

LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD CANOLOG



Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council Meeting Llangynwyd Village Hall Monday November 9th 2015

Members Present

Cllr D Berry
Cllr E Guscott
Cllr P Sasiruban
Cllr C Griffiths
Cllr T Griffiths
Cllr D Morgan
Cllr L Morgan
Cllr M James
Cllr I Williams
Cllr L Grantham Brooks

Clerk: Mrs N Morgan

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a one minute silence was held in memory of the late Alun Rees.

The Meeting commenced at 7pm and was chaired by Councillor Berry in this absence of Councillor Jones.

129.16 Apologies for Absence

Councillor D Morgan apologised for his absence along with Councillor Griffith Jones.

130.16 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

Councillor M James Bridgend CBC
Planning Matters

Llangynwyd Village Hall
Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd

Councillor I Williams

Cwmfelin School
Maesteg Comprehensive School
Maesteg Town Council
Maesteg Celtic RFC

131.16 Ratification of Minutes of October 2015 Meeting

The minutes for October was discussed and agreed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Guscott.

132.16 Matters Arising from the Minutes

All matters on the agenda. There was a point raised by Councillor Berry in that in the minutes it discussed the creation of a turning circle at Heol Wil Hopcyn but there is already a turning circle but the grass there needs cutting.

Councillor James advised the grass area outside the village hall has been cut by the probation service.

133.16 Police Matters

The clerk advised the crime figures for the previous two months had been received and provided these to the council. There is an issue however with the crime figures received differing to those being received at Maesteg Town Council. The clerk to contact the police in this matter requesting clarification.

134.16 Public Address

There were no members of the public present.

135.16 Correspondence

All matters of correspondence were duly noted.

Cllr Berry advised he had received a quote for the solar lights for the bridge. One light would cost approximately £2950 but this would light an area of six metres so would cover the entire bridge and there would be no need for two lights. Cllr Grantham Brooks advised she would look into the possibility of having such a light sponsored by local businesses. The clerk to contact Maesteg Town Council and request their views with possibly paying half the cost. We would however need to obtain at least one other quotation.

It was noted that the planning application re the Boar Farm had been approved yet no official notice had been received. Cllr James and Cllr Williams attended the site meeting regarding this matter. Arthur Thomas spoke at the meeting and afterwards the application was granted. There is a clause in the application that states should the business fail then the property constructed should be used for social housing. Cllr T Griffiths asked if any consideration was given to the request for an agricultural tie to the dwelling. Cllr James advised the matter was mentioned as it is a conservation landscape area however the definition of what a farm constitutes needs defining. The Clerk to write to the planning department expressing concerns that rules are being manipulated and how, should the business fail, can social housing be categorised as having an agricultural tie. The clerk to request an explanation for the approval as the pre-empting of the business failing seems suspicious.

The planning application at Fairfield House had no objections from the community council, indeed the clerk to contact planning requesting the application be approved as it would be safer for the cars to be parked off the road rather than parked on a junction.

The Clerk to object to the felling of trees at Harpen House. Cllr Grantham Brooks advised the trimming of the hedgerow was fine however the trees should be trimmed and not felled.

With regards the planning application for the erection of a new mast, Cllr Grantham Brooks advised we should object to the mast being erected from metal and request the pole be made from wood as the rays from wooden poles are less invasive than from metal poles. Cllr James advised however that the mast has already been erected.

The war memorial had been erected a number of days ago without anyone's knowledge!

Prior to the meeting, the clerk had spoken with the chairman Councillor Jones (who was unable to attend the meeting) and was requested to pass on the following statement on his behalf:

I apologise for not being in attendance at tonight's meeting but there are a few points I would like made in my absence:

Firstly I would like to say I am pleased the memorial is up and is looking lovely and we have had positive feedback on the same however there are a few points that need addressing. Who gave the Welsh translation to the stonemason and why was it not circulated and ratified by the entire council beforehand? Secondly why did members of the public know about the memorial being erected before most councillors and the clerk? Were any councillors aware that it was going to be put up? I am disappointed that the first knowledge I had of the memorial being erected was through a phone call from a member of the public. I am disappointed with the lack of communication that has gone on especially with the inscription as anything that was to be engraved should first have been seen by the full council. The statement was made some months ago that all dealings with the stonemason should be done through the clerk or myself and this hasn't happened.

I would like to know who translated the Welsh and did anyone else have sight of the translation before it was inscribed as we now have spelling errors that need correcting. The process by which this was done was unacceptable and cannot happen again. There are ongoing issues with communication and the failure of certain decisions being ratified by the full council and this issue

needs rectifying immediately.

This was discussed by the council:

Councillor Berry provided the translation to the stonemason with Cllr Griffiths' checking of the same. There were a number of issues in that there are a number of grammatical and spelling errors on the inscription.

The majority of Councillors were pleased it had gone up after the length of time it has taken however the clerk did advise she had no knowledge of its erection and indeed the errors could now prove costly.

Cllr James advised although the memorial wasn't in place in time for Remembrance Sunday, the British Legion still had a wreath that we could lay. The clerk to contact the chairman, and in his absence Cllr James would lay the wreath on Wednesday 11th November at 11am.

The Clerk to look into obtaining insurance for the memorial and to obtain details of a dedication service for the same.

It was noted that some residents are unhappy with the cost of the memorial, and some believe it to be a waste of money however it probably isn't public knowledge that the memorial was match funded with a grant from BCBC. The majority of residents appear happy with the memorial.

Cllr Berry advised complaints are welcome, as is the attendance of residents at the meetings and should residents have complaints then they are free to stand for election to the community council and voice their opinions on a monthly basis. He continued to state the length of time it has taken to decide upon the memorial and to its final construction has been somewhat of a mess with the changing of ideas, obtaining funding etc however the village now has the memorial and serves as a dedication to all those who pulled together during times of conflict.

138.16 Events

An events meeting was held prior to the commencement of this full meeting. The Halloween event was discussed as it was a huge success. Most children and indeed some adults dressed up and it was mentioned that next year a competition could be hosted to reward the children for their efforts. Next year however the event should take place an hour earlier as it was getting too dark towards the end. Cllr T Griffiths apologised for not being able to have the creepy crawlies at the park but there were last minute issues.

Due to conflicting events, the Christmas event was now to take place at the village hall on Saturday December 5th between 12 and 2pm as the lights were being turned on in Maesteg at 4pm. The clerk advised she could help set up but would need to leave by 12 for personal commitments. The issue with the entertainer was discussed and agreed it was better not to have too many people linger due to the ongoing events at Maesteg. This matter could be looked into for next year.

The clerk advised the events committee had provisionally set a date for the summer event 2015 for August 4th. This would give plenty of time to obtain suitable entertainment and respond to feedback from this year whereby residents would have some event to look forward to once the schools had finished for the summer.

139.16 Pavilion

The possible transfer of the pavilion from BCBC to user groups/community council was discussed and despite previously deciding to not register an interest to take over the pavilion due to a number of reasons; lack of information regarding running costs, state of repair, finances etc, it is now apparent that a number of councillors are in favour of taking over the pavilion should it be possible. Should the user groups take over the running of the pavilion then Cllr Grantham Brooks stated at least one councillor should feature on the committee overseeing the pavilion. Cllr Grantham Brooks stated she believed a committee should be formed to assess the repairs needed to be carried out to the pavilion and to try and build bridges between the two main user groups.

140.16 Precept

The clerk advised the council that a finance meeting had taken place a number of weeks prior to the community council meeting and a number of different precept scenarios were drawn up, all of which were made available to the councillors. There were figures ranging from increasing the precept from £37,000 to £40,000. This is what was suggested. However after a lengthy discussion it was decided to increase the precept for 2016/207 to £42,000. This decision was agreed by all councillors in attendance apart from Cllr Guscott who had concerns about such an increase and Councillor James who, due to his declarations of interests could not vote on the matter. The clerk to notify BCBC of this.

With regards the proposal to purchase a new lawnmower for the park, the clerk to email Cllr Grantham Brooks when a selected model is chosen and she will look into possible sponsorship/donations for the lawnmower.

141.16 Members Reports

Councillor James

Councillor James advised there had been an issue with the graveyard in top Llan as the wall to the graveyard had been damaged possibly by heavy Lorries using the road. Cllr James to enquire about the erection of traffic signs advising heavy vehicles not to use the road.

Cllr James also advised there have been concerns with the dumping of used needles and drug paraphernalia in top Llan. The police are looking into this matter.

Councillor D Morgan

Councillor Morgan advised the council that parking on Maesteg Road on a Sunday is becoming problem. It is appreciated there are very few parking facilities available however cars are double parking, ruining the grass verges and obstructing emergency vehicles from passing. The issue of parking could be something that could be looked at by the group that takes over the control of the pavilion.

142.16 Finance and Accounts

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

All accounts were agreed.

143.16 Items for the December 2015 Meeting

- War Memorial
- Llan post office
- Dog Fouling
- Pavilion
- Events

144.16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held at 6:30pm on Monday December 14th 2015 at Llangynwyd Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:12pm.

Signature of Chairman _____

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