

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 17th APRIL 2023

Those attending: Councillors M Skinner (Vice-Chair), G G Cowan, Rev J Gray, C Harry, M Edwards, S Baugh and A Barber. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade, County Councillors Sue McConnel and Malcolm Lane and Katharine Jordan.

1 Appointment of Chair for the meeting

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair proposed (seconded by Councillor Barber) that Councillor Harry should act as Chair for the meeting, and this was agreed.

2 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors M Hayward and S Salway

3 Declaration of interests.

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

4 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

(a) The Police report for March 2023 was available and had been distributed by the Clerk by e-mail. The Clerk said that PCSO Ionescu had said that a police representative might be present, but clearly he had been unable to attend. There were some terms in the report which required clarification, and the Clerk was requested to ask PCSO Ionescu about them.

(b) Katharine Jordan reported a rise in Anti-social Behaviour in the area in which she lived, which was St Teilo's Road. There was ongoing noise, smashing of glass and pots in the garden and cutting of cables and also criminal damage to vehicles. County Councillor McConnell said it had become a hotspot, and she referred back to the meeting she had previously reported with Monmouth Housing Association. Katharine Jordan said that the culprits were known, but clearly formal proof was required for effective enforcement action to be taken.

(c) A rat infestation had been reported but overall MHA had declined to take responsibility. Councillor Edwards asked to whom this had been reported. This was not clear; neither was its cause – Katharine Jordan said that the gully-ways appeared to be clear. Councillor Harry asked if there was water nearby, which might be a contributory factor. County Councillor McConnell said it was strictly the responsibility of Councillor Groucutt of the Lansdowne Constituency, and she believed he was taking the matter up.

5 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

(a) County Councillor McConnell said that the PSPO Dog Control was in progress, with the hope and expectation of persuading people to pick up their dog mess and also making certain areas dog-free altogether, and to make it an offence not to have equipment for picking up dog mess. This could be enforced by police, car parking enforcers, members of Council staff, Environmental Health officers and the like. It remained to be seen how effective this would be in terms of identifying and naming offenders. There was to be an aim at consistent signage. So far as the exclusion zones were concerned, this was the subject of consultation, but it would certainly involve parks and play-grounds and cemeteries.

(b) County Councillor McConnell said that the 20 mph limit was to become law on the 17th September 2023. There was still some consultation in progress regarding exclusions to the general rule.

(c) County Councillor Lane said that parking outside the Fish and Chip shop on the Mardy was still a bone of contention. He also mentioned fencing on Ross Road, and Councillor Cowan also commented on the fencing which he said was the responsibility of the County Council and which was rotted through. County Councillor Lane mentioned the BT boxes by Croseonen Parc which had been removed.

6 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2023.

The Minutes were approved as a true record, the Vice-Chair proposing and Councillor Barber seconding the proposal.

7 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2023

- (a) Page 2 – 4(b) – County Councillor Lane said that he had checked on the footpath from the Willow Court estate to Greystones, and this had been done well now.
- (b) Page 2 – 6(b) – the Clerk said that he was still investigating the issue of Wi-Fi in the Community Hall.
- (c) Page 2 – 6(e) Councillor Harry confirmed that the container sought by Mardy AFC had now received planning approval.
- (d) Page 3 – 6(g) - The Clerk said that he had researched the Minutes. In February 2020, the Council had agreed to accept the grant offered by Keep Wales Tidy for the creation of the memorial garden. Technically, there did not appear to be a clause indicating that the Council had formally approved its creation. That might have been an error on his part. However, this was clearly a mere formality, and doing away with it now would very likely entail paying back the grant of some £6,000, so it was hard to see how it could now be overturned. There was also the issue of the wild life.
- (e) Page 3 – 6(h) - The Clerk said he had still to check the police response on whether a licence was required for drinking alcohol in the Hall, but his recollection was that the police officer had told him none was required so long as alcohol was not sold.

8 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said he had had a letter from a lady who believed that a boundary had been moved illicitly, and documents have been altered also illicitly. She believed the Council might be responsible. He asked if one of the County Councillors could look into this, not least because the County Council was more likely to be involved. County Councillor Lane agreed to look into the matter..

9 To consider planning matters.

23/21826/FUL - Mill Pond Cottage – Construction of a garden studio; there was some discussion, and the application was approved

10 To consider the payment of Accounts

The Clerk said that he did not have with him the list of payments to be approved, but he would e-mail Councillors and ask for the payments to be approved retrospectively at the next meeting. The meeting gave Councillor Harry plenary powers to authorise the payments in the meantime.

11 To Consider the Financial Statement and other issues

(a) The Clerk said that he was still unable to produce the financial 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. Councillor Cowan informed the meeting that he and Councillor Watkins had now sent in formal resignations to the Bank of their positions as signatories to the account. The Clerk said that it would have been helpful if he had been informed of this. The Bank had not been very helpful so far – it had refused to write the letter agreed at the last meeting – and he had not been informed him, of this latest development which he would have to check.

(b) Out of an abundance of caution, the Clerk recommended that there should be a definite vote that Councillors Cowan and Watkins should no longer be signatories and that Councillors Hayward and Harry should be signatories. This was proposed by Councillor Harry and seconded by the Vice-Chair. County Councillor Lane suggested there should be a third signatory, in the event of illness or death, and Councillor Harry said that this was definitely being considered.

12 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

The Clerk said he had yet to get a response from Playdale as to their approach to the state of repair of the playground equipment. This item was agreed to be postponed to the next meeting, at which the Chair could report back on his findings and proposals.

13 To consider any matters regarding the Community Hall.

There were no items to be discussed. The Chair would be asked to report back to the next meeting with reference to his findings on the stained chairs.

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.

No issues arose

17 The date of the next meeting of the Council

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the 17th May 2023 at 7 p.m.