

CYNGOR CYMUNED CILYCWYM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Capel y Groes Vestry on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Hywel Jones (Chairman), Matthew Paul, Arwel Davies, Moira Davies, Aled Edwards, Eurwyn Lewis, Jamie Pickup and Walter Jones. Also present Maria Bennett (Clerk).

Apologies: None.

Presentations - Policing: PCSO Stephen Griffiths was not available. Following an email sent by the Clerk to the Chief Constable and the Police Commissioner it was arranged for our new neighbourhood police officer, PC Garry Cutler to attend. However he was detained on police business at short notice so PCSO Ryan Howell (from Ammanford) attended on his behalf. The Councillors raised the following concerns:

- Speeding in the Village: Two letters received by residents worried about speeding in the village were discussed and given to PCSO Ryan Howells for further discussion within the neighbourhood police team. It was suggested that the Community Council contact the County Council to install a temporary speed strip in the village so that evidence of speeding can be gathered. This evidence would then enable the police to take enforcement measures. Other suggestions included the possibility of setting up a community speed watch and exploring options for reduced speed limits within the village. Councillors also raised concerns about on street parking in the village and the forming of bottlenecks which may prevent emergency service vehicles from gaining access. ACTION: Clerk to email the County Council highways team to ask them to install a speed strip in the village and review the overall safety of traffic management and parking within the village. Clerk to discuss with PC Garry Cutler the possibility of reducing the speed limit in the village to 20mph.
- Rural Crime – Quad Bike Thefts: The Councillors asked for an update regarding quad bike thefts in the area. As PCSO Ryan Howells usually covers the Ammanford area he was not familiar with local theft cases and was not able to provide an update however he said that he would follow this up with PCSO Stephen Griffiths and suggest that he arrange for a member of the rural crime team to attend our next meeting to give us an update. ACTION: Clerk to follow this up and ensure a member of the rural crime team attends the next council meeting.
- Vandalism at ST Michael’s Church: The Council were shocked to learn from Councillor Walter Jones that at some point between the end of service on Sunday the 5th January and Tuesday 7th January, vandals had entered the church and destroyed Christmas decorations and made a mess by throwing eggs. PCSO Ryan Howells said he would inform PCSO Stephen Griffiths so that the area can be patrolled and advised the community to phone 101 if any similar incidents occur. ACTION: Councillor Jamie Pickup to post a message on Facebook to alert the community and possibly deter any future acts of vandalism.

Declarations of Personal/Pecuniary Interest: Cllr. Moira Davies and Cllr. Aled Edwards (Menter Cilycwm), Cllr. Aled Edwards (Penstacan Byway) and Cllr. Jamie Pickup (NRW)

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th November 2019 were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved as a correct record.

Materion yn codi o'r Cofnodion/Matters arising from the Minutes:

1. **West Wales River Trust** – The Council was informed that Ieuan Davies from the West Wales River Trust was holding a public meeting to discuss the Towy River Catchment project on the 8th January at 7:30pm in the Neuadd Arms Pub.
2. **BT Payphone at Siloh** – The phone kiosk has now been repaired.
3. **Tree Preservation Order E37132 Y Berllan, Cilycwm** – The Clerk has been in touch with the planning enforcement team to determine what action has been taken against the developers who damaged the protected trees at the vicarage which led to them having to be felled. She is yet to receive a satisfactory response. ACTION: Clerk to continue to follow this up with the planning enforcement team.
4. **Information Board formerly at the Towy Bridge Inn, Rhandirmyn** – The Clerk has received a copy of a Land Agreement from NRW for the Council's consideration. This was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Land Agreement states that once planning permission has been granted a License Agreement will need to be completed before work can begin. Councillor Jamie Pickup expressed concern at some of the wording in the Land Agreement. ACTION: Jamie Pickup to review and amend Land Agreement as necessary. Clerk to check that the Council's insurance policy will cover incidences relating to the sign. Clerk will then forward the Land Agreement to the Chairman for signing. Clerk will subsequently complete the planning application and obtain a copy of the License Agreement.
5. **Employment Contract for the New Clerk** – Copies of the completed Employment Contract were circulated prior to the meeting along with model copies of the Health and Safety policy, the Sickness and Absence Policy and Grievance and Disciplinary Policies which were obtained from One Voice Wales. These policies are referred to in the Employment Contract but have not been formally adopted by the Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Aled Edwards that these policies should be adopted by the Council and reviewed annually at the AGM. This was seconded by Cllr. Jamie Pickup. The Employment Contract was subsequently signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.
6. **IT Service and Backup** – The Clerk confirmed that the new laptop and printer had arrived and were now operational.
7. **Archiving and Document Retention** – This was postponed until the next meeting.
8. **Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)** – The Clerk informed the council that she had thought it made more sense to wait until the start of the year to apply for membership. ACTION: Clerk to apply for membership.
9. **Web Accessibility Regulations** – Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with Pach solutions and was waiting on a quote from them. ACTION: Clerk to obtain two more quotes for the creation of a new community council website.
10. **SAFFA (The armed forces charity) VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations** – Clerk contacted Llandovery Town council to see if they have any events planned. She was informed by their Clerk that they have no plans currently.

11. **Henllys Turn** – A site meeting was held on the 14th November 2019. Attendees included; County and Community Councillor Arwel Davies (meeting organiser), Councillor Hywel Jones as Chair of the Community Council and members of the County Council’s Highways Team. It was agreed to improve the junction by adding road markings and installing reflective chevrons. Community Councillors did ask whether it was possible to improve the road surface itself but the Highways Team said that there was no budget for this. The road markings have now been painted however the Chevrons are not yet in place. It is important to get these installed ASAP as another incident has occurred recently where a vehicle went across the junction and into a hedge. ACTION: Clerk to follow up with County Council Highways department to get chevrons installed.
12. **General Condition of Minor Roads** – The Clerk contacted Emyr Morgan from the County Council highways team to complain of the poor condition of some of the minor roads around the Cilycwm area. Emyr explained that the department is constrained by budget cuts however he would inform the Cyclic Ganger to attend to specific potholes. Emyr asked that specific issues are reported with their location (by way of a post code) to the following email address:
EnvBusSupHM&PL@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

Gohebiath/Correspondence:

Councillors were made aware of the following correspondence which had been previously circulated:

1. One Voice Wales –
 - Various newsletters, training and events.
 - Bus Pass Renewal Programme. Includes details on how residents can renew bus passes.
 - Buckingham Palace Garden Party – details of how the current Chair of the council can apply to be entered in a draw to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace.
 - VE day 75th Anniversary Nation’s Toast
2. Carmarthenshire County Council –
 - 2020 – 2021 Precept
 - Carmarthenshire Scrutiny Committee. An invitation to Community Councils to work with the various County Council’s scrutiny committees.
3. South Wales Trunk Road Agent –
 - A483 Temporary Road Closure. An opportunity for comment on the current proposals.
4. Heart of Wales Traveller’s Association (HOWLTA) -
 - Special Meeting on the 5th February 2020 to discuss increasing membership fees and the termination of the association in 18 months time if sufficient volunteers are not found.

Other Miscellaneous Notices, Local Events, Publications and Newsletter and e-mails were made available to Councillors.

Meterion Ariannol/Financial Matters

~ Adroddiad Ariannol/Financial report:

A copy of the budget and financial report were circulated during the meeting. The Clerk went through the figures and explained that once all expected payments were taken into account, the final year end spend is estimated to be £4800. Additional charges for 2019 – 2020 are likely to be in the region of £200 (LED lighting project). It was therefore decided that for 2019 – 2020 the Precept level should remain at £5000. This was agreed by all and the precept form was duly signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

~ **Cais am Arian/Requests for Financial support (S137)**

Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2021 - £500

~ **Cadarnhau Taliadau / Confirmation of payments:**

Chq 659 £512.41 – Clerks Expenses (New Laptop/Printer)

~ **Biliau i'w Talu / Bills for payment:**

£70 – SLCC Membership

£360 – Clerks Salary

£90 – HMRC

£100 – Advertising Planning Consent

~ **Derbyniadau / Receipts:**

£1666.67 - precept

~ **HMRC:**

No update

Materion Cynllunio / Planning Matters

Weekly Planning lists received from Carmarthenshire County Council had been circulated by e-mail to Councillors.

For updates and further details on Planning applications, please visit:

www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/planning applications

Am y diweddara a manylion pellach, ymwelwch a: www.sirgar.gov.uk/ceisiadaucynllunio

Materion Cymunedol / Community Matters

Menter Cilycwm:

Cllr. Aled Edwards provided the following update:

- A bid was submitted in November for funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund. A decision will not be made until March but indications have been favourable. A meeting of the trustees will be held to consider whether there is a need to apply for further funding.
- The building is now available for the community to use.

Public Footpaths & Highway Issues

Penstacan BOAT 8/21 and 8/25

A meeting is scheduled to take place at 10am on the 20th January in the Capel y Groes vestry between Jason Lawday from the County Council and Community Councillors.

Other matters:

Code of Conduct

A general discussion was had about the application of the Code of Conduct. Councillors were reminded that it is their responsibility to declare prejudicial interests and if they have any questions they should contact the Clerk for advice.

Litter

It was noted that the level of litter has increased along the verges of country roads.

Meeting Closed at 8:55pm