

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 15TH NOVEMBER 2023

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), M Skinner, M Edwards, A Barber and S Sulway. Also in attendance was County Councillor Rev M Lane and the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade.

At the start of the meeting, the Chair announced that a meeting had just been held to interview candidates for co-option, and Katharine Vaughan and Roger Fury were introduced to the meeting, and a formal decision was taken (the Chair proposing and Councillor Edwards seconding) that they should be voted onto the Council, and that was agreed unanimously.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors C Harry and S Baugh. County Councillor S. McConnel also sent her apologies.

2 Declaration of interests.

It was agreed that these should 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, and PCSO Ionescu was present at the meeting to report to Councillors in person.

(a) PCSO Ionescu said that he had been present when a group of youths of 12 to 14 years old had gathered in a public place a few days previously by the Leisure Centre. He had been aghast at their general

conduct and at the language they had used, which appeared to demonstrate no limits, and at the fact that he and two colleagues had been needed just to prevent the situation from becoming out of control. There had been a total lack of respect. He advised the Council of the system that was used to control Anti-Social Behaviour by youths was a five-stage process – an initial warning, a second warning, the third time a reference to the Youth Offending Team, the fourth time an interview at a police station and the fifth time would lead to prosecution. At that point, there were five youths on a third warning. Parents did not appear to be too concerned in the main. There had been a gradual increase in Anti-Social Behaviour since about the middle of October, leading up to Halloween and Bonfire Night. It was concerning

- (b) He reported on the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit, saying that a number of drivers had been fined on the spot.
- (c) There had also been an increase in “drive-offs” from garages.

The Chair thanked him for attending the meeting.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

(a) County Councillor M Lane said that there would be a full meeting of the County Council in about two weeks’ time. He mentioned Housing Planning, and that two parcels of land had been chosen, and also the provision of land for Travellers, but neither were relevant to the Llantilio Pertholey area.

(b) Concern was expressed about the Section 106 agreements which were supposed to provide money for the communities in which the housing was built. Councillor Cowan said they could easily be surmounted, and that in any event his experience was that the money was used by the County Council for its own projects irrespective of whether they related to the area in which the proposed housing was to be built.

(c) It was also pointed out that planning permission for the Willow Court estate had included the obligation to build a footpath and also a sewerage pumping station. The path had only been provided after considerable pressure and the pumping station had not been provided at all. County Councillor Rev M Lane said that Persimmon had been fined £440,000 for allowing raw sewerage to be poured into the Gavenny

(d) Councillor Cowan said that the pavement in Ross Road had deliberately been altered so as to permit the outflow of raw sewerage into the River Gavenny from there. Nobody appeared to be concerned to stop this.

(e) The Clerk was requested to write to the Welsh Government regarding these concerns

(f) County Councillor Rev M Lane said that the budget was very strained, and the general forecast was for major problems in 2026

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th October 2023.

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

6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th October 2023

(a) Page 1 – 3 (a) – the Clerk said that Monmouthshire County Council had stated that the cutting of the hedges to the east of the playing-field was not their responsibility pursuant to the contract between it and the Community Council, but were the responsibility of the householders whose houses backed onto the field. The Clerk was asked to question just what was in the contract, particularly since the plan sent with the reply appeared to suggest that the trees and bushes were not within the curtilage of the various properties.

(b) Page 2 – 3(b) – the Clerk said that the County Council had asked where the worst place was for fly-tipping in the Llantilio Pertholey area, and he was told this was at Llwynu Lane.

(c) 6(b) – The Clerk said that Playdale were due to start work on the playground repairs shortly. The Chair asked for them to be reminded that the swings themselves were in his back garden. Councillor Edwards asked if the Council might consider some more outdoor equipment – for instance, a concrete table tennis table and adult exercise equipment – but the Chair said that he thought this might require grant funding. The meeting agreed that Councillor Edwards should enquire into prices and report back.

(d) Page 3 – 6(c) – In regards to the Christmas lights, the Clerk said he had still 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. He informed the meeting of the break-down of cost provided by City Illuminations, and the Chair remarked that the increase in price did seem to be rather more in proportion to the existing provision, especially bearing in mind the Council's ability to recover VAT. However, without the approval of Monmouthshire County Council, it was not going to be possible to do anything this year. More enquiries would be made for 2024.

- (e) Page 4 – 7 – the Monmouthshire County Council had now accepted that an error had been made, and the playing-field was included in the plan for the PSPO to restrict use by dogs and prevent dog-fouling.
- (f) Page 5- 15(b) – Councillor Barber raised the issue of the charge being made for the removal of garden waste. He questioned why Torfaen CBC did not charge for the same service, although Councillor Fury said that in fact that Council did charge. No conclusion was reached. Some Councillors did express concern that it was still necessary to arrange an appointment to take refuse to the recycling depot at Llanfoist, which was deterring people, and might be contributing to fly-tipping.

7 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said he had received no correspondence other than that which was mentioned elsewhere in the Minutes.

8 To consider planning matters.

(a) DM/2023/01476 - 33 Glan Gavenny – a Rear single story extension and double story side extension.

(b) Brecon Beacons National Park - 23/22442/MINOR – Lower House Fields - minor alterations to plans already passed in March.

No opposition was expressed to either proposal

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

M Pearson £636
Caretaker £833.60
Cleaner £410.13
Clerk's salary £1319.44
HMRC £263.89
Clerk's expenses (travel) £30.15
Hayward Davies £481.20

Retrospective approval was given to the invoice for £350 from the gardener, Richard Moulding and the payment to Hayward Davies for £32.00 for the controlling facility for the central heating of the Community Hall.

10 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues

The Clerk said that after payment in of money he had received from the Caretaker that day, the Nat West Account would have approximately £3,000 in it and the Lloyds Bank account £113,000. The Chair proposed that Council should agree to invest £100,000 in an interest-earning account at the Nat

West, which offered 4% per annum with 30 day access. This was seconded by Councillor Skinner and agreed.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee.

(a) The Chair said that consideration was still being given to the issue of the fencing around the playing-field.

(b) Councillor Edwards pointed out that the Council should have already considered the issue of the Welsh School's use of the car park, and this was discussed, and it was agreed that the arrangement was proceeding satisfactorily.

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

No matters arose under this heading

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.

The Chair said that he was talking with the Caretaker about the promotion of the Community Hall to increase use. Councillor Skinner asked about the proposed committee to run the Hall, and the Chair agreed that this needed to be considered in the New Year.

16 The date of the next meeting of the Council

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