

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 15TH JUNE 2022

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner (Vice-Chair), GG Cowan, Rev J Gray, SD Sulway, M Edwards, A Barber and C Harry. Also in attendance was County Councillor Sue McConnel and Catherine Vaughan, LGBT officer.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Ms N Watkins, Kyle Eldridge and S Baugh.

2 Declaration of interests.

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

3 Resignation letter by Councillor Ewers

Councillor Cowan said that he had been in contact with the Returning Officer, who had told him that, because Councillor Ewers had not yet signed his Declaration of willingness to serve as Councillor, he was not strictly a Councillor, so that his letter of resignation was of no effect. The Clerk said that he would check up on the procedure. It was generally agreed that it was not helpful for the Council to be unable to fill in the gap left by an elected candidate who had made it clear he did not wish to serve.

4 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

The Police report had been distributed before the meeting. The Clerk said that he had believed that the police officer would be available that evening. He would try to bring about a meeting as soon as possible.

There was continuing discussion concerning the 20 mph limit. The Chair said that his understanding was that this was in fact a test period only, and that the current limit remained in law at 30 mph until 2023. County Councillor McConnel said that she had talked to people about it. She understood that it was Welsh Government policy even if it was not yet law, and so enforcement would be coming sooner rather than later. She had encountered frustration from people on Hereford Road, and would be interested in the views of anybody at the meeting who cared to vent them. At the end of the day, she suspected that science would dictate the result. Councillor Cowan said that the air quality issue had been tested on Hafodyrynys Road.

Councillor Harry expressed his continued concern about people not observing even the 30 mph limit on Hereford Road. There was general concern about this issue. Councillor Rev J Gray suggested that perhaps traffic-calming should be proposed. Councillor Sulway said that a 25 mph limit might be more appropriate than 20 mph.

Councillor Cowan said that the problem about vandalism to the shed at the front of the Hall was not going away. His understanding was that the process of tracking and correcting the behaviour of offenders was a slow one, because each of them was being dealt with separately. Councillor Barber expressed concern over vandalism generally. Councillor Cowan said that, generally, the police did not appear to be interested unless there was 100% evidence of identification. Councillor Edwards said that perhaps a letter to the Police Commissioner might assist.

5 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

County Councillor McConnel introduced herself to the Council. She hoped to carry on the good work of Roger Harris. The issue of the speed limit was going to be top of her agenda.

6 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2022.

These Minutes were approved, although Councillor Edwards wished it to be recorded (under item 7(b)) that he had not agreed that enforcement of dog control by a by-law was draconian. That was duly noted.

7 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2022.

Clause 8 (7(b)) – there was a discussion about continuing concerns at dog mess, and especially on the playing-field. Councillor Edwards said that some councils had signed up to a Red Card Scheme, and he wondered if the Council could consider joining this. He intended to write to the Welsh Government Medical Officer, and he wondered if it might be a criminal offence for a dog owner to allow a dog to defecate and then not remove the faeces. The Chair said that the difficulty lay in enforcement.

Councillor Barber said that Mardy AFC had put up notices, which were ignored and/or taken down, and comments to people leading dogs fell on deaf ears. There was also concern that mothers were taking their dogs into the play area. It was agreed that this was something that needed to be monitored. The police apparently said that they did not have enough evidence.

Clause 8 (11 (b)) – Councillor Cowan said there was a question as to how long the garden project would continue to be supervised by Keep Wales Tidy. Monmouthshire County Council wanted established trees

Clause 8 (12) – The toilet was still being blocked. Councillor Edwards repeated his request that the Caretaker might 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, and there would presumably be a cost implication for this additional work. On that point, Councillor Sulway questioned why the cost of the Caretaker, according to the financial statement, was more than the bookings, and asked what she actually did. The Chair said he would try to clarify this. Reverting to the issue of the toilets, it was commented that a contributory cause was parents bringing their children to (for instance) Bingo sessions and then not supervising them.

The Chair said he had met the representatives of the Gardening Club, and they wanted to recommence using the Hall. Councillor Harry said he understood the £30 bill would be paid, and that issue would hopefully be out of the way.

The Chair said he had also made enquiries of Barnfields and they had confirmed that they would repair the projector. It was agreed that the Chair should have plenary powers to agree to the cost of these repairs. Councillor Cowan said that it would be important to have instructions for use or somebody to give those instructions – possibly the Caretaker.

Clause 14 – There was some discussion as to whether sufficient notice was given of the existence of the CCTV, both inside and outside the hall. The Chair said he would make enquiries of Pomegranate of how much signs would cost.

8 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said there was no correspondence to be considered.

9 To consider planning matters.

The Clerk distributed papers relating to The Woodlands as discussed at the last meeting. The Clerk said he had been given more time to look at the application. The application was discussed and agreed.

10 To consider the payment of Accounts.

The following payments were approved:

Admin £81.40
British Gas £255.62
Cleaner £402.35
Bins £520
Caretaker -£765.99
Terry Morgan (keys) £20.69

Following on from the May meeting, the Clerk was instructed to find out if Direct Debits were possible. The Clerk handed to the Chair and Vice-Chair new bank mandates to sign.

Councillor Cowan asked about the contract with Initial. The Clerk said this had not yet been renewed because he needed to check whether emptying the bins would be included or not – that would affect the price. Councillor Cowan asked if Initial owned the bins. The Clerk said he would check. It was agreed that, if Mike Pearson was to undertake the contract, 3 sanitary bins and 2 refuse bins needed to be emptied.

The Clerk said that the Maintenance Contract with British Gas had come to an end, and he asked for suggestions as to which company might be best to replace it. Councillor Edwards recommended Octopus – he would send details to the Clerk – and he suggested that they might also supply the energy.

11 To consider the Financial Statement

This had been distributed. No issues were raised as a result. .

12 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

No issues arose

13 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

(a) Councillor Cowan said some tiles were missing from the roof. The Chair said he would look into this.

(b) The Clerk said he was contacting Gabb & Co with a view to making sure there was an effective lease for the proposed committee. Councillor Cowan expressed his concern that the committee needed to be financially watertight and its accounts would have to be audited.

14 To receive information from One Voice Wales

The Clerk said no information was to be considered.

15 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies

No issues arose

16 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

(a) Dog Waste Bins – after some discussion, the Clerk was instructed to check on the cost of sourcing and servicing bins on Willow Court and the Skirrid car park. Councillor Watkins referred to the issue of the Woodland Trust and their approval of the memorial garden.

(b) It was agreed that, save where a Councillor objected, Agendas etc should be sent to Councillors by e-mail rather than post, in view of the fact that first class stamps now cost 95 p each.

(c) An issue was raised as to the maintenance of the pathway to the north-east of the football ground. It was uncertain where responsibility lay. Councillor Cowan said this had been the case for many years.

(d) The question of the footpath from the Willows was raised again. It was pointed out that this had been a precondition of planning permission for the building of the site, and Persimmon should be held to it.

17. The date of the next meeting of the Council

The Chairman said that the next meeting would be on **Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 7pm.**