

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 18TH OCTOBER 2023

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair) C Harry (Vice-Chair), M Skinner, K Eldridge, M Edwards, A Barber and S Baugh. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade and Katharine Vaughan.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were tendered by Councillors Rev J Gray and S Salway. County Councillors Rev M Lane and S. McConnel had also indicated their unavailability for the meeting.

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 by e-mail. The Chair said that he had met PCSO Ionescu by chance, and he had said he could not attend. He hoped that he might be able to attend the meeting in November.

(a) Councillor Edwards noted the absence of reference to the anti-social behaviour of the youths in the hedge behind the houses along the east side of the playing-field. The Chair confirmed that their “den” had been dismantled, but he asked if the problem might be increased because the County Council was not cutting back the hedgerow. We were paying for this to be done. The Clerk said this had already been mentioned, and was asked to reinforce the point. It appeared that the hedge had not been cut since the end of the Covid 19 lockdown.

(b) Katharine Vaughan mentioned the increase in fly-tipping. There had lately been a number of old vacuum cleaners and televisions. Monmouthshire County Council had arranged for them to be cleared, but clearly it should not be happening, and she wondered if the police might look into this on their patrols. The Clerk commented that this sounded as if a business had caused the problem. Mention was made of the situation at the recycling depot where people were still having to make appointments and then those who brought black plastic bags of refuse were being asked to open them and separate out the items they had brought. It was thought that this was deterring people from going to the depot. An added factor was that businesses were being asked to pay a fee. Clearly, the situation depended on people acting responsibly and reference was made to the “rag and bone man” who patrolled the area from time to time. Katharine said that Monmouthshire Housing had declined to instal CCTV, and the Chair commented that the CCTV from the Community Hall was not powerful enough to reach sufficiently far.

(c) The increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour was also mentioned. Councillor Baugh mentioned several vehicles which had been vandalised, including a new car. These were youths of possibly 11 years of age and upwards, and they were doing this at night; clearly, their parents neither wanted to exert discipline nor cared about what they were doing. The Chair commented that only a few months ago PCSO Ionescu had spoken of an increase in police personnel. It would be good to know when this might happen.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

Neither County Councillor had been able to attend the meeting.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th September 2023.

The Minutes were approved as a true record, Councillor Baugh 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 2 – 4(c), 4(e) and 4(f) – The Clerk said that it had been hoped that County Councillor McConnel would be able to throw light on these items. The Chair asked that they be put onto the Agenda for November’s meeting.

(b) Page 3 – 6(b) – The Clerk said that Sovereign had produced an estimate of over £70,000 for a completely new playground. Councillor Edwards said that if certain items were deducted – for example, the adult exercise equipment - it should be possible to reduce the amount to around £40,000, although the Chair commented that he had spoken to those responsible for the Bailey Park play-ground,

and they had said that the adult equipment was a valued item. It was agreed that the £4,218.66 + VAT should be paid to Playdale for the repairs they were going to undertake, together with the £260 + VAT maintenance contract, while enquiries were made as to the availability of grants for a complete makeover. In response to a query from Councillor Edwards, the Chair confirmed that it was important that, if an accident happened, the Council was covered by insurance, and if the equipment had been allowed to deteriorate through negligence, this might affect the extent to which the insurers covered such an eventuality.

- (c) Page 3 – 6(f) – In regards to the Christmas lights, the Clerk said he had not been able to get a definite answer from the County Council as to whether they were prepared to allow City Illuminations to add the electrical connections as opposed to doing it themselves at a much greater cost. The Chair said he wanted a break-down so that the Council would know exactly what it was going to be getting – for example, would the Council be buying or just leasing the lighting displays? If it had to pay £9,000 the first year of any new display, was any part of that a “one-off” so that the cost would reduce in year two? The Clerk said he would check with Dave Briggs. It was agreed (the Chair proposing and Councillor Baugh seconding) that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk would have authority to make a decision to proceed with the new lighting display if they considered it appropriate.
- (d) Page 3 – 6(d) – the Chair said that he was still discussing the issue of twinning with members of the Town Council to see if some joint effort could be made. Councillor Eldridge said he was very much in favour of twinning, although cost was a potential obstacle – it could cost as much as £10,000. The discussion would go on.
- (e) Page 3 – 6(e) – The Chair said the boiler in the kitchen had been repaired. He asked if the insurers had yet paid up for the replacement of the damaged boiler in the changing-room, and the Clerk said he would look into this.
- (f) Page 3- 6(h) – the Chair said he had asked Tom’s Fencing for a quote for the fence round the football ground and would also discuss the issue with the football club.
- (g) Page 4 – 6(i) – The Chair said he was still looking into the issue of the redecoration of the interior of the Community Hall
- (h) Page 5 – 11- the Clerk said he had investigated the cost of dog waste bins at the Willow Court estate. The Chair said he had given Mike Pearson a map of the area and asked him to check on the number of bins. Councillor Skinner said he thought some spare bins might be stored in the Community Hall, and the Chair said he would look into this. It was agreed that this issue should be put on the Agenda for November.

7 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said he had been in correspondence with Huw Owen of Monmouthshire County Council with regards to the PSPO which would mean that certain spaces would be declared zones where dogs could only be exercised on a lead or not at all, to prevent dog soiling of the grass. It was unclear why the Mardy playing-field had been not been included in the draft order, especially since the Chair said he had spoken to the person responsible for drafting the order to ensure that the field was included. Councillor Baugh said he would be prepared to be nominated as an “Authorised Person” to enforce the order. Whilst noting that the period for consultation did not expire until after the Council’s November meeting, the Clerk was requested to write to ensure that the playing-field was included in the order.

8 To consider planning matters.

The Council discussed the position at Glebe Cottage, where it was noted that there had been a gradual increase in permanent housing from holiday lets. The Vice-Chair confirmed that an article had appeared in the Abergavenny Chronicle, demonstrating the Council’s opposition to the development of the site.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

- M Pearson £792
- Caretaker £833.60
- Cleaner £486.12
- Clerk’s expenses (travel, stamps and stationery) £79.80
- The Remembrance Sunday wreath £20

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 said that the Council had £6,581.46 in the Nat West and £112,679.96 in Lloyds Bank. The Chair asked the Clerk to check with Nat West as to whether they had an interest-bearing account, with a view to transferring to that account at least the bulk of the money at Lloyds Bank.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee.

No matters arose

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

- (a) The Chair asked the Clerk to look into the issue of the use of electricity and gas by the football club so that financial issues could be formalised between the club and the Council. The meters should be read.

Councillor Skinner mentioned the fact that the club formerly paid a fixed price for this, but it was recognised that a more exact system should be evolved if possible.

- (b) The Chair said he was making enquiries into the possibility of having an industrial size bin for the removal of refuse after an event at the hall, with an additional sum being added to the booking fee to pay for this. The lid would be secured with lock and key, and Bethan would have one key and the provider and emptier of the bin, which was likely to be Thomas Waste of Brynmawr, having the other. The bin would be secured to the wall by a chain to safeguard against theft and/or vandalism. No final conclusion was reached.

13 To receive 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.

- (a) Katharine raised the issue of the bus stop in town. Whilst strictly that did not concern the Llantilio Pertholey area, it was agreed that concern should be aired with County Councillor McConnell, since buses were not stopping there because of the perceived danger.
- (b) Councillor Barber mentioned his concern at the increase in the fee imposed by the County Council for the disposal of garden waste. The general feeling of the meeting was that this fee - amounting to roughly £1 per week – was not excessive, although it might be that the appointment system was putting people off.

16 The date of the next meeting of the Council

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the **15th November at 7 p.m.** If it was necessary for formal consideration of applicants for co-option, that could be dealt with at the start of the meeting.