

Draft Minutes of Llangors Community Council Bi Monthly Meeting
Held Remotely on Tuesday 9th March 2021, 7.00pm

The meeting commenced a few minutes late due to some members having broadband connectivity issues which for some continued to be problematic throughout the meeting.

Members present by video link: Cllr Mr S Bailey (Chair), Cllr Mrs L Griffin, Cllr Mr M Scruby, Cllr Mr D Jones, Cllr Mr C Preece, Cllr Ven. A Jevons, Cllr Mr R East, Cllr Mr D James, Cllr Mrs C Owen
In attendance by video link: Judith Phillips (Clerk), County Cllr Ms E Durrant until 8pm.
Unable to connect due to broadband issues: Cllr Mr T Evans

1. Apologies for absence – none

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

Cllr East and Cllr Preece declared an interest for part of the discussion on item 12a. donations to charities.

3. Questions on agenda items from members of the public - None

4. Minutes of bi monthly meeting on 12/1/21 and PAD meetings on 19/1/21 & 2/3/21

The bi monthly minutes were read and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr East.

PAD minutes were read and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Scruby and seconded by Cllr Griffin.

5. Matters arising from above minutes not listed on the agenda

Page 1 – Affordable Housing at Dol Pistyll, Llanfihangel Talyllyn. Cllr Durrant reported that she had spoken with the landowner who had confirmed their intention to build the properties in due course and that only 3 out of 6 of the building plots for market properties have been sold to date.

Page 2 Llangors Lake Common maintenance of road and car park. Cllr Durrant had spoken to the secretary of the commoner's association and businesses operating at the lake common. There appeared no desire for any investment on their behalf regarding improvements to the road and car parking infrastructure. Some documents had become available to Cllr Durrant which indicated that PCC have discretionary responsibilities regarding such infrastructure maintenance. This was to continue to be followed up by Cllr Durrant as the area is a valuable tourist attraction and improvements are necessary.

Page 4 Burial Space in the Community. The clerk had informed the Church In Wales regarding concerns about a decreasing amount of burial space in the community. Those residents who had responded to the related article in the last Grapevine newsletter had been updated with LCC position.

6. Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic update. Wales remained in level 4 lockdown with infection rates subsiding, but the virus still in circulation. The vaccination programme, after some initial blips with bookings, is moving very fast and very efficiently. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) weekly updates received were very helpful and it was agreed for the Clerk to write to PTHB with thanks and support for the work they are doing.

a) Glebe Community Field. The field and equipment had remained open for use and signs remained in place reflecting Welsh Government guidance.

b) St. Paulinus Churchyard. Signs remain in place reflecting Welsh Government guidance.

c) Llangors Together. The team remain in place to provide assistance, although requests are very quiet.

7. Highway matters – update on all issues

A479 Pengenffordd closure and highway scheme. A letter received from Welsh Government confirmed works had now recommenced. Speeding vehicles travelling through Llangors remains an issue and it was agreed for the Clerk to contact the police about the matter.

A landslide in Llanywern had been reported to PCC and cleared.

Clearing of ditches on Llangors mountain road had been requested by a resident which had been followed up by Cllr Preece and the Clerk. PCC had still not cleared all of the drains.

The list of ongoing highway issues had been updated, was agreed and is to be sent to PCC again.

Cllr Durrant had been following up reports regarding flooding matters around the community and blocked drains and related issues in Pennorth. Cllr Owen noted that the C107 in Pennorth near the junction with Scethrog had again be flooded recently, albeit PCC have now cut through the ditch in an attempt to resolve the matter. All flooding issues to be monitored.

All street lighting in Llanfihangel Talyllyn was being upgraded. Cllr Bailey, Cllr Jones and County Cllr Durrant had met socially distanced on site with PCC to discuss the matter. It had been agreed for a light to be put in the bus shelter and an idea about the principle of a cable being laid with potential for an EV charging point at Llanfihangel Hall had been put forward to PCC by Cllr Durrant. It was felt that the practicality of the idea may not be feasible.

Cwmdu Community Council had been in contact with a resident request for a village signs in Cathedine. LCC had agreed with for two signs to be erected in the relevant community area and Cwmdu Council were dealing with the request on their side of the community. The Clerk had agreed matters with PCC.

8. Roll out of fibre broadband project update – Cllr Bailey

Following the assistance of PCC Broadband officer and County Cllr Durrant the local broadband team had contacted some private companies about the matter. One company had become involved and a scheme to potentially enable ultrafast fibre broadband to all areas of the community, however timescales had been very tight as the voucher scheme available from Welsh Government ends at the end of March. Residents had embraced the community effort and responded well in committing to the scheme and enabling the minimum viability threshold to be met for most areas of the community. An application had been submitted to DCMS for approval, which was awaited. If successful the infrastructure works will need to be completed by the private company by March 2022. Thanks were extended to all involved with the team.

County Councillor Durrant had to leave the meeting at 8pm, was thanked for attending and good luck was expressed with her campaign to become a Welsh Assembly member at the forthcoming election in May.

9. Community use of Llangors Playing Field update – Cllr Bailey

It was understood Play Wales county wide approach to explore better use of school grounds had been met with a positive response by PCC.

The Chair reported that his letter sent to the Chair of the Governing Body had been agreed by all members except Cllr East. No response had been received. Writing to PCC head of legal services about this matter was considered. No further action was required at the current time.

With Easter and Summer holidays approaching, concern was raised about the availability of the playing field for public use, particularly after a year of restrictions and lockdowns and many residents likely to remain local and in continuing need of the recreation space. Cllr Griffin was asked to raise

the matter at the next governors meeting and establish when the letting policy system the school has in place was actually going to be operated.

As a separate issue, Cllr East gave an update on the position of the new playpark next to Llangors Youth & Community Centre. The Centre committee had now completed a lease with PCC for the land and are hoping to erect a boundary fence by the summer. Some picnic tables would be included in the site while consideration is being given to other equipment and fundraising.

10. Glebe Community Field lease renewal and future plan for the site

Due to time constraints the Church In Wales (CIW) had offered a six month extension to the current lease. This was agreed, however it is preferable that completion of the new lease is done in that time in order that the new fencing required on site can be done before next winter. Cllr Scruby agreed to liaise with fencing contractors and the neighbouring landowner.

The Glebe Community Field policy setting out the future plan for the site had been drafted and was agreed.

11. Consultation on draft guidance Code of Conduct for members of T&CC's

All councillors had been sent the guidance to read. There were no observations or comments.

12. Financial Matters; a) Bi monthly finance report. The report as attached to these minutes was discussed and agreed. A grant application from Pennorth Chapel was agreed at £100. Requests for donations from groups and charities outside of LCC area were considered. It was agreed not to make any further donations in this financial year in order to build up reserves to grant fund projects within the community, notably Llangors Playpark. Cllr East declared an interest and left the meeting while this matter was discussed. Cllr Preece also declared an interest in this matter.

The clerk reported that the precept request had been submitted, checked and agreed by PCC. Bank reconciliations had been carried out throughout the year as required except that the Chair had countersigned them due to Covid-19 and the designated Councillor for the role continued to be in shielding. It was accepted that the chair signing the document was contrary to the financial regulations 2.2, however circumstances were exceptional and it was unanimously agreed that such action would need to continue whilst pandemic restrictions continued. It was also agreed for the Clerk to contact the bank and look into the practicality of online banking for LCC.

b) Agree Internal Audit Plan - this was discussed and agreed.

c) Annual review of policies; 1. Asset Register – this was discussed and agreed.

2. Financial & Management Risk Assessment Schedule – Cllr Scruby confirmed that Glebe inspections continued and were recorded with no issues. Cllr Owen confirmed inspection of assets in Llanfihangel Talylyn ward continued and were recorded with the only matter arising being the need for some stain for a bench which Cllr Jones agreed to source. Cllr Preece confirmed inspection of assets in Llangors ward continued. The seat on Llangors Triangle had been damaged and Cllr Preece had overseen repairs by a local resident, which LCC were grateful for. Bulbs at the triangle were growing well and it was confirmed that the grass cutting contractors had been instructed not to cut the site until notified by the clerk. The schedule was agreed.

3. Financial Regulations – agreed.

4. Grants policy- agreed.

13. Annual Review of Policies; a) Standing Orders - as new legislation had been published in the last few days which reflected changes to how meetings can be held it was agreed for the clerk to further update this policy and agenda for the next meeting.

b) Freedom of Information - discussed and agreed, **c) Welsh Language** – discussed and agreed,

d) Social Media – agreed, **e) Public complaints** – agreed, **f) Member complaints** – agreed, **g) Press & Media** – agreed, **h) Email address protocol** – agreed, **i) Biodiversity report** – discussed and agreed.

It was discussed and agreed that the clerk should write an Equality & Diversity policy for LCC.

14. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) report – discuss and agree relevant sections.

The report mandates certain determinations on LCC and it is discretionary whether others are adopted when considered.

Determination 41 was accepted: *All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:*

- *Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.*
- *Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real UK Living Wage at the time the costs are incurred.*

This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.

Determination 42 was accepted: *All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.*

Determination 44 was agreed subject to setting out in policy what specific responsibilities mean: *Community and town councils in Group C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.*

Determination 45 was agreed: *Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:*

45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year.

25p per mile over 10,000 miles.

5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business.

24p per mile for private motor cycles.

20p per mile for bicycles.

Determination 46 was agreed: *If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:*

£28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided

£200 – London overnight

£95 – elsewhere overnight

£30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight

Determination 47 not agreed: *Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:*

Up to £55.50 for each period not exceeding 4 hours

Up to £110.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours

Determination 48 not agreed: *Community and town councils can provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed*

Determination 49 not agreed: *Community and town councils can provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses and the £500 senior salary if these are claimed.*

It was agreed that all members are eligible to be paid the £150 as set out in Determination 42 from the start of the financial year; unless they are elected later in the financial year, in which case they are eligible for a proportionate payment from that date.

Payments to members in recognition of specific responsibilities as set out in Determinations 43, 44, 48 and 49 are payable from the date when the member takes up the role during the financial year and likewise payment eligibility will stop if it is deemed the specific responsibility is not carried out as specified and agreed or not at all.

Payments are taxable and will be processed through the HMRC PAYE system and paid in arrears once a year in March to ensure any pro rata payments can be accurately calculated and administration of the system be as efficient as possible. Should a member leave the council within the financial year the sum due will be calculated pro rata and payment will be processed on the next available PAYE run following the leave date.

Payments in respect of Determinations 41, 44, 45 and 46 are payable when valid receipts are submitted to the clerk on completion of the activity and will be paid at the next appropriate meeting of the council.

Much discussion took place about these determinations and the need to agree them to encourage membership diversity and equality of LCC for the future. The potential cost which will have to be budgeted for in January 2022 is likely to result in an increase in the precept causing great concern to current members of LCC, who currently choose to forego all possible payments and carry out all their duties at not charge to the community they serve.

A policy to clarify this subject is to be drafted by the clerk for the next meeting.

15. Bi Monthly planning report

Llangors Community Council supported:

BBNPA 20/19412/Ful 4/1/21

Erection of Single Storey Side Extension to Existing House and Car Port at Plas Villa, Llangorse

BBNPA 21/19579/Ful 17/2/21

Proposed open-sided garage at The Old Vicarage, Llangorse

Applications Refused

PCC 20/0929/Ful 22/1/21

Erection of Agricultural Building at Ysguborneydd, Llanywern

Planning Correspondence: -

1. BBNPA Weekly planning lists
2. PCC Planning decision reports
3. Planning Aid Wales updates
4. BBNPA LDP Consultation - Interim Supplementary Planning Guidance – Retail Core
5. PCC LDP Draft Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Place Plan.

16. Report on Places to Play seminar – Cllr Owen

Cllr Owen reported on an excellent seminar hosted by Play Wales with four speakers. Use of natural open space play opportunities and the need to change the mind set of some who design and control play spaces formed part of the seminar along with appreciating the benefits of risk while children play as opposed to having risk assessments too tight. The documents from the meeting had been shared and along with Cllr Owen's report was noted as helpful to those involved with developing Llangors playpark on behalf of the hall committee. It was felt that the play opportunities offered by LCC at the Glebe Community Field were favourable and in line with the current guidance.

17. Update from representatives: -**a. Llangors CIW Primary School Governing Body – Cllr Griffin**

There was nothing to report as there had not been a meeting.

b. Discover Llangors & Bwlch Group – Cllr Owen

Due to Covid-19 the March Grapevine would not be produced. All businesses currently closed due to restrictions were eagerly awaiting a re-opening date. A virtual star gazing event had been held.

c. Siop Llangors Shop Committee – Cllr Owen

Two job vacancies had been advertised and the lottery grant application had been submitted.

18. General correspondence received

Items all sent to Councillors as received.

Powys County Council

1. Agenda and invite to Teams meeting with Leader of PCC 15/4/21 – Cllr Bailey to attend
2. Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School consultation and addendum
3. T&CC meeting with Leader of PCC minutes and attendance 13/1/21
4. New Welsh Government legislation affecting play areas - Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2020
5. Places to Play seminar information

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

1. Meeting agenda for various committees
2. Personal message from Chair re recruitment of new Chief Executive
3. Management Plan Review - Consultation on Policy Documents until 26/5/21 - noted

Welsh Government

1. Business Advice updates
2. Consultation notifications & rural news updates
3. Natural Resources Wales updates
4. Covid-19 updates
5. Accounts Deadlines for 2021 - noted

Other

1. OVW updates including: Summary of key provisions of the Local Government and Elections

(Wales) Act 2021 for the Community and Town Council Sector – the clerk provided a brief update and the detail to be reflected in the revised Standing Orders.

2. PAVO updates
3. Play Wales updates
4. Wales and Powys CHC & PTHB updates
5. MWWFRS magazine
6. DPP updates
7. Keep Wales Safe Campaign information
8. Powys Dyslexia Support Group Newsletter
9. Zurich insurance severe weather support/information
10. Calor Rural Community Fund application details
11. Census Day 21/03/21. Information to help with completion.
12. Dark Sky Wales FREE Dark Sky Awareness Training
13. Home Start Cymru information
14. Keep Wales Tidy updates and scheme evaluation survey
15. L. Gardenchild re Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
16. Clerks and Councils Direct

19. Reports from Councillors

Cllr Scruby reported a tree was trimmed by residents with PCC consent at the side of the brook in Llanfihangel Talyllyn. A resident had reported speeding vehicles in Llanfihangel Talyllyn between 6.30 – 8.30am and County Cllr Durrant had dealt with the matter. It was agreed for Cllr Scruby to use LCC Zoom account to host the Llangors Lake Advisory Group meeting and the Llanfihangel Hall AGM as LCC are represented on both groups and such assistance was needed.

Cllr Preece reported that Western Power contractors needed to trim part of the cherry tree on Llangors Triangle. This had been agreed albeit they had been requested not to disturb the flowers growing underneath it.

Cllr East raised an issue with dog fouling in Maesyfelin and a resident request for £200 for a waste bin to be located on the green area near the old village hall site. A bin at this location was not felt appropriate and if one was to be obtained PCC should provide free of charge. It was noted that dog fouling was an issue in all parts of Llangors and the wider community and emails and concerns had been raised by many residents. As the country was in lockdown it was evident that it was a very local issue which residents needed to address. A message had been displayed in noticeboards and on the villages around the lake Facebook page about the issue. It was agreed that until dog owners control loose dogs and pick up dog mess appropriately that adding more bins was not necessarily the answer. It was agreed for the clerk to investigate the possibility of obtaining printed leaflets from national organisations for councillors to deliver to all households in a bid to educate and advise all.

Cllr Bailey reported that a resident had raised an issue about the amount of litter on the roadside just outside Llanfihangel Talyllyn. It was noted that littering had been and continued to be a long term problem throughout the community and noted with gratitude the many resident volunteers who regularly litter pick. It was noted that much litter is caused from recycling lorries in the area and that PCC should be contacted about it. Notices erected on grass verges were not supported as they can become litter too. It was also felt that although in lockdown, that traffic continued to travel through the community and that the cause of the matter was not necessarily local residents. Welsh Government currently are consulting on a Litter and Fly Tipping Free Wales which suggests that some action may come from them in due course.

20. Confirm date of the next bi monthly meeting & AGM – 11/5/21 Remotely

This was confirmed. It was also agreed that no annual public meeting will be held in May due to the current pandemic.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.58pm.

DRAFT