

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in Llangynwyd Village Hall (LVH) at 18:30 on Wednesday, 8th January 2020

Present

Cllr John Hughes (JH) - Chair, Cllr Helen Davies (HD), Cllr Elaine Guscott (EG), Cllr Trystan Rhys Griffiths (TRG)

Cheryl John (CJ) - Clerk

4. Police Matters

PCSO Gareth Stoneham (GS) was present, crime statistics for December were received.

CJ advised council that she has received an email from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) regarding the illegal parking on the yellow lines at Heol Cynwyd; the Parking Team has been asked to attend the location and deal with this matter.

As previously reported, there is an issue with car parking near the bus stop, opposite the old post office on Llangynwyd Square. Late buses do not always stop, because the bus driver cannot see people waiting there. CJ has advised Highways, Police and the bus company of this issue. GS has said it does not appear to be an illegal act, if there are no road markings preventing this, and the car(s) is/are not parked on the pavement. Providing the bus company has been told about this issue, and all buses stop there, council is satisfied that everything possible has been done to alleviate the problem.

Action: clerk will attempt to get a response from the bus company again.

TM previously asked if a car could be parked in the small area outside Cwmmfelin Primary School, just before the markings for the bus stop. GS was under the impression that a vehicle could be parked there, but would look into it further, and report back.

Action: There was no update, clerk will remind GS for next meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Pararajasingham Sasiruban (PS), Cllr Chris Griffiths (CG), Cllr Dylan Jones (DJ), Cllr Idris Williams (IW), Cllr Harry Davies (HWD), Cllr Tom Muller (TM) and Cllr Rob Lewis (RL), but no apology was received from Cllr Glynne Nicholls (GN)

2. Declarations of Interest

JH: Governor - Garth and Plasnewydd Primary Schools
HD: Governor - Cwmfelin Primary School and Member - Llangynwyd Community Association
EG: Governor - Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd Primary Schools
TRG: Governor - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

3.Public Address

There were no members of the public present.

5.Ratification of the 'Public' Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday, 11th December 2019

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

7.Matters Arising from the 'Public' Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday, 11th December 2019

Page 2 - Item 12 - Talk on LONEALERT - Nicola Hart (NH)

In the November 2019 meeting, NH advised council that she can be located wherever she is in the park through LONEALERT's GPS, although, it is identifying the park as the sports ground; a grid reference for Parc Tir Iarll is required.

Action: clerk is still to attain a grid reference for the park.

NH also felt that the service is not fit for purpose, if she lost consciousness for whatever reason, nobody would be alerted until she failed to log out at the end of the working day.

The LONEALERT Instant SOS Fob, and an attack alarm have now been purchased, and they are being carried by the park warden. CJ reassured members that all equipment is signed for by the recipient.

Page 3 - Item 4 - Proposal - Llan Rangers

The clerk has informed Llan Rangers that council has given her permission to apply for Town and Community Council Funding, for essential works on the sports pavilion, as a result of the impending Community Asset Transfer. CJ also told the club that the council would require assurance in writing that it would match fund the grant under its terms and conditions, and in the unlikely event of a funding clawback, would agree to repay the grant.

Action: CJ will liaise with the club to complete the application by the 28th February 2020 deadline.

Page 4 - Item 4 - Local Bus Service

The clerk has written to Cllr Richard Young (RY) on a couple of occasions, requesting assistance with creating a bespoke alternative service, due to the

cancellation of Bus 37. Elderly and disabled people who enjoy going to Bingo at LVH on a Wednesday afternoon, are struggling to attend. However, there has been no response to date. This line of enquiry is no longer being pursued due to alternative options being made available through Bridgend Community Transport (see Page 6 – Section c)).

Page 4 - Item 4 - Country Lane Used as a Busy Thoroughfare (Station Road to Bryn Terrace)

There is no funding available at present.

Action: clerk to query funding at the beginning of next financial year.

Page 4 - Item 4 - Internal Audit

There has been no news on the audit return since its submission some months ago.

Action: clerk to email WAO to request an update.

Page 4 - Item 4 - Chairperson's Report

JH apologised for not returning the chain of office to the clerk yet.

Action: Once the chain has been returned, CJ to then arrange a valuation, and arrange for the details of missing chairpersons to be added.

The new storage box for the chain of office is being made along with the information boards for Parc Tir Iarll.

Page 4 - Item 4 - Telephone Boxes (Llangynwyd Village & Lletty Brongu)

Ty-a-vid Handyman has been offered the work, providing BCBC's checks for listed buildings are satisfactory.

Action: CJ to present BCBC with the plans for the listed telephone box.

On visiting the telephone boxes for a second time, it became apparent to the contractor, that the four panes with 'TELEPHONE' on them, at the top of each box, need replacing, at a cost of £120; members gave their permission for the additional expense.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Planning Applications (Old House 1147, Llangynwyd - Licensing Hours)

Although an extension to licensing hours was not appearing on the BCBC website, DJ has been approached by a member of the public, who is adamant that there was a hearing at which this matter was discussed.

Action: DJ will make further enquiries and report back to council. Still no update.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Pathway at Parc Tir Iarll (Resident Encroaching on Parc Tir Iarll Land)

The resident of Heol Neuadd Domos, Cwmfelin who was encroaching on park land, was given the opportunity to remedy the situation. However, he did not remove the manmade hedge, therefore, the park warden has now removed it instead.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Members' Reports Commemorative Plaque (Mr and Mrs Morgan)
EG previously raised the possibility of a commemorative plaque, consideration was postponed until protocol can be established at another meeting.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Members' Reports - Pathways at Parc Tir Iall
TRG arranged for a third quote; all three quotes were considered, and the successful company was John J. Daly and Sons at a cost of £8,680 plus VAT.

Action: CJ to obtain a start date and clarification on rubbish removal and timber edging for the paths.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Clerk

Ken Piper has still not responded to CJ's letter regarding the type of rental agreement/lease that his mortgage provider would require. Therefore, members agreed that under the circumstances, the clerk would remain at Maesteg Town Council Offices.

CJ wrote to Maesteg Town Council (MTC) to request a cost for room hire should she remain at their offices for the foreseeable future; the cost would be the same, £50 per week.

Action: CJ to make the necessary arrangements with MTC.

Page 5 - Items 4 - Autumn Event

The Festive event at LVH on 20th December was a great success, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and thanked us for the lovely afternoon.

Page 5 - Item 4 - Extra Dog Bins in Both Wards

CJ and HD have previously met with John Rees (JR), Cleaner Streets, BCBC, who promised two poop bag dispensers for the area, probably in January 2020. He also provided a list of the dog faeces bins, but could not comment whether anymore would be allocated. JR will notify the clerk as soon as everything is finalised. A decision can then be made on the purchase of more bins for the area.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Purchase of a Digital Voice Recorder for Meetings - Minute Taking Protocol for the digital voice recorder needs to be discussed.

Action: CJ to convene a meeting of the personnel subcommittee to discuss the protocol for its use.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Purchase of Lone Alert for Park Warden Protocol for LONEALERT needs to be adopted.

Action: the protocol for its use needs to be discussed at the next meeting of the personnel subcommittee.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Confirmation of the Attendance of All Members of the Planning Subcommittee at a Meeting to Discuss the Local Development Plan (LDP), on 23rd September 2019 at Maesteg Town Hall Between 6pm and 9pm

The report from the meeting does not appear to have been sent.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Permission for a Survey of the Rights of Way (RoW)

The RoW survey by Cardiff Conservation Volunteers started on Sunday, 5th January 2020.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Positioning of Storage Container at Parc Tir Iarll

Council was previously advised that BCBC has positioned a storage container next to the park's container, by the sport's pavilion. It is preventing the doors from fully opening, which is a health and safety issue. CJ has written to BCBC on numerous occasions, to ask if their container can be moved; the park's one was located there first. CJ and NH met with Claire Daymond, BCBC, Green Spaces, she cannot do anything about the repositioning of the pavilion's container, however, she will make enquiries about having something fitted to it, so that the park's container door can be secured to the side. No update yet.

Page 6 - Item 4 - Council's Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment is to be put on the agenda for a meeting of the finance subcommittee. However, two quotes have now been received for a health and safety inspection, which is urgently required. Clerk is waiting for the third quote before they can be considered by full council.

Page 7 - Item 4 - Clerk's Report.

- Due to a successful Remembrance event, council approved donations of £75 to the following organisations:
 - a) Church
 - b) Women's Institute
 - c) British Legion
 - d) LCA

To date, only two payments have been made, one to LCA and one to the Church, the third to the British Legion will soon be made.

Action: HD was asked to find out the payee for the Women's Institute, and notify the clerk.

- Training is a priority for the council, four more courses need to be chosen for the financial year 2020/21.

Page 7 - Item 4 - Members' Reports

CJ has met with Deryck Evans, WAO, who will be undertaking an audit of the accounts of both Ynysawdre and Llangynwyd Middle; he will report his findings in due course. Everything will then be much clearer, and all outstanding financial matters can be addressed.

Page 7 - Item 4 - Clerk's Report

- Hanging baskets for Llangynwyd Square are to be discussed, when all the information is available to the clerk.

Page 7 - Item 4 - Members' Reports

- a) Rambling in Schools - HD to discuss at a future meeting.
- b) Establishment of an Elderly Resident's Association - HD has met with Ynysawdre Elderly Residents' Association (Y.era) and is making good progress. When the time is right, she will arrange for a representative(s) to talk to a target group.
- c) Better Buses for the Llynfi Valley (BBLV) - talks are ongoing. However, Bridgend Community Transport are holding a drop-in session on the 10th January between 12noon and 2.30pm at the Fairfield Centre. Everyone is welcome to see their versatile minibuses, and hear about their personalised 'door-to-door' transport, along with the popular 'Town Rider' and other schemes. The public just need to pick up the phone and ring to organise their transport needs. HD will be getting involved, and possibly, driving a minibus now and then, which will be an asset, especially for people who attend bingo on a Wednesday afternoon at LVH.
- e) BCBC are cutting Knotweed on the side of the A4063, which if not removed properly, could eventually encroach on private property. Clerk has reported issue to BCBC, but there has been no reply yet.

Action: CJ to request a response again.

- g) There has been flooding in Llangynwyd, especially by Tyler's House. BCBC has been advised of the ongoing issue in the area, however, there has been no update yet; residents are chasing BCBC for a report on the findings.
- h) DJ reported that a sign is required on the nasty bend on Llan Road, Top Llan, especially with so many people who are unfamiliar with the roads visiting the historic village. Clerk has reported issue to Highways; an inspector will visit location and report back.
- i) There is an issue with a broken drainpipe at 1 The Bracken's, Lletty Brongu. CF34 0DY, especially in cold weather. Issue has been reported to BCBC.

Action: clerk to ask for a response.

- j) There is a problem with the culvert flooding in Lletty Brongu, a pipe is sticking out of a hole, it gets blocked in heavy rain. BCBC are aware of the issue, however, resources are not available at the moment.

Page 8 - Item 4 - Precept 2020/21

CJ has notified BCBC of the amount required for 2020/21.

Page 8 - Item 4 - Noticeboard

The noticeboard is presently being constructed by the Mens Sheds - Housemartins Coytrahen.

Page 8 - Item 4 - Purchase of Mower/Tractor

Arrangements have been made for the new mower/tractor to be delivered in March 2020, and the old mower will be collected at the same time. However, the invoice will need to be paid in February.

Page 9 - Item 10 - Correspondence

- CJ has asked MTC if interested members of Llangynwyd Middle Community Council can join their presentation by WEPA's project team, regarding the planning application for the Paper Mills.

Action: the clerk is to invite councillors when the date is known.

- Donation to Bridgend Community Bereavement Service (BCBS) has been made.

Page 10 - Item 13 - Clerk's Report

- Clerk has made all the necessary arrangements for the delivery of the defibrillator for LVH.
- CJ has made all the necessary arrangements for councillors to have community council email addresses.
- The Mens Sheds - Housemartins Coytrahen's advice on the vandalised picnic bench at Parc Tir Iarll, is to purchase a new one for £150; it would cost £80 to have it renovated. However, council would prefer to have it renovated, just in case it is vandalised again.

Action: clerk to make the necessary arrangements with the Housemartins Coytrahen.

9.Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

10.Correspondence.

A letter has been received from the Urdd Gobaith Cymru, requesting a contribution towards the cost of the Eisteddfod this year. Council agreed to make a contribution of £100, with another £100 donation for Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Action: CJ to arrange for the payments to be made.

11.Finance and Accounts

Clerk has asked DJ to change the name and address on the bank account. CJ has also advised council that she is having difficulty registering as a signatory using the online mandate. However, she would try again, but if unsuccessful, the mandate would need to be printed, signed and posted.

Due to DJ being ill, the bank statement for December 2019 was not available for the meeting. It was agreed that all transactions for both December 2019 and January 2020 would be scrutinised in the February 2020 meeting.

12.Clerk's Report

CJ asked members if they were prepared to reimburse her £29.99 (including VAT) for headphones that she has purchased for use with the digital voice recorder. Council approved the reimbursement.

Action: clerk to arrange her refund.

IW advised the clerk that according to the WAO, it is illegal to send minutes/council business electronically, they should be delivered to councillors' home addresses. CJ contacted the WAO who advised her that this was not illegal, however, if anyone wanted a hard copy, this should be made available for them. JH also spoke to BCBC staff who advised him that every Local Authority in Wales agreed to receiving their paperwork electronically.

Action: clerk to write out to members to receive their observations on this matter.

CJ advised council that Llan Rangers has organised a stakeholder's meeting at Llangynwyd Village Hall (LVH) on 16th January, and asked if anyone could accompany her; EG volunteered her services if nobody else wanted to go.

Action: clerk to email absent members to find out if anyone would be interested in attending the meeting.

13.Chairman's Report

On behalf of the community council, the clerk has written to Rhondda Cynon Taf's Pension Section to express an interest in joining the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The percentage contribution would be 21%, and if an application is to be made, it must be in writing with a copy of the signed minutes endorsing this enclosed. Members agreed for this to go ahead.

Action: CJ to make the necessary arrangements for the transfer to the LGPS.

A member of the public wishes to make a complaint about one of the councillors, and has requested a copy of the complaints policy. Councillors were asked if there was one, but nobody recalls ever seeing a policy

Action: Permission was given for the clerk to produce a policy, which should then be authorised by JH before being sent to the resident.

14.Members' Reports

EG thanked the clerk, HD and everyone else who helped with the Festive Event. JH reminded members that events need to be planned by the respective subcommittee. However, if members are unable to put in the time and effort to organise such events, they cannot be approved.

15.Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 12th February 2020 at 6.30pm in LVH.

Chairperson Date

