

LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILIO BERTHOLAU

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 18TH MAY 2022

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner (Vice-Chair), GG Cowan, Ms N Watkins, SD Sulway, S Baugh, M Edwards, A Barber and C Harry.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Julian Gray, Kyle Eldridge and M Ewers

2 Declaration of interests.

It was agreed that these could be tendered as and when they arose during the meeting.

3 Signature of Declarations by Councillors

Declarations of willingness to serve as Councillor were read and signed by all Councillors present. It was agreed that those Councillors not present could be permitted to sign their Declarations at a later stage.

4 Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year

(a) **Chair** – Councillor M Hayward was proposed by Councillor M Edwards and seconded by Councillor C Harry, and was duly elected. The Clerk handed him the Chair's regalia, and he duly signed the Chair's Declaration of willingness to serve.

(b) **Vice-Chair** – Councillor M Skinner was proposed by Councillor D Sulway and seconded by Councillor S Baugh, and was duly elected. Councillor M Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to the

outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair for their commitment to the Council over the previous five years. This was seconded by Councillor C Harry and duly approved.

(c) Members of Committees

It was agreed that all Councillors would be on all committees for the time being until a more complex situation arose.

5 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

The Police report had been distributed before the meeting. The Clerk said that the police officer could not be available this evening, but that he had been requested to attend as and when he could so that members could air any anxieties about the police activity in the area. Councillor Edwards said he was concerned about the issue of the speed limit not being observed. Councillor Harry said that police were seen at the Punch House area, but Councillor Watkins said that they could be clearly observed by motorists, so it was of little effect. Councillor Cowan caused some concern to the meeting by saying that, as he understood it, the 20 mph limit so decried by many was in fact not legally in force as yet, and would not be until 2023. The Clerk was requested to investigate that and report back to the next meeting. Councillor Sulway said that might explain why bags had appeared over some of the 20 mph signs, and the Clerk agreed that the signs might be too small.

From the floor, Ms Pat Vowles said that, to her knowledge, the populace generally were not happy with the speed limit. The limit might be OK – even desirable - for side roads, but not for the main thoroughfare. The Chair asked if the County Council might be involved, although Councillor Cowan said it was more the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly. Ms Vowles asked whether this was good for pollution, although Councillor Harry said it had been scientifically proved that the optimum speed was 36 mph. The Clerk informed the Chair and new Councillors of the recent history with regard to lorries from Pontrilas saw mill. Councillor Skinner said this had been the case for 30 years. The Chair said he had on one day counted 64 lorries from Pontrilas going past his garden. The Clerk was instructed to continue to express the meeting's concern about the situation.

6 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

No County Councillors were present, so no reports were given.

7 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th April 2022.

These Minutes were approved by the Councillors who were present at that meeting.

8 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th April 2022.

Clause 7 (a) – The Clerk said that Mr Phillip Jones had contacted him to say that, if bills were being sent to him, they were not going to his current address, and he had no knowledge of them.

Clause 7(b) – the meeting approved the bill from Monmouthshire County Council. This led to a debate over concerns at dog mess, and especially on the playing-field. Councillor Edwards said that even a successful removal of dog waste could leave a smear behind which was sufficient to cause disease and blindness. The Clerk said that the only way he could see of enforcing the law was by a by-law, which he would explore, but it was agreed that this did seem draconian. It was generally agreed by the meeting that the problem lay in enforcement.

Clause 8 (a) – the Clerk said that this planning application (for lopping a tree and felling another) had been refused. The Clerk was instructed to express concern about the possible danger to passers-by.

Clause 9 – the Clerk said that to his exasperation SSE had looked at the billings, sent him an enormous sheaf of paper, from which it could just about be worked out that, far from the Council owing money, it was in credit for £1,652.57. He was instructed to request the return of the credited amount.

Clause 11 (a) - Councillor Watkins said that a part of a swing had gone missing – Playdale would need to advise. Councillor Cowan said they made an annual inspection.

Clause 11 (b) - the memorial garden was progressing well, and recent efforts to reseed it had proved successful. The Wodland Trust had been very pleased and a covenant had been put on and registered with the Platinum Jubilee

Clause 12 – Councillor Watkins reported that the toilet was still being blocked. Councillor Edwards asked if the Caretaker could carry out an inspection before and after use to try to detect who the miscreants might be, although it was generally agreed that that was too difficult for her to superintend.

Councillor Edwards revisited the issue of the gardening club. Councillors Cowan and Watkins said that they had been seen to be in breach of rules relating to the Covid pandemic. Councillor Edwards asked if everybody was aware of the rules, and Councillor Watkins said they were.

9 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said there was no correspondence to be considered.

10 To consider planning matters.

The Chair asked if more notice could be given by the Clerk. The Clerk said that the second application had only arrived two days previously, but that he would certainly try to comply with this request with future applications. The Chair said that it was also going to be useful to ask the Monmouthshire County Council in future when they were considering applications that the Council had been asked to look at.

- (a) 22/20998/DISCON – 1 Triley Court – request to install a conservation type roof window which will be below the level of the wall (parapet) and therefore invisible to the outside”. It was accepted that this application was accurately described and was agreed.
- (b) DM/2022/00676 – The Woodlands, Old Monmouth Road – Arwel Rees – demolition of existing rear, single storey conservatory and replacement with new rear garden room. Councillor Edwards said he had checked the drawings by going onto the web-site, and was content with them, and hoped that those who were concerned would do likewise. It was agreed that this was admirable, but clearly not everybody was computer-literate, and it was still desirable for the Clerk to give a full description. The Clerk was instructed to ask for time to look at the application.

11 To consider the payment of Accounts.

The following payments were approved:

Clerk’s Salary £1215.28
HMRC £243.05
Admin £28.70
British Gas £176.25
Cleaner £394.25
Bins £650
Caretaker -£760
Mon CC for bins £132
Zurich Insurance renewal £1690.64

The Clerk explained about the difficulty with the Gas bills, and Councillor Edwards asked if a Direct Debit was possible. Councillor Watkins said this was not allowed.

It was agreed that the Chair should be a signatory to the cheques, and the Clerk said he would obtain a mandate for him to sign.

12 To consider the Financial Statement

The statement had been circulated and considered. The meeting had also had the statement for 2021/22, which the Clerk said had had to be redone because the bank had not given a full statement up to 30.3.22

until the April statement was send through. Councillor Watkins distributed a statement showing money which had been paid into the account in May and which was therefore not shown on the Financial Statement. The Chair commented that things were looking good going forward after a rocky ride in 2021/22.

Councillor Skinner asked if the payment for the cleaner should not come from the Hall receipts and the payment for the Caretaker from the Precept. Councillor Watkins said that might be ideal, but the position had been difficult since the Council had taken over the Hall. When that happened, there was no money in the Hall account, and then, when things were starting to take a turn for the better, Covid 19 had closed the Hall totally.

13 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

The issue of the swing was revisited, and assurance given that it was to be repaired.

14 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

Councillor Watkins said the polling booths had been collected at last. It was agreed that the Clerk needed urgently to contact Initial to make sure they emptied the sanitary bins. The lights in the disabled toilet were not working properly, and an electrician needed to be called in to check the gents and ladies toilets.

Councillor Edwards asked about the CCTV, and whether it was legitimate, especially recording (e.g.) children's parties. Councillor Skinner expressed the view that it was OK for outside but should not be used inside. The Clerk said that there was nothing illicit about it, and it would help to clarify the identity of anyone committing burglary or causing damage. Councillor Sulway suggested that a sign needed to be up to confirm that there was active CCTV. Councillor Watkins said this was already there. The Chair asked if the Hall could be checked last thing at night to make sure the door was locked, as he knew that this had failed to happen three or four times.

15 To receive information from One Voice Wales

The Clerk said no information was to be considered.

16 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies

(a) Councillor Watkins referred to the issue of the Woodland Trust and their approval of the memorial garden.

(b) A check was due from Monmouthshire County Council regarding the safety, licences etc. of the Hall.

(c) Councillor Edwards asked about the issue of consumption of alcohol, which the Clerk said had already been the subject of a recent decision of the Council. Following a request to hold a private birthday party at which people were to bring their own alcohol, it had been noted that this was not unlawful, but that the Council had taken the decision to make a total ban in view of the difficulty of ensuring that children were not supplied with alcohol.

17 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

(a) It was agreed that, given the reduction of the number of Councillors to 12, the Standing Orders should be amended to reduce the Quorum to 3.

(b) The Clerk was asked to clarify the rule regarding Declarations of Interest.

(c) The Clerk said he would write to all Councillors regarding the return of election expenses which had to be filled in even if no expenses had been incurred, and returned by the 5th June.

18 Date of the next meeting of the Council – the Chairman said that the next meeting of the Council would be on **Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7pm.**