

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 20TH DAY OF JULY 2022

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner (Vice-Chair), GG Cowan, Ms N Watkins, K Eldridge, SD Sulway, M Edwards and A Barber. Also in attendance was County Councillor Sue McConnel and Catherine Vaughan, LGBT officer.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors M Ewers, C Harry, S Baugh and the Rev J Gray.

2. Declaration of interests.

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

3. Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

PC Florin Ionescu (known generally as “Mike”) attended the meeting and introduced himself. He said that he was out and about and had got to know the area. There were no major issues. He had a report which had not been available for distribution in sufficient time for the meeting. There was a reference to a neighbour dispute. There had been an attempted theft of a car in Mardy, and the same people had actually got away with another car near Waitrose. The information was on CCTV, a registration number had been secured, and the matter was being investigated,

Councillor Edwards raised the continuing discussion concerning the 20 mph limit, and queried how appropriate it was on the main Hereford Road as opposed to side roads. PC Ionescu said that he had himself made a survey of speeds on the Hereford Road, which showed an average of 25 to 26 mph, with a maximum of 40 mph. The Chair said that his understanding was the 30 mph speed limit should remain on the Hereford Road, but that 20 mph was good on the minor roads. Councillor Eldridge asked if it was possible for a speed camera to be made available, and if he could have training, and PC Ionescu said that he would be happy to make himself available for this.

Councillor Edwards said that his understanding was that dog-fouling was already a criminal offence since 2014, and wondered if this was being enforced by fixed penalty notices. PC Ionescu confirmed that it was a crime, but the Chair said that the difficulty clearly lay with enforcement. PC Ionescu wondered if flyers could be distributed, illustrating the dangers of dog waste.

Councillor Edwards asked about vandalism generally and particularly graffiti, which PC Ionescu said he had seen. In relation to the vandalism to the Hall itself and the shed, Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the issue had been referred to the Youth Offending Team; the offenders had been identified, but it appeared that they were being dealt with one at a time, which hardly seemed to meet the case.

County Councillor McConnel said that she had put out a newsletter, and asked PC Ionescu if he could make a contribution to it, which he said he would.

4. To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

County Councillor McConnel said that the major issue remained the proposed introduction of the 20 mph speed limit. It appeared that there might be some “wriggle room” by drawing a distinction between the main road and the side roads. The discussion was ongoing.

She said that Monmouthshire Housing were trialling a scheme at the St Andrews Crescent flats to try to bolster the environment generally. Two big wheely bins had been placed there for refuse, and planters were to be repaired and replanted. In answer to Councillor Eldridge, she said that it was probably going to last for a few months. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that a similar scheme had been attempted at St David’s Court, and a meeting was planned for the 21st July. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the planters referred to by County Councillor Mc Connel had been wrecked deliberately, and it was hoped to try to bring about a change of attitude, and to forestall Anti Social Behaviour generally in the area.

County Councillor McConnell referred briefly to the ongoing debate about the use of the Community Council car park for parking for the school, which was something she favoured.

She said how nice it had been to see the Eid celebrations and she referred also to the Pride event at St Mary's Church.

She also referred to an issue at Croesonen Parc, where some houses were overlooking the building development on Ross Road. It was hoped that a more attractive vista could be brought about by a fence. Meanwhile, it was concerning that dog waste bags were being thrown onto the development from above. By contrast, Councillor Cowan commented on the fact that the builders on the development had encroached onto the area above, and that it was concerning that children might wander from Croesonen Parc onto the development.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2022.

The Minutes were approved save that the final sentence on page 5 under the item 15(a) was clearly an error and should not appear there. The Clerk agreed, and apologised for this. His activities had very much been limited by his house move, which had been long and painful. He apologised for the delay and the short-fall in service, which he hoped would now be short-lived.

6. To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2022.

Page 1 – 3 – The Clerk reported that his understanding was that Councillor Ewers had now signed his Declaration, so that his membership of the Council was confirmed

Page 3 - Clause 8 (12) – The Chair said that he had investigated the issue with reference to the toilets. It appeared that there was nothing in the toilets which could have caused the blockage, and that the blockage itself had clearly accumulated over many months – pre-Covid lock-down. Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins confirmed that the problem appeared to lie in an inadequate fall. The Chair said that he intended that it should be investigated on a regular basis.

The Chair said that the £30 bill to the Gardening Club had now been paid

The Chair said that the projector had been looked at by Barnfields. There was a question over whether it had been subject to interference.

Page 3 – Clause 14 – the Chair said he did not yet have quotes from Pomegranate for signs to advertise the use of CCTV.

Page 4 – Clause 13(a) – the Chair said that the missing roof tiles had been checked and were being seen to.

Page 4 – Clause 13(b) – the Clerk said he was consulting with Gabb & Co regarding the lease for the Hall, and hoped to be able to report to the next meeting.

Page 5 – Clause 16(a) – the Clerk said that he had not been able to investigate the cost of dog waste bins, but hoped to have information for the next meeting.

Page 5 – Clause 16(b) – Councillors Cowan, Skinner and Ms N Watkins said that they wanted to receive their Agendas and Minutes by post.

7. To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said there was no correspondence to be considered.

8. To consider planning matters.

The Clerk said there were no planning matters to be considered.

9. To consider the Clerk's Salary

At the request of the Clerk, this item was postponed to the next meeting

10. To consider payment of Accounts.

The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary £1215.28

PAYE £243.05

Cleaner £475.88

Bins £520

Caretaker £950

Toilet repairs £90

The Clerk said that he would report to the Chair on the issue of Administration expenses, and the meeting agreed that the Chair would have authority to approve these.

Councillor Sulway questioned what duties the Caretaker was performing and whether she had a formal written contract. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that she did.

11. To consider the Financial Statement

The Clerk apologised for the lack of a financial statement, owing to lack of time on his part due to his house move, and said that one would be made available at the next meeting.

12. To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

Councillor Cowan said the trees in the memorial garden needed to be attended to.

13. To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

(a) The issue of the use of the car park of the Community Hall for the Welsh School. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that people were “up in arms” about the proposal, and that the Chair had no right to discuss this issue with anybody, and that she was making a formal complaint to the Ombudsman about it. The Chair said that all he had done was to speak to people, which he would have been entitled to do as an ordinary member of the community, so he was unable to see a problem with this. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the Head Teacher, Mrs Oliver, had already publicised the use of the car park. **In the past, there had been a problem with parking for Cardiac Rehab, who were genuine users of the Hall, and that people had tended to use the car park to go shopping.**

The Chair said that nothing was finalised unless and until the Council had voted on it, but that he considered the proposal was a good one and should be aired.

Councillor Cowan said that if this proposal were put before the Council, he would demand a recorded vote. He would want to make it absolutely clear that he was against the proposal. This had been a road travelled some years ago, and he considered that the Council should not be trying to solve a County Council problem. Cardiac Rehab had been lost already. He questioned why the open space at the back of Llwynu Lane could not be used instead. He considered that the Council would be creating a dangerous situation.

Councillor Skinner said it was a temporary provision, but that something should be done to remedy the problem in a confined space. There was an angry exchange between Councillors Cowan and Skinner, during which Councillor Cowan threatened that, if Councillor Skinner did not “shut up”, he (Councillor Cowan) would come “over there” and made a gesture as if to punch Councillor Skinner.

The Chair said that his suggestion was that the car park could be opened at 8:30 a.m. and closed by 9:15 a.m. and then opened again at 2:45 pm and closed at 3:30 pm. He considered that this would be serving the needs of the community. It would be marshalled by the caretaker. There was general concern as to whether he would need to be specially trained, and if the proposal generally would cause problems with the Council’s Public Liability Insurance, and the Clerk was instructed to check on the situation.

- (b) The ceilings in the changing-rooms were agreed to be in need of decoration, and a fan was not working properly, which added to the problem

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

- (a) The Ace Partnership. Councillor Ms N Watkins declared an interest as Chair of ACE whose objective was the provision of help to people regarding issues of debt, Benefits, food parcels and clothes. The Clerk had offered free legal advice. 43% of those served came from the immediate surrounding area. She asked for £750 per annum for three years in order to enable this service to continue. Councillor Skinner proposed that £500 should be paid, but no seconder was available for this proposal. An amendment was proposed by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Cowan that the request of £750 per annum for three years should be paid, and this was agreed unanimously.

16. To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

- (a) The Chair said that the Council was the only council that he was aware of out of 735 councils that held a meeting in August. He suggested that the August meeting should be dispensed with. Councillor Cowan pointed out that Standing Orders required a meeting every month, and the Clerk

confirmed that notice did need to be given of any proposal to change Standing Orders, so the August meeting for 2022 was currently a requirement.

17. The date of the next meeting of the Council

The Chairman said that the next meeting would be on **Wednesday 17th August at 7pm.**