

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
www.llanfaircommunitycouncil.co.uk

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Ysgol Pentrecelyn on Monday 10 June 2019 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Bob Barton [Part 2 of the meeting], Keith Mouldsdale, Osian Owen, Ceri Ranson and Eirwen Godden, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE - 1 member of the public; Councillor Hugh H Evans, OBE [Leader of Denbighshire County Council]; Mr Peter McDermott, Team Leader – Tourism, Marketing & Events, Denbighshire County Council; Mr Iwan Edwards, North Wales Wildlife Trust, and Mr Mark Allen, Commercial & Partnership Manager, Welsh Cycling

APOLOGIES Councillors David Baker [bereavement], Wini Davies [hospital appointment], Tim Faire [work commitments], Paul Weston [illness]

PART 1

561 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor Keith Mouldsdale as a trustee of Neuadd Eleanor's Management Committee and as a resident who lives in a property near to planning application 20/2019/0190 re Clover Bank, Llanfair D C.

562 MINUTES - RESOLVED The minutes of the Annual General Meeting/Ordinary Meeting held on 13 May 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

563 MATTERS ARISING/ACTION TAKEN All items raised were dealt with under other headings.

564 COMMUNITY MATTERS

564.1 Old School Site/New School Llanfair D C Reported – that the Modernising Education Officer had emailed to say that the contractor had stated if all goes to plan Bron y Clwyd should be in a position to fully re-open from Friday evening 24 May [actually re-opened on 31 May]. However, the original road closure was proposed for 12 weeks to include the associated works to connect the foul drainage. Discussions with the landowner of the village hall are still ongoing. Until such time the legal agreements re the foul/surface water drainage has been agreed by DCC/Welsh Water/third party, these associated works cannot be undertaken and as a result once the easement is in place and the works to connect the foul drainage have commenced, Bron y Clwyd will be closed to undertake the remaining works. In response to the issues with the diversion, the route which mentioned is not the diversion which has been put in place by the contractor. The diversion put in place is via the A494 as it is the safest route and, unfortunately, if residents are using the route past Eyarth Station House as a short cut this is out of the contractor's control. As this is not a diversion put in place by the contractor it will not put temporary traffic lights in place. Residents should therefore use the diverted route advised. Councillors had, in the meantime, been invited to visit the new site to have a look around the new building. This took place on Monday 10 June – Chair Councillor Jayne Mayers, Councillor Keith Mouldsdale and the Clerk.

The new school is an impressive building but members expressed concern whether the capacity figure of 102 was high enough. It was, however, acknowledged that more capacity

would put other schools in the area at risk. The opening date for the new school cannot be determined until the legal agreements referred to above have been finalised.

564.2 Mains Gas No update available.

564.3 Feasibility Study Results The Neuadd Eleanor Management Committee continues to look for grants from different sources.

564.4 Community Plan The community plan sub group met on 30/05/19. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of scoping out a revised up to date edition of the plan by August, taking into account the Clocaenog Wind Farm development and opportunities for funding; the village hall survey pointers; and aligning with the strategic plans of other agencies, bodies and the local authority. Questions were raised as to whether their strategic plans and frameworks are compatible with the local community plan enabling inputs into their periodic reviews. Everyone present was invited to contribute to the discussion on a very broad range of interesting ideas/issues. The group is to meet again in August to continue with the coping task.

564.5 Newsletter The third issue is being put together for publishing soon.

565 CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

565.1 Community Councillor Resignation The Chair and Clerk had received an email dated 07/06/19 from Moira Edwards indicating that she wished to resign from the Community Council with immediate effect. The Clerk was asked to start the process to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

565.2 Adoption of OVW's Model Informal Resolution Protocol [closing date for responses 30/06/19] **RESOLVED** that the document be adopted in principle and aligned to the Council's Code of Conduct.

565.3 Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm Community Fund & Construction Update The fund's area of benefit has now been finalised following the consultation and can be found on the project website www.innogy.com/clocaenog forest Innogy Renewables UK is now inviting tenders for the contract to administer the Wind Farm Community Fund. Erection of the turbines are now underway, site cable installation is approaching completion and these cables will then be terminated in the turbines ahead of turbine commissioning. The Scottish Power Energy Networks on-site substation is now energised and nearly all major structures are installed in the innogy substation. The civil work is being carried out by Jones Bros Ruthin on a contract worth over £20m. The first of the turbines should start generating electricity in June and additional turbines will be commissioned on an ongoing basis throughout the summer.

566 Feedback/Report[s] on Conferences/Training/Meetings

566.1 DCC Event – Community Led Businesses & Community Share Offers 16/05/19 Cllr K Mouldsdale reported that it was an interesting event, in particular the presentation about the development of the community pub and shop at Llanarmon yn Ial and the efforts of local volunteers in ensuring that both ventures continue to thrive.

566.2 OVW Understanding the Law Training 21/05/19 The Clerk reported that the session provided a general outline of the range of legislative and legal duties affecting Councils. The law in England and Wales provides very clear guidelines about the specific powers, capabilities and responsibilities of community and town councils. For example, a council [a] must do what the law requires it to do [b] may do only what the law says it may do and [c] must not do anything unless it has a legal power to act. Delegates were asked to

note that the National Assembly is likely to consider a Local Government Reform Bill in 2019.

566.3 Planning Policy & Place Plan Training 22/05/19 Cllr B Barton reported that he and other Councillors present considered that the event was, unfortunately, a waste of time and to be of little merit. Much of the meeting was taken up by one group from Wrexham who used it as an opportunity to air their grievances about the planning processes and other bodies, leaving little time for anyone else to speak. The course covered 5 themes – [1] an overview of planning in Wales, [2] national planning policies, [3] the National Development Framework, [4] local development plans and [5] Supplementary Planning Guidance and Place Plans. Cllr Barton stated that three Community Councils had agreed to pay £15 each towards the cost of his attendance at another event ‘Shaping Your Community – The Role of Community Plans & Place Plans’ on 11/06/19 at Llanrwst. **RESOLVED** that [a] Llanfair Council makes a contribution towards the cost of Cllr Barton’s attendance at the joint Planning Wales/OVW event at Llanrwst on 11/06/19 and the OVW Conference at Bulth Wells on 11/07/19.

566.4 OVW Learning Modules The Clerk reported that OVW now has 7 on-line basic learning modules available on its website [public section] for use by all Councillors. Subject areas are Code of Conduct, The Council as an Employer, Diversity & Inclusion, Health & Safety, Induction, Local Government Finance and Understanding the Law. http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWWeb/basic_online_training-7451.aspx
This information is to be forwarded to Councillors.

567 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

Submitted -

567.1 Planning’s Response for Information to the Community Council’s Comments on Application 20/2019/0318 [housing development – Llanfair D C] prepared by Pure re Details of hard and soft landscaping scheme submitted in accordance with Condition 5 of planning permission code No 20/2016/1137. Reference was made to other planning conditions attached to the planning permission. Condition 5 is the landscaping details, Condition 8 is a landscape management plan and Condition 9 is details of the laying out, landscaping and management responsibilities etc of the open spaces [a copy of the planning permission was attached for ease of reference]. Condition 8 has also been submitted for approval, it has been updated slightly from the management plan submitted with the original planning application, but there are no significant changes. This explains whose responsibility it is to maintain various elements of the site, landscaping, grassed areas etc outside the domestic cartilages of individual property owners.

Condition 9 requires more detail in relation to open spaces [as copied below] and this has not been submitted yet. It is a ‘Pre-Occupation’ condition. However, a management company will be responsible for the maintenance of the areas, the Council is not involved. *“Condition 9 – None of the dwellings shall be occupied until the written approval of the Local Planning Authority has been obtained to the details of the open space areas within the site to include details of the laying out/equipping of all areas, landscaping details, minor artefacts and structures [eg furniture/seating, refuse or other storage units, signs, etc] associated with the open spaces, and to the arrangements for the provision, future management and maintenance of the open spaces. The development shall only proceed in accordance with the approved arrangements/scheme.”*

The County Council has no need to request bonds in relation to any aspect of the development. In relation to drainage, the drainage is being adopted by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.

RESOLVED that [a] the response from planning be noted and [b] a representative from Pure be invited to the next meeting of the Council on 08/07/19 to give an update on the housing scheme.

567.2 Planning's Response to the Community Council's Comments on Application 20/2019/0190 re the erection of 2 detached dormer bungalows on land at Clover Bank, Llanfair D C. The previous application for one dwelling is still pending as the applicants have still not completed a legal agreement that would secure the contribution of money towards the provision/improvement of open space facilities on the site. There is, however, a clear recommendation that permission should be granted for the development. The current application for two dwellings is still to be considered and officers will be visiting the site in due course. Regarding the clearance of the site, it should be noted that the trees were not protected and that the owners are entitled to remove the trees without consent. However, the fact that they have now cleared the site does throw some shade upon the pending permission for one dwelling – the site plan shows the mature beech tree as being retained. This situation is one that the LPA clearly needs to investigate further. The Community Council will be provided with a further update once the site visit has taken place. **RESOLVED** that the response from planning be noted.

567.3 Planning's Response to the Community Council's Comments on Application 20/2019/0329 re Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of hay/straw/fodder and machinery – Pen y Ffordd, Pentrecelyn and whether this is a certificated agricultural building. A reply is awaited; the Clerk to send a reminder about the query raised.

567.4 Local Development Plan The Leader reported that the new plan is out for consultation and that it is a good chance to consider opportunities in relation to use of land allocated for housing and maybe smaller industrial units in rural areas [old school site at Llanfair, for example].

568 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT Members considered the following matters:

568.1 Presentation by Mr Iwan Edwards, North Wales Wildlife Trust There are two nature reserves in the area of Graigfechan [site near the quarry] and Pwllglas and a history of 52 years' presence. The Trust is stepping up community engagement, via a pilot scheme, to embed schemes into the community as assets, working with volunteers locally. The long term plan is to create living landscapes and wildlife corridors connecting across the Dyffryn Clwyd valley. AONB funding has been obtained over two years working with DCC's Countryside Services on several schemes. Mr Edwards referred to his recent work and engagement with Llanfair school, the intention being to make habitat improvements at the new school site. Work is ongoing to manage the quarry site near Graigfechan. Grwp Gwyllt has been formed meeting on the first Saturday of each month with the aim of promoting self-sustaining concepts to people. Mr Edwards was thanked by Chair Jayne Mayers for his overview suggesting that a separate meeting would be beneficial in looking at ways of working together and involving the community. Reference was also made to the community neighbourhood plan and opportunities for joining up proposals around green spaces. www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk nwwt@wildlifetrustswales.org

568.2 Welsh Cycling Event [Welsh Time Trial & Road Championships] 01-2/06/19

Mr Mark Allen, Commercial & Partnership Manager, Welsh Cycling had been invited to attend the Council meeting to give and receive feedback following the Welsh Time Trial & Road Championships event held at Ruthin covering a 42km circuit. Communication beforehand with the Community Council was, unfortunately, too late especially in relation to the road works in the centre of Llanfair and the resulting inconvenience to residents. It was suggested that all community and town councils along the route be informed well in advance in future. Two weeks before an event does not give enough time for engagement, plans for minimising disruptions, and looking at ways of helping to promote such events to local businesses, for example, guesthouses, caravan parks, camping sites. Denbighshire Council has a toolkit for organisations on staging events which includes a much longer lead in time to deal with planning, road closures and so on. Initial feedback received by Welsh Cycling following the event was, however, very positive with good local press coverage. Ruthin Cycling Club and the Rotary Club were involved in organising the event, resulting in 60 people volunteering over the week-end. The Chair, Jayne Mayers, thanked Mr Allen for attending the meeting and for his address.

568.3 Tree Planting [557.1] Reported that Cllr Paul Weston had spoken to residents at Bron y Clwyd and received very positive feedback about the proposal to plant trees on the green in front of the new school. It was, however, suggested that checks should also be made to find out whether the area is a designated open space before proceeding with any plans.

568.4 Bus Services [445.2, 482.5, 495.2, 499.2] Submitted – report from DCC's Passenger Transport Manager. Following a meeting with local residents in October 2018 there was a request for a service to link to the Wrexham bus. Consequently, a minibus was provided from December 2018. However, the numbers using this service have been disappointing and feedback from the operator suggests that there are only two regulars who tend to use the service and tend to be intermittent. The cost of the journeys is such that there is no real alternative but to withdraw it as soon as possible after 31 May subject to the Traffic Commissioner's approval. Journeys from Graigfechan and Pentrecelyn to and from Ruthin will not change and efforts have been made to improve publicity at the Graigfechan bus stop. Alternative services from Graigfechan – Ruthin are being considered and if feasible a similar level of service will be offered but perhaps with one sole operator. **RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted.

568.5 Pont Eyarth [311.3, 431.2] Update received as follows from DCC's Senior Engineer - the local authority is undertaking a multi year programme of works to strengthen the bridge or at least ensure that it can accommodate the current 18 Tonne weight restriction for many years to come. Officers who are responsible for the school development in Llanfair D C have asked whether the proposed road closure over Pont Eyarth this summer be delayed to ensure that utility works for the new school can be delivered. There is a chance that the road closure for the bridge might not be possible until after the October school half term. Air temperature and river levels mean that doing works to the underside of the arch after October is therefore unwise. The best approach would be to delay the stone repairs until next summer. However, there are works which could be done later on in this financial year which would benefit those delayed works. For the last two years different types of highway surfacing have been trialled to prevent surface water progressing into the arch backfill. A recent trial near Betws GG has proven very successful and consideration is being given to using the same type of material to resurface the road over the bridge to

further assist in the drying out of the arch below. This would require a road closure of about one week later on in the year. **RESOLVED** that the update be noted and the Clerk writes to the Senior Engineer to enquire whether traffic using the bridge is being measured in some way to prevent heavy vehicles over 18 tonne in weight from using the bridge.

568.4 Open Spaces/Countryside Services [535.5, 545.2, 557.3] Reported that the Countryside Service has been asked how the site at Graigfechan is being managed and whether school children can get involved with the upkeep of the nature reserve. A reply is still awaited; the Clerk to take follow up action.

568.5 Resurfacing Improvements [513.3, 523.3, 535.3, 545.5, 557.4] – Road from Pentre Coch to the Shelf - Reply awaited about any proposals for permanent resurfacing improvements. Concern was expressed that this matter had been ongoing for some time with very little response from Highways. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to Mr Tim Towers [copy to The Leader] on the matter.

568.6 Unsafe Walls/Bridges [557.5] Reported that the bridge near to the football pitch at Llanfair DC and the bridge/wall near Y Graig and Bwlch y Llyn, Pentrecoch are unsafe and the Council's concerns were emailed to DCC via customer services. The response from the local authority was that the issues had been dealt with, but it appears that little or no work has been carried out to the bridge near Y Graig and Bwlch y Llyn. Cllr Osian Owen was thanked for taking photographs. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to DCC's Senior Engineer [copy to The Leader] enclosing photographs to query the issues raised.

568.7 Repairs to Stiles [513.2] Councillor Osian Owen had forwarded photographs of broken stiles in the area, grid references SJ 145544, SJ146538, SJ146544, SJ150555, SJ150557, SJ146537, SJ146543, SJ147529, SJ146545, SJ145552. DCC's Footpath Inspector will issue a report in due course. Cllr Osian Owen was thanked for taking photographs.

PART 2 569 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following items:

570 FINANCIAL MATTERS

570.1 Payment of Accounts/Invoices RESOLVED that payments be made as follows:
£40.00 OVW Invoice 4831 [Understanding the Law Training Event attend by the Clerk on 21/05/19]

£286.70 Clerk's Expenses [April – June 2019]

£16.50 Cllr Jayne Mayers [Refund – cost of flowers and card for Moira Edwards]

570.2 Payment of Allowances/Expenses to Councillors 2019/20 Submitted – extract from IPRW's Annual Report February 2019 regarding making payments to members [table 9 refers]. The payment of £150 per annum is mandated for every member. Any individual member may make a personal decision to elect to forgo part or all of the entitlement to any payments by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the Council [Clerk].

RESOLVED that IRPW Determinations 44 and 45 be accepted, that is, payment to the Chair of the Council up to a maximum of £1,500 and Deputy-Chair of the Council up to a maximum amount of £500. Approved.

570.3 Requests for Financial Aid RESOLVED that a grant be awarded as follows:
£100.00 St Kentigern Hospice [internal fit out and specialist disability equipment]

570.4 Transfer of Funds from the Community Account to the Business Account
RESOLVED that £20,000 be transferred from the Community Account to the Business Account

570.5 Risk Assessment Inspection The Clerk reported that Mr John Pugh, Chartered Surveyor, had carried out the inspection on 29/05/19. Several items require action, most of which are classed as low [repairs to notice boards; PAT testing on portable machines] to medium risk [uneven paved ground around the war memorial and unprotected drop down to the pavement]. It is expected that repairs to a section of the church wall, which has a high risk rating, are to commence on 15 July 2019 and it was noted that the coping stone was made safe in April 2018 not October 2018. **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the report be accepted and members confirmed that they are happy for Mr John Pugh to continue acting as the Council's agent on matters regarding inspections, building contracts and repairs. No fee is charged for this service.

571 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

2019 08/07/19 [Genus Centre], 09/09/19 [Ysgol Llanfair], 14/10/19 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn],
11/11/19 [Genus Centre], 09/12/19 [Ysgol Llanfair]
2020 13/01/19 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn], 09/03/19 [Genus Centre]

The meeting ended at 9 pm _____CHAIR _____DATE