

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council Held in Llangynwyd Village Hall (LVH) at 18:30 on Wednesday, 13th November 2019

Present

Cllr John Hughes (JH) - Chair, Cllr Helen Davies (HD), Cllr Harry Davies (HWD), Cllr Chris Griffiths (CG), Cllr Elaine Guscott (EG), Cllr Dylan Jones (DJ), Cllr Tom Muller (TM), Cllr Trystan Rhys Griffiths (TRG), Cllr Glynne Nicholls (GN), Cllr Idris Williams (IW)

Cheryl John (CJ) - Clerk

1. Public Address

There were no members of the public present.

2. Proposal - Llan Rangers

Gavin Brewster and Justin Kingdon, committee members, Llan Rangers were present. They explained that sports clubs in Bridgend county face paying more than five times as much for using council pitches from next year; football and rugby clubs which now pay £56 a match, will be charged £305. The reason being, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cannot continue making such large subsidies to clubs, when they have to make huge savings.

They briefly explained about a Community Asset Transfer (CAT); the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from the Local Authority to clubs for less than market value - to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Llan Rangers will be applying for a CAT next year, and the club would like to collaboratively work with the council for the good of the community. TRG asked what the club's expectations would be from forming a partnership with the community council, and if there would be any financial implications for the council. The response was that the club has a 'healthy' bank account, the only hope would be to access expertise; much work is needed to make the pavilion and playing fields fit for purpose.

Action: clerk to arrange an extraordinary meeting of full council in a couple of weeks, to discuss the matter further with members of Llan Rangers.

3. Police Matters

PCSO Gareth Stoneham (GS) was present, crime statistics for October were received. No problems were reported. GS's shift pattern has changed therefore, he should be able to attend future meetings for a while.

TM asked GS if there has been a report of an incident around Bonfire Night, out in the countryside where he lives, with a man walking his dog and some individuals on bikes, resulting in the dog biting one of them; GS knew nothing, but would ask if any reports have been received.

DJ also reported dangerous car parking, on the bend, both sides of the road in Heol Cynwyd.

4. Co-option of a Councillor

There were two applications, one from Mr James Duncan (JD), and one from Mr Robert Lewis (RL). Both candidates received 5 votes, the deciding vote was with the chairman, and RL was co-opted.

5. Apologies for Absence

No apology was received from Cllr Pararajasingham Sasiruban (PS).

6. Declarations of Interest

JH: Governor - Garth and Plasnewydd Primary Schools

HD: Governor - Cwmfelin Primary School and Member - Llangynwyd Community Association

TRG: Governor - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

IW: Governor - Maesteg Comprehensive School, Member - Maesteg Town Council and Maesteg Celtic RFC

TM: Child at Cwmfelin Primary School and Footpath 9 runs across his land

DJ: Governor - Cwmfelin Primary School

EG: Governor - Cwmfelin and Llangynwyd Primary Schools

GN: Nicola Hart (NH), Warden, Parc Tir Iarll

7. Ratification of the 'Public' Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday, 9th October 2019

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Once again, CG requested that the minutes are sent out one week prior to the meeting.

Action: CJ will address the issue, but explained that she was ill on this occasion. Previously, as a new clerk, she has needed to deal with an extremely large workload due to historic problems.

8. **Matters Arising from the 'Public' Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday, 9th October 2019**

Page 2 - Item 7 - Local Bus Service

The clerk has written to Cllr Richard Young (RY) 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.

Action: CJ to write to RY again.

Page 2 - Item 7 - 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 2 - Item 7 - Internal Audit

CJ has submitted the audit return to the Wales Audit Office (WAO), it should be complete by Christmas.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Chairperson's Report

The Chain of Office has been returned, it is presently with JH. A new storage box will soon be made by the Mens Sheds - Housemartins Coytrahen at a cost of £27. Council approved this, and the making and erection of two information boards for Parc Tir Iarll at a cost of £270.

Page 2 - Item 7 - Telephone Boxes (Llangynwyd Village & Llety Brongu)

Due to Gary Tidball's current workload, he is unable to proceed with the maintenance of the telephone boxes. He has an outstanding bill of £150 for materials used during the early maintenance, before proceedings were halted. CJ has requested an itemised invoice, with a copy of his quote and Llangynwyd Middle's acceptance.

Action: CJ to obtain more quotes for the work.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Planning Applications (Old House 1147, Llangynwyd - Licensing Hours)

Although an extension to licensing hours is 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. DJ will make further enquiries and report back to council.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Pathway at Parc Tir Iarll (Resident Encroaching on Parc Tir Iarll Land)

As a result of a letter to the resident of 2 Heol Neuadd Domos, Cwmfelin, he has contacted the clerk to reassure her that there was nothing suspicious or untoward in his actions, that he would remedy the situation.

Action: clerk to request a report from the park warden.

Page 3 - Item 7 - 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 3 - Item 7 - Members' Reports - Pathways at Parc Tir Iall
More quotes received, but to be discussed later in the meeting, after the precept 2020/21. However, not addressed.

Action: to be discussed at next meeting of full council.

Page 3 - Item 7 - Clerk

Ken Piper (KP) has still not responded to CJ's letter regarding the type of rental agreement/lease that his mortgage provider would require. Although, she recently passed him on the street, and he told her that no response had been received from his business loan provider. The clerk asked him to pursue the matter again, and to let her know as soon as possible.

CJ has also written to Maesteg Town Council (MTC) to request a cost for room hire should she remain at their offices; it will be discussed at their next meeting of full council

Action: once all information is available, CJ will prepare a cost comparison.

Page 3 - Items 7 - Autumn Event

CJ reported that the 'Spooktacular' event at LVH on 1st November had been successful, considering the atrocious weather conditions that evening.

The planning for the Festive event at LVH on 20th December is complete. However, there would be need for volunteers for serving the food on the day.

Action: clerk to get the names of the volunteers at the next meeting of full council.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Extra Dog Bins in Both Wards

CJ and HD met with John Rees (JR), Cleaner Streets, BCBC, who promised two poop bag dispensers for the area. 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.

Action: clerk to let JR know the location for the poop bag dispensers.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Purchase of a Digital Voice Recorder for Meetings - Minute Taking

The recorder was delivered today, but the clerk has not had time to look at it properly.

Action: CJ to claim the £39.05 difference in cost due to the upgrade, and to convene a meeting of the Personnel Subcommittee, to discuss the protocol for its use.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Purchase of Lone Alert for Park Warden

NH is now on Lone Alert. Protocol for its use needs to be adopted.

Action: clerk to ask NH to attend the next meeting of full council; to give a talk on the app.

Page 4 - Item 7 - 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 presentation from the meeting has been sent to the clerk and circulated to all members, but the report does not appear to have been sent yet.

Page 4 - Item 7 - Permission for a Survey of the Rights of Way

CJ has made contact with Cardiff Conservation Volunteers (CCV) regarding a full survey of the Rights of Way (RoW) in the area. A RoW subcommittee meeting has been convened next Wednesday, to discuss this matter further with a representative from CCV.

Page 4 - Item 7 - 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. BCBC cannot find out who put the other one there, but enquiries are ongoing.

Action: clerk to ask Llan Rangers if they know who made the arrangements for the container. If the container cannot be moved, the park's one needs to be relocated, with clips fitted to the side of the container to secure the doors when open.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Registration of the Council as a Lower Tier Waste Carrier, Broker or Dealer with Natural Resources Wales Under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

The registration is now complete.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Council's Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment is to be put on the agenda for a Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Clerk's Report.

- EG reported a very successful Remembrance event. Council approved donations of £75 to the following organisations:
 - a) Church
 - b) Women's Institute
 - c) British Legion
 - d) Llangynwyd Community Association

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

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

Action: CJ to organise the bespoke training and to invite other councils to keep the cost down.

Page 5 - Item 7 - Members' Reports

Approval was given by council to pay CJ the additional hours that she has needed to work since her employment started in June, due to historical problems; ORCA Finance has been notified.

The clerk has met with Deryck Evans, Wales Audit Office, 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 6 - Item 12 - Clerk's Report

- There have been changes to the working groups for the adoption of governance documents, and the date for submission of the new documents is now 2nd March 2020:

Council's Standing Orders: **DJ (Lead)**, IW and EG.
Code of Conduct: **RL (Lead)**, CG and PS.

Terms of Reference - Subcommittees

Finance: **JH (Lead)**, DJ, PS, HD and RL.

RoW: **HD (Lead)**, HWD, CG, GN, TM and TRG.

Personnel: **JH (Lead)**, HD, TM, IW and RL.

Biodiversity: **HWD (Lead)**, HD, GN, TM, RL and NH.

- Pit for Christmas tree has been done, and two licences have been received.
- Hanging baskets to be discussed, when all the information is available to the clerk.
- JH and CJ agreed that the Midshire quote for £70 per quarter for the photocopier was the best value option for the council.

Action: CJ to make the necessary arrangements for the contract.

Page 8 - Item 13 - Members' Reports

- a) Rambling in Schools - HD to discuss at a future meeting.
- b) Establishment of an Elderly Resident's Association.

Action: HD to liaise with Ynysawdre Elderly Resident's Association with a view to getting a representative to give a talk to a target group.

- c) Community Transport and Better Buses for the Llynfi Valley (BBLV).

Action: A business plan needs to be put together by HD, EG, DJ, HWD and IW.

- d) Council has been advised that for some months, since workmen have been in the area, there has been an increase in litter from Station Road to Bryn Terrace. Clerk reported this matter to JR in a previous meeting with him and HD. HD advised that the public also call in these sorts of matters on a regular basis.
- e) Highways, BCBC are cutting Knotweed on the side of the A4063, which if not removed properly, could eventually encroach on private property. Clerk has not had time to report this yet.

Action: CJ to report the problem.

- g) There has been flooding in Llangynwyd, especially by Tyler's House. Residents in the area feel the building of a wall bordering a culvert has exacerbated the problem. BCBC has been advised of the issues, but there has been no further update.
- h) DJ reported that a sign is required on the nasty bend on Llan Road, Top Llan, especially with so many people on the road who are unfamiliar with the area. Clerk has reported issue to Highways.

Action: CJ to ask Highways for a response.

- i) There is an issue with a broken drainpipe at 1 The Bracken's, Llety Brongu. CF34 0DY, especially in cold weather. Issue has been reported.

Action: clerk to ask for a response.

- j) There is a problem with the culvert flooding in Llety 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.
- k) There is an issue with cars parking by the bus stop, opposite the Old Post Office on Llan Square. Late buses do not always stop because the bus driver cannot see people waiting there. CJ has reported this issue to Highways, Police and Bus Company.

Action: clerk to ask for responses.

11. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

12. Precept 2020/21

CJ presented council with the draft precept 2020/21, members scrutinised it, line by

line, making recommendations for amendment where necessary.

Action: clerk to make the necessary amendments, and arrange a meeting with JH and DJ to go over it again.

13. Finance and Accounts

Cheque No: 000252, dated 30/03/19 for £150 for PS has been cashed.

CJ distributed the bank statement for October:

Bank Balance

The opening balance for 1st October 2019 was £74,464.71.

The closing balance for 25th October 2019 was £70,308.72.

14. Replacement Noticeboard

The noticeboard outside LVH is not fit for purpose, it is too small.

The Mens Sheds - Housemartins Coytrahen has quoted £80 to make and erect One. Council approved purchase.

15. Purchase of Mower/Tractor

GN took NH to look at various mowers in different suppliers, in order to attain competitive quotes. The quietest, with the best specifications was the John Deere X370 in Pencoed, which was also the most expensive at £6,950 (incl. VAT). However, GN phoned around and found the same mower in Narberth for £5,230 (incl. VAT). GN went back to the rep. in Pencoed with his findings, and is presently waiting for him to ring back. However, the purchase needs to be put on hold until a meeting has been held with Llan Rangers regarding the CAT.

16. Donation to Primary Schools

JR, Cleaner Streets advised HD and CJ of a BCBC grant funded initiative, 'Love it, don't trash it', which involves school children, and fits in with the curriculum. However, the Sea Quest element is not funded, primary schools taking part have to pay £300. JR wishes to attend a meeting of full council in February 2020, to explain the initiative to members, and possibly secure donations for both the primary schools in the area to attend.

Action: clerk to invite JR to the February 2020 meeting.

17. Correspondence

Due to the time, the following items could not be discussed:

- Road Improvements in Llety Brongu
- VE Day Letter
- Letters Regarding Planning Application for The Paper Mills
- Donation to a Charity

Action: clerk to put these items on the agenda for the next meeting of full council.

18. Clerk's Report

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the clerk has found it necessary to make a request to change her working week, until the end of June 2020. This was discussed after CJ left, at the end of the meeting. On this occasion, permission was granted.

19. Chairman's Report

There was no report from the chairman.

20. Members' Reports

- a) IW requested a bag of daffodil bulbs from MTC for LVH, however, they have all gone,

Action: CJ to order more for the hall.

- b) EG thanked everyone who has made a contribution to the events.
- c) HWD thanked EG for her work organising the Remembrance event.
- d) One of HD's neighbours reported a rat problem to her. HD was told that all reports of this nature must go to Environmental Health.

21. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11th December 2019 at 6.30pm in LVH.

Chairperson Date

