterly Expenses]

£21.95 Cllr Jayne Mayers [Reimbursement of Flower/Card Purchase]

It was also agreed that an application be made to the bank to increase daily online payments from £1,000 to £5,000.

824.3 Requests for Financial Aid Agreed as follows:

£200 RBL Poppy Appeal

825 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS [Venues TBC, Councils have the option of holding remote meetings beyond May 2021 - LG & Elections (Wales) Act 2021]

825.1 08/11/21, 13/12/21, 10/01/22,14/02/22, 14/03/22 Zoom meetings will continue for the time being. Hybrid meetings could be held at Llysfasi in future – the college is awaiting delivery of technical equipment to enable such meetings to take place. The Chair asked Councillors about their preferences – continuing to join virtually or attendance at a venue. There was consensus that the Council continues to meet virtually using Zoom until at least the end of the year and that the situation be reviewed in early spring.

825.2 Reported - that Llysfasi has drawn up a scheme to enable local community groups to use the college on certain days and time free of charge. The Community Council can also use the college as a meeting venue free of charge on Monday evenings when face to face meetings resume.

PART 2 826 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following items:

826.1 Community Asset Transfer Process An update on progress was received regarding obtaining quotations for professional and other services. The matter is an ongoing process.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm CHAIR

DATE