

LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th September 2023 at 8.00 pm

Attendees: Councillors Arwel Nicholas (Chair), Kumi Ariyadasa; Clare Bishop; Dylan Jones; Derick Lock; Felix Merry; and Lyn Thomas

Apologies: Councillor Ann Pettitt
County Councillor Bryan Davies

Minute Ref.	Agenda Item	Decision
9/23/A	Declarations of Interest	<p>(i) Cllr Ariyadasa declared a personal prejudicial interest in agenda item 10(b) Skanda Vale traffic arising from her position as a trustee of Skanda Vale.</p> <p>(ii) Cllr Bishop declared a personal non prejudicial interest in a late grant application submitted by the Village Hall Committee (to be raised under Urgent Items) arising from her position as Secretary of the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>(iii) Cllr Merry declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 Brechfa Wind Farm Fund Presentation, arising from the fact that he is married to the Fund Manager.</p>
9/23/1	Minutes of previous meeting	AGREED: To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 th July 2023.
9/23/2	County Councillor's update	<p>The Chair updated the meeting with regard to the health of County Councillor Bryan Davies, who had recently suffered a heart attack and was currently unable to carry out his duties.</p> <p>It was NOTED and AGREED that the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery had been conveyed to Councillor Davies and his family; and that the Acting Clerk be asked to establish whether any cover arrangements had been put in place by Carmarthen County Council.</p>
9/23/3	Brechfa Wind Farm Fund – Presentation from Community Fund Manager	<p>Councillor Felix Merry declared a personal interest in this item as he is married to the Community Fund Manager. He was advised that as this agenda item was to receive a presentation for information only, his interest was not prejudicial.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Moishe Merry, Community Fund Manager, who outlined the work of the Wind Farm Fund and the previous grant funding provided for the benefit of the Village of Llanpumsaint, which would also be provided by email for circulation to all Councillors. Potential future grant opportunities for the Community Council were discussed, including funding for a designated dog walking area (enquiries could be made about the</p>

		<p>field behind the Church), benches, a footpath around the village and a Christmas event. The Council thanked Moishe for her clear and helpful presentation.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Community Council would give further consideration to suitable applications for Brechfa Wind Farm funding when time and resources permit.</p>
9/23/4	Financial matters	<p>The Acting Clerk provided an update on the Council's current financial position as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Wales Audit Office – no further updates had been received from the Audit office in relation to the outstanding Annual Returns (2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22) since the last meeting; b) Annual Return 2022/23 – this had been submitted to the Wales Audit Office; c) Budget Monitoring – a spreadsheet setting out the current spend against approved budget for the year had been circulated for information and it was noted that spending to date was within the budget. <p>AGREED – that the current financial position of the Community Council be noted.</p>
9/23/5	Payments for Approval	<p>AGREED: To approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Llanpumsaint Memorial Hall, hire fees for July 2023 meeting, £16; b) Trywydd, translation for July 2023 meeting, £121.20; and c) Llanpumsaint Memorial Hall, hire fees for this meeting (September 2023), submitted as a late urgent item, with the permission of the Chair, £20.
9/23/6	Recruitment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	<p>It was reported that there had been no further interest in the vacancy, and that the Clerk of Llanllawddog Community Council had confirmed he was unable to take on any further commitments.</p> <p>AGREED: everyone to continue advertising the vacancy through word of mouth and any suitable contacts; and to note that the Acting Clerk, who has been undertaking this role on a voluntary basis since June 2022, was finding it increasingly difficult to continue in the role due to other work and family commitments, and would therefore continue to prioritise essential tasks only.</p>
9/23/7	Highways matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Graig Junction – The Acting Clerk explained, with apologies, that actions agreed at the last meeting had unfortunately not been progressed due to lack of time. It was AGREED

		<p>that the outstanding actions should be progressed - to seek written assurances from the County Council that motorists would not be penalised for driving over the red lines at the junction; to raise concerns with Bronwydd Community Council in relation to the declaration of personal interests under the Code of Conduct; and Cllr Bishop was asked to follow up on the concerns in relation to planning conditions.</p> <p>b) Skanda Vale traffic - Councillor Ariyadasa declared a personal prejudicial interest in this item as a Trustee of Skanda Vale and left the room during the discussion of this matter.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed a number of residents who were in attendance to raise concerns regarding traffic related issues apparently caused by visitors to Skanda Vale. In addition to the volume of traffic, other concerns raised included damage to property, “beeping of horns” in the middle of the night, trespass and taking of flowers from gardens. The Chair referred to previous discussions with the County Councillor, representatives of Skanda Vale and himself to consider future options to improve traffic issues in the Village.</p> <p>The Chair AGREED to contact the Council to obtain an update on the current position. The Chair also encouraged residents to contact the County Council directly with any particular concerns.</p>
9/23/8	Annual Report 2022/23	Councillor Bishop had drafted an Annual Report for consideration by the Community Council, which had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. AGREED that the Acting Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, be delegated authority to make any minor amendments to finalise and publish the Annual Report.
9/23/9	Requests for financial assistance	<p>The Acting Clerk provided information relating to requests for financial support. It was AGREED, having regard to the Council’s limited financial resources and priority for the needs of the local community, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) LLanpumsaint Welfare and Recreation Association - deferred consideration until January pending receipt of financial accounts and information about biodiversity measures; b) SSFA, the Armed Forces Charity, 2023 Appeal - not approved; c) the Village Hall Committee – Cllr Bishop declared a personal non prejudicial interest in this matter, as Secretary of the Hall Committee, and outlined the application, which the Chair agreed to allow as a late urgent item. £500 grant approved; and

		<p>d) the Village Bowls Club be encouraged to submit an application for funding to the January Council meeting, with a copy of their latest accounts.</p>
9/23/10	Correspondence	<p>The following items of correspondence were discussed and NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review of Polling Districts and Places, which proposes no changes in relation to Llanpumsaint; b) Carmarthen Area Committee, minutes of meeting held on 12 July 2023; c) Audit Wales, consultation on Fee scales 2024/25; d) SLCC and OVW event on 8th November 2023, "Ensuring Effective Governance and Accountability", £60 e) OVW Conference and AGM, 30th September 2023 f) Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, Annual Report 2022/23; and g) Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel , Annual Report 2023 <p>It was AGREED that the Acting Clerk should continue to select items of relevant correspondence to forward to Councillors on an ongoing basis.</p>
9/23/11	Biodiversity Plan - update	<p>Councillor Bishop, as the Council's Biodiversity Champion, updated the Council on matters relating to the Council's Biodiversity Plan together with a number of possible future ideas, including the creation of a dedicated FaceBook page and the potential purchase of the pumping station land for a nominal fee which could become a prime site for biodiversity.</p> <p>It was AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to authorise Cllr Bishop to: (i) set up a Llanpumsaint Community Council Biodiversity FaceBook page: and (ii) make enquiries with Brechfa Wind Farm regarding potential support for legal fees relating to a potential land acquisition; and (b) Cllr Thomas to make enquiries about potential acquisition of the pumping station land.
9/23/12	Risk assessment	<p>The Acting Clerk reminded Councillors that the Council was required to produce a Risk Register, identifying risks to the Council and arrangements for mitigating those risks. Councillor Merry had prepared a draft Risk Register, which had been circulated to all Councillors for comment and consideration at this meeting.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the Acting Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Councillor Merry, be delegated authority to finalise the draft Risk Register.</p>
9/23/13	Forward Plan	<p>AGREED to note and approve the draft Forward Plan.</p>

9/23/14	Urgent Items	<p>The following urgent matters were raised, with the permission of the Chair, and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Village Hall hire fees for September meeting (£20) – approved under minute reference 9/23/5 above. b) Village Hall grant request, £500 grant approved under minute reference 9/23/9 above. c) Unauthorised development at Ffos y Broga – the Community Council had received notice of a consultation in relation to an appeal submitted against the County Council’s planning enforcement action. It was noted that the Community Council had previously raised concerns about this development and agreed that the response should repeat those concerns. d) Councillor Pettit’s absence – the Acting Clerk explained that under local government law, if a Councillor doesn’t attend meetings for 6 consecutive months, they cease to be a Councillor (known as ‘the 6 month rule’), unless the Council approves the reason for their absence before the end of the 6 month period. The last Council meeting attended by Cllr Pettitt was on 14th March 2023. However, it was noted that Cllr Pettitt may be unaware of this rule and was abroad on holiday. AGREED to approve Cllr Pettitt’s absence due to being on holiday, until the next meeting of the Community Council.
9/23/15	Date of next meeting	14 th November 2023, 8pm

SIGNED:

CHAIRPERSON

DATE: