

LLANGERNYW COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES
7:30PM 27TH OCTOBER 2021
AT PANDY TUDUR VESTRY

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 All were welcomed by Clwyd Roberts (CR)

1.2 Present: R. Emlyn Williams (REW), Ann Vaughan (AV), Gwynfor Davies (GD), Diane Roberts (DR), Gwydion Jones (GJ), Gwyn Williams (GW) & Mark Davies (MD)

1.3 Apologies: Garffild Ll Lewis (GLL) and Einir Williams (EW)

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

GJ relating to 6.3 & 6.5

3 GUEST – RUSSEL JONES FROM DŴR CYMRU

CR welcomed Russell Jones (RJ) to the meeting. He discussed the issues that have been causing problems over the past few months and what Dŵr Cymru have been trying to do to resolve the issues in the area, and advise of the plans over the upcoming months for further improvements. Councillors had an opportunity to ask questions and raise problems in their areas.

4 MINUTES TO APPROVE 22ND SEPTEMBER 2021

Proposed correct by AV and seconded by REW.

5 MATTERS ARISING

6.2 REW had sent a letter to David Jones and received a reply. REW will forward this to Councillors via email.

7.5 Correct tree in Llangernyw, not Gwytherin. Discussion that there are branches that need to be cut. Discussion whether permission needed to be obtained to cut the branches, need to clear them. REW noted that to tidy, some branches needed to be cut as well. Agreed to ask Kevin Roberts if he can undertake the work. CR to contact Kevin Roberts about this.

7.1 AV asked if EW had purchased a laptop – unknown in EW's absence.

7.2 AV asked if Steven and Annette Lockier had received a letter, CR not had an opportunity but will deal.

7.2 AV reported that the signs are on their way soon.

DR raised speeding in the 20mph zone in the village again. She had written to the Council and received a response to say that she is not allowed to paint 20mph on the road. Nobody had seen Go Safe in the village. AV asked if the Council are going to purchase flashing lights. Had been in discussions with Berwyn Evans and it appears that there are signs available powered by solar.

DR asked if the Council had contacted local contractors, CR confirmed he had written to them.

AV asked if there was any possibility of a pedestrian crossing near Parc Aelas.

11. DR – new dwelling near Hafodunos. Had been talking with local elderly residents and had had confirmation that a building had been sited there previously, but no dwelling. It appears that the dwelling is being erected at the moment. Discussion that any dwelling would have been noted on old maps and in the Census. DR will forward correspondence on email to CR. Also need to make enquires regarding the public footpath.

6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6.1 0/48922: no remarks, approve.

6.2 0/48962: no remarks, approve.

6.3 0/49021: *GJ left meeting temporarily* this matter has been passed previously. DR asked if there was permission from the MOD as this had to be obtained previously. CR will make this remark in the response. DR withholding vote. Approve.

6.4 0/49024: keep an eye if there are lights erected. Approve.

6.5 0/49027: no remarks, approve.

*GJ re-joined the meeting

*GW left the meeting.

7 MONITORY MATTERS

Financial Report: DR was thanked for preparing the financial report, CR had sent this to everyone prior to the meeting. Councillors had seen the figures and approved them.

AV enquired if a meeting could be convened to make the application for the grant. AV, DR & GD to arrange between themselves.

8 COUNCIL MATTERS

8.1 CR raised that a lot of work that needed to be done locally had been done following complaints recently. Kevin Roberts had undertaken the work and had provided two invoices: Hafodunos path: £1,287.60; other paths: £787.20. Everyone happy with the two invoices, CR will pass both to the County Council to make an application for payment. GD enquired what was the latest regarding the Pen y Bryn path as people were walking this way but going off the designated path. No signs in place to advise the path is closed due to the river having damaged the path. The matter is in the County Council's hands. CR to contact the County Council to ask for signs to advise that the path is closed due to safety reasons.

8.2 REW raised that everything, including paperwork, had been left in the Old Vicarage including residents' personal documents. GLL's report also discusses this. Matter in County Council's hands. The site needs to be secured. CR to contact GLL to make enquires about this matter.

8.3 REW advised that GLL has been dealing with this matter.

8.4 DR had attended an Un Llais meeting recently and that a representative of Tai Clwyd Alyn had attended. Their staff are volunteering with a mobile shop to go around houses. They are also taking a slow cooker around and teaching people how to cook meals and to use a refrigerator.

Also raised the matter that clerks need to have qualifications. Had spoken with Mel (area officer) who had offered to come and speak with the Council about this. DR to arrange in the new year.

8.5 Arrange guest speaker for December's meeting. AV asked if the aeroplanes in the area recently could be brought up.

9 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Received in GLL's absence (CR went through the main points during the meeting):

"Local Matters:

Despite the work at Bont Faen is going well, some delay has been experienced over the past two weeks. The remedial works have been impacted due to supply problems caused by pandemic, steel supply and specialist equipment late arriving.

Following an application by some of the village businesses, I have arranged that additional signs are erected on the way into Llangernyw from Llansannan to note that businesses are open as usual, although transport is being redirected away from the village temporarily.

Following a number of complaints about the dangerous condition of the building and site of the Old Vicarage, I have received assurance that the parts of the building that were damaged in the fire will be demolished by Order of Enforcement by the County Council and made safe, and that barriers and warning signs are erected near the entrance.

There have been a lot of complaints about the Airforce aeroplane noise in the area – the complaints mainly are about smaller Texan propeller planes rather than the larger jet Hawks that have been around for many years. Overall, the Texans fly lower and stay in the area for a longer duration therefore creating more nuisance for residents. I have contacted the Royal Airforce at Valley, and have received some answers and a copy of a response Hywel Williams MP (who had raised the matter in Parliament) has received from the Ministry of Defence. The correspondence explains that the RAF are aware of the problem and are trying their best to minimise the impact on communities by changing their practice areas and practice more over the sea. Despite this, they have emphasised that pilots need to have regular training over land and that this is a key aspect of their training.

Broadband connection problems continue to cause problems for residents and businesses in Pandy (like many other areas). I have contacted Open Reach to ask what is the timescale to extend fibre connectivity to the village, and await a response. In the meantime, I have asked County Council officials to discuss this in the next South Local Forum which will be held soon. This may give me a better understanding of the full picture and look to other options rather than Open Reach if possible.

Staying in Pandy, a site visit was arranged with two rivers and flood officials from County Council, to visit the site behind Glandwr Terrace. The river has eroded the bank significantly impacting the houses' gardens. I have now received a detailed report from the officials, noting the extent of the damage, but highlighting that it is the landowners' (of the gardens) responsibility to repair and strengthen the bank, under supervision of the County Council. The next step will be for the residents to obtain an estimate for the work and decide on the way forward. The Council has also contacted Dŵr Cymru to raise that there is damage to the foundation of the water pipe that crosses the river at the same location and that there is an expectation for Dŵr Cymru to repair.

It was a pleasure to attend the public meeting in Gwytherin Friday 15th October and it was good to see a high number of local residents come together to discuss the next steps to repair and refresh the Community Centre and adjoining house. A hardworking team have been working planning, obtaining quotes and preparing grant applications, and it was an important next step. The Centre and house are an excellent asset to the area and I do hope that the efforts to secure funding will be sufficient and successful to ensure the work is carried out.

When walking to the car to the Centre, it was fantastic to see that the repair works to the playground in Gwytherin have already started. A few months ago, Einir, Emlyn and myself met

the County Council's playground officer on site and it was clear that health and safety was an issue. We succeeded to obtain a promise of investment in the fence and gates and further promise of new playground equipment soon as well. It's good to see works have already started!

One matter in Gwytherin that hasn't been resolved is the school bus shelter for pupils. Again, a County Council officer met Einir, Emlyn and myself in the village to discuss options of creating a place for the school bus to come to the middle of the village. So far, the Council haven't offered a resolution, and I have contacted again this week chasing a response.

Highways officers have been busy over the past weeks and months despite pressure and Covid restrictions, have repaired roads, filled pot holes, laid new road surfaces and fixed signs, a lot of our roads are not in much better condition than they were a few months ago. It is good to see that hedges are also being cut.

The matter of the proposed wind farm development is still a talking point in the area. Ifor Lloyd (Llanfair TH/Betws yn Rhos councillor) and myself met a large number of local Moelfre residents about a month ago to discuss their concerns for the development. Their concerns are surrounding the height of the turbines, visual impact and noise and also questions on the consulting and Wales Government's policies.

I have arranged that Bute Energy representatives attend the next Community Council in November so that councillors and residents have an opportunity to ask, probe and oppose or object at the start of the consultation phase that will take around a year. This is a very controversial matter with strengths and weakness for and against wind and solar farms, therefore it is important for the community to voice their opinion and be part of the key stages of the consulting process over the upcoming months.

County Council Matters:

All Council meetings are still virtual although plans are in place to start hybrid meetings, i.e. some members in the chamber and some joining virtually. I have been in many meetings of the Education Scrutiny Meetings as vice-chair and Corporate and Inspection Committee as a common member.

Education and social care have been very challenging for officers and staff over the last eighteen months and it is miracle that these service have succeeded, and continue to succeed to provide their services to those who depend on it.

In the Council's full meeting on 21st October, Iwan Davies, Chief Executive drew attention to the murder of Sir David Amess MP and reminded everyone of security of members who attend public meetings, surgeries etc, but all were in agreement how important it is to retain personal contact despite the threats.

In education, the priority at the moment is to provide the service throughout Covid, and then to introduce a new curriculum over the next two years. It is a progressive and innovative and will be of huge benefit to children and young people. I am also a member of the steering group that takes care of introducing and developing Welsh Strategy in Education in the County, and Conwy is one of the most progressive counties in this field. I am also a member of the team that is responsible for introducing Developing Welsh project in the County, a project that will promote Welsh in the home, community, workplace and school.

It is impossible to avoid discussing the pandemic, we as councillors receive regular reports, and according to said reports, it appears that the County's case rates is reducing gradually, but we still need to adhere to the Welsh Government's guidance on keeping distance, wearing masks and cleanliness. The situation in schools is difficult and I sympathise with the school pupils and staff who are trying to achieve some sort of normality in this unprecedented time.

To close on a personal note – I have decided not to stand in the next election for the County Council in May 2022. There are several reasons, but mainly, and not being too judgmental on other councillors who have made a huge contribution over the years, there needs to be a change of balance in the County Council and elect a lot more women and young people of different social and ethical backgrounds to the Council. This is an excellent opportunity therefore for someone to represent a wonderful area on the County Council.

I can only thank the whole community in Llangernyw, Pentrefoelas, Gwytherin and Pandy Tudur from the bottom of my heart for your support over the past few years. I hope that I have helped, and made some difference to the lives of the residents of this wonderful area, and I will continue to do so until May before transferring the responsibility to the new Councillor.

It has been a privilege, honour and challenge – and fun! Warm regards – Garffild”

10 BILLS

10.1 Enlli: £127.84 agreed to pay

10.2 Dŵr Cymru: £15.12 for water supply in Llangernyw cemetery, agreed to pay. The tap will be turned off at the start of November until February.

10.3 Menter Bro Cernyw: £500 for the period 2021/22 towards running of the public toilets. Agreed to pay.

10.4 Kevin Roberts for the work discussed at 8.1 above, agreed to pay.

11 LOCAL MATTERS

AV need to tidy and paint the fascia board on the bus shelter in Llangernyw.

MD car has been left in the Glan Collen car park. AV mentioned that the car is still there. Police are aware. GLL also aware of the matter, CR will ask him if there is any development or if he can make further enquiries.

DR had been in a meeting regarding the windmills with Llyr Huws Griffiths and others recently, reported that the windmills are likely to be much taller than the pylons in place at the moment. Reported that Welsh Government had carried out desktop exercise to denote the location. Llyr Huws Griffiths is making further enquiries.

Asked what is being done with Llangernyw phone box. CR to contact Sioned Green to check the latest on this.

GD raised Pen y Bryn path in 8.1 above, road problem, will use Report It.

REW asked for a price to clean and paint Gwytherin phone box as the Council has adopted this. BT look after the machine but not the box itself. Kevin Roberts to be asked if he can undertake the work.

Building being erected but in Llansannan community.

Enquired what is the current situation regarding advertising for a new Councillor. CR had received correspondence from Lucy Steel and will proceed with the next step.

CR asked if MD is happy to take the duty of vice-chairman. He did not feel he could commit at the moment.

12 NEXT MEETING

24th November 2021 in Bro Cernyw Centre

Meeting concluded 9:30pm

Minutes taken by Enlli Vaughan