

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 24TH JANUARY 2024

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), C Harry (Vice-Chair), M Skinner, G Cowan, M Edwards, S Baugh, Ms K Vaughan and R Fury. Also in attendance was County Councillor Sue McConnel, and the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Zoe Cameron and Marjorie Bennett.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Rev J Gray, S Salway and A Barber, and County Councillor Rev Malcolm Lane also sent his 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. Councillor Edwards commented that there was no reference to speeding fines as yet, although Councillor Fury said that he had observed activity and cameras at a particular place, so the feeling was that these would not be long in coming. The reference to an Accepted Behavioural Contract was explained by him as being a prelude to an ASBO or even court action, so it was clear that the police were taking the issue of dogs seriously.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

(a) County Councillor McConnel said that the main item of consuming interest was that of the

Budget. She referred to the Monmouthshire County Council web-site, and that through that medium it would be possible to get information about the setting of the budget and the meetings that were to be held both in person and on line. She warned that there was only a short window before the Council met in February.

(b) She said that she was going to take a walk around Dan-y-Deri the following day with Anthony from Monmouthshire Housing Association to talk with residents about any concerns they might have.

(c) She had been talking for some months about a “pot of money” for improving the green spaces in Croesonen, and it now seemed the ship had landed. There was some discussion as to what might be included, with benches a possibility she said she would consider, although the money was supposed to be for planting.

(d) Councillor Edwards said he had been appalled at the mess that had been left by Persimmon at Willow Court. Zoe Cameron said that she would be interested in helping to clear this up, and it was suggested that a direct approach to the CEO of Persimmon and/or his wife might help. Comment as made once more that planning permission for the Willow Court estate had included the obligation to build a sewerage pumping station. Councillor Cowan said that Persimmon had been fined £440,000 for allowing raw sewerage to be poured into the Gavenny, but may have regarded this as a small price to pay for not having to build the pumping station at a cost of millions. He also said that Monmouthshire County Council had purported to solve the problem at Ross Road by removing one or two kerb-stones and allowing raw sewage to flow into the Gavenny. The Clerk said that the NRA had been informed, but had done nothing.

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

The Minutes were approved as a true record, save that the Clerk said the bill from SSE had been £2039.60 and not £2,048.65 and for British Gas £215.46 and not £281. Otherwise they were approved on a proposal by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Ms K Vaughan.

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

(a) Page 1 – 3(a) – the Clerk was asked to clarify with Monmouthshire County Council the issue about the cutting of banks to the east of the playing-field, particularly since the Clerk had a bill from them for the maintenance contract. It was strange that MCC were suddenly saying that was not their responsibility. There seemed no sensible reason why.

(b) Page 2 6(b) the Chair said the 35 day account was now open, and he had made the arrangements to open the 95 day account, although the bank was causing difficulty. However, the Nat West had agreed that any interest could be back-dated to the date the account should have been opened. The intention was to put £75,000 into this account.

(c) Page 2 – 7 – the issue of Willow Court had already been referred to. **It was agreed that County Councillor Rev M Lane could be asked to look into this.**

(d) The Clerk asked for reimbursement of a sum for recovering information lost to his computer when it crashed. **On a proposal by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Cowan, it was decided that he should not be reimbursed this sum**

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.

No Planning matters were due for consideration.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary £1319.44
HMRC £1,055.56
Butler Bros £150
BT £23.94

Bills from MCC for £114 and £1,936.31 were considered, but the Clerk was instructed to write to them to ask for clarification of that the maintenance contract involved.

Retrospective approval was given to the invoice for £792 from Mike Pearson, £375.12 for the cleaner, £132 for Hayward Davies, £833.60 for the Caretaker, reimbursement to the Clerk for payments of £231.28 for Stationery, £87.88 for BT and £170.50 for Welsh Water and £20 for the wreath. The Clerk said that £25 had in fact been paid, and this would be recovered.

10 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues

(a) The Clerk had circulated a budget for consideration of the precept request. This formed the basis of the discussion, albeit he accepted that some of his predictions were educated guesses which might be incorrect. It was recognised that sums of money had been spent during the year which could be said to be for “capital projects” which wouldn't be repeated, but it was clearly going to be the case that the Council would go into a trading arrears in 2024/5 unless there was a considerable rise in the

Precept, and it was also recognised that Monmouthshire County Council would be unlikely to agree a rise of those proportions. **It was agreed that a Precept of £58,000 should be requested**, with the likelihood that this would be reduced.

(b) The Clerk said that Audit forms needed to be signed. **The Annual Returns for 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2019-2023 were approved by the meeting.** The Chair suggested that forms relating to years before he became Chair should be signed by Councillor Cowan, who was Chair during the years they related to. However, Councillor Cowan flatly refused to sign the forms, and so, to assist the auditor, the Chair duly signed the forms, and the Clerk said he would tell the auditor that he had done so and why.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee.

(a) The Chair had produced a quotation from Richard Moulding for work to improve the memorial garden and bring it back to a combined use as garden and car park and then maintain it on a monthly basis. He proposed (seconded by Councillor Skinner) that the quotation should be accepted. Zoe Cameron asked if she could become involved, and was told that she could, and could attend the next meeting of the Council to put forward her plans. She said she had plans in mind, one of which was to create a festival.

(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

(a) The Chair gave notice of a personal interest in the discussion at this point, and withdrew from the discussion. A quotation of £494.40 from Hayward Davies for putting LED lights in the toilets was proposed by Councillor Harry and seconded by Councillor Edwards and agreed.

(b) The Chair that the drains were still being a problem, and Councillor Skinner proposed (seconded by Councillor Baugh) that they should be examined every six weeks, and this was agreed. The Chair said that it was helpful that quick-dissolving toilet paper was being bought and used, but that was clearly not dealing adequately with the problem, although this was not helped by sanitary products being put down the toilets and he said that he had even found a woman's purse.

(c) In view of the budget problems, Councillor Edwards asked if the charges for hiring the hall could be raised. There was some discussion, but the general feeling of the meeting was that the rate of £15 per hour was currently about right.

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) The Chair said that had asked Mike Pearson to come up with a list of bins that might need repair or replacement.

(b) County Councillor McConnel asked about the razor wire on the top of the Hall. The Clerk warned that even trespassers on the roof might be able to sue if injured, and he was requested to raise the issue with the insurers.

16 The date of the next meeting of the Council

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on **Wednesday the 21st February 2024 at 7 p.m.**