

# LLANGYNWYD MIDDLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL LLANGYNWYD CANOLOG



## Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council Meeting Llangynwyd Village Hall Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Members Present

Cllr C Griffiths (Chairman 2016/2017)  
Cllr D Morgan  
Cllr L Morgan  
Cllr M James  
Cllr E Guscott  
Cllr D Berry  
Cllr L Grantham Brooks (Vice Chair 2016/2017)

**Clerk:** Mrs N Morgan

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

### 129.17 Apologies for Absence

The following councillors were not in attendance:

Cllr D Jones  
Cllr M Griffith Jones  
Cllr P Sasiruben  
Cllr T Griffiths  
Cllr I Williams

### 130.17 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

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.

### **131.17                    Ratification of Minutes of November 2016 Meeting**

The minutes were approved by Cllr D Berry and Cllr Grantham Brooks.

### **132.17                    Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were a number of matters raised. The clerk advised the issue of the lock up in the park has been rectified. There is indeed a failsafe mechanism in place that would allow for the door to the lock up to be opened from the inside should it close accidentally. The clerk advised she had spoken with Welsh Water and asked their advice on water collection units for the park and was awaiting their response.

The matter of the phone box in Lletty Brongu was discussed and the need for it to remain. Should BT remove the telephone from inside the box, Cllr Berry advised it would be a good idea to place a defibrillator in there. This way the community benefits and the box remains being used. All councillors believed this to be a good idea and the clerk to look into the matter.

### **133.17                    Police Matters**

Crime figures were received along with a corresponding letter from the new Police Inspector. However, it is known the figures provided are inaccurate as they do not detail a number of significant crimes that have occurred over recent weeks. Cllr James advised he would contact the new inspector to advise of our concerns and the misinformation and see where we can progress from there. It was agreed the clerk should contact Alan Michael re a response to previous correspondence as it appears the police are washing their hands of public issues and are not in touch with communities. The public are being fobbed off with virtually no police presence, no communication and the communication we do receive contains information that is factually incorrect.

### **134.17                    Correspondence**

All matters of correspondence were duly noted.

**A letter was received from the village hall noting we could have a representative at their meetings should we desire however Cllr Sasiruben is on the village hall committee and the clerk to advise the hall of the same.**

**With regards correspondence from Awen Trust, it was proposed Cllr Berry represent the community council however this matter to be discussed at the next meeting once all councillors have an opportunity to express their views.**

**With regards the ongoing matter of the speed signs in Llangynwyd the clerk gave the councillors a letter received from John Lewis re the speed signs and Cllr James will speak with John Lewis in this regard to see if we can obtain some clarification.**

### **135.17                    Planning**

There was a planning application presented for work to the Old House however no plans etc. were accessible. Cllr James verified this to be the case and advised it appeared no plans had as yet been submitted simply an outline description. The clerk to chase this matter up and request an extended deadline to peruse the application and the plans once they are received. Cllr James has a meeting with the planning department this week in any event and will enquire as to this matter as the Old House is a historical building and plans need to be seen. Cllr James will keep everyone updated.

### **136.17 Council Structure**

Cllr Grantham Brooks raised the issue a number of months ago, about restricting the community council so as to provide a more efficient service. The proposal is for the chair to be in situ for two years and the councillor appointed as the chairperson is not by succession as is currently the case but puts their name forward and a simple vote is cast. It may be that the social events relating to the chairperson can be attended to by another councillor so as to spread the duties.

Cllr D Morgan enquired why change things if there is nothing wrong with the current system and it was discussed and argued that we should be playing to our individual strengths to improve the system. Cllr James agreed with points for change and against but promoted the idea of a councillor carrying out the social functions.

Cllr Berry agreed totally with Cllr Grantham Brooks' suggestions as he stated we all have a field of knowledge and can work better if we utilise each other's strengths. Cllr Griffiths added the council does tend to get bogged down and we don't always achieve our potential and councillors do need to start taking more responsibility.

Cllr James stated his main concern was the time it took to get things done.

The debate over a two-year tenure as chairperson was discussed and there were arguments both in favour and against. Cllr Berry argues for the longer tenure as if a councillor excelled at being chairperson why should it be changed after one year if all was content? Cllr Guscott argued it may well be useful having one designate councillor at the helm of certain projects however some projects may take ten years so the argument that two is better than one doesn't pan out. Cllr Guscott reiterated we needed to work as a team not individuals.

The matter of the sub committees was discussed. Cllr D Morgan advised it seemed pointless committees meeting and making arrangement and decisions only to be changed and altered in the full council meeting. The full council may as well deal with the matters in the first place. The other option is to authorise sub committees with a task and budget and allow them to control the same and report back with amendments only being necessary if the budget has been overspent.

After further discussion and a vote on the matter it was agreed that from May 2017 the length of time a councillor can remain as chairperson will be unlimited. There will be no succession and each May there shall be a secret ballot with those wishing to be chairperson putting their names forward and the councillor with most votes taking the chair for the forthcoming year. The finer details and the issue re committees is to be discussed at February's meeting.

### **137.17 Japanese Knotweed**

The clerk advised a register had been created and could all Councillors please regularly advise the clerk of reports of knotweed in order we can monitor the same.

### **138.17                    Events**

The events committee met prior to the commencement of the full council and the following dates were chosen for the coming year:

Easter – Friday April 14 2017, 12 – 2pm

Summer – Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2017, 11 – 3pm

Halloween – Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> 2017, 2 – 4pm

Memorial – Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2017, 10 – 11:30am

Christmas – Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2017, 12 – 2pm

### **139.17                    Parking Cwmfelin**

The ongoing issue with car parking outside Cwmfelin school remains a concern. There are options that could be utilised and the community council are aware that BCBC continue to advertise the position of a crossing patrol attendant with no luck to date. The field next to the school could be utilised as a car park, a slip road could be installed and the children could be taken to school safely without the need to cross the road or cause major congestion with cars parking everywhere possible. The clerk to contact BCBC and ask them what their future plans for the school are? Further would it be possible to create a dropping off point? It is essential to get discussions moving in this matter. Cllr James noted part of the issue is the layby is regularly full of cars belonging to the staff of the school. It seems an unfortunate realism that a nasty accident will occur before this matter can be resolved. This matter to be placed on the agenda for next month.

### **140.17                    Newsletters**

This matter has been discussed previously and the clerk appealed to all councillors for any relevant or interesting information re the community council, the locality etc including photographs would be gratefully appreciated in order to get moving with this project.

### **141.17                    Finance and Accounts**

The clerk explained unfortunately due to her daughter's illness she hasn't been at home to obtain the relevant information however this will be updated at end of the month and forwarded at that time.

### **142.17                    Members Reports**

### **Councillor Guscot**

Cllr Guscott advised the street lighting issue previously reported has been fixed.

### **Councillor Berry**

Councillor Berry wished to raise the point of accuracy reporting. When issues of budgeting and costs have previously been discussed figures that have been reported have occasionally been inaccurate and poor information leads to poor decision making. He believes estimates should not be enough to go on if we are rubber stamping projects. The clerk did explain that on occasion exact costs could not be provided as they were an unknown and only projected costs were available.

### **Councillor James**

Councillor James raised the matter of flooding of the houses in Pontrhydydyff. Cllr James advised contact with NRW was a complete waste of time and ultimately jcb's were brought into place to remove the logs from the river.

Cllr Grantham Brooks reporter in relation to matters regarding the flooding, she has been asked if anyone was aware if the land that has been built upon has any relation to the flooding as the land opposite the Tylers has never been flooded previously. Cllr James advised it had been noted the flooding was caused by the sheer amount of water and not any works that have been carried out. It was agreed to contact NRW to ask for their reasons as to why the flooding occurred.

Cllr James also noted there was a significant amount of fly tipping going on locally. It was noted however that should a resident come across rubbish that has been dumped they should not open the bags to attempt to obtain any materials showing the owner's identity. The best course of action is to contact the enforcement officers at BCBC.

The issue of pot holes is prominent again and it should be noted some of these pot holes have been filled four times in the past year!

### **Cllr Grantham Brooks**

Cllr Grantham Brooks asked for highways to be contacted once more re the installation of a mirror on the village all. The previous response from highways has been acknowledged however the mirror doesn't disturb any hedges and there is a need with four way traffic and poor visibility.

### **Cllr D Morgan**

Cllr Morgan thanked the council for the flowers and chocolates.

It was also noted that one of the Christmas lights were out for 4 days and a number of the bulbs needed replacing when the lights were taken down.

**143.16**

## **Items for the February 2017 Meeting**

- Newsletters

- Fly tipping
- Parking Cwmfelin
- Council Structure

**144.16                      Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held at 6:30pm on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Llangynwyd Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

**Signature of Chairman**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Chairman in print** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_