

**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 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2023**

**Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner (Vice-Chair), K Eldridge, M Edwards , C Harry, Rev Julian Gray, S Baugh and A Barber. Also in attendance were County Councillor Sue McConnel and Catherine Vaughan, LGBT officer, and Mrs Marjorie Bennett of Bryn-y-Gwenin on the floor of the meeting.**

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were tendered by Councillors M Ewers and S Salway. County Councillor Rev M Lane had also sent his apologies for his unavoidable absence.

**2 Declaration of interests.**

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

**3 Retrospective approval for the postponement, due the indisposition of both the Chair and the Clerk, of the meeting which was due to have been held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

This was duly agreed.

**4 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel**

There was no police report available, so this item could not be discussed.

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

County Councillor McConnell said that there was little outward activity in the County Council, but a great deal of anguish over the budget. The money award from the Welsh Government was more than had been anticipated, which was at least some good news.

Councillor Edwards asked about the destination of the money which came from the fines due to the new 20 mph limit. County Councillor McConnell said she was still awaiting information.

**6 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.**

Apart from some “typos” pointed out by Councillor Edwards, these Minutes were approved as a true record on a proposal made by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Harry.

**7 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.**

(a) Page 2 – Clause 4(b) - Councillor Edwards said he believed it had been dog excrement that had been thrown, rather than dog food, and that was confirmed by both County Councillor McConnell and by Councillor Eldridge, who said that it had been decided not to take any formal action at this stage, but to see if the behaviour was repeated. County Councillor McConnell said that the obvious presence of the Police in the form of PC Ionescu (whose assistance was warmly praised by both County Councillor McConnell and Councillor Eldridge) was seen to take the miscreants aback, and that might resolve the issue.

(b) Page 3 – Clause 6(c) – Mrs Bennett mentioned again the issue of the Defibrillator in her capacity as representative of the Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall. She confirmed that the machine itself had been donated to the Hall, but the funds she was seeking related to the need to ensure that that the machine was made fit for use and also available to the general public 24/7. The two particular bills were the cost of refurbishment of £550.80 and £294.13 being the cost of making the old BT Phone Box suitable for accommodating the Defibrillator. There would be a cost of ongoing maintenance of £100 per annum which would be borne by the Hall itself. She said it was important that there should be a Defibrillator in the Bryn-y-Gwenin area not least because this would accord with local policy but also because otherwise the nearest would be at Nevill Hall. Councillor Edwards expressed some scepticism about the worth of a Defibrillator, but the Chair said that if it only saved the life of one person in 50, it would be worth it. Councillor Baugh said that the machine quite literally “talked” the user through the procedure involved in using it, which made it easy to use even for a member of the public without training, although Councillor Eldridge said that training might be available via the Be Community, and suggested that contact could be made with Connor Leacock. A proposal made by

Councillor Rev J Gray and seconded by Councillor M Skinner, that the Council should pay the full use requested by Mrs Bennett £844.13 was duly passed. County Councillor McConnel suggested that perhaps the event could be usefully publicised by the *Abergavenny Chronicle*.

- (c) Page 3 – Clause 6(d) – the Chair confirmed that it was going to be necessary to postpone the Planning items to the next meeting, and that consideration generally needed to be given to the question of question of how the information about Planning should be disseminated to the Council member.
- (d) Page 3 – Clause 6(f) - The issue of Wifi was discussed again. The Chair asked about the likely cost of Wi-fi. Mrs Bennett said they had recently had it installed at the Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall for a cost of £20 per month. The question posed by the Chair was how much use would be made of it. It was agreed that this could be considered at the February 2023 meeting. The point was made that a visiting speaker might want to use a computer to play a powerpoint demonstration.
- (e) Page 3 – Clause 7 (a) Councillor Eldridge said that he had already been invited to be a member of the governors of the new school, and there was a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. He had written an article for the *Abergavenny Chronicle*.
- (f) Pages 5 – 6 – Clauses 9 (d) to (g) – The Clerk confirmed the events of the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November so far as concerned the Council’s main bank account, and that there had been non-cooperation by Councillors Cowan and Watkins, who were the signatories; even the description of John Pearson as the Monitoring Officer had been incorrect – he was in fact Matthew Phillips – and thus far no information had come forward to suggest that there were any “anomalies” on that account. There was every reason to doubt that what those two Councillors had said was correct, still less that it was said with the best interests of the Council in mind; evidently they had hoped to be able to obstruct Council business indefinitely.

However, the good news was that the new bank account had now been set up in very quick time - the Clerk expressed thanks to Councillor Harry for his hard work - and that the cheque book had arrived that day, and that facilities should shortly be available for banking on line. The new account had something over £16,500 in it, because the third instalment of the Precept for 2022 had been paid into that account, and there was more money to come from the Caretaker for payments for the use of the Community Hall, so there was no reason in the short term to fear that the Council would be unable to pay its way. However, it was obviously important to make sure of the safety of the money currently in the number one account. Councillors Cowan and Watkins had the cheque book in their possession, and he (the Clerk) did not even have access to bank statements because they were being sent to the address from which he had moved in July, and the address could not be changed without

the authority of Councillors Cowan and Watkins. This could only be given by means of a form which those Councillors had to sign, and they had refused to sign it.

The Clerk said he would be writing to the head office of the bank as well as to Matthew Phillips. Katharine Vaughan said her experience as an officer suggested that a complaint could be made to the police, and the Clerk confirmed that this was being considered as well. Any way in which the public money in the number one account – which exceeded £100,000 – could be returned to the proper care of the Clerk would be considered and used.

On a proposal by the Chair, it was confirmed by the meeting, for the avoidance of all doubt, that any authority which Councillors Cowan and Watkins might have had to deal with the Council finances had been totally removed.

#### **8 To consider correspondence received.**

The Clerk said he had received no correspondence that was not already being dealt with elsewhere in the meeting.

#### **9 To consider planning matters.**

As already discussed, the two items of which the Chair had already been informed were postponed until the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

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

(a) The following payments were approved:

British Gas £64.97

(b) Reference was made briefly to payments already approved at the meetings on the 26<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. All outstanding payments could now be made from the new bank account.

#### **11 To Consider the Financial Statement and, in Committee, the Budget and Precept Request for 2023/4, and any matters arising from the opening of the new Bank Account**

(a) The Clerk said he still could not prepare a full and accurate statement because of the attitude taken by Councillors Cowan and Ms N Watkins already set out above. However, he had distributed information to the Council to enable it to consider whether there should be an increase to the Precept request. It was agreed (Councillor Baugh and Councillor Rev Julian Gray seconding) that a request should be made of an increase of 3% to take account of the increases in utility bills.

(b) Councillor Edwards asked if, in future, the Financial Statement could contain information enabling the previous year to be compared with the current year, particularly so far as concerned the money in the account. The Clerk said he would endeavour to ensure that this was done.

**12 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee**

No issues arose.

**13 To consider any matters regarding the Community Hall**

(a) The Chair said that consideration needed to be given to the issue of the central heating at the Hall, to ensure that it was switched on for users but then switched off again to ensure no wastage of resources. He suggested that a remote switch could be given to the Caretaker. This was to be looked at again.

(b) Councillor Edwards asked how the use of the car park for the school was progressing. Several Councillors said they had observed this, and it was clearly working satisfactorily. There had been no complaints.

**14 To consider information from One Voice Wales**

No issues arose

**15 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies**

No issues arose.

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

(a) Councillor Harry brought up the issue of the path from the Willow Court estate to the school. The meeting was reminded that this was initially the responsibility of Persimmon, and its establishment had been a condition of its planning permission for the estate. It was very doubtful whether they had complied with it. It was agreed that County Councillor Rev M Lane should be asked to look into it.

(c) Earlier in the meeting the question of the extension of the Christmas lights to the Willow Court estate and the church and even to Coed-y-Brenin was mooted. The Clerk said that he would be meeting with the head of City Illuminations, Mr Dave Briggs, in February or March, and would seek the involvement of the Chair and any other Councillors who wished to be involved. The County Council would need to be consulted as well, because of the use of the lamp-posts,

**17 The date of the next meeting of the Council**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7 p.m.**