

**LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILIO BERTHOLAU**

Council website address-[www.llantiliopertholevcc.org.uk](http://www.llantiliopertholevcc.org.uk)

Chairman/Cadeiriad  
Councillor M Hayward  
Deri-Down  
Hereford Road  
Abergavenny,  
Monmouthshire  
NP7 6HT  
Tel: 01873 853336  
Mob: 07951 208554

Clerk/Clerc  
Mr. R. Wade  
4 The Coach House  
Penoyre Estate  
Cradoc  
Brecon  
Powys  
LD3 9LP  
Tel: 01874 409890  
Mob: 07502 590038

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY**  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY**  
**COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 23rd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2022**

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

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Harry and Sulway.

**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**

The police report for October 2022 was distributed. No major issues arose. Councillor Edwards expressed surprise that there was no reference to the 20 mph limit and the degree of cooperation with it.

**4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors**

(a) County Councillor McConnel said that the 20 mph limit was a major concern. She had had a considerable amount of correspondence, most people saying that it was a good thing in minor roads and built-up areas, but less so on the major roads – i.e. the Hereford Road. She said there was little or no “wriggle room”, although she was aware that Mark Hand was considering the possibility of achieving the result by the use of street furniture, traffic calming, and a cycle lane.

(b) On another topic, County Councillor McConnell said that she and Councillor had been involved in a meeting with residents of St George's Crescent and Monmouth Housing regarding anti-social behaviour from what could best be described as young tearaways aged 12 to 15, throwing dog food through windows, damaging vehicles etc. Incidents needed to be reported promptly. The Chair said that he had phoned 911 with a view to reporting young people throwing bangers and kicking bins. He had been on the phone for 65 minutes with no answer.

Councillor Eldridge said he had had a meeting with Monmouth Housing, County Councillor McConnell, PC Ionescu and some of the residents, and but his perception was that Monmouth Housing were simply not bothered, and kept "passing the buck" back to PC Ionescu. He wondered if the problem might be that Monmouthshire County Council did not have a budget to support action against it. He questioned if the Police Commissioner should be contacted. He was concerned that insufficient was being done to protect the community.

(c) County Councillor McConnell mentioned the issue of dog mess. She had been able to get a mention in the press. Somebody in Ross Road had put out a bag to collect dog excrement. She wondered if a new dog bin could be purchased to assist in this, although Councillor Watkins said that Ross Road was now part of Abergavenny Town rather than Llantilio Pertholey. Katharine Vaughan said that she had seen no bins on St Teilo's Road, and felt that one was required, although Councillor Ms N Watkins said that in her experience people did not want dog bins outside their own homes.

(d) Councillor Edwards asked if the money from speeding fines had been used to defray expenses in the community, and County Councillor McConnell said she would find out.

(e) County Councillor McConnell said that the lane between the Welsh School and the playing field was set to be improved under the Active Travel scheme. One or two residents wanted to improve the lane, and two teenagers to whom she had spoken had mentioned the possibility of roller-skating. She also asked about the need for repairs to the fence to Mardy House, on the other side of the Hereford Road, although it was suggested by Councillor Cowan that that might be owned by the County Council.

## **5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th October 2022.**

Councillor Edwards proposed, seconded by Councillor Skinner, that the Minutes should be approved as a true record, and this was agreed unanimously.

## **6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022.**

(a) Page 4 – Clause 6 – Councillor Edwards asked about the usage of the Community Hall car park by

the school. Councillor Mr N Watkins said there had nearly been an accident with a lady reversing her car without looking. The Chair said that that had not happened in the Car Park but on the approach road, which was not in the ownership of, nor the responsibility of, the Council. Councillor Edwards said that people did drive cars recklessly. Katharine Vaughan asked if the approach road to the car park was actually subject to a 30 mph limit, since her sat nav system seemed to say as much. The Clerk was requested to check on this. Councillor Ewers said this seemed unlikely since the new 20 mph limit clearly applied to St David's Road.

- (b) Councillor Ms N Watkins said that she recollected that certain Councillors had left the meeting while it was going on. She believed this should be specifically stated. The Clerk said he would check his hand-written notes on that point.
- (c) Page 5 – item 7 – the issue of the Defibrillator at Bryn-y-Gwenin was brought up. Councillor Eldridge said he believed it should be possible to get one free through One Voice Wales. The Clerk was requested to check on this point.
- (d) Page 5 – item 8. The Council had been anxious about the quality and size of the Planning material which the Clerk had been able to show the meeting. The Clerk had now sent details through on line for Councillors to check for themselves, and would do the same from now on. The Clerk said that it was now too late to object to the Planning items, and this was something which would need to be looked at again.
- (e) Page 6 – 14 – Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the representative on the Deri School Board of Governors had been appointed by the Town Council although it might strictly have been the turn of the Llantilio Pertholey Community Council to appoint one. She was already on the Board as Community Governor, and it was agreed that there was little point in disputing this issue.
- (f) Page 7 – item 15 – it was agreed that the Caretaker should be asked to investigate whether there was a need for Wifi

## **7 To consider correspondence received.**

- (a) The Clerk said he had received an e-mail inviting applications for membership of the governors of the new school, which was likely to be called the King Henry VIII school. Two candidates were put forward, Councillor Ms N Watkins proposed by Councillor Cown and seconded by Councillor Ewers and Councillor Eldridge proposed by Councillor Skinner and seconded by Councillor Barber. A vote was taken, and Councillor Ms N Watkins received three votes and Councillor Eldridge four votes. It was therefore agreed that the name of Councillor Eldridge should be put forward for consideration.

(b) The Clerk said he had received a letter from the Gardening Club, anxious about their safety in collecting the Hall key from the key-safe which was in a dark alley-way adjoining the Caretaker's home. The Clerk said he had referred this to the Caretaker, who had reported that she had had a meeting with their representatives and had calmed any fears, especially as she had moved home.

At this point, Councillor Ewers left the meeting,

## 8 **To consider planning matters.**

Two items were discussed, having already been notified to the Councillors by e-mail, with a hand-delivered hard copy to Councillor Skinner:

(a) DM/2022/01599 - Penlanlas Farm – proposed conversion of a barn to one dwelling – this had originally been granted in January 2000 but the original plan had had to be reduced due to economic reasons. This was agreed.

(b) 22/21374/FUL – Upper Triley Poultry Farm – conversion of barn - this had been sent to the Council in September but had not been considered that month because the meeting had been cancelled owing to the death of the Queen. It had already been granted by the Monmouthshire County Council. In any event, the Council agreed that application and decided that no representations needed to be made.

## 9 **To consider the payment of Accounts**

(a) The following payments were approved:

Monmouthshire County Council for the maintenance contract £1,760.28

The Clerk's salary £1,215.28

HMRC for income tax on the Clerk's salary £243.05

WED £4.20 for work on the Hall

£12.86 for Robert Price for materials

£120 for Butler Brothers for work on the Hall

£338.40 for Butler Brothers for work on the Hall

£5,130 for the Christmas lights

(b) Retrospective authority was agreed for payment of the Caretaker £760, the cleaner £415.45 and Mike Pearson for bin collection £650. These had already been paid by Councillor Ms N Watkins. Retrospective authority was also agreed to the payments, already made by the Chair, to Butler Brothers of £238.06 and £378.48. All the payments to Butler Brothers were for necessary building and/or repair

work, and especially urgent work following flooding in the recent bad weather which had caused rain to come in through the windows.

- (c) Retrospective formal authority was also given for the payment of the grant of £750 to the ACE Partnership which had been agreed in July 2022 but which had not yet been made.

County Councillor McConnel and Katharine Vaughan then left the meeting to permit open discussion of the items relating to the payment of account.

- (d) The Clerk said that none of these payments could be made by him because he did not have the cheque book, which according to Councillor Cowan he had placed with the Bank, and in any event both Councillor Cowan and Councillor Ms N Watkins, who were signatories to the Council's bank account, stated that they were not prepared to sign any cheques unless they had sight of the invoices. The Clerk said that he had the invoices at the meeting, and offered to show these to Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins there and then, but they maintained their refusal unless they were provided with the originals or copies. The Clerk pointed out that he was the Council's responsible Financial Officer, and it was his job to inspect invoices and to send out cheques.

Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins said they had signed some cheques which had been formally agreed by the Council at its October meeting, but were not prepared to sign any others because of what Councillor Cowan said were anomalies on the account, but he declined to give any details of these alleged anomalies save that he said that the payment to Y Fenni Gardens had been for work done on behalf of Mardy AFC, not the Council. The Chair said that was not the case – it was clearly to do with work on the car park to the Hall, which was Council property and therefore Council responsibility. Everybody knew what had happened and why the work was done. The matter had been put before the whole Council at its last meeting and had been agreed unanimously. Neither Councillor Cowan nor Councillor Watkins had spoken against it, and the Minutes of the last meeting had been agreed as correct. The Chair also asked Councillor Cowan why he was not prepared to sign a cheque which would have reimbursed him (the Chair) for money he had paid out on behalf of the Council. Councillor Cowan responded that there were anomalies on the account, and that the bank (Lloyds Bank) were investigating.

- (e) Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins said they were also not prepared to sign the form which would have enabled the new signatories, already agreed by the Council, to sign cheques on behalf of the Council. Councillor Cowan said he was not prepared to sign the mandate form because he was responsible for what happened with the account. The Clerk suggested that the appropriate course was for him to sign the form and then resign as a signatory or agree to his name being removed once

the new signatories were in place. That would be the way of ensuring that he no longer bore responsibility for the account. This made no difference to Councillor Cowan's attitude, which was condemned by other Councillors.

(f) Councillor Cowan said he had spoken to the Monitoring Officer of Monmouthshire about the situation. The Clerk asked who the Monitoring Officer was, and Councillor Ms N Watkins said that it was John Pearson.

(g) In view of the attitude of the two signatories to the Council's cheques, the Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Skinner) that the Council should be authorised to open a new bank account. The Clerk said that any further money from the hire of the Hall should be paid into this new account, and it was his intention to approach the County Council to ask that the December instalment of the Precept should also be paid into that new account. This was approved by five votes with no votes against and two abstentions, being Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins.

#### **10. To Consider the Financial Statement**

The Clerk said it was impossible to prepare a statement because of the attitude taken by Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins. He (the Clerk) was not receiving the bank statements because the same form which was supposed to be signed by the two signatories also authorised the change of postal address. The Clerk said he had telephoned the bank, and the staff had refused to give him any information whatever because he was not a signatory. Councillor Ms N Watkins queried this, and the Clerk agreed that his understanding had been that he was a signatory, but the bank clearly had no record of this.

#### **11. To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee**

No issues arose other than those already discussed.

#### **12. To consider any matters regarding the Community Hall**

No issues arose other than those already discussed

#### **13. To consider information from One Voice Wales**

No issues arose

#### **14. To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies**

No issues arose.

#### **15. To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.**

- (a) Councillor Edwards asked about electricity bills which might be occasioned by the Christmas lights. He was assured that they were LED lights, so no issue of additional electricity bills applied. It was agreed in principle that consideration should be given to extending the lights to the church so that residents of the Willows estate could join in with the festive spirit. This should be looked at in February or March 2023. It was pointed out that authority might have to be obtained from Monmouthshire County Council because the lights were attached to the lamp-posts.
- (b) Councillor Barber asked if the Remembrance Day parade in the Town Centre was something in which the Council was normally involved, and he was told that this did not normally happen, and that the Council was usually represented at the service in St Teilo's church, Llantilio Pertholey, as indeed happened this year.
- (h) Councillor Ms N Watkins asked if the Clerk had been notified of a change in the officers of the local Women's Institute. He said he had not received any such notification.

**16. The date of the next meeting of the Council**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 7 p.m..**