

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

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY**  
**COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY**  
**COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 25TH DAY OF JANUARY 2023**

**Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner (Vice-Chair), M Edwards, C Harry and A Barber. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade, and County Councillor Rev M Lane.**

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Ms N Watkins, M Ewers, Rev M Gray, K Eldridge and S Salway. County Councillor Sue McConnel had also sent his apologies for her unavoidable absence.

**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 reports for November and December 2022 were available. The earlier report had been distributed by e-mail; the later report was produced at the meeting in hard copy.

(a) The Council noted that the police had apparently known suspects for the incident on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, and the Clerk was requested to follow this up. Councillor Edwards asked if there were CCTV cameras in Mardy; this was not known, but the Clerk was asked to request the information, whilst it was recognised that the police might not provide it owing to the need for operational secrecy.

(b) The Chair asked about speeding on the Old Hereford Road, where there was little or no lighting.

There was general concern about the danger on that road, especially from “boy racers”.

(c) Councillor Edwards asked if there was a possibility of the police attending the next meeting. The

Clerk said he would enquire.

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

(a) County Councillor McConnel had sent in a written report which had been distributed to the Councillors by e-mail:

“(i) I was asked where speeding fines went. Our valued PCSO tells me that he believes that this money goes to central (Wales) Government. That is also my understanding.

(ii) Traffic speeding Hereford Road: residents have expressed concerns about speeding on the Hereford Rd. PCSO Ionescu tells me that this is a recognised “hotspot” for police attention and regular speed checks and enforcement is ongoing. Should he be able to attend the meeting, he can advise you about the significant number of drivers who have been subject to enforcement.

(iii) Public Toilets in Town: This attracted the attention of Councillors, and also, as it happens, the BBC. Accessible toilet facilities within practical distances when in town are crucial to the well-being and dignity of many people. I would be interested in the views of Llantilio Pertholey Community Councillors and residents. Monmouthshire County Council has responsibility for toilets, but in many cases, including that of Abergavenny, town councils have accepted the responsibility from county councils. The Abergavenny Town Council has not however agreed to take on the toilets in question as they are in such a sorry state. Monmouthshire County Council officers argue that Abergavenny already has more toilets than other towns. Of course this is all in the context of the very ‘challenging’ budget situation.”

(iv) I have started up a Facebook page “Cllr Su McConnel” as another means of communicating with residents”.

(b) Councillor Barber remarked on her comments especially regarding the toilets in Town. It was recognised that the provision of these was inadequate. The information was that the Town was prepared to take on the maintenance of the toilets in White Horse Lane – a necessary precondition to opening them – but lacked the finance to do so. There had been a report in Wales on Line.

(b) County Councillor Rev M Lane said that the budget was the particularly important news from the County Council – there was a full Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March at which it was to be discussed. The proposed increase in Council Tax was already 6% even with the cuts that had already been agreed. Even the payments for garden waste were to be raised.

**5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th January 2023.**

The Minutes were approved as a true record

**6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

(a) Page 3 – 6(c) – Councillor Edwards asked if Mrs Bennett could be requested to keep the Council up-to-date with the use of the Defibrillator. It was realised that only brief details could be given to preserve the identity of anybody whose condition had required its use. He cautioned against its untutored use, commenting that it could be dangerous to somebody who was *not* actually suffering a heart attack or suffering a near-death experience. There was discussion as to the item that should appear in the *Abergavenny Chronicle*.

(b) Page 3 – 6(f) – there had been no further thought about the provision of Wifi in the Hall. It was agreed that it could be put into the Agenda for the next meeting

(c) Page 3 – 9(d) to (g) – There was some discussion regarding the bank account at Lloyds Bank and the need to try to recover the cheque book and public money. Councillor Edwards asked about the bank statements, and was told that these were not coming to the Clerk because his old address was on the mandate, and Councillors Cowan and Watkins had refused to sign the mandate to enable the address to be changed. It was generally reckoned that all efforts should be made to ensure this could not happen again – for instance, to have more signatories and also. County Councillor Lane, a former bank manager, said that the attitude adopted by the bank was absolutely in line with what he would have expected – they would only be answering to the signatories. He said that the only way it could be changed would be by way of a legal challenge. The Clerk confirmed that all efforts were being made.

(d) 5 – 13(a) – the Chair said he was still looking into the issue of a remote switch for the heating of the Hall

(e) Page 5 – 16(a) – Councillor Harry asked if County Councillor Rev M Lane had had an opportunity to look into the matter of the footpath which, it was confirmed, had been a condition of the planning for

the Willow Court estate. He said it was still in the same appalling condition as ever. County Councillor Lane said he would make the appropriate enquiries. The Chair commented on how bad its surface was.

- (f) Page 5 – 16(c) – the Clerk confirmed that he was looking to March for a meeting with Mr David Briggs to discuss the extension to the Christmas lights.

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

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

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

Together with the three postponed from the last meeting, there were five planning matters:

- (a) DM/2022/01827 – Mardy Park Resource Centre – To develop a piece of ground with a Pergola with seating areas, benches etc.
- (b) 22/21567/FUL - Tyr y Wen Farm – Proposed timber-framed first floor balcony and replacement of conservatory,
- (c) 22-21614/FUL - Ye Olde Crown Inn – single-storey front extension for existing restaurant
- (d) DM/2022/01759 - 30 Poplars Road – tarmac the whole front of the house to park 2 cars and drop the kerb. County Councillor McConnel had sent in comments regarding this: “Lack of off road parking in residential areas, as more households have more cars, results in the nuisance to the community of pavement parking, on street parking and the resultant congestion, and to the householder of having to drive around looking for space to park at a cost to themselves and the environment. So I am very much in favour of measures that reduce these harms. I am concerned about tarmacking/sealing ground which might otherwise allow run off and soak-away of rainfall, given the increasing risks of flooding we are experiencing. I sought the advice of the County Council planning officers, and I am advised that the application would be scrutinised by them with a view to ensuring that the plans meet the requirements for drainage. Nonetheless, I would encourage the Community Council to submit a response on these lines.”
- (e) 23/21712/TPO – lopping and/or felling of trees along the Hereford Road.

All five applications were approved.

The Chair confirmed that he had personally looked at the plans and also viewed the sites of the applications, and urged all Councillors in whose wards applications were being considered to do the same, as it was the only way of properly viewing both the documents and the site. Computers could only tell so much. Councillor Edwards said that he had been able to look at applications via a Hyperlink which he would share with the Clerk and which the Clerk might wish to use for future occasions.

- (f) The Chair mentioned a particular matter which was concerning him regarding a garage on Gwent Road which had been turned into a gym. He questioned whether permission had been given for it. County Councillor Lane said he would look into it.

## **9 To consider the Clerk's salary**

The Clerk had circulated all Councillors with a document setting out his request for an increase, and this was discussed in his absence. The Council agreed to increase his salary to £9,500 with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and to then to review the salary every 12 months in January of each year.

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

The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary £1,215.28

HMRC £243.05

Caretaker £760

M Pearson (for the bins) £650

Cleaner £298.59

Admin £311.91

The Chair was to be reimbursed for payments made by him on behalf of the Council £93.28

British Gas £165.77

## **11. To Consider the Financial Statement and other issues**

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 well known, in blocking his access to the money in Lloyds Bank and the documents relating to it. Approval was given by the Council to on-line banking for the payments of accounts for the new account set up with the Nat West Bank. He reported that this would now contain £16,173.38. This included money which he had been handed that day by the

Caretaker from users of the Hall. If carefully managed, it should enable the Council to meet its commitments whilst steps were taken to recover the Council's property from the two Councillors who were preventing him from gaining access to them, but it was recognised that it was going to be a close-run thing.

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

(a) Councillor Harry raised the issue of the container which was to be purchased by Mardy AFC with the benefit of a grant in order to house a mower and line-maker and other equipment. He believed this had already been agreed in principle. The Clerk said he was not sure about this, but in any event the meeting agreed that this should be accommodated in principle, and the fine tuning of the actual position should be considered at the next meeting.

(b) The Chair said that the issue of dog bins was becoming important. There were bins in the playing field, and pressure needed to be put on people to use them. Notices put up by Mardy AFC were often ignored. The same applied to dogs being on a lead. He thought that there was actually a by-law in Bailey Park, and wondered if the Council could do the same with the playing field. The Clerk was requested to investigate.

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

The Chair said that there was a roof leak. It was agreed that he should urgently commission builders to mend it.

## **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.**

The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate the issue of Councillors allowances. In view of the problems with the Council's main bank account at Lloyds Bank, he asked if payment of the allowances could be postponed until after the beginning of the new financial year, when the new Precept payment would be made, so long as they were agreed before that time. The Clerk said that he doubted this, but would investigate and report back at the next meeting.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7 p.m.**