

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

Council website address-[www.llantiliopertholeycc.org.uk](http://www.llantiliopertholeycc.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 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

**Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair) C Harry (Vice-Chair), M Skinner, Rev J Gray, A Barber and M Edwards. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade and Mrs M Bennett, Mrs A Davies and Mrs J Thompson on the floor of the meeting.**

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Ms N Watkins, K Eldridge and S Sulway. County Councillor Sue McConnel, while ex-officio, also gave her apologies.

**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 had been circulated and PCSO Ionescu was in attendance. He agreed with Councillor Harry that there had been an increase in instances of Anti-Social Behaviour, which he said was normal in the summer. His main concern was to do with drugs. The police were stretched to the maximum, although he was expecting an intake over the next few months that would increase their numbers. Councillor Edwards raised the issue of the 20 mph speed limit which was due to become law on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. PCSO Ionescu said that, although it was at present only advisory, he was patrolling the Hereford Road in particular to see how it was being approached.

The Chair mentioned the recent burglary at the Welsh School, during which a number of bicycles had been stolen. He said that he was expecting a visit from the police to check the Council's CCTV to see if it would assist in identifying the culprits. He also mentioned again the issue of the youths who were causing a nuisance by creating a den at the rear of the gardens of some local residents, stealing eggs and stripping bark from trees, and being offensive and intimidating when approached. PC Ionescu said that any such problems should be reported to the police every time they occurred, and mentioned the possible use of Facebook, which might be faster than the more conventional route of using 101. The Chair said that he had tried 101 and had been kept waiting for 25 minutes and then had been told to inform PCSO Ionescu! There had been no assurance of immediate action. Mrs Bennett suggested that the residents concerned might keep a diary of events.

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

The meeting took note of a written report from County Councillor McConnel which had been distributed by e-mail to Councillors and of which the Chair read out the major part. There was considerable discussion and concern over the problems in the town over the bus stop by Tesco's. £430,000 had been spent, and yet the bus companies had decided that they could not use the bus stop because of the danger it presented.

#### **5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023.**

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

#### **6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

(a) Page 2 – 4(d) – Councillor Harry said that there was a serious problem over dog-fouling at the football field. He had written to Sue Parkinson of the Monmouthshire County Council, and the field was to be included in the list of places to be considered in the plan to ensure that open places were kept either dog-free or at least where it was ensured that dogs were on leads. The Chair said that a particular part of the park had traditionally been set aside for dog-walkers, and he wondered if it would be necessary for that part to be fenced off. The Clerk pointed out that if Monmouthshire County Council created a by-law that prohibited the exercising of dogs save on leads, the Community Council would have to comply, and the use of the Council's CCTV would identify offenders. The Chair said that one of the cameras had been vandalised and was to be replaced, and that the picture was indeed very clear.

- (b) Page 2 – 6(a) – the Clerk said that the Wi-Fi code was now on the notice-board in the main hall-way, and the Wi-Fi was for the use of everybody.
- (c) Page 2 – 6(c) – the Chair confirmed that the garden had been tidied up and some effort made to reduce the weeds and Mare’s Tails. Wild gardens were very much in vogue, but the garden was very overgrown, and something needed to be done, especially since it had not been possible to find somebody to maintain the garden on a permanent basis. He believed that the solution might be to reduce the area set aside for the garden. Mrs Bennett recommended Richard Molding, who was the partner of the Caretaker. The Chair said that the situation would be looked at again in September, when Tom of Keep Wales Tidy had said that the trees might be moved. Councillor Harry said that it was clear that, whatever the Council did, no money would have to be refunded to Keep Wales Tidy.
- (d) Page 2 – 6(d) – the Clerk said that the licence for the pop-up bar for the Past v Present game had only been provided at the last minute, and the licence for the burger van not at all. Chris Price of Mardy AFC had promised that things would be better organised in 2024. A lot of refuse had been left, although the Chair said this had been tidied up.
- (e) Page 2 – 6(e) – In response to a question from Councillor Edwards, the Clerk confirmed that the money in the Lloyds Bank account should be available shortly. All that was needed was a card and card-reader and he would be good to go for online banking. The Chair confirmed that the plan then was to transfer the money to the Nat West account but leave £1 in Lloyds Bank just to keep the account open. He also confirmed that the intention was to have three signatories for the Nat West account.
- (f) Page 3 – 6(f) – the Clerk said that Playdale would be carrying out an inspection of the playground equipment in the week beginning the 31<sup>st</sup> July. It was unfortunate, with the school holidays now started, that they had not been able to promise more speedy action not only to inspect the equipment but also to repair what was needed.
- (g) Page 3 – 6(g) – The Clerk said that Harrhy’s would be cleaning the chairs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August.
- (h) Page 3 – 6(h) -The Chair said that he had not been make contact with Chris Woodhouse to see if he could recommend a twin for Mardy, but would try to see him to discuss the issue.
- (i) Page 4 – 14(a) – The Chair and Clerk both confirmed that efforts were being made to try to ensure that the boiler was replaced as soon as possible. Craig Walters was away, but his colleague Mike was going to try to further matters.

(j) Page 5 – 17(a) - The Clerk said that a meeting had been arranged to see the head of City Illuminations in the week beginning the 31<sup>st</sup> July for the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the issue of extending the Christmas Lights to the Willow Court estate.

**7 To consider correspondence received.**

The Clerk said he had had an e-mail from Mrs Thompson regarding the Gavenny Gardening Club. She left the room whilst two issues were discussed. They related to the use of crockery which had been used by the club when the Hall had been under a management committee and also some planks which had formerly been stored in the hall. The situation had changed when the Council had reassumed the control of the Hall. It was agreed that her requests should be granted in principle, but subject to an inspection by the Chair and other Councillors, not least of all because the crockery was stored in the Hall in an extremely inaccessible manner, and the Chair said he would need help to retrieve it.

**8 To consider planning matters.**

(a) DM/2023/00961 – Removal of a time limit condition – Claire Price Beauty Clinic. It was noted that the planning application had been granted in principle, but that any commercial viability had been vitiated by the pandemic. She wanted another three years to complete the development. This was agreed.

(b) Diversion of a footpath at Brynygwenin. Mrs Bennett said she had spoken to the gentleman concerned, who was having to pay a good deal of money to divert a public right of way which otherwise went through his kitchen. The proposal was also agreed. .

**9 To consider the payment of Accounts**

The following payments were approved:

Gas £28.93  
M Pearson £530  
Caretaker £950  
Cleaner £499.14  
Clerk's salary £1,319.44  
HMRC £263.89

**10 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues**

(a) The Clerk said that the Nat West account had £8,505.46 in it, and he had collected cash and cheque to the value of £238 from the Caretaker prior to the meeting. He suspected that the Lloyds Bank account had over £100,000 in it, but was still in the dark until Lloyds Bank had provided the card

and card reader which enabled him to find out, to access all the statements going back a year, and to make sure that all payments matched up to what was expected. It was confirmed that the account was to be audited.

- (b) He referred to the allowances for Councillors and the payment agreed to Llandewi Skirrid Hall, and said that there would be a general reckoning in September, by which time the Lloyds Bank money should be available. Councillors were requested to provide their bank details so that their allowances could be paid.

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

- (a) Councillor Skinner mentioned the fence around the football ground. He had been aware that a previous Council had set up the fence, but had asked the football club to contribute £1,000 towards it. It was now somewhat frail. The matter was taken an advisement. The Chair said that he would arrange a meeting with representatives of Mardy AFC to discuss this and other issues which had arisen.
- (b) The Chair said that a certain amount of tidying up and weeding had taken place, and the vandalised board with stumps marked on it had been removed and the fence-posts which had been snapped off had been replaced. The bill had not yet been received, but he thought it would be of the order of £200, approximately the same as the previous year.
- (c) The Clerk said he had been offered some picnic benches at a reduced price. It was agreed that these were in principle a nice idea, but that they were open to vandalism and theft. It was agreed that the matter could be explored on the basis that the benches were in green resin and were set in concrete or otherwise firmly secured to the ground.

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

- (a) It was agreed that estimates should be obtained for the interior decoration of the Hall, which was looking “tired”, and also the blinds, velux windows and LED lighting. The money from Lloyds Bank would obviously put the Council in a position to enhance the facilities at the Hall.
- (b) The issue of the Lease for the Community Hall was raised by Councillor Skinner, who offered to go to the former solicitors, Watkins and Gunn, to discuss their shortcomings. That suggestion was firmly rejected. The Clerk said that the lease had been prepared in principle, but that the fine detail had not been ironed out. He had approached Gabb & Co of Abergavenny to see if they would assist. Clearly, there was no point in having a lease unless there was a management committee, and the two things should be dealt with at the same time.

(c) The Chair said that the drains had once more become blocked. There appeared to be no particular reason for this, although it was noticeable that it occurred at a point where three waste pipes conjoined. The matter was to be reviewed. Councillor Edwards wondered if the toilet paper might be to blame, and if consideration could be given to having toilet paper of the type which dissolved more readily, as used in camper vans and the like. Whilst a question arose as to whether this would be more or less expensive than unblocking the drains from time to time, the Clerk was requested to explore that issue.

**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.**

No issues arose that had not already been discussed under other areas of the meeting.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **20th September 2023 at 7 p.m.**