

**LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> November 2023 at 8.00 pm**

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

**Apologies:** County Councillor Bryan Davies

<b>Minute Ref.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
11/23/1	Declarations of Interest	Cllr Merry declared a personal interest in Agenda item 13, the Christmas Tree Event, in relation to the matter of potential grant funding, as his wife is the Brechfa Wind Farm Fund Manager – Reference minute 11/23/11 below.
11/23/2	Minutes of previous meeting	AGREED: To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held on 12th September 2023.
11/23/3	County Councillor's update	The Chair updated the meeting with regard to the health of County Councillor Bryan Davies, who was recuperating from a heart attack and was currently unable to carry out his Councillor duties.
11/23/4	Financial matters	<p>The Acting Clerk provided an update on financial matters as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Wales Audit Office - the Community Council had received unqualified audits for the 3 outstanding financial years (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22). A public notice to this effect had been published, informing the public that the relevant accounts were open to inspection. An invoice had yet to be received from the Wales Audit Office but was anticipated to be in the region of £200 p.a. The external Audit for the year 2022/23 was still awaited. The Acting Clerk was thanked for all her efforts in getting the Council back on track;</li><li>b) Budget Monitoring - a spreadsheet setting out the current spend against budgets had been circulated. The Acting Clerk informed the meeting that the Council was required to set a budget at its meeting in January 2024 including the setting of the precept for 2024/25. AGREED that the Acting Clerk would liaise with the Finance Committee to develop recommendations to be brought to the Council for consideration in January.</li></ul> <p>AGREED - that the current financial position of the Community Council be noted as above; and to appoint Cllr Thomas to the Finance Committee.</p>

11/23/5	Payments for Approval	<p>AGREED: To approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Trywydd, translation for September 2023 meeting (£148.20)</li> <li>b) Village Hall Hire fees for November 2023 meeting (£20)</li> </ul>
11/23/6	Highways matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Footpath diversion, Alltgaredig AGREED to support this scheme.</li> <li>b) Graig Junction – The Acting Clerk updated the Council on progress relating to the actions agreed at the last meeting: (i) the Acting Clerk had received assurances from the County Council that the “red hatch” zone was advisory only and so motorists were unlikely to receive enforcement action; (ii) the Acting Clerk had written to the Clerk to Bronwydd Community Council about concerns regarding the personal interest of one of its Councillors in this matter and seeking informal resolution, and this had been followed up by telephone and the Clerk had agreed to discuss the matter with her Chair and revert to us; and (iii) the concerns about compliance with planning conditions would be raised with the Planning department of the County Council. The Chair also agreed to discuss concerns informally with the Chair of Bronwydd Community Council.</li> <li>c) Road damage by Bwythin Cottage – this had been reported to the County Council and the Chair had mentioned this to the County Councillor who said that the Highways department had indicated that they would not have funds to repair this for another 9 months or so. They had suggested that if the adjoining landowner was agreeable, the removal of the hedge may facilitate widening of the road, but it was thought unlikely that the Council would offer any compensation for this. Noted that lorries can now pass. Agreed that this matter is the responsibility of the County Council, so the Community Council would take no further action.</li> <li>d) Bronwydd Road – reported that hedges need cutting. Noted that the road falls within the area of Bronwydd CC, however, this matter may be reported by any member of the public using the County Council’s online reporting facility.</li> </ul> <p>NOTED and AGREED as above.</p>

11/23/7	Assets – Maintenance and repairs, update	<p>Councillor Thomas reported that he had inspected all assets and made a note of minor repairs needed, for example, there were a few missing slates on the roof of Ty Hers. One local contractor had been approached to quote for the work, but had indicated that he would not be available to undertake the work for another 10 months. Agreed that Cllr Thomas be asked to contact other contractors, whose details would be forwarded again.</p> <p>AGREED to note and agree as above and receive an update from Cllr Thomas at the next Council meeting.</p>
11/23/8	Biodiversity Plan - update	<p>Councillor Bishop updated the meeting on matters relating to the Council’s Biodiversity Plan including the creation of a dedicated FaceBook page, ‘Llanpumsaint Biodiversity’. Cllr Thomas confirmed that enquiries had been made to pursue the offer to allow the Council to purchase an area of land next to the Pumping Station for £1 to promote biodiversity. Brechfa Wind Farm Fund had indicated that they could potentially fund associated legal fees.</p> <p>It was AGREED that Cllr Thomas be asked to continue discussions with the family who own the land to ascertain their willingness, or otherwise, to sell the land to the Council.</p>
11/23/9	Climate and Ecology Bill – Proposed Motion (Zero Hour Campaign)	<p>Cllr Bishop explained the purpose of the new Bill and, as the Council’s Biodiversity Champion, asked the Council to support it and proposed the draft Motion (appended to these minutes). The Motion was seconded by Cllr Merry.</p> <p>AGREED the motion be carried and Cllr Bishop to work with the Acting Clerk to take the agreed actions.</p>
11/23/10	Jenny Eirian Davies Fund	<p>The Chair reported that the former Clerk had suggested the Council should follow up on this Trust Fund. However, the Acting Clerk confirmed that she had no record of this Fund.</p> <p>AGREED that Councillor Thomas would make enquiries with Dorian Thomas, who was understood to be the sole remaining trustee, to seek further information about the Fund.</p>
11/23/11	Village Christmas tree and event	<p>Councillors Bishop and Pettitt outlined proposals for the proposed Christmas Tree event, which was to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall. Estimated costs were around £300 in total, to cover the purchase and erection of the tree and refreshments. It was noted that the Brechfa Wind Farm Fund manager had indicated that grant funding (up to £500) may be available for such an event, however, a majority of the Councillors were in favour of funding the event from the Community Council’s budget.</p>

		<p>Cllr Merry declared a personal interest in the matter of potential grant funding, as his wife is the Brechfa Wind Farm Fund Manager, and took no part in the vote on this matter.</p> <p>AGREED to approve a budget of £300 for the event.</p>
11/23/12	Correspondence	<p>Welsh Government Survey – Review of Democratic Health in the Community &amp; Town Council Sector (deadline 27/11/2023) – Councillors were encouraged to respond to the survey.</p>
11/23/13	Risk assessment	<p>An updated Risk Register had been circulated.</p> <p>AGREED to note and approve the updated Risk Register and review it after the appointment of a permanent Clerk or in 6 months time.</p>
11/23/14	Forward Plan	<p>The updated Forward Plan was noted. It was suggested that it may be helpful to group high, medium and low priority items together.</p> <p>AGREED to approve the draft Forward Plan.</p>
11/23/15	Urgent Items	<p>It was noted that a member of the public had asked to discuss Skanda Vale traffic issues as a late urgent item, but was not in attendance at the meeting. The Chair confirmed that he had not received any update on this matter from the County Councillor, due to his ill health. NOTED.</p>
11/23/16	Recruitment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	<p><b>The Council resolved to exclude the public for this item pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraphs 12 and 13</b></p> <p>It was reported that an application had been received for the position of Clerk and the application was circulated and discussed.</p> <p>AGREED that the Acting Clerk make arrangements for the Personnel Committee to interview the applicant, provisionally on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, in accordance with its approved terms of reference, and submit its recommendation on appointment to the next meeting of the Community Council.</p>
11/23/17	Date of next meeting	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024, 8pm

**SIGNED:**

**DATE:**

**CHAIRPERSON:**