

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

1. Present: Cllrs Shan Rees (Chairman), Janet Knott, Philip Davies, Jenny Jones, Meinir James, Nicola Jones, Elfyn Williams, Rheinallt Jones, Eifion Jones, County Councillor Tyssul Evans and Arfon Davies (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Carys Thomas 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 March 2024 were confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

- 1. Lighting project at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
- 2. Planning application, PL/02147 in property in woodland area – Idole to Pentrepoeth** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
- 3. Concerns relating to parking on double yellow lines in Llandyfaelog** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
- 4. FP29/4 Pentrepoeth** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
- 5. Planning Enforcement Issues at field in Idole** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. The Clerk noted that an enforcement case had been opened to investigate the field adjacent to this location, which appeared to be advertised as ‘Billy’s Wild Camping’. Noted.
- 6. PL/04973 – Gelligaeros Industrial Estate, Idole** – Updates were provided that new drawings had been submitted on the application, it was not yet clear whether a further public consultation would now be required on the matter. There were also no updates as to when the application would be brought before the Planning Committee for decision. Noted.
- 7. Public Litter Bins in the Community** – It was confirmed that the County Council had not held consultations with Community Councils whilst carrying out the process. The first phase of the process was to remove all litter bins from the trunk road network and County lay-by’s that had no continuous footways. The remaining litter bins that were to be removed had not yet been identified. Council noted its concern in relation to the matter.
- 8. National Grid – Substation in Llandyfaelog Area** – Council received further updates on the matter. Noted.
- 9. Flooding Issues at Cilgadan** – The Clerk will seek updates on these proposed works.
- 10. Flooding Issues in the Community** – The Clerk will seek updates on these proposed works at Coedlleine / Ystrad Ferthyr and between Cloigyn and Bancycapel.

11. **Wales Audit** – Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
12. **Road Verge at Tŷ Hir** – The Clerk will seek updates on these proposed works.
13. **Road safety issues at Bancycapel** - Council awaited further updates on the matter. Noted.
14. **Llandyfaelog Church Flower Festival** – The success of the event was noted and thanks expressed to everyone who had helped create the striking Community Council display and the other displays around the Church. Payment of £106.15 for the flowers was approved. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr and Mrs Atkinson of Gellideg who had provided additional greenery and foliage for the Council display.
15. **Donations** – Thank you notes were received from CISS and Marie Curie for the Council's contributions. Noted.

6. Correspondence

1. **Barclays Bank** – Statements. Noted.
2. **Play for Wales Magazine** – Noted.
3. **Carmarthenshire County Council** – Emergency road closure of the C2074 Pontantwn, from its junction with the A484, for a distance of 1 kilometre in a north-easterly direction on Thursday 14th March 2024. Noted.
4. **Audit Wales** – 2023-24 Audit Notification. Noted.
5. **Cllr Meinir James noted her interest in this matter as a Governor of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin - Carmarthenshire County Council** – Consultation on the proposed prohibition of waiting at any time / prohibition of stopping at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Myrddin. Concerns were expressed in relation to the proposals which would be forwarded to the County Council as follows:
 - It was not felt that the proposal would alleviate the problems being experienced and would in fact exacerbate the issue as the traffic would merely move further away from the school, parking in areas that are even less suitable. This was felt to possibly increase the danger for the children.
 - Information would be sought on where the alternative parking area envisaged for the displaced vehicles is anticipated to be if not in areas merely further away than current locations.
 - Information would be sought on what proposals were being put forward to alleviate the perceived cause of this issue, which in the Council's view was the lack of transport for children to reach the school.
6. **One Voice Wales** – 2024-25 Subscription with a cost of £252.00. The renewal of the Council's subscription for the 2024-25 year was approved.
7. **One Voice Wales** – March, April, May and June training events. Noted.
8. **One Voice Wales** – Consultation: Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill. Noted.

- 9. Carmarthenshire County Council – Community and Town Council**
Update. Noted.
- 10. One Voice Wales –** Information on the focus group for youth representatives of community and town councils. Invitation by the Welsh Government for Community and Town Council Youth Representatives to join the Democratic Health Task and Finish Group to review the health of community and town councils in Wales. Noted.
- 11. Dolen Teifi –** Information on the Community Transport Scheme. This will be published on the Council website.
- 12. Carmarthenshire County Council –** Consultation: 20 and 30mph speed restrictions. Including short stretches at Llwyn yr Eos Junction in Cwmffrwd and in the Bolahaul Road area. Noted.
- 13. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue –** Calon Tân Newsletter. Noted.
- 14. One Voice Wales -** Annual Financial Timetable of Actions guidance for Councillors. Noted.

7. Idole Field and Community Amenities

1. Defibrillators

- a) The Clerk noted that the pads and batteries for the Red Lion unit had been replaced by the Ambulance Service.
- b) The need to change the pads for the Cwmffrwd and Idole units was noted. The Ambulance Service could provide pads that were for adults only for these units, however due to the location of the Idole Unit, it was felt that pads which could be used for children should be provided. Prices were provided as follows:
- Defib warehouse £159.00 plus VAT
 - The defib pad £186.49 plus VAT
 - Defib 4 life £159.00 plus VAT
 - Defib shop £188.00 plus VAT
- It was agreed to take forward purchase from either of the lowest priced units that could be delivered by the end of April.
- c) Options had been sought for replacement cases for those allowing water ingress at Cwmffrwd, Croesyceiliog and Glanmorlais. The Clerk noted that most suppliers were insistent on the need to provide heated cabinets (with electrical supply). This was noted to not be available currently at either of the locations.

Following detailed discussion on the matter, it was agreed to:

- Check if solar powered units were available;
- To consider moving the units as follows:
 - Into Glanmorlais Bus Shelter – County Council approval will be sought;
 - Into Croesyceiliog Bus Shelter;

- Into Cwmffrwd Bus Shelter – Possible options for retention of the case at OC Davies garage will be discussed with the Company;
- In any instance of the case being moved, signage would be provided as appropriate.

8. Community Handyperson

The Clerk confirmed 28 hours worked in March with a cost of £560.00 confirmed. approved.

9. Community Events 2024

Council discussed possible Community Events in 2024 as follows:

- Garden Competition – Vegetables (June) and Flowers (August);
- Scarecrow Competition – Olympics theme.

The Clerk would contact Graham Green to invite him to be the competition judge. Options for photography continued to be considered.

10. 2023-24 Budget Report

The Clerk presented the 4th quarter budget report for the 2023-24 Financial Year. Council carried out the quarterly budget monitoring and accepted the report. The Chair carried out a review of the Council financial records.

Concern was expressed that a projected overspend of the Council budget for the year was caused by a very high increase in public lighting energy charges along with the high Wales Audit invoice. It was noted that neither of these charges could be anticipated by the Council as part of its budget setting.

11. 2024-25 Risk Analysis

Council considered the draft 2024-25 Risk Analysis which was presented by the Clerk. The draft document was agreed.

12. 2024-25 Staff Salary and Contracts report

Council agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting for this item due to the nature of the information to be discussed.

The Clerk presented the information report and the following items were agreed.

a) Bus Shelter Cleaners

Following discussion, it was agreed to set the payment for the Croesyceiliog Bus Shelter at £100 for the year.

b) Handyperson

Handyperson was noted as Michael Leefe with a payment of £22.00 per hour agreed for the year.

c) Council Clerk

It was agreed to retain the current pay point at the top of the relevant scale at point 23, currently £8,669.19. Council confirmed payment of a £26.00 allowance per month for home working. This encompassed the HMRC home working allowance (currently £26.00 per month).

Council further confirmed payment of necessary mileage claims paid on the HMRC mileage allowance rate (currently 45p per mile)

13. Accounts

a) The following payments were approved:

1. **Carmarthenshire County £2,908.27** Footway lighting charges 2023-24
£2,423.56 plus VAT £484.71

The high level of increase in energy charges for the year was noted with concern.

2.	Description	Salary	Expenses	Total Gross	Tax Deducted	NI Deducted	Net Pay
Arfon Davies	March Salary and costs	£722.43	£26.00 £7.00 £11.70 £15.10	£782.23	£298.60		£483.63

3. **HM Revenue and Customs £895.80** January – March deductions
4. **Michael Leefe £560.00** March Handyperson (see item 8)
5. **Arfon Davies £106.15** Flower festival costs (see item 5.14)
6. **One Voice Wales £252.00** 2024-25 Subscription (see item 6.6)

- b) The Clerk noted receipt of repayment of the 2023-24 VAT reclaim of £748.32 from HM Revenue and Customs.

14. Any Other Business

1. The Clerk will report flytipping at Sgwar Bryncochbach and Bwlchygwynt to the County Council.
2. The speed feedback sign at Cwmffrwd was noted to still not be working. The Clerk will report the matter.
3. A complaint had been received that the footway lights at Frondeg were very bright. The Clerk will raise the matter with the County Council.
4. It was noted that the stop sign at Y Lan and the 50mph sign at Garthowen had been damaged. The Clerk will report the matter to the County Council.
5. The Clerk will report the large pot hole between Ystradferthyr and Coedlleine to the County Council.

6. The Chair expressed her thanks to members and the Clerk for their support to her throughout her year as Council Chair. Members were reminded of the annual dinner to be held on the 19th April.

The next meeting and Annual Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024.