

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANARTHNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the November 2024 Meeting of Llanarthne Community Council held at Llanarthne Village Hall on 12/11/2024 at 19.00.

128/2024-2025 Present.

Councillors: R Pole (Vice Chair), County Cllr H Jones, G Jones, N Thomas, E Jenkins.

Clerk.

Translator – C Llwyd.

129/2024-2025 To receive apologies.

Councillors: County Cllr A Davies, A Isaac (Chair), M Jones.

130/2024-2025 To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr N Thomas – Minute **142/2024-2025** – Christmas Toybox Appeal.

131/2024-2025 Opportunity for the public to address the Council on agenda items.

None.

132/2024-2025 To consider and note any policing and/or road safety concerns.

Cllr G Jones reported that a vehicle had collided with the “Llanarthne” village sign on the approach from Capel Dewi. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department at Carmarthenshire County Council.

Cllr G Jones reported that white signs/lines had been painted on the highway near Penallt Uchaf travelling down the hill towards the village and asked the Clerk to enquire about their purpose. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the relevant department at Carmarthenshire County Council.

County Cllr H Jones and Cllr R Pole reported that a vehicle had collided with bollards and travelled through the hedge into the field near the NBGW. **Resolved** for the Clerk to report to the relevant department at Carmarthenshire County Council.

County Cllr H Jones reported that during an event at the NBGW, traffic lights were utilised to manage traffic, and floodlights were used to illuminate the entrance to the overflow car park near Arwel Court. He reported that the bright lights and noise pollution were causing a disturbance to nearby residents especially when tractors had to tow stranded vehicles from the waterlogged field until 23.30. He suggested that the NBGW consider being more neighborly and access the overflow car park through their main entrance. Dr Lucy Sutherland is aware of the concern as County Cllr H Jones reported the issue soon after. Cllr R Pole raised a concern regarding contacting the NBGW again as this was their first event in having to utilise the overflow car park and they are already aware of the issue. She suggested allowing the NBGW time to reassess the situation. Council members discussed the issue, and it was proposed that the Clerk email the NBGW to kindly ask them to evaluate the current system. Proposed by County Cllr H Jones and seconded by Cllr G Jones. **Resolved** to note.

133/2024-2025 County Council Matters - County Cllr A Davies.

None.

134/2024-2025 To Receive Chairman's Reports.

The Vice-Chair, Cllr R Pole thanked Cllr E Jenkins for representing Llanarthne Community Council at the Fireworks display at Llanarthne Village Hall on 01/11/2024 and for laying the wreath at the Remembrance Service at St David's Church, Llanarthne on 10/11/2024. Council members also thanked the Clerk for formatting and printing the order of service.

135/2024-2025 Confirmation and Signing of the Minutes of the Council Meeting 08/10/2024.

Cllr G Jones reported that speed humps were also discussed in minute **113/2024-2025. Resolved** for the Clerk to add to the minutes.

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes for 08/10/2024. Proposed by Cllr G Jones and seconded by Cllr N Thomas.

136/2024-2025 Matters arising from the above minutes.

The Clerk informed Council members that all matters to **resolve** had been actioned, and if correspondence had been received, a copy of the Email had been sent to each member for information.

In the October 2024 meeting, minute **124/2024-2025**, Cllr R Pole reported that the roundabout by the NBGW required attention as shrubs and grass was overgrown and the metal artwork required painting prior to the 25th anniversary in 2025.

The following email was received from the NBGW on 08/11/2024 and forwarded to all council members.

- As part of our preparations for our 25th celebrations we will be refreshing several elements across the site, The Metal Artwork will be repainted as part of this.
- Whilst NBGW has done some of the vegetation over the last few years we have approached Carmarthen Council Highways to understand the protocols required, Arwyn Edwards has confirmed that this roundabout is maintained by them (Email attached)

Please see below –

“I can confirm that the roundabout in question leading off from the A48, to the B4310 is maintained by Carmarthen County Council Highways”.

Cllr E Jenkins stated that Carmarthenshire County Council had agreed the above in 2020 but had not carried out the task on a regular basis as per agreement.

County Cllr H Jones agreed with the statement and asked the Clerk to confirm the agreement with Carmarthenshire County Council. **Resolved** to note.

County Cllr H Jones suggested that a tree or monument be placed on the roundabout as the previous oak tree was cut down by a local resident as a prank.

The Clerk stated that funds were not available from Llanarthne Community Council to purchase a monument but a collaboration between Carmarthenshire County Council, NBGW, Llanarthne Community Council and Llanddarog Community Council may be a possibility.

Cllr N Thomas suggested a timber chainsaw sculpture made by a local craftsman and proposed that a meeting involving all parties take place. **Resolved** for the Clerk to discuss the proposal with Llanddarog Community Council and report to council members.

137/2024-2025 To note correspondence or to list for consideration at a forthcoming Council meeting.

(All relevant correspondence is emailed to council members at the time of receipt and only brought before the meeting if necessary or specifically requested by members or the Clerk).

None.

138/2024-2025 Planning.

None.

139/2024-2025 Payments.

None.

140/2024-2025 To note receipts.

None.

141/2024-2025 To Review of Policies and Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Clerk reported that no updates or changes were required to the current policies.

Resolved to note.

The Clerk reported that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 is £11.10. **Resolved** to note.

142/2024-2025 To consider requests for funding.

Each member had been provided with a copy of each request during the year and if received by post, the Clerk announced the request verbally. Council members discussed all requests for funding, and it was decided to donate an amount to the following organisations.

Christmas Toybox Appeal - £100.00.

Radio Glangwili - £100.00.

Resolved for the Clerk to arrange payment.

143/2024-2025 To consider the Co-Option of additional members.

The Clerk reported that no applications had been received from community members despite advertising the position in the community noticeboards, website and social media. Cllr N Thomas stated that she may have a potential interested party and will approach prior to the next meeting. Council members asked the Clerk to contact Capel-Arthne YFC to enquire if there was any interest. **Resolved** to note.

144/2023-2024 To discuss the Audit Wales Report 2023 - 2024.

The following Email was received from Audit Wales on 12/11/2024 and forwarded to all council members.

Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024 of **Llanarthne Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Audit opinion: Unqualified

On the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give

cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices.
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters and recommendations

I draw the Council's attention to the following matters and recommendations which do not affect my audit opinion but should be addressed by the Council:

Council Approval Checks

The Internal Auditor signed the Annual Return after the Chair. We recommend that going forward, arrangements are put in place to ensure the Internal Auditor signs the Annual Return before the Chair.

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 12/11/2024

Members thanked the Clerk for his rigorous work in the audit preparation and the Clerk thanked Cllr A Isaac for her assistance. It was proposed by Cllr R Pole and seconded by Cllr G Jones to accept the report. All agreed. **Resolved** to note.

145/2024-2025 To hold a forum in order for members to raise reports/questions through the Chair.

Cllr E Jenkins suggested that, if possible, could Llanarthne Community Council purchase an additional wreath on an annual basis for a member of the community council's area to lay at the Remembrance service. Council members discussed the suggestion, and it was decided to support the proposal and place on the agenda for the September 2025 meeting. Proposed by Cllr E Jenkins and seconded by Cllr N Thomas. All Agreed. **Resolved** to note.

Cllr G Jones reported that the National Trust sign near Paxton's Tower had been removed for repair. **Resolved** to note.

County Cllr H Jones stated that the bus shelter at Cefn Abbey was redundant as this area was no longer on the bus service route and school children no longer resided in the area. As the shelter was a community council asset, County Cllr H Jones proposed that the bus shelter be moved to a more pertinent location. Council members discussed the proposal, and it was suggested that the bus shelter be relocated at the entrance to NBGW as this was on a bus service route and school children are collected there daily. As this location was located near a roundabout, safety concerns were considered. Another location suggested was between the entrance to the NBGW and the roundabout near Swansea Road. The Clerk stated that numerous parties would need to be involved in this discussion due to the location. The Clerk suggested that as the buses enter the NBGW to turn around that approaching the NBGW to ask if it was possible to locate the shelter inside the gates was a better idea. All council members present agreed. **Resolved** for the Clerk to contact the NBGW.

Cllr G Jones stated that all bus shelters within the community council's area required pressure washing. **Resolved** for the Clerk to source and contact a potential contractor.

146/2024-2025 In Camera 20.39.

Those who were not Community Council members, or the Clerk departed the meeting – not to return. The exclusion is due to personnel / staffing matters being discussed.

147/2024-2024 Local Government service pay agreement 2024 - 2025.

An email was received on 25/10/2024 and forwarded to all council members regarding the national pay agreement 2024 – 2025 from NALC. The Clerk reported that the current salary of LC1 POINT 13, which is £26,873 had increased to £28,163 and that the new salary was effective from 01/04/2024. The Clerk also confirmed that funds were available in the budget to allow for the increase as the Clerk had forecasted the increase. Resolved for the Clerk to implement the increase from 01/04/2023 in December 2024 payroll. Proposed by Cllr R Pole and seconded by County Cllr H Jones. All agreed. **Resolved** to note.

148/2024-2025 Next Meeting.

Date of the next meeting to be held online – 10/12/2024 at 19.00.

149/2024-2025 The Meeting Finished at 20.45.

Chairman

Date
