

**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 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE**  
**LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY HALL**  
**ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

**Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair) M Skinner (Vice-Chair), Rev J Gray, C Harry, and S Salway. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade, County Councillors Sue McConnel and Malcolm Lane and Katharine Vaughan and Mrs Bennett on the floor of the meeting.**

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Cowan, Ms N Watkins, K Eldridge, M Edwards and A Barber

**2 Declaration of interests.**

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

**3 Appointment of Chairman, Vice Chairman and other Officers for the year 2023/4**

Councillor M Hayward was proposed as Chair by Councillor Skinner and seconded by Councillor Harry, who was proposed as Vice Chair by Councillor Skinner and seconded by Councillor Hayward. Both were duly elected.

**4 Chairman's Report for the year 2022/3**

The Chair said that it had not been a smooth road, but there were positives, especially in relation to the use of the Car Park by the school. This had in turn led to the use of the school car park on Mardy AFC match days, which was obviously a welcome development. There had been slow progress with the hall,

which had been held up by the problems over the use of the main bank account with Lloyds Bank, which had also resulted in there being no ability to plan an event for the Coronation of King Charles III, which had been disappointing, and restrictions on the ability of the Council to do things for the community as a whole. He thanked the Clerk for his support and also Councillor Harry for his assistance with the problems with the Lloyds Bank account, which at least enabled the Council to keep ticking over. He hoped the Council would shortly be able to make the last throw of the dice and secure the use of its money.

## **5 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel**

(a) The Police report for April 2023 was available and had been distributed by the Clerk by e-mail. PCSO Ionescu was also in attendance at the meeting, and was welcomed by the Chair. Whilst clearly this was not an issue strictly within the Llantilio Pertholey area, uppermost in his mind was the Battle of Bailey Park which had recently taken place owing to anti-social behaviour of a number of youths, resulting in a police chase which had led to eight or nine of them being taken into custody. The culprits came from Pontypool and Brynmawr as well as Abergavenny. The youths in question had been from 14 to 17 years of age, and they had been in possession of knives. The Clerk said that he had heard that acid had also been used, although PCSO Ionescu said that was not the case. He mentioned also problems in Gwent Park, but said that overall there did not appear to have been any difficulty for two weeks, and he did not expect much trouble over the next few months while people went on holiday.

(b) PCSO Ionescu also said there had been some cars seized in the Fairfield Car Park, but the ability to restrict entry to the car park by locked gates for which entry codes had been restricted (e.g. to the Ambulance Service) had helped. Theoretically, entrance could be gained by driving the wrong way via the exit route, but that was covered by CCTV.

(c) On the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour generally, he said that a definite procedure had been evolved of a first warning letter to the homes of the culprits, a second warning letter if there was further misbehaviour and then Notice of Intention to Prosecute. If the youth was taken to court, there was always scope for intervention by the Youth Offending Team. However, by then there would have been involvement from parents and schools which would hopefully have the desired result.

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

(a) County Councillor McConnel said that the County Council's AGM would be the next day. There was nothing major to report.

- (b) She said that she had been able to locate a pot of money which might pay for the fencing and hedging by Croesonen Parc which was causing some difficulty.
- (c) She also said that the 20 mph limit was to become law on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There was still some consultation in progress regarding exclusions to the general rule. There had been consultation regarding the Hereford Road, and she was aware of the objections of residents, and the feeling that the limit could be varied along the road, allowing some parts of it to be 30 mph rather than 20 mph. The problem lay in Mardy Park, which was a Community Facility for the purposes of the consultation. The general rule was that the limit had to be 20 mph near a Community Facility, and it was not practical to be changing the limit along what was a relatively short section of road, however important.
- (d) County Councillor McConnel said that there was a survey currently to see whether it would be practical to have a cycle lane. She said that she hoped the two restrictions working together might deter the Pontrilas Sawmill lorries from driving along the Hereford Road and persuade them to use the A465 instead.

#### **7 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The Minutes were approved as a true record, Councillor Harry proposing and Councillor Rev J Gray seconding the proposal.

#### **8 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

- (a) Page 1 – 4(c) – although strictly this was a matter for Councillor Groucott of the Lansdowne Ward, it appeared that the problem over rats was no longer a difficulty, and had been dealt with by Monmouth Housing.
- (b) Page 3 – 7 (b) – The Clerk said he had investigated prices for WiFi, and the cheapest appeared to be BT at £19.45 per month + VAT. This was a special offer available until the 18<sup>th</sup> June. Whilst the Clerk was requested to be alert to the possibility of price increases, he was authorised to undertake the contract with BT.
- (c) Page 3 – 7(c) – it was confirmed that the Mardy AFC container had been approved, and work was in progress to dig the area for it to sit in. The Chair said that it did appear to be done rather untidily, and the Clerk was requested to write to Mardy AFC about the issue.

(d) Page 3 – 7(d) – The Clerk said he had written to Tom Ward-Jackson of Keep Wales Tidy regarding the memorial garden, to suggest a meeting to enable it to be revamped. Concern was expressed over the Mare’s Tails which needed to be treated and which were uprooting the tarmac. The Chair said he would obtain quotes for tidying up the area generally.

(e) Page 3 – 7(e) – the Clerk confirmed that the drinking of alcohol in the Hall was lawful so long as it was not sold. The police had also expressed the hope that drinking of alcohol by children would not be allowed, whilst realising this was very difficult to superintend. It was agreed that rowdy behaviour would lead to action being taken and future drinking prohibited completely. At this point, there was discussion of the wish expressed by Mardy AFC to hold their annual past v present football match on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. After some discussion, it was agreed (the Chair proposing and Councillor Skinner seconding) that this would be allowed from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Copies of the licences for the burger/hot food van and the proposed “pop up bar” should be e-mailed to the Clerk.

(f) Page 3 (10) – the Clerk had circulated a list of the payments which he was intending to ask the Council to authorise at the last meeting. This was approved retrospectively:

British Gas £127.06

Mike Pearson £520

Bethan Pearson £950

Butler Brothers £90

Butler Brothers £258

Zurich Insurance £1,897.95

The Clerk was also given retrospective authority to pay the Water Rates of £150.43

(g) Page 4 – 11(b) – the Chair and Vice-Chair both signed the forms which Lloyds Bank had said were necessary for the Bank account to be released and payment authorised by their signatures. There was also a form which the Clerk had to sign and which was witnessed by County Councillor McConnel. The Clerk said that it remained to be seen if Lloyds Bank were themselves cooperative. They had proved singularly unhelpful during the preceding negotiations.

(h) Page 4 – 12 – The Chair said he had looked at the children’s playground, and there was only one swing which was in a safe condition. The Clerk was asked to persevere with Playdale to see if they would be able to deal with repairs, or to seek another organisation which might do the job. There was considerable anxiety that, if a child was injured, there might be a personal injuries claim which the Council’s insurers might not honour.

(i) Page 4 – 13 – The Clerk said he had received an e-mail from a Mrs Jackson of Simply Spiritual, complaining about the state of the chairs. It was agreed that they should be looked at, and cleaned as appropriate. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Harry's Carpets.

## 9 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said he had circulated Councillors with information about a Twinning survey. The Chair said that he had favourable views of twinning, having experienced it previously and established friendships with people in Beaupreau as a result. He said he would make enquiries to see if there might be scope for twinning with Mardy alone.

Councillor Rev J Gray left the meeting at this point, having a prior engagement.

## 10 To consider planning matters.

DM/2023/00664 – 82 Poplars Close – New single storey porch, rear extension and timber outbuilding.

The documents had already been circulated. The application was approved

## 11 To consider the payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary £1,319.22

HMRC £263.89

Gas £54.41

Council Tax £2,046.11

M Pearson £660

Caretaker £760

Cleaner £595.91

Admin 50 miles x 4 = 200 miles x .45 p per mile = £90

The Clerk was also given authority to make the payment of £750 to the ACE Partnership which had previously been agreed, and the payment to City Illuminations £5130 which had previously been held back. The Nat West Bank account had sufficient money in it, and the Clerk said there was to be a further payment in exceeding £1,100 which he had received from the Caretaker for payments for the hire of the Hall.

## 12 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues

The Clerk said that the Nat West account would have £6,162.04 in it after payment of accounts. If Lloyds Bank kept their word, the Council should be back in control of its Council's money by the next meeting. Mrs Bennett said that the money previously agreed for the Defibrillator for the Skirrid Hall could be delayed if that would assist. The meeting expressed its thanks for this. It had been an anxious

time. The Chair said that the issue of the Lloyds Bank account should be looked at carefully once the money had been recovered.

It was agreed (the Chair proposing and Councillor Harry seconding) that Councillor Salway could be a third signatory to the account. The Clerk said he would requisition the appropriate form for this.

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

(a) A note had been received from Mardy AFC that the club would like to install a drainage soakway in the north-west corner of the ground. The feeling of the meeting was that they should be able to do the work, but that they should have proper plans drawn up by an expert who could advise on the project.

(b) Councillor Skinner mentioned the deteriorating fencing around the playing field. It was acknowledged that its replacement would be a very expensive job. The Clerk was requested to approach Monmouthshire County Council to see if they would at least help with the cost. Meanwhile, it was hoped that Mardy AFC themselves would assist by strimming the long grass.

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

There were no items to be discussed.

### **15 To consider information from One Voice Wales**

No issues arose

### **16 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies**

No issues arose

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

The Chair announced the sad death of John Bevan, a noted local character, postman and referee. The sympathy of the meeting was extended especially to his sister Marion Tucker.

### **18 The date of the next meeting of the Council**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7 p.m.