

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 20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair) C Harry (Vice-Chair), M Skinner, G Cowan, S Salway, M Edwards, A Barber and S Baugh. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade and County Councillors S McConnell and Rev M Lane, and Katharine Vaughan and Mrs M Bennett.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Ms N Watkins and Rev J Gray.

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. The Clerk said that PCSO Ionescu had previously stated that he could not attend, but he might be able to attend the meeting in October. Councillor Edwards asked if, as predicted at a previous meeting, there might have been an increase in the number of police personnel. However, this did not appear to be the case. Councillor Harry commented on the increase in instances of Anti-Social Behaviour. Monmouthshire County Council had cleared away a considerable amount of debris, but he asked if the hedges had been trimmed. Councillor Harry said that the “hideaway” created by certain youths had been assisted by the failure to cut the hedging back, and the Clerk was instructed to ask the County Council when that might be done.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

- (a) County Councillor McConnel said that there was a meeting the following day to discuss the future of Tudor Street and the possible closure of the Centre because of reduced footfall.
- (b) She referred to an issue which was likely to feature in the meeting when planning was considered – namely, increased recycling by Monmouthshire Housing around St Andrew’s Crescent. She said this was an exciting development.
- (c) She also referred to a planning matter which had previously arisen – namely, a change in housing at Willow Court and the effect this would have on the Section 106 agreement. Her concern was that this would lead to a reduction in social housing. She would share this with the Clerk. This was echoed by Councillor Cowan, who said that, as he understood it, there was a limit on a development below which no social housing was required, and developers were taking advantage of this by submitting plans in smaller tranches to get round what he regarded as a loophole in planning laws.
- (d) She reported with pleasure the fact that she had been appointed a governor of the new King Henry VIII school, which it was hoped would open in September 2024. Councillor Salway commented on the road network, and County Councillor McConnell said that there had been particular attention to road safety for the children. She commented favourably on the facilities that would be afforded by the school to the public at large.
- (e) She referred briefly to the new 20 mph speed limit which was of course now fully in force,
- (f) She said that the County Council was obliged to make land available for Travellers. They had yet to make a final decision on precisely where the sites should be, although the land behind the Croseone Estate had definitely been ruled out.
- (g) County Councillor Lane said he had nothing to add to the very full report from County Councillor McConnell.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2023.

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

6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2023

- (a) Page 3 – 6(c) – The Chair produced a drawing showing the arrangements he proposed to make as part of the process of tidying up of the area to the east of the car park. He said this would make it look better as well as increasing the area of parking, which was becoming necessary, as Councillor

Harry confirmed, because of the number of cars which might arrive on match days. It was also noted that the Welsh School would be closed altogether within two years, and it was unlikely that their car park would then be available as it is now. He had been given a quote of £300. Councillor Skinner proposed (seconded by Councillor Salway) that both the work and the price should be accepted. This was agreed by a majority, Councillor Cowan dissenting. He pointed out that there was wildlife on the area which needed to be safeguarded. Tom of Keep Wales Tidy had said he would maintain the garden for five years, although the Chair said that his understanding was the contrary.

- (b) Page 3 – 6(f) – It was agreed that the quotation from Playdale for the repair of the playground should not be accepted at once, pending the arrival of a quote from another company for the complete replacement of equipment. It was agreed that, unfortunate although it was that the present equipment was in such a state of disrepair, the urgency had gone with the school holidays, and it would be wise to see if it would be better to repair or completely replace.
- (c) Page 3 – 6(g) – the Clerk said that the chairs had now been cleaned, and he had received a nice e-mail of thanks from the organiser of Simply Spiritual..
- (d) Page 3 – 6(h) – Further consideration was given to the issue of twinning, and whether the Council might “go it on its own” or effectively join on with the existing twinning of Abergavenny with Beaupreau. This was still under review.
- (e) Page 3 – 6(i) – the Chair said that the boiler for the changing-rooms had been repaired. Now it was necessary to replace the boiler in the kitchen which serviced the central-heating and water. This was now 18 years old, and it was agreed that this should be done. The Chair was given power (Councillor Skinner proposing and Councillor Baugh seconding) to accept a quote of between £2,200 and £3,200. The Chair said this would include a “NEST” control which would enable the Caretaker to switch the heating on and off from remote.
- (f) Page 4 – 6(j) – The Clerk said he had had a quotation from City Illuminations for an additional nine lamp-posts to be adorned with Christmas lights. This would increase the overall cost by over 76%. There was some concern about this. It was agreed that the Clerk should request formal agreement from the County Council, who owned the lamp-posts concerned, to City Illuminations installing the necessary electric points. .
- (g) Page 4 – 7 – The Chair confirmed that the inventory had been made and it only remained to restore the crockery and other items to a more orderly and accessible place in the hall.
- (h) Page 5 – 11(a) – It was agreed that a quotation should be obtained to repair or replace the fencing round the football ground.

- (i) Page 5 – 12(a) -The Chair said that he had not been able to obtain an estimate yet for the decoration and repair of the interior of the Community Hall. Consideration was still being given to this, with due attention to attending to leaks and the need for insulation and also obtaining better lighting which might be more expensive in the short term but would pay dividends in the long-term by reducing the cost by up to 40%. Quotes were being obtained.

7 To consider correspondence received.

- (a) The Clerk said he had had an e-mail from Michael Pearson, reporting an increase in fly-tipping and general dumping in the area, creating a greater need for separating out of items, with particular attention to dirty needles. The meeting agreed his request for an increase of £1 per bin to allow for this, whilst naturally regretting the increased need.
- (b) The Clerk read out an e-mail from Sandra Rosser, Clerk to Abergavenny Town Council, regarding a potential visit by Zoe Cameron to see if better use could be made of the area to the north of the football ground. It was agreed that the Chair should see her to investigate the issues.

8 To consider planning matters.

- (a) DM/2023/01234 – Proposed rear and side extension at 9 Greystones Avenue – the Chair expressed his concern that the building work had already apparently taken place, although County Councillor Rev Lane suggested that the applicant may have been required only to secure retrospective planning having done the work believing it was permitted development.
- (b) The new storage bins and buggy store at St Andrews Crescent – this had already been discussed. From what County Councillor McConnel had said, it appeared that this was intended to promote recycling. The principle of the project was agreed.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

- (a) The following payments were approved:

M Pearson £530
Caretaker £833.60
Cleaner £333.44
Clerk's salary £1,319.44
HMRC £263.89
Y Fenni Gardens £210
Tom's Fencing £120
The Chair – refund of £20.16 for purchase of a chain for the gate at the north end of the park

- (b) Out of an abundance of caution, retrospective authority was also given for expenses previously incurred and paid for over the August break when there had been no opportunity for a formal Council meeting:

Ozgas - £492 and £1900

Butler Brothers £459 and £30.04

Herefordshire Fire £117

Toilet rolls £18.80 purchased by the Clerk

Green clean (the cleaning of the chairs) £300

Hayward Davies £99.60 and £55.

The Chair - £650 and £656 for his Councillors's and Chair's allowances for this and the previous year.

- (c) It was also agreed that the money previously agreed for the Defibrillator at the Skirrid Village Hall could now be paid of £844.93.
- (d) The Clerk confirmed that he would be paying out the Councillors' Allowances. He confirmed that, following an entire morning spent on the telephone to HMRC, he was able to pay the sum gross of tax to those who are self-employed.

10 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues

The Clerk said that he was still not able to prepare a financial statement because of the loss of the cheque book. He would be looking into this, and would hopefully be able to remedy it for the October meeting.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

It was agreed in principle that there should be two new dog waste bins for the Willow Court estate. The Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for the cost not only of the bins themselves but also the additional work in collecting the waste.

12 To consider information from One Voice Wales

No issues arose

13 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies

No issues arose

14 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

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

15 The date of the next meeting of the Council

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **18th October 2023 at 7 p.m.**