

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 MARCH 2024

Those attending: Councillors M Hayward (Chair), C Harry (Vice-Chair), M Skinner, Rev J Gray, M Edwards, K Eldridge A Barber, and S Salway. Also in attendance were County Councillors Sue McConnel and Rev M Lane and the Clerk, Mr Robert Wade. On the floor of the meeting were Marjorie Bennett and Tess Hawkin.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms K Vaughan, R Fury and S Baugh.

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

There was no attendance by a representative of the police, but a report had been circulated. Mrs Bennett was able to provide information about the person at Llandewi Skirrid who had been trapped in a trench which had collapsed. The report was noted otherwise without comment.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

(a) County Councillor McConnel said that the Budget issues had been resolved, although unfortunately there had been a rise in Council Tax, which had been inevitable. Councillor Edwards asked if funds had been allocated for mending the many pot-holes in the roads. County Councillor McConnel said that a list had been made, and that some had been treated as priority and others had been subjected to what could best be described as a “quick fix”. Councillor Edwards asked whether

there was a particular measurement that would be required to determine into what category a pot-hole came – there was no ready answer to this. County Councillor McConnel She said that it was important to report all such problems.

(b) She said that it was important that education was being paid in full, including the pay award for teachers. Social care was a problem, with an increasingly elderly population.

(c) She referred to the Job Fayre in April, open to all ages of the population.

(d) She mentioned the bridge over the railway station. The ticket office was to remain open.

(e) She mentioned the recent e-mail from the Lord Lieutenant, asking for nominations for Honours/Awards.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2024.

Mrs Bennett pointed out that the word “car” in line six of Clause 3 should read “key”. This alteration was agreed, and the Minutes were approved otherwise as s a true record, on a proposal by Councillor Harry, seconded by Councillor Barber

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

(a) Page 3 – 6 (a) – the problem with the state in which Willow Court had been left by its developers was referred to. Councillor Edwards referred to the pile of rubble he had mentioned in previous meetings. Some Councillors also referred to a sign lying on the ground, the difficulty in visibility coming out of the estate and the “grounding” of cars leaving and entering the estate because of the surface of the access road. It was uncertain whether the road had been adopted by the County Council. The path from the estate to the Greystones estate also came in for criticism. County Councillor Lane said he had contacted the appropriate officer at the County Council in the hope and expectation that remedial work would be carried out.

(b) Page 3 - 6(b) – Councillor Harry said that he had attended a meeting with Mr David Cox, a representative of the County Council, earlier in the week to discuss the issue of the cutting back of the bank to the east side of the playing-fields. This had been allowed to overgrow, and had caused problems for football players trying to retrieve balls which had been kicked out of the playing field on that side of the park. There was no explanation as to why this had suddenly been omitted from the contract, but in any event he reported that Mr Cox had assured him that in future the County Council would cut right down to the ditch. The Clerk was asked to check whether the County

Council would also undertake responsibility for cutting back the foliage on and around the path to the west side of the playing-field.

(c) Page 3 – 6(e) - Councillor Harry said that he had contacted the organisation Parish Council Web-site, who appeared to be best equipped to help with improving the Council's web-site. He said he had been quoted £569 + VAT, which was felt to be reasonable, but questions were raised as to the need for a further £21.85 per month for technical advice. Councillor Harry said he would circulate details of the costings to all Councillors. He said he was still investigating the situation. The Chair said that a meeting of the new Mardy Green Spaces Committee had taken place, and Zoe Cameron in particular was mentioned as having numerous good ideas. They were planning an open day in May and he expressed the hope that all Councillors would attend and contribute towards the formulation and execution of ideas for the park in future. The Clerk was asked to see if a map could be produced to show the areas covered by individual Councillors so that people in the community would be able to know who to contact if the need arose. He said that the school was being involved in the proposals for development of the park, which currently included a concrete table tennis table, planting of trees and creation of a picnic area. Councillor Edwards confirmed that his wife Brigitte had been involved. County Councillor McConnel said that she had been impressed by Zoe's professionalism, and that she hoped that her work would improve the community. Councillor Eldridge suggested that the open day should be advertised in the Abergavenny Chronicle so as to encourage attendance so that the community as a whole would be able to see and experience what the Council was doing.

(d) Page 3 – 6(f) – the Chair said that the drains under the Community Hall had been checked very recently, and found to be clear of obstructions. This would continue to be monitored, but it appeared that measures such as the introduction of quick-dissolving toilet paper were helping.

(e) Page 3 – 6(g) – the matter of replacing or repairing litter and dog waste bins was being reviewed. The Clerk said that costings for new bins varied between £140 and £250, depending on design. There was still some doubt as to which bins belonged to the Council and which to the County Council. The Chair said a list was being produced with the benefit of Mike Pearson. Councillor Salway said that having a logo on the bin might assist. The Chair said he would liaise with the Clerk as to design and cost of the bins to put the matter before the Council in April so that a final decision could be reached on the acquisition and siting. There was equipment at the Hall which could be used by volunteers from Keep Mardy Tidy among others.

(f) Page 3 – 6(h) – the Chair said that the issue of removing the razor wire on the roof and replacing it with other security measures was still being explored, but would clearly need to be done.

(g) Page 4 – 10(a) – The Chair said that the proposed action on the bank accounts had been completed.

(h) Page 4 – 10(b) – the Clerk said that the official figures clearly said that the Chair was entitled to £500 over and above the standard Councillors' payments of £152 per annum + £52 for consumables. He confirmed that the allowances were definitely stated now to not be subject to Income Tax. Councillor Edwards proposed (seconded by Councillor Skinner) that the Chair should receive an annual payment of £800 to reflect the considerable work he was doing, and this was agreed.

7 To consider correspondence received.

The Clerk said he had received an e-mail from Mrs Beverley Dale regarding the condition of the Gavenny. It was generally agreed that this was something that needed to be looked into by the County Council.

8 To consider planning matters.

(a) DM/2019/00342 – Emm Lee Bungalow – extending the five year limit on the development which had not been started because of the pandemic – this was agreed

(b) 24/22651/FUL – New Court Farm – creation of a new family home – this was agreed

Mrs Hawkin asked about the proposed extension at Ty Gwyn which was to increase the sewage going to the Willow Court estate, where the system was already severely in question. County Councillor Lane and the Clerk both said they were unaware of this application. The Clerk was asked to look into this and raise an objection. The Chair said that environmentalists were looking into the issue of the pumping station that ought to have been installed by Persimmon as a condition for the planning consent in relation to the Willow Court estate. It was known that they had been prosecuted and heavily fined for their failures, but clearly felt that was cheaper than installing the pumping station. The Clerk said that they might be prosecuted again for continuing breaches, and said he would look into that.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

The following payments were approved:

The Cleaner £505.16

Caretaker £833.60

Mike Pearson £636

The Clerk's salary £1319.44

HMRC for the Clerk's salary £263.89

Gas £178.18
Playdale £2,322.10
BT £63.94
Monmouthshire County Council maintenance £1,936.31
Travel for Clerk £43.20
Hayward Davies £492
Butler Brothers £90

The Clerk confirmed that the annual payment to ACE had been made of £750.

10 To consider the Financial Statement and other financial issues

The Clerk circulated a Financial Statement, which was noted. It appeared that the Council would break even.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee.

The Clerk said there were no issues which were not already dealt with in other areas of the Agenda.

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

The Chair said that the issue of the projector in the main hall was still being looked at. Ideas had come forward for (for example) a Film Club, which would require a more sophisticated projector than merely for demonstrating or lecturing. It was agreed that this could go onto the Agenda for April.

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.

No issues arose that had not already been dealt with

16 The date of the next meeting of the Council

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on **Wednesday the 17th April 2024 at 7 p.m.**