

LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th January 2024 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

Minute Ref.	Agenda Item	Decision
1/24/1	Declarations of Interest	Cllr Nicholas (Chair) and Cllr Lock each declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the grant application submitted by the Llanpumsaint and Nebo Short Mat Bowls Club (Agenda item 9(e)) as they were both members of the Club and Cllr Lock is its Chair.
1/24/2	Minutes of previous meeting	AGREED: To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th November 2023.
1/24/3	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 duties. The Councillors all wished County Councillor Davies a swift recovery.
1/24/4	Budget and Precept 2024/25	<p>The Acting Clerk had circulated the current budget monitoring position together with a projection based on current spend and an estimated position for reserves as at 31 March 2024. The Council discussed the draft budget and precept for 2024/25 and noted that the Council had accrued sufficient reserves to be able to keep the precept at the current level (£30 per Band D property) and fund the balance of the draft budget requirement from reserves, as recommended by the Acting Clerk. It was noted, however, that the Council's projected annual expenditure was significantly higher its annual income, and so the Council would need to consider increasing the precept in future years. It was suggested that the Council may wish to put some of its reserves into a higher interest earning account and that Cllr Bishop and Finance Committee members may wish to look into this further.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) To approve the draft budget for 2024/25;(2) To maintain the 2024/25 precept at the current level, ie. £30 per Band D property, which equates to an annual precept of £10,271.10; and(3) To continue to monitor the budget position and reserves.
1/24/5	Wales Audit Update	The Acting Clerk explained that Wales Audit had not yet completed the audit for 2022/23 and copy documents had been resubmitted on request. Invoices had been received for audit fees for 2017/18

		<p>(£200) and 2019/20 (£200). The Acting Clerk had queried the fees for 2017/18, asking why these were only being invoiced now and one year after the Council had settled outstanding fees for additional work during the 2018/19 audit. A response was awaited. The Chair and Cllr Jones confirmed their understanding that all previously due audit fees had been settled on time.</p> <p>AGREED: to note the update, settle both Audit Wales invoices, but ask the Acting Clerk to continue to query the fees for 2017/18.</p>
1/24/6	Payments for Approval	<p>AGREED: To approve the following payments:</p> <p>a) Wales Audit, 2 invoices (referenced under minute no. 1/24/5 above), total £400;</p> <p>b) Xmas tree event £282.06 in total, comprised of the following individual payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Llwyndu Farm Ltd (Christmas tree) £132; (ii) Vincent Wade (sundries) £58.24; and (iii) Clare Bishop (sundries) £91.82; <p>c) Trywydd, translation for November 2023 meeting, £97.80</p> <p>d) Llanpumsaint Village Hall – hire fees for January meeting (£20) and Clerk interviews (£10.50), total £30.50</p> <p>e) Carmarthen Council, Street lights, replacement lanterns 2024, £625.50</p>
1/24/7	Requests for financial assistance / grants	<p>The Acting Clerk provided information relating to requests for financial support.</p> <p>AGREED, having regard to the Council’s limited financial resources and priority for the needs of the local community, to make the following awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Llanpumsaint Welfare and Recreation Committee - £500 b) Urdd Eisteddfod 2024 - no grant c) Urdd Fund for All (Summer camps) - no grant d) Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Clubs - £200 e) Llanpumsaint and Nebo Short Mat Bowls Club - £500 <p>Cllrs Nicholas and Lock declared a personal non prejudicial interest in item (e) above, as recorded under minute reference 1/24/1.</p> <p>NOTED: that no funding requests had been received from the Village Voice or the Village school After School Club, and it was understood that they may have received funding from the Brechfa Wind Farm.</p>
1/24/8	Assets – Maintenance	<p>Councillor Thomas updated the meeting on progress. Enquiries had been made, but one potential contractor (Hedydd) had been in</p>

	and repairs, update	<p>hospital and another (Danny) had not replied. Preliminary inspections showed that there were a few missing / broken roof slates on Ty Hers, the phone boxes were in need of repairs and there was graffiti on the bus stop. It was suggested that we may wish to consider approaching the school to explore potential use for art projects.</p> <p>AGREED that the repairs and maintenance works need to be progressed without delay and Cllr Thomas will continue to seek quotes from 2-3 suitable contractors (other possible contractors to be explored further) and provide an update at the next meeting.</p>
1/24/9	Village Christmas tree and event	<p>It was noted that the Christmas tree event in December 2023 had been well attended by the local community. The Chair thanked the organising committee and volunteers for all their hard work in arranging this successful event.</p> <p>AGREED: to try to repeat this as an annual Christmas event for the local community.</p>
1/24/10	<p>Highways matters:</p> <p>(i) Graig Junction</p> <p>(ii) Cynwel Elfed Road, water on road – Raised as an Urgent Item</p>	<p>(i) The Acting Clerk updated the Council on matters relating to the Graig junction, specifically (a) confirmation was still awaited from Bronwydd CC about informal resolution of concerns raised about the personal interest of one of their Councillors; and (b) the Planning Authority had confirmed that there did not appear to be any breach of planning conditions, but any concerns about obstruction of visibility at the junction could be raised with the Highways Authority. NOTED and AGREED to receive a further update in relation to point (a) at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>(ii) Cynwel Elfed Road (Urgent item) – it was reported that there had been an accident due to icy road conditions and drainage problems. The road had been closed and the police attended. There had also been another near miss. Suggested that a grit box would be helpful. The problems had been reported to the Highway Authority. It was noted that drainage was a County wide problem, with ditches full everywhere. NOTED.</p>
1/24/11	Multi-Location Meeting Arrangements	<p>The Acting Clerk briefed Councillors on the statutory duty for all Councils to provide an option to access meetings remotely via audio link. Any potential new remote arrangements would need to link to the simultaneous translation service provided at Council meetings and may need the use of a laptop to facilitate the use of appropriate software such as Teams or Zoom. Trywydd, the Council's translation service provider, had offered helpful advice and suggested a trial at a future Council meeting. Councillors were not convinced that the local community would be interested in remote access to Council</p>

		<p>meetings, but agreed that the Council should take a pragmatic approach to meeting the legal requirements.</p> <p>AGREED to note the update above and arrange a trial for remote access at a future Council meeting.</p>
1/24/12	Correspondence	<p>The following item of correspondence were discussed and noted:</p> <p>(a) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, draft Annual Report 2024;</p> <p>(b) Local Government Finance Wales Bill – Consultation; and</p> <p>(c) GoSafe Community Speed Watch.</p>
1/24/13	Forward Plan	<p>The draft Forward Plan was discussed.</p> <p>AGREED to note and approve the draft Forward Plan.</p>
1/24/14	Urgent Items	<p>The only urgent item was raised and discussed under Highways, recorded under minute reference 1/24/10(ii) above.</p>
1/24/15	Recruitment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	<p>The Council resolved to exclude the public for this item pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraphs 12 and 13</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>(i) To approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee on 1st December 2023 and appoint Angela Bearman as the new Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer, on the terms and conditions previously agreed by the Council (subject to the nationally agreed pay award), with effect from the beginning of February 2024; and</p> <p>(ii) Delegate authority to the Acting Clerk, in consultation with all members of the Personnel Committee, to make all necessary arrangements, including issue of a contract of employment, payroll, training and induction, and development of employment policies and procedures for approval by the Council.</p>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024, 8PM