

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANFAIR DYFFRYN CLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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Minutes of an Open and Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Genus Centre, Llanrhydd LL15 2UP on Monday 9 March 2020 commencing at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT – Councillors Jayne Mayers [Chair], Keith Mouldsdale [Vice-Chair], Bob Barton, David Baker, Owen Evans, Tim Faire, Ceri Ranson, Steve Whipp and Eirwen Godden, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE - 11 members of the public, County Councillor Hugh H Evans OBE together with representatives from DCC [Tim Towers, Risk & Asset Manager and Tina Davenport, Street Works Manager]; Pure; Wales & West Utilities; and Welsh Water. There was no representative present from Scottish Power.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Wini Davies [family bereavement] and Osian Owen [childcare] and Joseph Griffiths, DCC's Modernising Education Officer [illness].

658 OPEN MEETING

[Chaired by County Councillor Hugh H Evans OBE] 6.30 – 7.30 pm

658.1 IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTS AT LLANFAIR D C County Councillor Hugh Evans welcomed all to the open meeting which had been convened to discuss points raised, the frustrations and concern experienced by residents on how the village had come to a standstill due to all the development work. Residents felt cut off, concerned about the lack of consultation with them and between the various contractors on site. They had put up with an awful lot of disruption over recent months. The purpose of the meeting was to consider what lessons had been learned and what can be done differently in the future.

Simultaneous planning approvals revealed flaws and weaknesses. For example, road closures instigated by Pure, new school contractors, Parry development, constant digging and closing of holes and so on – no-one seemed to have overall control. Many contractors were using sub-contractors not directly in control. Signage and notices left a lot to be desired, some at will, Amberon seemed to be there every day, the sewerage works to the new school caused closures, a shunting accident occurred, snagging on drains, there were power outages and water interruptions. The impact on residents ranges from an inconvenience to safety issues, isolation and redirecting NHS staff to people needing assistance. People were faced with signs that they did not know what to do next. It was pointed out that it would be helpful if contractors have a method statement together with a view of potential conflicts or overlaps.

Diversions are an issue. The diversion signs to Pwllglas and Ruthin created a rat run, drivers having to contend with pot holes and flooding down the lane passing Eyarth Station Guesthouse. No account had been taken of forthcoming annual events including football taking place on fields where the gas main is to be dug – two gas mains are to be installed providing an opportunity for all the village access to gas in the future. Residents consider that plans need to be out in the community and wanted to know who is responsible for telling them. It was confirmed by DCC's Risk and Asset Officer that it is the role of the local authority and developers to do this. Wales & West Utilities have already drafted a letter for issuing to villagers and will also knock on doors as they move along. It was stressed that

residents require exact details and concern was expressed that they are facing more chaos during the coming months. It was suggested that all letters from different companies should go out in one envelope.

Questions were asked about the possibility of applying for a traffic order to impose temporary speed limits along the Eyarth Station lane. Flood warning signs were also required including a sign that the lane is unfit for certain vehicles. The floods are affecting the guesthouse business and inconvenience for guests as well as walkers. Another query raised was whether emergency services would know how to access properties when there are road closures. Wales and West Utilities, for example, would always try to maintain access in emergencies.

A village resident considers that his is the most affected property having to put up with the intrusion of traffic lights outside his home and had to stay away for ten weeks due to the stress and risk to health. He also considers that Pure is breaking the pollution agreement – sub-contractors making a noise as early as 7.30 am. In response Pure's representative stated that they will monitor what other contractors are doing; contact has been made and acknowledges that residents are very annoyed.

There is a case for the local authority to employ a co-ordinator as it has a duty in line with legislation but there are different entities involved. The Community Council had received a number of questions to be addressed at the meeting re drain inspections, floodlights at the new school, maps of underground services and so on. Wynne contractors do have maps and Wales & West Utilities has requested drawings from everyone. However, accidents do happen – Welsh Water will repair pipes and recharge to other contractors for their errors. There was a request for a permanent no right turn on the Ffynnogion Road.

In summing up Councillor Evans stressed that there must be a way to co-ordinate communication to prevent misinformation within legislation. There is a need to be more proactive, follow up action to be taken regarding potholes, speeding, flooding, signage and moving traffic lights away from the front of houses. Feedback will be provided at the next meeting of the community council on 20/04/20. He thanked everyone for their honest opinions and for the utility companies for attending the meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

[Chaired by Councillor Jayne Mayers] 7.30 pm onwards

PART 1 - 659 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors David Baker [Llanfair Church] and Keith Mouldsdales [Llanfair D C Village Hall Trustee]

660 MINUTES - RESOLVED The minutes of the Meeting held on 10 February 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record subject to amending 648.3, 650.1 and 651.1.

661 CLERK'S REPORT

661.1 Public Footpaths – Locked Gates [642.3, 648.3] The Community Council had received reports of a blocked bridleway path [58] grid reference SJ 14275 51554 between Coed Talwrn and Bryn Aur. This matter was referred to DCC. The Highways Information Manager states that work has been carried out on a number of occasions in recent years to clear the path including a team of strimmers last year and also to purchase a 200m strip of land alongside the bridleway off one owner where the path had become uneconomic to repair for horses to use so as to make a new path. The current issue will be thoroughly

investigated; it appears that there are a number of landowners involved who have not sufficiently been undertaking their duty for maintenance of gates on their land through which the bridleway passes to avoid them becoming difficult to pass through. This bridleway forms part of a national route promoted by the British Horse Society [BHS] but the local authority does not have the resource to regularly inspect the whole route which was accepted by the BHS when they instigated the idea. Efforts will, however, be taken to expedite the resolution of obstruction with landowners by having gates repaired or replaced.

661.2 Grwp Cynefin - Elizabeth Owen Almshouses [638.1, 648.5] Denbighshire has agreed to set up a task and finish group to include officers from housing policy and maintenance to meet sometime in March. Members asked for details of the terms of reference for the task and finish group. Two housing associations, namely, North Wales Housing Association and Clwyd Alyn Housing Association have confirmed that they are not interested in taking over the properties. A Social Housing Grant would be needed to carry out any work but Denbighshire Officers are not confident that this can be made available. Welsh Government is currently reviewing social housing grants and distribution of funding. Options appear to be limited. On the other hand Denbighshire's Corporate Plan includes bringing back empty homes into use.

RESOLVED that a [a] special meeting is convened to discuss the matter; [b] Geoff Davies, DCC's Lead Officer – Community Housing Communities and Customers; Noela Jones, Grwp Cynefin's Head of Housing and a representative from the Charity Commission be invited to attend.

661.3 Public Services Board Nomination [650.3] The matter about the nomination process was referred to One Voice Wales for guidance. The matter is being referred to DCC's CEO for clarification. A reply is awaited but the indications are that Denbighshire would be happy for OVW to handle the selection process.

661.4 Flooding Issues [653.1] Reported – that a response was awaited from DCC's Flood Risk Manager regarding a request for a meeting with the steering group to discuss the County's proposals for the local area. A reminder has been sent. Mention was made of stakeholder involvement in community emergency plans and that it should be placed on the community council's agenda for a future meeting. Considerable problems remain unsolved, in the meantime, on the road past Eyarth Station leaving, for example, a lake that is 2ft deep has been formed following recent wet weather.

661.5 Parking on Layby near Llysfasi & Speeding [603.4,614.2,630.6, 637.3] [a] Reported – that DCC's Passenger Transport Manager has emailed Voel Coaches with a request to ensure that the coach is parked a little further along the layby at Llysfasi so that people can access the postbox.
[b] Submitted – letter received on 04/03/20 from a resident of Graigfechan raising awareness of the increasing risks and daily problems experienced by pedestrians walking in the village with no pavements, not only from speeding motorists but also from those motorists who do not slow down sufficiently. The 'slow down' warning signs currently in use are often completely ignored and seem ineffective.
RESOLVED that [a] a copy of the Graigfechan Traffic Calming Options Report prepared by Denbighshire in July 2016 [HT/TT/TS/636 to the resident with an invitation to join the local Speed Watch Group

[b] the Clerk writes to Ben Wilcox-Jones, DCC's Senior Engineer – Road Safety & Sustainable Transportation, to say that the Vehicle Activated Signs [VAS] installed at Graigfechan do not seem to have reduced speeding through the village and to ask what else can be done to improve the situation; whether another review could be undertaken.

662 COMMUNITY MATTERS

662.1 Priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan with Particular Reference to Possible Future Uses for the Old School Site, Llanfair D C Submitted – an extract from the Neighbourhood Plan setting out possible community project proposals and a paper on the potential future use of the old school site. Reference was made to maybe a link to the site and the almshouses, affordable homes, sheltered accommodation, play equipment and so on. Any proposals for the site need to complement other schemes in the area; exploring what can be done by the community council could take time to put together a proposal involving a community engagement process. Concern was expressed that the site could be vulnerable to vandalism unless steps were taken to prevent this happening.

The Clerk advised that should the Community Council decide to explore the possibility of taking over the site action would be required as follows – a full appraisal, financial options, a business plan, seek appropriate advice prior to making decisions on the provision of new services and understand the statutory basis on which it intends to provide these. Councils need to be innovative in dealing with community issues, but must at all times display appropriate risk management and operate within their legal framework. DCC has been asked to provide information on its community asset transfer process. A response is awaited. **RESOLVED** that arrangements be made for a small group to meet with DCC's Asset Manager to discuss generally and consider the possibility of detaching the old school building from the field on the site.

662.2 Neuadd Eleanor, Llanfair D C [649.2] – Application for Commuted Funds - DCC has asked for community council feedback on the application by 27/03/20. . **RESOLVED** - the Community Council is in full support of the application.

663 CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS Submitted –

663.1 Email dated 19/02/20 from OVW re funding opportunities for community and town councils on green growth projects – **Keep Wales Tidy's Green Growth Programme.** Noted.

663.2 Email dated 19/02/20 from Denbighshire Housing re Tenant Awards Noted. Councillor Bob Barton stated that he wished to attend the event on 20/05/20 at 1891 Rhyl.

663.3 Email dated 20/02/20 from DCC re National Lottery Community Fund in Wales – a new one-off funding programme focussed on youth resilience – contact joshua.coles-riley@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk Noted.

663.4 Email dated 21/02/20 from OVW re the Independent Remuneration Panel For Wales' [IRPW] Annual Report 2020 to 2021 [Final Version – C&TCs pages 42-50 & Supplementary Report Re Reimbursement of Costs of Care]. Briefly, councillor payments for 2020/21 include a mandatory payment of £150 to each member [unless they advise they do not want to take it]; payments up to £500 each to a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities; compensation for financial loss when attending approved duties; reimbursement of the costs of care; payment of up to £1,500 to the mayor

or chair of a council; up to £500 to the deputy mayor or chair and reimbursement of travel costs and subsistence costs. Councils are required to publish details of all payments made to individual members for each financial year. All payments have to be approved by full Council. Councillor Barton expressed concern that specific guidance about pro rata payments is unclear.

RESOLVED that the Council makes the following payments in 2020-2021 – £150 to each member [mandatory], costs of care [mandatory if eligible], £1,500 to the chair, £500 to the vice-chair, including financial loss compensation, travel and overnight subsistence expenses where applicable

663.5 Letter dated 25/02/20 from Urdd Gobaith Cymru re Appeal for Volunteer Stewards for the Eisteddfod 25-30/05/20. An item is to be included in the Dyffryn Clwyd Cronicl to raise awareness.

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

664.1 SLCC Branch Meeting 03/03/20 attended by the Clerk. Main topics included a talk by the Denbigh Town Clerk on the on going town hall asset transfer negotiations with DCC; to note new audit arrangements for 2020/21 onwards; forthcoming events and webinar sessions. Members gave approval for the Clerk to attend the joint OVW/SLCC event at Ewloe on 20/05/20 (£80 +VAT); also Councillor Barton who stated that he would ask other community councils where he is a member to contribute towards the cost of his attendance.

665 PLANNING www.denbighshire.gov.uk/planning

665.1 Application 20/2020/0120 submitted by Pure Re Land West of Wrexham Road, Llanfair D C – [a] Application for Deed of Variation to allow the transfer of an affordable unit from plot 23 to plot 21 and increase the commuted sum contribution from £27,816.30 to £33,287.70 in connection with planning permission 20/2016/1137. A copy of DCC's guidance on how sums may be used was circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

RESOLVED that the application be supported.

[b] It was reported that Pure has lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate against the imposition of condition 2 obliging the construction of a stone wall for a short stretch of the boundary to the rear of the electric substation. Scottish Power has confirmed that off site installation works will commence on 06/04/20 with a view to energising the substation by 24/04/20. Pure has 3 months to comply with the condition to build the stone wall. The Planning Authority is waiting for notification of the appeal timetable – there will be an opportunity to make representations to the Inspectorate for consideration.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Pure expressing regret about its decision to appeal against the imposition of condition 2 regarding the stone wall to the rear of the electric substation. Pure is to be asked to reconsider going to appeal.

666 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT

666.1 Climate & Ecological Emergency Public Engagement - Email dated 05/02/20 from DCC – Consultation Deadline 25/02/20 Submitted – comments written by Councillor Steve Whipp. Councillor Whipp was thanked for his efforts and it was **RESOLVED** that his paper be submitted to DCC as the community council's response.

PART 2 667 RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the following items:

668 FINANCIAL MATTERS

668.1 Payment of Accounts/Invoices RESOLVED that payments be made as follows
£280.00 Doodle IT [Deposit] – website services
£423.38 Clerk’s Expenses [January-March 2020]
£643.20 Sandra Williams [Translation Services]

668.2 Requests for Financial Aid received from
North Wales Wildlife Trust

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

It was reported that Owl Cymru [Crime Prevention Charity] was disbanding on 31 March 2020 and that arrangements had been made to cancel the grant cheque. Approved.

RESOLVED that grants be awarded as follows

£200 North Wales Wildlife Trust [£120 to be vired from Community Activities to the Grants and Donations Budget as resolved 10/02/20]

and that a decision with regard to the request from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod be deferred for the time being.

668.3 Update on the Audit Process The Clerk drew attention to the recently published Wales Audit Office [WAO] report on the financial management and governance of community and town councils 2018-19. [Wales Audit Office website - <https://www.audit.wales/publications>]. The 2019-20 audit will focus on councils’ official records of its meetings and in 2020-21 will focus on arrangements for the employment of staff and how councils deal with their responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations Act [where applicable]. From 2020-21 all community and town council audits will be undertaken by WAO staff. JDH Business Services has, in the meantime, forwarded the 2019-2020 internal audit plan. Councillors were requested to note and feed back any queries to the Clerk.

669 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20/04/20 [Coleg Cambria Llysfasi], 18/05/20 [Ysgol Llanfair], 15/06/20 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn], 13/07/20 [Ysgol Llanfair], 14/09/20 [Coleg Cambria Llysfasi], 12/10/20 [Ysgol Llanfair], 09/11/20 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn], 14/12/20 [Genus Centre Llanrhydd]

11/01/21 [Coleg Cambria Llysfasi], 08/02/21 [Ysgol Llanfair], 08/03/21 [Ysgol Pentrecelyn]

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm _____CHAIR _____DATE