

LLANGERNYW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
7:30PM 27TH MAY 2020
(MEETING HELD ONLINE THROUGH 'ZOOM' WEBSITE DUE TO COVID-19)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Clwyd Roberts (CR) welcomed all to meeting
- 1.2 Present: Elen H Edwards (EHE), Ann Vaughan (AV), Gwynfor Davies (GD), Garffild Ll Lewis (GLL), Einir Williams (EW) and Mark Davies (MD)
- 1.3 Apologies: (not able to be present due to internet connection issues) Diane Roberts (DR) and R. Emlyn Williams (REW)
- 1.4 Absent: Gwyn Williams (GW) and Gwydion Jones (GJ)

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EHE: solar bench.

3 MINUTES TO APPROVE 26TH FEBRUARY 2020

EHE proposed correct and seconded by AV.

4 MATTERS ARISING 3) ABOVE

Discussed in 5. below.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND ROAD MATTERS

Solar bench: no response to the advertisements. EHE proposed asking Kevin Roberts to undertake the work. As everyone in agreement, passed to ask Kevin Roberts.

Road closures: discussion about the road closures, GLL confirmed that no road would be closed for 18 months.

6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Discussed that due to the current restrictions due to Covid-19, everyone was in agreement to discuss the applications on the web during the next meeting. CR to request an extension of time to respond to the applications under the circumstances.

7 COUNCIL MATTERS

- 7.1 Local places for nature: CR raised that the land near the all-weather pitch in Llangernyw had been mentioned for this project. Needed to find out who owns the land before it can be progressed. Discussed that the project is open to locations in Pandy Tudur and Gwytherin also. CR to contact the project to see what the next steps are.
- 7.2 Flower pots: AV reported that she had arranged for volunteers in Llangernyw, Pandy Tudur and Gwytherin to plant new summer flowers in the tubs (EW had agreed to do this in Gwytherin). AV had purchased flowers on behalf of the Council, all agreed that the Council would refund her for these. All happy with this arrangement. Local children are also preparing rainbows to put up in the villages in support of the NHS.
- 7.3 Wales Audit: GD had reported that he had discussed with DR, she is happy to prepare the accounts before sending on to the accountant. EHE confirmed that it is possible to share the document online during meetings on the web. Need to put a notice up that the accounts will not be available due to Covid-19 restrictions. EHE will send the document on to CR to sign and distribute in the 3 villages. Everyone happy with this arrangement. All agreed for DR to prepare the accounts, GD will pass the message on to her.

8 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Report distributed to Councillors prior to meeting:

“County Council Matters

- Since Coronavirus restrictions have been in place, all face to face meetings have been cancelled or postponed.
- Gradually, some meetings have re-started using Skype or Zoom. A Planning Committee and two meetings of Rural Councillors have been held. Arrangements are being made to hold meetings relating to Finance, Social Care and Education and Highways shortly.
- The Council’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been postponed resulting in constitutional and legal changes.
- Conwy Council’s Leaders are meeting weekly to discuss issues that are relevant in all Local Authority – the main points at present are financial, the Welsh Government’s new test and trace system (operated by the Local Authorities), plans to start loosening the restrictions in place and the eventual re-opening of our schools.
- The recycling centres in Mochdre and Abergele have re-opened this week operating a system of pre-arranged visits via phone or online.
- The garden waste collection service commenced during the last few weeks and although there have been issues in some areas (including Pandy Tudur), the system is now working efficiently and 17,300 have subscribed to the service in the County.
- I must praise the officials and staff of the County Council – they have worked tirelessly to ensure the continuance of service and a large number have had to change the way they work or more to other roles during this period.
- Iwan Davies the Chief Executive and Sam Rowlands, Leader of the Council, and members of the Cabinet contact us Councillors on a weekly basis to provide the latest information and updates.

Local Matters

- The Community Support Service established by the County Council has been useful for a number of people in the area. The Service offers support to individuals and families that are unable to travel to fetch food or medicines and make arrangements to take necessary supplies to vulnerable people’s homes. At the moment, officials are coping with the service, but there are also local arrangements in place in areas such as Llangernyw and Gwytherin by teams of volunteers to support, if the demand increases – hopefully this will not happen.
- A food service has been set up in Llanrwst that extends to Pentrefoelas, Llangernyw, Pandy Tudur and Gwytherin. I have arranged that a system is in place to ensure dignity and confidentiality for those in need, and the Rev. Gwenda Cooper has agreed to be a local co-ordinator. So far, 18 families in Dyffryn Conwy have received help.
- One of the side effects of the Coronavirus restrictions is that there is much less car use and the roads are much quieter overall. Unfortunately, a number of people have taken advantage of this to use the roads as racing tracks and speeding has become a regular occurrence in Llangernyw. I have been working closely with North Wales Police to increase Police presence in the village and area, they were visible in the area this past week with a number of Police cars and also a speed check vehicle parked near the school for a period. The Police will try and continue to uphold their presence in the area although there is similar pressure in other rural areas.
- Another issue in these areas, like many other area, is people from other areas arriving in holiday or second homes, visiting family or friends or go walking and enjoying the

countryside. These activities are all contrary to the Welsh Government's rules and regulations and I have on many occasion contacted the Police to provide information after local people have contacted me. The Police responded appropriately and on a number of occasions have issued warnings and advice to these people that have broken the law or go against the advice.

- Despite the Coronavirus, work and other activities continues. Following sending a list of repair work to local roads to the County Council some weeks ago, they have commenced some of the work. I am aware that you have received notification of works that will be carried out near Nant y Wrach and Rhan Hir (do not worry that the Council has noted a works period of 18 months, this is standard to ensure a Road Closure Order, but the work is expected to last around 2 weeks. Other roads will be repaired in due course when finances allow.
- I have been in contact with the electricity company to ensure that the wires in the village are safe. There were a number of places that required pruning back trees and a number of landowners have been contacted to arrange contractors to carry out the work.
- Its hard to believe during this period of fine weather that only a few months ago we suffered the bad flooding in the village and the area with extensive damage caused to homes and property. In the short term, I was successful in assisting a number of residents to obtain financial support, but the long-term problem in the locality of the Bont Faen remains with the remedial works and strengthening of the walls required to be carried out. I am waiting a report from the Officials for Highways and Environmental departments of the County Council on the condition of the location and plans to improve the situation before the Autumn. I was also due to meet with the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executives of Natural Resources Wales in different areas in the area to discuss the impact of climate change and how to reduce flooding risk for the future. Unfortunately that meeting was postponed due to Coronavirus. I hope that this will be re-arranged once conditions allow.
- It is a difficult time for Community Councils due to restrictions on meetings, but it is important that the work of these Councils continue, especially relating to planning. Although the Planning process has slowed down somewhat in recent months, the County Council still processes the applications, and the Planning Committee will be held regularly, therefore it is imperative that the Community Councils discuss and deal with these applications as soon as and where possible. This emergency will gradually come to an end and the residents will be eager to build and adapt their homes and property.

A word of thanks to close.

I am aware that you all have been working hard quietly in the community, to assist others and to keep life in the area going under the "new normal" conditions. I am here to support and assist, to be a bridge between our communities and the County Council and the relationship between the Council and our communities will be key over the upcoming difficult and sensitive period, when the restrictions start to lift and eventually stop.

I hope that we will be able to meet up in person soon."

EW reiterated the report that Council workers do not get the praise they deserve relating to Covid-19.

CR raised the issue of the foundation of Bont Faen. GLL reported to the Councillors where exactly the problem is. GLL reported that the foundation itself is sound but that the damage is to the river bank etc.

CR asked if there was any development relating to speeding in Llangernyw. Police have been, however not enough evidence to take further steps at present.

GLL raised that **REW** had mentioned large lorries in Gwytherin. He asked if **EW** and **REW** could discuss locations for the signs to warn these lorries. **GLL** will raise this matter with the council officer in due course after hearing from **REW** and **EW**.

AV asked if there was any way of having 20mph signs in Llangernyw like the ones in Llanrwst. **GLL** reported that the Council needed evidence before these signs could be considered.

9 BILLS

9.1 Accountant (VAT work): £60, agreed to pay.

9.2 Insurance - BHIB Insurance Ltd: £346, agreed to pay.

9.3 Grass cuttings in cemeteries (two cuttings) Dei Evans: £800, agreed to pay.

10 LOCAL MATTERS

EHE reported that speeding is still an issue in Llangernyw area.

GD stile near Tyn y Ffordd on Llwyn Du Isa's land needed repairing.

EW had received a complaint that a telegraph pole is causing issues for a road. **GLL** reported that he had similar issues in Llangernyw recently and that the electric company had been out to see the issue. He offered to contact the company on behalf of **EW** if he is provided with the information.

CR had received a complaint about overgrowth on public footpath Tyn y Ffordd to Cae Llwyn Du. Kevin Roberts had prepared an estimate to clear the path for £480. Need to ask permission from the County Council to approve the estimate. **EHE** will pass contact details to **CR** to deal.

11 NEXT MEETING

3rd June 2020

Meeting concluded 8:20pm

Minutes taken by Enlli Vaughan