

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at Ysgol Llanfair on Monday 9 December 2019 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Keith Mouldsdales [Vice-Chair], David Baker, Bob Barton, Wini Davies, Owen Evans, Osian Owen, Steve Whipp and Eirwen Godden, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE - 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES Councillors Tim Faire [prior commitment], Ceri Ranson [work commitments] and the Leader, DCC.

PART 1 - 623 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor David Baker [Llanfair Church], Councillor Keith Mouldsdales [Llanfair D C Village Hall Trustee]

624 MINUTES - RESOLVED The minutes of Meetings held on 11 and 25 November 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

625 CLERK'S REPORT

625.1 Coleg Cambria Llysfasi College [606, 609.3] The College looks forward to establishing a positive and beneficial partnership with the community council. The Head of College and Farm Manager are best placed to support the development of this very important partnership. Cambria's Commercial Development Co-ordinator is happy to share details of events and activities at Llysfasi by providing bilingual A5 documents for the Dyffryn Clwyd Chronicle.

625.2 Open Invitation to Political Parties [600.4, 609.6] Reported that the Chair and Clerk would be meeting Mr Darren Millar AM at a surgery event in Ruthin Library on 31/01/20. Regular briefing meetings with DCC's Leader have also been requested – dates yet to be arranged

625.3 Defibrillator The defibrillator at Llanfair has been moved onto the new school site. The British Heart Foundation has developed 'The Circuit' www.thecircuit.uk – a new national defibrillator network. This is replacing the Welsh Ambulance Service defibrillator database and all equipment will need to be registered with The Circuit. It was agreed that the Clerk be the point of contact for the defibrillator at the Three Pigeons Inn Graigfechan.

626 COMMUNITY MATTERS

626.1 Llanfair D C Village - Flooding [610.1] – No response to date from Highways about arranging a site meeting to discuss the issues flagged up at the Community Council meeting held on 11/11/19. However, DCC engineers have, in the meantime, stated that the new school construction site has not had permission to connect to the public drains as yet but is expected to be able to do so soon. This is why all the rainwater is running over ground and onto the road. Concerns have been expressed that it could be a real hazard if there is ice. The response from Wynne Construction is that surface water connection is being carried out in January, as long as approval is obtained from Highways, which is awaited at present. Unfortunately, with the foul drainage works being ongoing they are unable to open this section of the road as well. The surface water runoff will only occur

during extreme weather [rainfall] when the holding tank on site cannot hold any further surface water.

However, Councillors commented that it is obvious that the holding tank is now full with nowhere for the water to go. So any further rainwater is overflowing onto the road in the meantime.

626.2 Housing Development – Llanfair D C – The following update was received from Pure on 06/12/19:

[a] Wales and West Utilities, Gas– The off-site easements have been agreed with other land owners and the on-site/off-site gas main design has been completed. Off-site installation works for the new gas main are due to commence at the beginning March 2020.

[b] BT/Openreach – The new chamber is due to be constructed on the A525 footway opposite Pure’s new site entrance from 6-8 January 2020.

[c] SPEN Electric works – The installation of off-site works for new electric mains will be undertaken from 13-15 January 2020 (route from Bron-y-Clwyd to A525 to new substation). Joint connections and on-site works to energise substation aim to be complete by end January 2020.

[d] Planning – Currently there is a Section 73 planning application in to vary a condition, which is amending the list of approved plan. This is generally an update to the design to two house types and a re-arrangement to plots 48 to 55 (which are backing on to the open space and away from existing neighbouring properties). The site road layout etc will be staying exactly the same. Denbighshire Planning is currently validating the application this week and the community council will no doubt receive consultation documentation direct from DCC. At the beginning of next year and as the houses are going up, Pure will start to develop the site frontage. A site visit will be arranged when the weather improves.

626.3 Clwyd Vale Motor Club [Automark Farrington Trophy Rally] 16/17 November 2019

Concern had been expressed about the lack of notice given not only to the community council but local residents affected by the event. Councillor Jayne Mayers stated that she had contacted the police who also had very short notice of the event. Some elderly neighbours were frightened because they did not know what was happening. The Clerk was asked to contact DCC about the lack of communication, who gave permission for the event to go ahead and how procedures for future events can be improved.

626.4 Christmas Tree Reported that Grwp Cynefin had kindly agreed to install an outside electric socket at one of the almshouses to power the Christmas tree lights at Llanfair D C. Councillor Keith Mouldsdales and Mr John Pugh were thanked for putting up the tree.

626.5 Street Lighting – Llanfair D C Reported that lamps are being replaced by LED versions. Some residents have complained wondering why the original lamps needed replacing and felt that they should have been informed beforehand.

626.6 Roadworks/Housing Developments at Llanfair Reported – general dissatisfaction and annoyance being expressed by residents about the delays in sorting out drainage, digging trenches and other issues leading to long periods or constant road closures in the village; lack of communication; and not enough joined up thinking between the various developers including different departments of the local authority. It was agreed that the Leader be asked to provide an update on discussions that he has had with different parties recently.

627 CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

627.1 DCC Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2018/19 & Request Form DCC has requested that the community council makes these available for residents in the community. The County Council is extremely keen to draw the work of the Scrutiny Committees to residents' attention emphasising that they are able to draw matters of importance or concern to them to the committees' attention. **RESOLVED** The Clerk to contact DCC for an explanatory article suitable for the Dyffryn Clwyd Chronicle.

627.2 Air Crash Memorial Seat Submitted – Letter dated 20/11/19 saying that Messrs E H Edwards and John Harrop have gifted an inscribed seat to commemorate the servicemen who died on 17 July 1942 when their RAF plane crashed at Tyn y Bryn Llanfair DC. The seat has been placed but not fixed near the War Memorial. **RESOLVED** that a letter of thanks be sent to Messrs EH Edwards/John Harrop to acknowledge their generosity.

627.3 Bus Pass Renewal Programme Submitted – Email dated 25/11/19 from OVW providing details of how people can apply for their new bus passes. Transport for Wales is managing the renewal programme on behalf of all 22 Local Authorities in Wales. The current cards will all expire on 31/12/19 and will not be accepted on buses after that date. Cardholders can either reapply online at www.tfw.wales/travelcards or by paper, which they can download via the website or pick up a copy from their Local Authority. They can also request a copy in the post by calling 0300 303 4240. Councillors stated that they would circulate the information as widely as possible within their communities.

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

628.1 SLCC Branch Meeting 06/12/19 [Clerk] Main items included a reminder about the deadline for compliance with the website accessibility regulations; charter agreements; future events; and the availability of useful data from www.understandingwelshplaces.wales for councils/organisations wanting evidence to support a community plan, place plan or funding application. One drawback, however, is that the available data is only for communities larger than 2000.

628.2 Broadband Workshop 05/12/19 [Councillors David Baker and Bob Barton] The aim of the workshop was to help those communities with poor broadband access to better understand their options by sharing key information, considerations and an up to date picture of superfast broadband coverage in Denbighshire. Future plans include the availability of funding and the appointment of a digital development officer by DCC.

629 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

629.1 Application 20/2019/0794 Erection of two detached bungalows [resubmission] - Land at Clover Bank, Llanfair D C submitted by Mrs Anne Hughes. **RESOLVED** The meeting noted the resubmission and the fact that little material change had been made from the previous application, 20/2019/0190, erection of two detached dormer bungalows submitted on 1/3/2019, which Denbighshire LPA refused. The grounds for refusal have not been addressed. The Community Council acknowledges that the site lies within the Llanfair DC Village Development Boundary.

This resubmission application is for two bungalows on the site. The difference between this application and the previous one is that the dormer bedrooms have been removed and the layout and elevations slightly changed. The Community Council considers that the proposal

would continue to represent overdevelopment of the site. Properties would be shoe-horned into the available space with very little amenity provision.

The nature of the street in this area is that existing properties are set back from the highway. This proposal would see the bungalows built forward of the existing building line and the properties would abut the highway.

The proposed layout shows provision for an additional six parking spaces and these are claimed in the application form. The parking bays are shown as 2m x 4m which would be the footprint of a family saloon, but with no allowance for opening car doors. The proposed layout would barely allow for manoeuvring within the driveways. The parking spaces shown to the front of the properties would be directly in front of bedroom windows and the front doors to each property and would be difficult to access. The two spaces shown in front of each property again would struggle to accommodate vehicles. The spaces provided would at best accommodate three cars. This would result in the occupants needing to park outside of the site and potentially to create nuisance to neighbours as well as danger if parking was along the highway.

The Community Council expressed concern about the impact of the proposed development on drainage. This part of the village is prone to surface water flooding during heavy rainfall and this proposal would exacerbate the situation with hardening of surfaces by the presence of roofs and driveways.

As stated above, the application form claims that no development prior to this submission has taken place. The first application on this site, 20/2018/0448, made in May 2018, included documents which considered the trees and biodiversity of the nature of the site. Subsequently the site was cleared and in a manner which disregarded the previous proposal and removed more trees than had originally been considered. Since the clearance, the site has been an eyesore in the village. The Community Council would consider the clearance of the site which took place in mid-2018 to have been the first step in development. The declaration on the proposal application form which states that no works have been carried out is erroneous.

The resubmission continues to represent over-development of the site, is inconsistent with the Community Council's Neighbourhood Plan and specifically its biodiversity aims. It does not address the grounds for the refusal of the previous application. Furthermore, the proposal conflicts with Policy RD1 criteria i) of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan and guidance contained in the Residential Supplementary Planning Guidance note.

The Community Council would consider that the PLA Decision Notice of 11/6/2019 to the previous application, 20/2019/0190 Erection of two detached dormer bungalows, continues to apply and would ask that this resubmission application be refused.

630 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT Members considered the following matters:

630.1 Environment [Wales] Act 2016 section 6[7] Submitted – draft report prepared by Councillor Steve Whipp on what the Community Council has done to comply with its duty regarding biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems. Cllr Whipp has added Denbighshire Countryside Services into the Neighbourhood Plan Chapter as well as the Section 6 response. The Chair thanked Councillor Whipp for his efforts. **RESOLVED** that the response be submitted as drafted.

630.2 Tree Planting at Bron y Clwyd Llanfair D C [557.1, 568.3, 579.2, 593.1, 603.2, 611.3] Heather Battison-Howard, DCC's Greenspace Development Officer, had organised the first planting session [a native species hedgerow of cherry [early and late], hawthorn, wild rose, field maple, hazel and Euonymus Europaeus]], which took place on 26/11/19 in association with Ysgol Llanfair. The cost of the trees is to be borne by DCC's Housing Department. Cllr Keith Mouldsdales was in attendance and commented that a second session will be held in February 2020 to plant fruit trees and wild flowers.

630.3 Graigfechan Culvert Site Meeting 05/12/19 Councillors Keith Mouldsdales and Steve Whipp attend this site meeting which was also attended by the Leader, residents, landowners and drainage officers from DCC. County Council officers said that to manage expectations they can help with things they are responsible for but not beyond. Having said that it was determined that some of the development of houses at the top end of the village had been carried out with the surface water culvert having been enclosed in a pipe of around 1050mm diameter. This constituted building-over and the County Council could not be responsible for an arrangement which they had had no involvement with. Recently problems had arisen with a blockage caused by a land-rover tyre on a wheel which had got into the culvert and caused a blockage. DCC had attended and tied the tyre up in a manhole where it would not cause a problem. They will remove it shortly.

The meeting moved around the site to inspect the drainage in ditches and to see the culverts. The local residents had a concern that flooding might occur again if the culvert became blocked. It was considered that some clearing of hedges and overgrown ditches would help to make the watercourses more visible and accessible and would help to maintain flows. DCC Drainage Engineers agreed to seek funding (which could be done quickly) to undertake an investigation of the need and then to propose a solution. Loose debris such as fallen logs and branches would be removed from the area of the watercourses. It was considered that doing this would be sufficient to remove any imminent threat of further flooding occurring. The needs analysis would identify where flows might be best dealt with and then a scheme would be developed and again it was said that this could happen quickly, within the financial year. This may include flow attenuation upstream or provision of grills to prevent materials entering the culvert.

DCC officers will prepare a report and Mr Wayne Hope, the Drainage Flooding Manager, will be attending the January meeting of the Llanfair DC Community Council. The meeting was very amicable with all stating their willingness to work together on the problem.

630.4 Public Path Diversion Order – Highways Act 1980 – Section 119 – Application to divert a public footpath in the vicinity of Castell, Graigadwywynt. The plan had been resubmitted as the original was not the correct one, the difference being the line shown in green dashes had been slightly amended to reflect the correct intended new route of the path. The diversion is still acceptable to the Head of Highways and Environmental Services. **RESOLVED** No objections were made by Councillors.

630.5 Bungalows at Graigfechan [593.8, 598.6, 614.1] Response awaited from Glyn Forsdick [DCC Housing] about the bad condition of footpaths around the bungalows and leading on to the main road including the pot holes on their car park. The Clerk was asked to send another reminder.

630.6 Parking on Layby near Llysfasi and Speeding [603.4, 614.2] Response awaited from the local authority. The Clerk was asked to send another reminder.

630.7 Overgrown Hedges – Reported - a very high hedge leaning over the road near the Three Pigeons Inn Graigfechan. **RESOLVED** The Clerk to write to DCC to establish who is responsible for trimming the hedge and clearing the cuttings away.

PART 2 631 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following items:

632 FINANCIAL MATTERS

632.1 Payment of Accounts/Invoices RESOLVED that payments be made as follows:

£291.66 Cllr K Mouldsdale [IRPW Payment – Vice-Chair Allowance Pro Rata]

£135.22 Clerk's Expenses October – December 2019

£ 35.52 Cllr T Faire [Refund – Plants and Compost]

£ 83.06 Cllr K Mouldsdale [Refund – Christmas Tree and Cable Protectors]

£109.00 SLCC Membership Subscription 2020

£223.05 Wales Audit Office [External Audit Fee]

632.2 Requests for Financial Aid RESOLVED that grants be awarded as follows [to be vired from the Community Plan Activities budget to Grants and Donations]:

£450.00 Ysgol Pentrecelyn [Towards cost of transport for swimming and sporting activities]

£450.00 Ysgol Llanfair [Towards heating costs of local church during practice/performances and other extra curricular activities]

632.3 Budget for 2020/2021 Submitted – Draft budget version 2 for consideration.

RESOLVED that the budget requirement for 2020/2021 be set at £31227. Councillor Bob Barton abstained from voting.

633 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 13/01/20 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn, Guest Speakers Wayne Hope, DCC Drainage Flooding Manager and Noela Jones, Head of Housing, Grwp Cynefin], 10/02/20 [Ysgol Llanfair, Guest Speaker Tara Dumas], 09/03/20 [Genus Centre]

633.1 The calendar of meetings from April 2020 – March 2021 was approved as follows:

20/04/20, 18/05/20, 15/06/20, 13/07/20, 14/09/20, 12/10/20, 09/11/20, 14/12/20

11/01/21, 08/02/21, 08/03/21

634.1 Councillor Steve Whipp stated that a half hour slot was needed at a future meeting to decide neighbourhood plan priority items. Agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm _____CHAIR _____DATE