

LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD CANOLOG



Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council Meeting Llangynwyd Village Hall Monday November 14th 2016

Members Present

Cllr C Griffiths (Chairman 2016/2017)

Cllr T Griffiths

Cllr D Morgan

Cllr L Morgan

Cllr M James

Cllr I Williams

Cllr E Guscott

Cllr D Berry

Cllr D Jones

Cllr L Grantham Brooks (Vice Chair 2016/2017)

Clerk: Mrs N Morgan

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

112.17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr M Griffith Jones. Cllr Sasiruban was not in attendance.

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

Councillor E Guscott

Cwmfelin Primary School
Llangynwyd Primary School

Councillor M James

Bridgend CBC
Planning Matters
Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd

Councillor I Williams

Maesteg Comprehensive School
Maesteg Town Council
Maesteg Celtic RFC

Councillor D Jones

Llangynwyd Rangers
Cwmfelin Primary School

It should be noted; all Councillors have individual folders in which they are required to record all interests and to bring the same to each meeting to ensure all details are up to date.

114.17 Standing Orders Suspended

Standing orders were suspended at 6:37pm due to the attendance of Nicola Hart by the council's request. The attendance of Nicola was due to the council's previous agreement to review and amend the job descriptions of both the clerk and park warden. Cllr Grantham Brooks met with both employees recently and discussed changes and amendments and barring a few minor issues all councillors and employees were in agreement with the job descriptions. With regards Nicola Hart, the issue of water in the park is one that needed to be looked into and with the clerk, the issue of a mobile phone dedicated for the community council and out of office hours needed to be clarified.

The issue of water to the park was mentioned and this matter was looked into some years ago and it was going to be extremely costly to put a water supply in the park. The clerk to look into other options and costs for water butts and their location and whether we could possibly tap into the pavilion for a water supply. Cllr T Griffiths noted that the provision of water is in Nicola's job description and should be provided on health and safety grounds as she works with chemicals. The clerk to contact BCBC and Welsh Water in this matter.

Nicola also raised the issue with BCBC and the emptying of the bins in the play park. The one bin is constantly overflowing and the second needs removing as it damaged and has no lid. The park warden would like to take over the bins in the play park herself and the clerk to look into this along with the obtaining of more rubbish bags for the park.

Nicola also raised an issue regarding the lock up in the park in that when she is inside there is no fail-safe mechanism to stop her from becoming locked in. The clerk to speak with Gareth White to see what can be done to rectify this issue.

115.17 Ratification of Minutes of October 2016 Meeting

The minutes were approved by Cllr D Morgan and seconded by Cllr I Williams.

116.17 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were a number of matters raised. Cllr James raised the issue of the phone box in Lletty Brongu. Previously the council decided to keep the phone and the phone box however Cllr James advised it is unlikely the phone will be kept. However, the phone box is an important land marker for ramblers and Cwm Tawel as a sign post. We have been asked if the telephone itself isn't kept if we could please keep the box. The clerk to contact BT and should the phone be removed then request we purchase the phone box itself.

It was agreed after much discussion that the clerk to chase BT and advise we would like the phone to stay, should however this not be viable then the clerk to advise them we would like to purchase the phone box.

117.17 Police Matters

Crime figures were received for the past two months – please see attachment.

118.17 Correspondence

All matters of correspondence were duly noted.

The clerk noted the letter from Keith Power advising a speed survey would be carried out at Cwmfelin School. Cllr James advised this was being done and the clerk to chase the results of this survey and agenda Cwmfelin Parking on the next agenda.

The correspondence surrounding the village hall and Christmas was discussed and although no request has actually been received for us to provide selection boxes the clerk to contact the village hall and offer the same and ask for the amount required.

The correspondence regarding FP 42 was noted and it is officially to be maintained by the community council with BCBC cutting back the same one a year. Obviously more footpaths mean more funding is needed and the clerk advised she queried additional funding with Andrew Mason. Additionally, it was agreed Nicola would look after the steps in the park leaving Gareth White free to look after FP42. It was noted that many community councils don't use their rights of way allocation and the clerk to query where those funds go should they not be utilised.

Cllr Grantham Brooks requested the clerk put deadlines on correspondence sent in the hope of receiving timely responses.

The grass cutting at the graveyard was discussed and there seems to have been some confusion. It has however been clarified by Cllr James that the probation service would cut 2 sections of the graveyard, the Church in Wales would cut one section and we as the community council would look after the fourth. The costing previously received corresponded to this one section.

With regards the ongoing issue of Japanese Knotweed, Cllr T Griffiths enquired as to the “when resources allow” comment given by BCBC and it seems inevitable this is unlikely to be carried out in the near future. The clerk to speak with professionals and ask their advice on this matter and relay the same to BCBC. It was also agreed for a log to be kept of reported knotweed.

119.17 Planning

There were no objections to the planning applications. The clerk to obtain quotes for signs and Cllr James advised BCBC use a company in Newport and Keith Power would be able to provide their details. The ongoing problems with receiving any response from planning was discussed and Cllr James advised you can no longer make an appointment to see a representative either.

120.17 Halloween

The event was another successful one with some 86 children passing through. It was agreed that the paintings of the park warden were incredible and she deserves some special thanks for her hard work. It was agreed that maybe something else can be added next year as after the fancy-dress competition

and the children seemed to just mill around. Maybe some sort of disco etc. This can be discussed by the events committee. Cllr D Morgan stated he believed Nicola should, receive an extra bonus this year for all her hard work. This was discussed and Cllr Grantham Brooks stated this matter had been raised with Nicola and she would, going forward put in expense claims for paint, materials etc. It was agreed to pay Nicola a £300 bonus this year and the clerk to arrange the same.

Cllr T Griffiths added he was very pleased to be able to take part in the Halloween event with the creepy crawlies and there was a huge hit with the youngsters, however he did have a discussion with a group of children from the Welsh School and would like more Welsh to be utilised going forward as the demand is there.

Cllr D Morgan agreed with Cllr Griffiths however added the time for someone to translate everything would be consuming and expensive unless a councillor could do the same. Cllr Griffiths has offered his services previously and advised not everything would need to be bilingual just more than what we have currently. This matter to be taken forward. Cllr Grantham Brooks called for an event meeting to take place at 6pm on December 12th 2016. We also need to look at printing more leaflets as 500 simply isn't enough.

121.17 War Memorial

The Dedication service and Armistice Day service was discussed at length with varying opinions however the overall consensus was that the service was a success and the turnout was excellent. The service was advertised in the gazette, on our website, on BCBC's website, and the village hall made reference to it also.

There was some communication with regards the service and the village hall. Cllr T Griffiths advised he had received an email re the village hall's Facebook page, the photograph they have on there is an old one depicting the errors that have since been rectified. The village hall contacted Cllr Griffiths asking for an updated picture as they had no intention of taking another themselves. The clerk provided such photographs via email. The correspondence centred around the failure of the community council to advertise the event, which was factually incorrect. Perhaps the village hall should have contacted the community council directly with any concerns they had rather than posting comments on social media that were indeed untrue.

It was further noted after the Memorial Service the community council was insulted by a member of the village hall in a social setting in front of a number of councillors. This is concerning in that any issues should be raised with the council and not aired in public as what was said was factually untrue and communication between the village hall and community council needs to be looked at.

After much discussion, it was decided the clerk would contact the village hall expressing our wish to improve communication and asking for a meeting with their chairman and representatives of the community council. Cllr Berry added the interests of the community council and village hall are ultimately the same and therefore we should all be making an effort and cease with the arguing and spreading of rumours as this behaviour isn't acceptable. Cllr Berry added he resented some of the comments made about the community council as the village hall came to the community council asking for significant funding and we obliged only to be criticised for our efforts – even though the criticism wasn't justified.

Cllr Williams expressed his dissatisfaction at the conduct of the village hall in terms of the hall taking over the memorial build, when it belongs to the community council and has funded by the same and

therefore before publishing any photographs of the same whether they be accurate or not, permission should have been sought.

Cllr Grantham Brooks advised a member of the village hall committee had commissioned certain works be done without even the knowledge of the committee members however this wasn't done in malice but in order to progress matters. However, it must be noted this community council is to work as a unit and not individuals from other organisations taking over. The ongoing issues are a bad reflection on the community council and are incorrect and clarity is needed. Some issues need to be laid out in writing asking the village hall to a meeting where any matters can be discussed and clarified and hopefully both organisations can then proceed with their activities harmoniously. It was agreed the chairman, Cllr James and the clerk would meet with the village hall.

Returning to the Remembrance Day Service, Cllr Williams thought the same was lovely however the British Legion, praised the community council for their efforts recommended possibly holding the same on a Sunday. This was discussed however many of the councillors attend the service at Maesteg on a Sunday and this was an opportunity for others to attend a service along with the schools.

The clerk to contact the schools to thank them for their involvement and the behaviour of all children was outstanding.

Cllr Williams also mooted the idea that when funds allow it would be nice to add an extra base under the memorial so it may be seen from the main road.

122.17 Japanese Knotweed

This matter was touched on earlier in the meeting and it was agreed we don't want to be having this same discussion in a year. The clerk to create a log of reported knotweed, liaise with Mr Gareth White and BCBC, the councillors to report any areas of knotweed they are aware of and the clerk to ask for this matter to be put in the gazette.

123.17 Precept

The finance committee had a meeting to discuss potential projects and costings for 2017/2018. A minimum of £47,000 would be required to re host the play scheme and to fund the discussed projects this would however leave no reserves whatsoever. This matter was debated fully and many different opinions were heard but in the end a vote was cast and the result was that a request be made for a precept of £52,500. The clerk to arrange the same.

124.17 Solar Lights

The clerk advised BEI Lighting had attended the location and the existing posts were no longer in situ. The clerk to contact BEI again and arrange for them to mount the light on the post on the bridge and see if one light will light the entire bridge if so the clerk to proceed with these works.

Councillor Guscott

There were a number of lights out at Heol Cadrawd and Cllr Guscott will obtain the lamp post numbers and relay the same.

Councillor Grantham Brooks

Councillor Grantham Brooks advised the council that the meetings with both Nicola and Natalie went well, however there were a few issues when she met with Nicola that needed to be raised. Cllr Guscott was in attendance at the village hall when the meeting took place and constantly interrupted proceedings and compromised what was trying to be achieved. Cllr Grantham Brooks was unhappy with the conduct of Cllr Guscott. Cllr Guscott reiterated by stating she wasn't at the hall to compromise anything she was simply having her lunch.

Cllr Griffiths stated the argument would not be settled and therefore it should be an end to the matter and we move on.

Councillor Berry

Cllr Berry expressed his annoyance that the solar lights still weren't erected and hoped these would be done as soon as possible.

Councillor James

Councillor James advised there are some trees belonging to the council overhanging a private property that need lopping. The cost of this is £300. The council agreed to have this work carried out and Cllr James to arrange the same.

The exact breakdown for the accounts was provided along with a list of recent transactions.

All accounts were agreed.

- Newsletters
- Events
- Parking Cwmfelin

- Knotweed
- Council Structure
- Solar Lights

128.16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held at 6:30pm on Monday December 12th 2016 at Llangynwyd Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signature of Chairman _____

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