

**LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10.01.23**

**Present:** Councillors Arwel Nicholas (Chair), Kumi Ariyadasa; Clare Bishop; Dylan Jones; Derick Lock; Felix Merry and Ann Pettitt

**Apologies:** None

Also in attendance (for part of the meeting): County Councillor Bryan Davies

<b>Minute Ref.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1/23/1	Minutes of previous meeting	AGREED: To approve the draft minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th November 2022 as a correct record of the meeting.
1/23/2	County Councillor's update	County Councillor Bryan Davies provided an update and information on a number of matters:  a) Esgair road and Bridge - It was NOTED that the bridge reopened as planned in November 2022.  b) There had been a number of landslides in the village and it was NOTED that these had been inspected and made safe by the County Council.  c) It was NOTED that the County Council had been requested to refill grit bins in the village.  d) Governing Body vacancy – the Community Council was invited to nominate one of its members to fill a vacancy for an LEA Governor for the Village school; and AGREED that the Chair, Councillor Arwel Nicholas, be nominated by the Community Council for this position.
1/23/3	Wales Audit Office update	The Acting Clerk updated the Council on the latest correspondence with the Wales Audit Office.  It was NOTED that:  (i) responses had been submitted, providing all available information requested by Wales Audit and their response was awaited;  (ii) a bill for Wales Audit fees for 'additional work for the 2018/19 audit' had been received totalling £7,395 and the fees for audit of the 3 subsequent years was estimated to be approx. £200 per year; and

		ii) good progress was being made on the Council's Action Plan to address the recommendations of the Wales Audit Public Interest report.
1/23/4	Finance: Update & Budget 2023/24	<p>The Acting Clerk updated the Council on the Council's current financial position and it was noted that the Chair, Clerk and members of the Finance Committee had met informally to discuss the Council's draft Budget 2023/24, which had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>It was AGREED to approve the draft Budget 2023/24 on the basis that no change would be made to the current precept level of £30 per Band D property, equating to a total precept of £10,106.40</p>
1/23/5	Payments for Approval	<p>The Acting Clerk provided information relating to payments for approval by the Council.</p> <p>It was AGREED to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Wales Audit fees £7,395</li> <li>b) Planning Aid Wales, £35 for training course fees</li> <li>c) Gerald Vaughan £120 for valuation of Council assets</li> <li>d) Village Hall Hire fees £30</li> <li>e) Christmas Tree event expenses, totalling £234.78</li> <li>f) Clerk's photocopying and postage expenses £9.05</li> <li>g) Carmarthenshire Council, £625.50 (street lighting)</li> </ul>
1/23/6	Assets - Inspection for repairs and maintenance	<p>The Acting Clerk informed the Council that an Asset Register had been prepared and that it was necessary for these assets to be inspected to assess repairs and maintenance requirements.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Clerk be asked to arrange for inspection of the Council's assets and to seek quotes for any required repair and maintenance works; and those quotes be presented to the next Council meeting for consideration.</p>
1/23/7	Recruitment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	<p>The Acting Clerk informed the Council that the application for the joint position with Llanllawddog Community Council had been withdrawn; that Llanllawddog had successfully appointed a new Clerk to their Council; and that no further applications had been received for the position of Llanpumsaint's Clerk.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the vacancy be re-advertised more widely, potentially including online job search sites.</p>
1/23/8	Highways matters	<p>The Acting Clerk and the Chair updated the meeting on a number of highways related matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 20 mph speed limit Consultation</li> </ul> <p>AGREED to respond to the consultation as follows:</p>

		<p>(i) From the bottom of Coopers Hill to Panteg, to submit that the speed limit should be reduced to 30mph; and</p> <p>(ii) On the Llandysul Road, from the bottom of Coopers Hill to Pantawel, to support the proposed speed limit reduction to 20mph.</p> <p>(b) Condition of Llandysul Road up to the Forestry turning – AGREED to ask the Clerk to report the potholes and poor road condition.</p>
1/23/9	Christmas Tree event	The Chair noted that the Christmas Tree event had been a great success and congratulated all those involved in the organisation and preparations for the evening. It was AGREED: that a working group be established to meet in the Summer to discuss plans for a similar Christmas Tree event for 2023; and that a letter of thanks be sent to Skanda Vale for their kind donation of the tree and assistance in putting it up.
1/23/10	Coronation commemorative gift for Village school pupils	It was NOTED that the school had indicated they would welcome a commemorative mug for each pupil and that estimated costs were £360; and it was AGREED to approve a budget of £360 and authorise the Clerk to obtain quotes and place an order within this budget.
1/23/11	Requests for financial support	<p>The Acting Clerk provided information relating to requests for financial support. It was AGREED, having regard to the Council's limited financial resources, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Carmarthen Federation of Young Farmers - not approved;</li> <li>b) Urdd National Eisteddfod - a grant of £100 be approved;</li> <li>c) Cerebral Palsy Cymru - not approved;</li> <li>d) Wales Air Ambulance - grant of £100 be approved;</li> <li>e) Gwyl Canol Dre 2023 - not approved; and</li> <li>f) Yes Cymru - not approved.</li> </ul> <p>It was NOTED that a letter of thanks had been received from the Village School's After School Club for the financial assistance given by the Council.</p>
1/23/12	Training Plan	The Acting Clerk advised that there was a legal requirement for the Council to have a Training Plan and outlined a draft training plan that had been prepared for consideration. It was AGREED that the draft Training Plan be approved.
1/23/13	Biodiversity Plan	The Acting Clerk referred to the draft Biodiversity Plan that had been prepared; and it was AGREED to review and amend the Plan, having regard to the Council's limited resources and

		assets, to ensure it is proportionate and deliverable; and receive a revised draft Plan at a future Council meeting.
1/23/14	Forward Plan	It was AGREED to note and approve the draft Forward Plan.
1/23/15	Urgent Items:	<p>a) Skanda Vale traffic – Cllr Ariyadasa declared a personal prejudicial interest as a trustee of Skanda Vale. It was suggested that the Council should keep this matter under review in light of the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and anticipated traffic issues.</p> <p>b) Calendar of future Council meetings – The Council NOTED Cllr Merry’s request as to whether future Council meetings could be held on a day other than Tuesdays; and it was AGREED that this would be reviewed and discussed when the Calendar of meetings 2023/24 is considered.</p> <p>c) Temporary Road Closure in Cynwyl Elfed – the proposals were NOTED and it was AGREED to make no comments.</p>

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Chairperson**