

Draft Minutes of Llangors Community Council Bi Monthly Meeting

Held on Thursday 14th November 2019, 7.00pm at Llangasty Parish Hall

Present

Cllr Mr C Preece (Chair), Cllr Mr A Evans, Cllr Mrs L Griffin, Cllr Mr R East, Cllr Mr S Bailey, Cllr Ven. A Jevons, Cllr Mr D Jones, Judith Phillips (Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Mrs C Owen, Cllr Mr M Scruby, County Cllr Durrant
Absent: Cllr Mr D James

2. PCSO Billy Dunne – brief update on policing matters in the local area

PCSO Dunne was welcomed to the meeting. He reported on crime in the local area and in particular thefts from farms which was discussed in some depth. In comparison to many other areas, there were a small number of issues regarding drugs. Dates for the Community Speed Watch team to be out on duty were requested by the PCSO, who was keen to see action with the group. Clerk to pass request to County Cllr Durrant who is the lead person for the group. Rural Crime patrols and monitoring was a set priority for the area. Any suspicious vehicles and activity to be reported to DPP was encouraged.

Cllr East arrived at 7.34pm

PCSO Dunne was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 7.37pm

3. Declarations of Interest for agenda items as per Members' Code of Conduct:

Cllr East declared an interest regarding a letter and petition submitted to the Clerk by a resident, as reported in item 14.

4. Minutes of all meetings 10/9/19 & PAD meetings 18/9/19, 9/11/19

The minutes were read. One amendment was made to the minutes of 9/11/19 changing words none compliance to non-compliance. These were then signed as a true and accurate record. Minutes of 10/9/19 proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Griffin. Minutes of 18/9/19 proposed by Cllr East and seconded by Cllr Jones and 9/11/19 proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded by Cllr Evans.

5. Matters Arising from above minutes

Llangors Churchyard Boundary – due to the weather it was agreed this work should be done in the Spring. A quote for works to be obtained by Cllr Bailey and included in the budget for 2020/21. (Action Cllr Bailey)

Seat near Pen y Brenin. It was agreed that the seat needs replacing. The cost to be included in the next budget with a view to a new seat in situ ready for May 8th 2020 and dedicate it to the 75th anniversary of VE Day and possibly hold a short service nearby, officiated by Cllr Ven. Jevons (Action Clerk)

Broadband – A resident had been in contact with the Clerk about broadband in Tallylyn. Kirsty Williams had responded to a request from the CC for an update regarding ongoing issues. This had indicated that a Welsh Government public consultation was due on 12/11/19. It was agreed Cllr Preece, Cllr Bailey and the Clerk would analyse the consultation and respond accordingly. (Action Clerk)

- 6. Financial Matters; a) Bi monthly finance report, b) Approve External Audit Report, c) Budget 2020-21 items for inclusion**

a) The bi monthly finance report was agreed, with a grant of £100 awarded to St. Mary's Church Llanywern.

b) The external auditor had been completed and the notice served. The auditors had given a qualified audit report to the council and noted that the CC extended an existing contract for grass cutting without going out to tender as set out in the adopted Financial regulations and classed this as unlawful expenditure. The report stated that Councils should always seek to get the best value for money possible.

When the matter had been queried by the auditor in July, the Clerk had provided evidence that the contract was advertised as a rolling contract and that following legal advice at the time of the contract originally being advertised and awarded that the procedure was in line with the regulations. The CC always sought best value and reviewed the contract annually. Drawing up tender documents and advertising in the local press was time consuming and costly and had not been a justifiable expense when assessing best value. However, the CC agreed to accept the report and advertise the contracts for a fixed 3-year period from the next season. The CC also noted a comment from the auditor, that when completing the annual return, the internal auditor had answered yes to a box relating to trust funds and the answer should have been n/a, as clarified by the Clerk.

c) Budget for 20/21 – the Clerk is to draft the budget prior to the next meeting and any items for inclusion needed to be highlighted before mid-December

7. Grass Cutting Contracts – Agree proposed Tender Documents and Advert

Tender documents and an advert for the local paper had been drafted and circulated. These were agreed. The advert to be published straight away with the closing date as 12/12/19. Details to be put on the webpage. (Action Clerk)

8. New Webpage – design, hosting and support quotes for discussion and decision

Cllr Preece and the Clerk had drawn up the specification for the new webpage and 3 quotes had been obtained. Two from local designers and one from One Voice Wales recommended supplier based in Exeter. Quotes were analysed for design content, hosting and support. The quote deemed the best value was awarded to a local company, Map Your Marketing. This proposed by Cllr Jevons and seconded by Cllr Griffin, agreed by all. It was agreed that members would have their photos on the new site and that in conjunction with the site all Cllrs would have their own email address @llangors.org.uk. Clerk to take advice on legal position of such email addresses and action webpage works to be completed (Action Clerk)

9. Proposed Community Shop in Llangors update- Cllr Griffin

The group are moving forward with business plans completed, legal status of a shop being drawn up and a planning application for a site next to Llangors Youth & Community Centre being drafted. It is anticipated that the shop may open ready for Easter 2020.

10. Proposed installation of toilets at St. Paulinus Church, Llangors

The plans for the suggested route for an easement to lay a sewer pipe across the churchyard had been received and agreed by Cllr Preece. This was supported by all. Legal documents still to be received when the Church committee are ready to go ahead. Cllr Preece to liaise as necessary (Action Cllr Preece)

11. Consider request to redirect the Talgarth/Abergavenny service bus from Pengefordd road to B4560 Trefecca/Llangors/Bwlch, as happens when Pengefordd is closed

A resident had noted the bus service going through Llangors having been redirected because of ongoing road closures on Pengefnordd. They had asked County Cllr Durrant to look into making this a permanent feature/route. The CC agreed to support the request. Clerk to follow up with County Cllr Durrant and PCC. (Action Clerk)
It was noted that there was a bus from Llangors to Abergavenny every Thursday, only.

12. Bi Monthly Planning Report

Separate PAD minutes should be read for further details on applications.

Llangors Community Council supported:

PCC 19/1341/HH 28/8/19

First floor extension to side and single story extension to rear at 20 Berllan Deg, Llanfihangel Talyllyn

PCC 19/1474/HH 10/9/19

Erection of an extension and all associated works at Haulfryn, Llanfihangel Talyllyn

BBNPA 19/17307/OUT 21/10/19

An outline application for three dwellings, two open market, one for a family member of the applicant at Gwynfa, Llangorse

BBNPA 19/17844/CON 23/10/19

Variation of conditions 2, 6, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 to the original consent 09/03048/FUL - a conversion of barn to dwelling at Y Beudy, Llangorse

BBNPA 19/17845/FUL 23/10/19

Retrospective change of use from agricultural use to domestic use in association with Y Beudy. Retention of summer house on unauthorised extension of domestic garden at Y Beudy, Llangorse.

Applications granted by PCC/BBNPA

PCC 19/1474/HH 25/10/19

Erection of an extension and all associated works at Haulfryn, Llanfihangel Talyllyn

Planning Correspondence: -

1. BBNPA Weekly planning lists
2. PCC Planning decision reports
3. Planning Aid Wales events

13. Llangors Primary School Governor update – Cllr Griffin

Cllr Griffin reported that at the last meeting of the Governing Body she had been informed that she did not represent the CC, but was a member of the Governing Body in her own right. Cllr Griffin was also asked to request that the CC remove the School Governor report as an item on its agenda. Cllr Griffin had checked with Governors Cymru on the position of a Community Council representative. Their opinion was that the representative of the Community Council on the Governing Body is appointed there to represent the view of the CC and is free to report on Governing Body matters as required, unless the matter is confidential. Governors Cymru confirmed that there is nothing in the statute that says otherwise.

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Griffin does represent the CC at Governing Body meetings and that agenda items of the CC are of no business of the Governing Body and that the school governor report would remain on any CC agenda as and when required, as is the case with many other Town & Community Councils.

Cllr Griffin had also attended a consultation meeting for parents regarding community use of the field and a letting policy. The next meeting of the governing body had been postponed until the end of November.

14. Community Use of Llangors Playing Field update – Cllr Preece

A resident had submitted a letter dated 13/11/19 to the Clerk, with a copy of a petition signed by circa 250 residents and people closely associated with Llangors who “would like to have open access to the school playing field without restrictions, as has been customary in the past for many years”. It was noted a copy of the petition had also been sent to Llangors School Governing Body. The covering letter was seeking for the CC to forward the petition to PCC, however it was likely that under GDPR that could not be done. Clerk to clarify position on this and notify the resident of the outcome and acknowledge receipt of the letter and petition. (Action Clerk)

Since the last CC meeting a letter had been received from PCC regarding the legal position of access rights to the field. Further correspondence unanimously approved by CC members had been sent to PCC along with agreement for Cllrs Preece, East, Jevons and the Clerk to attend a meeting with PCC legal and school property officers to discuss community use of the field. County Cllr Durrant was invited to the meeting, but had been unable to attend. PCC officers had taken minutes of the meeting and although chased, a copy had still not been received. In brief, the legal position of community use, as highlighted by the CC, had been agreed by PCC. This being that the decision to grant public access as set out in letters in 1968 & 1974, which PCC refer to as a licence, was taken by a senior officer in the local authority. Based on that, the equivalent officer has to make decisions about the same public access today, therefore the current PCC Head of Schools.

It was also recognised that an appropriate process must be followed in deciding issues of public access, which required engaging with the community and its representative bodies in a considered manner in order to make an informed and considered decision. On this basis the CC had requested that the padlock was removed from the gate, prior to October half term holidays. The meeting had also highlighted support given to PCC in the form of assisting with parking spaces to meet planning requirements at the new school and voluntary running of local services by members of the community otherwise lost due to PCC budget cuts. PCC had recognised the matter needed to be considered from a Corporate Governance position. PCC officers were due to meet with the School Headteacher and Chair of Governors and should any change to the historic licence be required then consultation would need to take place.

Due to the lack of communication since the meeting on PCC behalf, it was unanimously agreed to send another letter reiterating what had been agreed and discussed. (Action Clerk)

An update on the CC position had been submitted for publication in the Grapevine newsletter, as members of the public continue to raise high level concerns about the matter.

15. Glebe Community Field update - Clerk

The Church In Wales (CIW) had confirmed it was likely to renew the lease subject to conditions in April 2021. The CIW are still committed to getting affordable housing on the retained land and were in discussion with another body regarding that matter.

16. Update on all Highway Matters - Clerk

Outstanding highway matters continue to be getting resolved slowly. It had been established that the double yellow lines at Llangors Church had been repainted in the correct position. The additional one car length is still to be applied for under the road traffic order process. Parking in Llanfihangel Talylyn; a meeting being arranged by County Cllr Durrant is still

awaited. The query with the road markings near the chicane at Lake View Close, Llangors had been followed up with PCC and deemed to be correct. Following Speed monitoring devices being in situ, speeds outside Llangors school are of concern with PCC. Speeds at Upper/Lower Pendre are not of enough concern by PCC to warrant any speed reduction schemes being drawn up. Flooding and blocked drains in Pennorth and Llanfihangel Talyllyn had been an issue which County Cllr Durrant was dealing with. A blocked drain on the C96 near the Llynfi bridge was reported. Clerk to report to PCC and clerk was requested to obtain an update on all flooding matters (Action Clerk).

It was noted that a circular from OVW had stated that CC's do not have the power to install/operate speed reduction devices.

17. IRPW Draft report for consultation. Discuss and agree any comments

The report had been circulated. It was agreed that no comments were to be submitted and that members did not require to be paid for their work as a Community Councillor. There is to be no funds budgeted for such expenditure.

18. Annual Review of Clerk Employment

Some minor draft amendments had been circulated which included a statement about auto enrollment pensions, which the clerk did not wish to opt into at this stage. Clerk hours are continuing to increase as the CC has to comply with more legislative matters and PCC continue to seek to hand over some services. Hours for the year to date were assessed and new hours agreed for the next financial year to be reflected in the next budget.

19. General Correspondence Received

Items all sent to Councillors as received.

Powys County Council

1. Arwain updates
2. Have your say on next years budget
3. Powys County Council is feeling the squeeze!
4. Big Lottery Funding - Countryside Access. PCC are seeking to hand over the maintenance of public footpaths to communities via CC's and in so doing apply for lottery funding. The details had been submitted for publication in the Grapevine. If no members of the public wish to commit to the project, it was agreed that the CC would not be taking on the role.
5. Concessionary Bus Passes – procedure for issue of new cards
6. Budget Presentation & Dates for Future Meetings for Clerks liaison meetings – noted the next meeting will be March.
7. BT Payphone / Telephone Box Review (Draft Decision)
8. Y Gaer - Advert for Expressions of Interest – noted.

County Cllr Durrant

1. Brexit Update

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

1. Meeting agenda for various committees
2. Farm Diversification Event - 23rd October 2019

Welsh Government

1. Business Advice updates
2. Consultation notifications & rural news updates
3. Natural Resources Wales updates

Other

1. OPCC invite to CCTV event
2. OVW updates to include Reporting on Section 6 - The Biodiversity and Resilience of

Ecosystems Duty. The CC had been informed of a new legal requirement to submit a report on this matter by December. Cllr Scruby to work with the Clerk to complete and submit. (Action Clerk and Cllr Scruby)

3. PAVO updates
4. Play Wales updates
5. Wales and Powys CHC & PTHB meetings/update
6. Hay to Brecon Cycle Path meeting Minutes
7. Discover Llangors & Bwlch group minutes
8. Clerk & Councils Direct Booklet
9. BBSDP Ambassador Training Programme up for an Award!
10. Brecon Foodbank Art Auction 25th October
11. Trefeglwys Community Council Clinical Waste Issue
12. Grapevine Newsletter Winter edition call for adverts
13. MWWFRA – newsletters, updates and corporate plan.
14. Newtown Town Council - Vote for Tree of the Year 2019
15. Power for People Council motion request re national community energy campaign
16. Welsh Hearts - Let's place 500 public access defibrillators throughout Cardiff
17. Zurich – are you prepared for winter info.

20. Reports from Councillors

Cllr Jones reported that he was no longer Chair of Llanfihangel and Llanywern Community Hall and that he had been seeking to encourage residents in the village to take part in the running of the hall and in particular to focus on the lease with the Church in Wales, which is coming up for renewal in coming years.

Cllr Jevons gave a brief report on a recent OVW training event he had attended regarding Community Plans.

Cllr Bailey reported that a recent meeting of the Hay/Brecon Cycle Path group had been held in Hay. The next phase was to ask Sustrans to produce a landowner survey for 2 sections of the line – Talgarth to Three Cocks and Glasbury to Hay.

21. Confirm date and venue of the next bi monthly meeting 14/1/20.

It was agreed to be held at Llangors Y&C Centre. (Action Clerk). A date for a short meeting to open Grass Cutting Contract Tenders and award the contracts was also suggested for 16/12/19, subject to Councillor availability. Clerk to check and arrange as required (Action Clerk)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.34pm.