

**Draft Minutes of Llangors Community Council Annual Public Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st May 2019, 7pm at Llangors Youth & Community Centre**

Present: Cllr Mr C Preece (Chair), Cllr Mr M Scruby, Cllr Mr R East, Cllr Ven. A Jevons, Cllr Mr D James, Cllr Mr S Bailey, Cllr Mrs L Griffin, Cllr Mrs C Owen, Judith Phillips (Clerk), County Cllr Ms E Durrant

Members of the Public: Steve Howells, Lawrence Duffy, Ailsa Duffy, Ryan Thomas, Norman Lowe, David Adams, Catherine Adams, Ann Evans. David Jones, Roger Young, Geoff Bevan, Yvonne Bevan, John Payne, Ann Payne, Colin Preece, Iona Preece, Anne Thomas, Gwyn Clark, Colin Whitticase, Barbara Whitticase, Margaret Rosenfeld, Garnet Davies, Richard Doylend, Paul Exton, Alison Exton, Cath Johnson, Paul Johnson, Ian Jones, Roger Eagle, Alison Eagle, Peter Webb, Alina Evans, Julie Pugh

Guest speakers: Mark Kerr, Melrose East, Freya Morgan, Jim Price

1. Chairman's Welcome and Emergency Exit Procedure

Cllr Preece welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them where the emergency exits were. He commented that there are many wonderful people in the community and many carrying out voluntary work to benefit everyone and that the CC supported them all. He welcomed a few of these volunteers to the meeting as guest speakers, to give updates on their projects. County Cllr Emily Durrant was also welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mr A Evans, Mary Anderson, Dyfed Powys Police

3. Minutes of last Annual Public Meeting on 15th May 2018. The minutes had been distributed to all present and read. Following a request when the draft minutes were published in 2018 it was reported and agreed that page 5 item 8 final paragraph, the words "County Cllr Emily Durrant abstained from the show of hands" to be inserted. The minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record. This proposed by Cllr East and seconded by Paul Exton.

4. Matters Arising from those minutes - None

5. The Past Year – Annual Report by Cllr Colin Preece

The brief report reflected what has happened over the past year.

Members - Two community councillors had retired - Mark James and Richard Doylend. They were thanked for their service to the CC and given best wishes for the future.

Cllr Lynne Griffin had been co-opted to the CC in July 2018 and Cllr Clare Owen had been co-opted last week, both are Welsh speaking and the Chair also welcomed them in Welsh.

There is a vacancy for a Community Councillor in the Llanfihangel Talylyn ward and anyone interested was encouraged to speak to the clerk or any community councillor for more information.

Planning - Llangors Community Council received 11 applications last year as statutory consultees and again every site was visited and comments submitted to either BBNPA and PCC as planning authorities. All Community Councillors undertake planning training and Cllr Scruby and Cllr Bailey were thanked for attending recent update training with BBNPA and PCC.

Super-fast Fibre Broadband - there are still real concerns regarding internet speeds in the area. The situation was discussed at last year's APM and recently other areas were identified for further improvements, but sadly ours was not included. There had been a public meeting hosted by Kirsty Williams AM at Talgarth where the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport Lee Waters AM and representatives from BT Openreach and Superfast Cymru discussed local concerns. Representatives from the CC attended the meeting along with some residents. Cllr Scruby gave a brief update on the matter explaining issues with commercial viability of the scheme and that there were many areas with stranded assets which demonstrated that infrastructure had been put in place to a certain point and works were unfinished, hence the cables hanging on poles visible to many residents. Many communities represented at the meeting had looked into Welsh Government grants for community projects, but these were proving unworkable. There was a current market review taking place and by the end of 2019 more information should be available as to whether our area will get future funding. The CC continue to monitor the situation.

Llangors Playing Field - since the last CC APM, where there were concerns voiced from the community regarding community access to the field, there had been little dialogue between the School Governors and Community Council. It is understood that the field has not yet been handed over to the school and County Cllr Durrant was asked in her dual role as PCC representative and school governor to give an update on the situation. She reported that the field was not in use by the school as there was an issue with the drainage system installed. It had been agreed by the governing body that the field would be open for supervised community use along with the MUGA and school building. A letting policy was being drawn up, the detail of which was confidential. It was hoped that the site would be available for the forthcoming summer holidays and County Cllr Durrant was aiming to run a computer club and football sessions during the summer holidays.

The chair stated that during the limited talks held with representatives of the governing body it was felt progress was being made however, the governing body had withdrawn from further discussion.

Members of the public commented on some matters: -

a) Field drainage issue - a member of the public had observed the construction of the site at that time and challenged the current explanation on this matter. It was confirmed by County Cllr Durrant that the drainage issue was now resolved.

b) Supervised use was not acceptable, children particularly those nearing or in teenage years do not want to be supervised whilst playing football etc.

c) County Cllr Durrant was questioned if it was acceptable for the car park to be used by the public and if children could play/ride bikes in it.

d) Goal posts had been erected on the field and members of the public had been climbing over the fence and playing football etc. on the field. County Cllr Durrant confirmed that this had been reported and discussed by the school governing body who had no intention of reporting the matter as no damage has been done. Any damage would be reported and action taken.

e) It was questioned whether there would be a charge to use the field. County Cllr Durrant would not comment and emphasised that the detail of the hire agreement could not be commented on as it was all deemed confidential by the school governing body. Everyone would have to wait until they are told what the policy will be.

Highway issues - The CC work with County Councillor Durrant to report issues and although currently there are still a number of defects to address, it had been good to see resurfacing and a new chicane installed on the B4560 through Llangors.

Glebe Community Field - the Chair thanked local residents who, over the last twelve months have helped with maintenance tasks. Renewal of the lease will be discussed with the aim to negotiate as lengthy a lease as possible with the land owners, the Church in Wales.

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - The CC discussed the IRPW's proposals for all Town and Community Councillors to be paid for the work they carry out. Llangors Community Councillors have individually notified the Clerk that they decided to opt out of receiving the annual payment which would be paid through the precept.

Parking - particularly in Llanfihangel Talyllyn and Llangors can be problematic, with larger cars and increasing number of cars per household, pavements can be obstructed or farm and heavy goods vehicles denied through access. The CC have been working with County Cllr Durrant to promote considerate parking. A meeting had been held to discuss issues in Llangors. County Cllr Durrant asked if there was interest in doing the same in Llanfihangel Talyllyn as double yellow lines, which would be unpopular with residents, appeared the only option if considerate parking does not prevail. Members of the public agreed a meeting would be appropriate and that parked cars do slow traffic down.

This followed into a discussion about speeding vehicles in the community, especially on the Llangors B4560, Pendre end of the village and the C96 at Berllan Deg junction.

It was reported that there were plans in place to assess the Pendre area for a traffic calming chicane. Views were sought on the effectiveness of the new chicane at Lake View Close. Views were mixed, but generally it was felt that traffic speeds had reduced as a result of it being in place.

Members of the Community Speed Watch team (CSW) reported that they had been unable to do many surveys because the local PCSO's were not responding to emails and assisting them with the work. This was disappointing and the Clerk agreed to contact DPP to resolve the matter. (Action Clerk)

It was questioned why, since resurfacing the highway in Llangors, the double yellow lines had not been repainted. This had been reported to PCC and would be done in due course.

It was questioned why a PCC leaflet with information on the green waste bins scheme had not been delivered to a residence in Llangors, albeit it was established many residents had not received the leaflet. County Cllr Durrant to resolve the matter.

County Cllr Durrant also reported:

1.PCC highway leadership team were working hard with pressure from reducing budgets and much machinery had been sold. The public need to adjust expectations of highway works required. The Mid Wales growth deal has potential for investment in infrastructure.

2.BBNPA in reviewing its LDP have called for candidate sites and anyone with a site should contact them.

3.Heart of Wales Property Service (HOWPS) the service provided to those in Council owned property was in her view appalling and she was looking into the service returning in house at PCC.

4.There is a vacancy for an LEA governor at Llangors school and if anyone was interested they needed to speak with her.

Cllr Preece thanked County Cllr Durrant for her input.

Financial support/ grant applications - the CC considers and supports worthy local groups and charities associated with the CC area. Along with financial assistance to the 3 village halls, the chapel and churches in the area the CC have supported the four projects that were represented at the meeting.

Thanks were conveyed to: -

Internal Auditor, Lawrence Duffy, for ensuring the accounts are proper and correct for External Audit and for agreeing to another 12-month term.

All Councillors for their support and hard unpaid work. Members all have individual added responsibilities bolted on to their Councillor duties and work is done as a team to support the community.

The role of Community Council Clerk is increasingly time consuming and thanks were given to Judith Phillips for her meticulous work keeping members fully informed and updated with various policies and legislation, managing the sums and keeping things on the straight and narrow.

6. Welcome to guest speakers and brief presentations from: -

Llangors Community Shop Project– Mark Kerr

The CC were thanked for inviting the group to attend the meeting and for the financial assistance given. A brief update on the project so far was given. Following a local questionnaire and public meetings around the Lake, there were now 57 volunteers and assistance had been granted from the Plunkett Foundation. Visits had been made to other shops and it appears that there is enough support to go ahead with establishing a shop, subject to matters such as finding a suitable location, building, planning matters, forming a business plan and legal structure for the group and raising the finances needed, estimated in the region of £50,000 to set up. Funds are likely to be raised via grants from outside the community and there may be a share issue, whereby residents in the community could buy shares. It appeared that a porta cabin could be donated to the project and permission may be sought to locate it at Llangors Youth & Community Centre in order to tie in with the facilities already on offer at that site. Spring 2020 seemed a possibility for the shop to exist and it was felt that this was an enriching community project.

County Cllr Durrant thanked Mark and his team for pursuing the idea. Cllr Preece thanked Mark for his presentation.

Llangors Playpark – Melrose East

It was reported that the current play equipment at Llangors Youth & Community Centre had reached the end of its life span and following the relocation and building of the new school PCC had encouraged the committee to submit an application for a portion of ground adjacent to the community centre site as a freehold Community Asset Transfer (CAT). However, as time passed it is no longer the subject of the freehold CAT, but now a 25year lease. There are delays in obtaining the lease due to notices having to be served on the Church in Wales who initially leased the land for the old school. The area will be a recreation area for all ages of the community and following a questionnaire for residents and users of the current site and a children's project at the school, it was agreed to look at a wide range of play equipment, a Boules area, picnic tables and planters. Three companies had been asked to quote for development of the area, although not all had responded. Costs had been estimated at £60,000 plus VAT, although local contractors had offered to do some works so this figure could be reduced. £6000 had been raised so far from community events and by being a charity named on the Co-operative community fund raising system, which was explained. Lottery grants and other sources of grant funding will be looked at. Melrose wished to form a group of people of all ages to take the project forward. The site plans and Co-operative funding information was on display, a volunteer sheet for people to sign up to the project and a donation bucket.

Cllr Preece thanked Melrose for her presentation.

Brecon to Hay Cycle Path – Freya Morgan

Thanks were conveyed for being invited to speak at the meeting and for the financial assistance provided. The steering group was looking into whether the disused train line from Brecon to Hay could be reopened as a safe cycle path with easy access away from the roads so particularly suitable for families, whilst considering ecology and promoting tourism and business. The existing surface is likely to be sound and weatherproof due to past use. In England the Railway Network still own disused lines/land resulting in such projects being successful, however in Wales the land is now in private ownership with some areas having been built on. Gaining access or alternative routes in places was therefore a consideration. Sustrans had been commissioned to carry out an initial feasibility study on the 25km line which starts at Brecon Canal and follows to Groesfford, Talyllyn, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Trefecca, Talgarth, Three Cocks, Glasbury and Hay.

A questionnaire had been circulated to the groups mailing list with results analysed into how often it would be used and why etc.

Consideration had been given as to horses being allowed on the route. There were safety issues with this idea particularly where the route is now narrow.

The project is a long term one. To achieve it grant funding would be needed and the group are looking at breaking the route down into sections. Some sections where land is available and owners in agreement with the project could possibly be completed before other sections. Linking Hay to Brecon via a cycle path and linking with the Taff trail, which links Brecon to Cardiff, potentially means a dedicated cycle route from Hay to Cardiff.

Cllr Preece thanked Freya for her presentation.

Llangors Common Public Toilets – Jim Price

An introduction was made by Jim to the group known as the Llangors Common Community toilets group who are a registered charity of which he is a trustee along with Norman Lowe, Garnet Davies and Ryan Thomas who is the Chair of the group. Following the proposed closure of the site the group have taken on a lease from PCC and now demolished the old toilet block and are about to undergo a rebuild project with the professional help of local professionals and support from the BBNPA. The emphasis was on the facilities for the community and visitors to the Lake. Grants had been gratefully received from PCC, BBNPA, National Lottery, Welsh Government and Llangors CC. Local fundraising events had taken place with an Off the Wall event in Llangors, coffee morning held at Pennorth Chapel, sponsored run by County Cllr Durrant and a coffee morning planned in Llangors in June. A donation box was in situ near the site and is regularly emptied. The future plan also not to charge for the use, but to encourage a donation to be left in the box. The group have to raise £7000 and to date have managed £4600. Further fundraising events will continue in the community. Future management and cleaning of the site will be on a paid basis, not voluntary. The architect's drawings of the building and a bat hotel also at the site were on display for members of the public to view.

A member of the public asked how the group anticipated raising funds from tourists using the facility to assist with costs. It was clarified that this would be done by donation only, alongside community fundraising.

Cllr Preece thanked Jim for his light hearted presentation on public toilets.

7. Any other questions from Members of the Public

There being no other questions Cllr Preece thanked all for their comments and attendance at the meeting. He also thanked the hall committee for providing the refreshments.

The meeting was closed at 8.48pm.