

LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD CANOLOG



Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council Meeting Llangynwyd Village Hall Monday October 11th 2016

Members Present

Cllr P Sasiruban
Cllr E Guscott
Cllr C Griffiths
Cllr T Griffiths
Cllr L Grantham Brooks
Cllr D Berry
Cllr L Morgan
Cllr D Morgan

Clerk: Mrs N Morgan

The Meeting commenced at 6:30pm and was chaired by Councillor C Griffiths.

92.17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Griffiths Jones, Cllr Williams, Cllr James and Cllr Jones.

93.17 Declarations of Interest (in accordance with S51 Local Government Act 2000)

Councillor E Guscott Cwmfelin Primary School
Llangynwyd Primary School

Councillor P Sasiruban Village Hall
Llangynwyd Post Office

94.17 Ratification of Minutes of September 2016 Meeting

Cllr T Griffiths was missing page 3 of the minutes and to receive this by email. The clerk clarified the reference to the Remembrance Day Service refers to the proposed service to be held on Friday November 11th 2016.

The minutes were agreed by Cllr L Morgan and seconded by Cllr Grantham Brooks

95.17 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The clerk received confirmation that the photographs taken at the last meeting can be uploaded to the website.

Cllr Grantham Brooks received the job descriptions from the clerk and a working document was handed to all Councillors in the meeting. Cllr Grantham Brooks organised a meeting of the Councillors to discuss this matter.

96.17 Police Matters

The clerk still hasn't received the crime figures. It was agreed to write to Allan Michael the Commissioner of Police. The clerk to write this letter, email a template to all other Councillors for their consideration and for them to send copies of the same. Cllr Berry stated this has been discussed many times before but now all councillors should write letters of complaint.

97.17 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

98.17 Correspondence

All matters of correspondence were duly noted.

A letter was received from BT regarding the telephone box in Lletty Brongu. According to their figures this telephone has not made or received any calls in the last 12 months and therefore is on the list of phone boxes to be decommissioned. The community council could purchase the telephone box for £1 but the telephone itself would be removed. This matter was discussed in some detail and it was agreed for the clerk to contact BT and request the telephone stay in situ as the mobile phone signals in the area are poor at the best of times and it may be needed.

99.17 Planning

There were no objections to any planning application.

100.17 Halloween

The events committee had a meeting prior to the full council meeting to finalise arrangements for the Halloween event taking place on Saturday 29th October 2016. Volunteers to help out on the day are needed as the clerk is away as has previously been noted along with Cllr Grantham Brooks. Cllr T Griffiths advised he would bring along the hissing cockroaches for the children which is a big crowd pleaser.

101.17 War Memorial

The alterations to the monument have finally been completed and the memorial is finished. The clerk has spoken with the vicar with regards a dedication service for the memorial and a subsequent Armistice Day service. It was confirmed the dedication service would take place on 5th November with the memorial service on November 11th. The clerk to contact schools, British Legion, Gazette etc. to notify them of the same and make necessary arrangements. Cllr T Griffiths agreed to check any Welsh spelling before the clerk prints leaflets.

102.17 Town and Community Council Forum

Cllr Grantham Brooks advised last month she attended the TCCF meeting and the main issue to come out of this meeting was the possible asset transfer and projects BCBC are looking at community councils to takeover, bus stops being a predominant one. The issues with asset transfer and the community councils taking over certain roles would have meant the precepts would be increased to cover costs however Cllr Grantham Brooks advised there were a number of possible grant schemes in place to help with certain initiatives. After much discussion it was agreed a project such as maintaining bus stops could be achievable but large scale projects such as refuse collection would be impossible tasks. Cllr Guscott noted we should wait for BCBC to contact us with exactly what it is they want from us rather than these vague requests. Cllr L Morgan agreed with this point however Cllr Grantham Brooks advised BCBC were not willing to clarify any further. The past issues with the pavilion were mentioned in that we asked for the running costs some 5 years ago with a view to possibly taking it over but to this day still haven't received the information requested.

Cllr Berry suggested we maintain silence for the moment but each councillor draw up a list of possible projects we could take over and place this on the next agenda.

Cllr T Griffiths asked what would happen if the community council doesn't take over any of the roles and it appears the answer is nothing.

Cllr C Griffiths asked if we expressed an interest then would BCBC look into it and advise what grants are available over what length of time

103.17 Japanese Knotweed

The clerk to chase up the matter re the knotweed complaints. Additionally, to raise the point that the knotweed along the main road opposite the paper mills is also progressing in the other direction. It would appear that this land is half owned by BCBC and half owned privately. The clerk to look into this.

Cllr T Griffiths enquired whether Councillors are personally able to email certain departments of BCBC and the clerk advised they can.

104.17 Precept

A precept meeting was arranged for October 17th at 11am at the home of Cllr Grantham Brooks. Upon completion of the meeting the clerk to prepare three draft versions and distribute them to councillors before the next meeting.

105.17 Solar Lights

The clerk to contact BEI Lighting to arrange for the installation of the solar lights.

106.17 Finance and Accounts

The clerk to print the sheets on landscape format as the last column has run over the page. Cllr T Griffiths thanked the clerk for the extra detail in the information spreadsheet. The accounts were agreed by Cllrs Guscott and L Morgan.

107.18 AOB

Cllr Grantham Brooks addressed the council with regards the efficiency and every day running of the council. A meeting has already been arranged to discuss the job roles and responsibilities of both the clerk and park warden and Cllr Grantham Brooks put further suggestions forward. It was proposed:

The chair be in situ for two years as opposed to the original one year term and should be voted in and not elected by succession. A different councillor would be appointed to attend civic functions and public events. Sub committees make decisions and report back to the full council. Cllr Grantham Brooks believes these changes are necessary as she is frustrated we have a lot to offer but don't seem to get anything done.

Cllr Berry endorsed the points Cllr Grantham Brooks stated but advised these matters would need further clarification and detail.

The chairman advised this was a matter for all councillors and this idea needs to be raised formally.

Cllr Guscott advised the voting system was used previously and the same person/people were in the chair constantly and it would be unfair to lay all social functions on one councillor. Cllr Guscott advised she felt one year was good for everyone and two years would result in disharmony and too much pressure and how many councillors would actually want to take on the role? Cllr Grantham Brooks advised one of the main purposes of this idea would be for a chairperson to see through to completion ongoing projects, however Cllr Guscott argued the full council take decisions on ongoing projects in any events not just the chairperson.

Cllr L Morgan stated she didn't believe there would be many councillors wanting the chair at all let alone for a two-year period.

Cllr Berry stated something needed to change as the council as a whole moved at the pace of a glacier, the memorial stone should have taken 6 months to complete and it took a lot longer. The clerk did feel the need at this point to note that was not the fault of either the clerk or the previous chairman as the fault there lay with outside contractors over whom we have no control.

Cllr Grantham Brooks stated she thought we should have an office base whereby members of the public could pop in and voice any concerns save stopping councillors in the street. She also feels all sub committees should have a head Councillor to formalise decisions and feed back to the full council.

Cllr Guscott argued that as a full council we try to help each other as much as possible but sometimes with the best will in the world things won't always progress at a satisfactory pace, especially dealing with BCBC or other organisations.

Cllr Grantham Brooks stated she came onto the community council because she feels the council needs direction, she is prepared to work really hard and doesn't take no for an answer and is frustrated we don't seem to be getting anything done.

Cllr Guscott stated all the councillors were there to try and help for the same reasons and it was decided each councillor should think about possible changes to the way the council works and discuss it at the next meeting.

108.17 Clerk's Report

The clerk raised a query she had been asked by a local resident as to why there were gates on the car park to the village hall. This space was used by parents parking and waiting with their children for their school buses, without blocking the main road or affecting anyone as during this time the hall was closed. Cllr Grantham Brooks stated the reason gates were installed to close the car park were due to scaffolders parking their vans in the car park for hours at a time and when politely asked to move them they refused so this was the only solution to the problem. Cllr Grantham Brooks stated the rules about the gates closing will and do apply to everyone.

The clerk raised the matter of the seemingly ongoing confusion between the community council and the village hall. Cllr T Griffiths believes we should make a point of getting the correct information out there and a Q and A section on the website could help. Cllr Grantham Brooks disagreed with this idea. Cllr D Morgan suggested as long as we are seen to base ourselves at the village hall the connection won't be severed. Cllr Sasiruban believes moving venue from the hall wouldn't solve the issue.

It was suggested maybe a newsletter – quarterly perhaps could be introduced with a Q and A session and uploaded online also. Ideas for this welcome from all councillors for the next meeting.

The clerk addressed the matter of Cllr M Griffiths Jones who unfortunately due to ill health has been unable to attend meetings of late and the clerk asked the council for dispensation in this case to allow Cllr Griffiths Jones to maintain her position on the council and the agreement was unanimous.

109.17 Members Reports

Cllr Berry

Cllr Berry requested the website be updated and the clerk advised the minutes are only dating back to July as there was no meeting in August and September's minutes were only ratified this evening and the clerk to make sure they are uploaded.

Cllr D Morgan

Cllr Morgan stated the telephone box in Llangynwyd Village is looking shabby and in need of tidying and this to be put on the agenda for December.

110.17 Items for the November 2016 Meeting

- Knotweed
- Halloween
- Precept
- Solar Lights
- Structure and committees
- Parking Cwmfelin
- Newsletters

111.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held at 6:30pm on Monday November 14th 2016 at Llangynwyd Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signature of Chairman _____

Name of Chairman in print _____ **Date** _____