

Cilymaenllwyd Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday evening, 6th June 2023 at Caffi Beca at 7.30pm

NB: 30th May 2023 meeting rescheduled to 6th June 2023 as Clerk unavailable

Present: Tudur Lewis (Chair), Russell Davies (Vice-chair), Anthony Jenner, Anthony Eynon, Vivian Williams, Rebecca Jaimangl Jones, Michael Fussell, Julian Williams, Ffion John, Cllr Dorian Phillips, Janice Morgan (Clerk)

Members of the public present: Julie Sweet and Dr Stephen Griffiths for item 5

The meeting was chaired by the new Chair for the year, Tudur Lewis. Current and new Councillors i.e. FJ, MF and JW, were welcomed to the meeting,

1. **Apologies:** Dennis Jones
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes of last meeting 28/3/2023:**
 - The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 28 March 2023 were accepted to be correct on the proposal of AJ and seconded by RJJ.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms – all signed and returned
- The Good Councillor Guide – a copy has been sent to the Councillors
- Ynys Fach parking bay litter bin – still there and litter remains a problem
Action: Cllr DP to ask the County Council to remove the rubbish bin from Ynys Fach parking bay
- Meini Gŵyr information board – has arrived. Clips will need to be ordered to fix it in place. AJ agreed to arrange this
- Ynys Fach picnic site sign – is ready and will be put in place in the next few days. The County Council has not undertaken the tidying up work to date
- Second Revised Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) – the community council's response to the consultation was sent which included everyone's comments regarding the proposed plans to build houses on two sites in Glandy Cross (land to the back of Maesglas and land north of the Cross Inn Pub) and one site in Efailwen (land to the rear of Talarwen). Cllr DP reported that the LDP would be passed at the end of next year.
- S6 Biodiversity Report/Action Plan – JM will send a draft to everyone within the next few weeks
- Website – Jamie King is currently developing the website and hopes to send a draft through soon. A deposit of £410 has been paid for the initial work. The full cost is £700. It was agreed to include Councillors' names on the website and all inquiries to go through cilymaenllwydcc@gmail.com. It was also agreed to pay Jamie King to update the information on the website for the first three months at an additional cost of £150. This work will need to be reviewed within a few months
- Community Review – it was confirmed that the community council had agreed to accept the proposal presented by the Electoral Registration Officer in the draft report, i.e. to merge the two wards – the South Ward and the North Ward, in Cilymaenllwyd and have one whole community.

4. Remuneration

- Following the March meeting, information was sent to all regarding remuneration for Councillors. From May 2022 all Councillors should be paid £150 per year and from April 2023 this payment increases to £156 per year (£3 per week). This is mandatory under the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Bill 2011. JM apologised for failing to bring this matter to the Council's attention sooner.
- Payments of £150 will be made to everyone for May 2022 – March 2023 and proportionate payments will be made to those who started a little later in the year. It was agreed that Councillors would confirm by email if they do not want to receive the payment as soon as possible. This will need to be reported in the annual report and in the 2023/24 accounts.

5. Sustainable Communities Grant Application

Members of the public joined the meeting to discuss the public footpaths. The main points of discussion are as follows:

- a high number of applications have been submitted for the Sustainable Grant; outcome will be known end of June
 - if the Cilymaenllwyd application is not successful, JS stated that a number of people in the community would be keen to raise money through 'crowd funding' to ensure that footpath restoration goes ahead
 - it was acknowledged that that these footpaths are an important aspect of local heritage and the community's greatest asset
 - the possibility of putting in diversions where some existing rights of way go through farmyards or are close to houses
 - rights of way map was circulated highlighting current obstructions. The Council PROW booklet provides information re addressing the removal of obstructions on rights of way and outlines community councils' powers to help with removal of obstructions
 - rights of way map was circulated highlighting current obstructions on a small number of footpaths. The Council PROW booklet provides information re addressing the removal of obstructions on rights of way and outlines community councils' powers to help with removal of obstructions
 - the possibility of creating a sub-committee to focus on footpaths was proposed but dismissed
 - the PROW department have stated they will supply yellow footpath waymark signs to JS if anyone knows where they are needed. To date JS is awaiting the signs
 - the Council maintenance team have a list of footpaths requiring roadside signage and more footpaths can be added
- Action: Cllr DP to follow up the maintenance work for the roadside footpath signage**
- request to include footpaths information on the community council's website
 - some concerns were raised: high number of sheep killed by dogs not on leads; visitors walking passed private dwellings. Cll DP had received several phone calls this week expressing concern re rights of way from landowners and advised JS to hold back the footpath work
 - site visits to some landowners held this week by Jason Lawday and Cll DP where possible diversions were discussed with the landowners

Members of the public left the meeting after this discussion.

- Councillors agreed that it was important for everyone to work together, that a specific plan is needed; look at diversions and focus on the footpaths that were identified at the general meeting back in September, rather than opening them all.
- It was acknowledged that landowners have a statutory responsibility to maintain the footpaths and there was a guidance booklet on the County Council website outlining these responsibilities.
- It was also agreed to await the grant application outcome at this point.

6. Correspondence

- An appeal letter was received from Cymdeithas Cwm Cerwyn requesting financial support for a statue to be raised to commemorate Twm Carnabwth. It was agreed to give £500. The campaign launch will be held on Monday 17 July at Caffi Beca and members are invited to attend.
- A number of e-mails have been forwarded to all for info, regarding various consultations.

7. Finance Update and Signing Cheques

- JM provided a financial summary at the start of a new financial year:
 - starting the year at £11,459, carried over from 22/23
 - 2023/24 precept is £8,000. The first precept payment was received on 26/4/23, which is £2,666.66
 - the following payments were made in April:
 - Carmarthenshire Urdd Eisteddfod: £500
 - Jamie King – website: £410
 - Philip Wait – Meini Gŵyr sign: £913
 - Boomerang – Ynys Fach sign: £84
 - lighting charges 22/23: £1,158.94
 - One Voice Wales – training: £76
 The total payments are £3,141.94
- The draft budget for 23/24 was presented showing this year's income and expenditure forecast.
- It was confirmed that the notice of the conclusion of audit and a right to audit the annual return for the years ending 31 March 2020, 2021, 2022 had been received and had been forwarded to all. JM had put this notice on the Glandy Cross and Ffynnonwen notice boards and on the Facebook page for a period of 14 days stating that the audit had been completed and that the accounts were available for people to see, as required. One request to view the accounts was received from a constituent and digital copies were sent to them by email.
- JM drew attention to some points raised in the Auditor General's report of the 2019/20 accounts: a recommendation for the Council and the Clerk to prepare a signed employment contract as soon as possible. A contract has been drafted since then and presented at this meeting for approval. The community council has been registered with HMRC as it employs the clerk.

Action: JM to email the employment contract to everyone for them to read and accept
- Another point raised in 20/21 accounts was: when setting its precept, the Council is required to calculate its budgetary requirement in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The Act requires the Council to consider the level of its reserves when setting its budget requirement. Therefore this will need to be considered very carefully when setting the precept next year.

- It was confirmed that the community council would be subject to a full audit of the accounts this year and it will be necessary to submit information according to the published list. A date will be given and information will need to be taken to a named location.
- Cheques paid since the last meeting:
 - Footlighting Charges for 01/04/2022-31/03/2023- £1,158.94
 - Boomerang - £84,00
 - Meini Gŵyr Sign - £913.85
- Cheques to be signed:
 - Caffi Beca for room hire - £25
 - One Voice of Wales for Training: FJ and JW – Training for New Councillors - £76.00
 - Donation to Twm Carnabwth statue fund - £500

8. Planning

- The following requests were submitted since the last meeting:
 - PL/05684 - flexible use of a domestic caravan for tourism purposes - Lower Hill, Login, Hendygywyn, SA34 0XD. Closing date: 09/05/2023
 - PL/05639 - change of use of agricultural land to touring caravans and tents site, shower/toilet block - Rhosfach Farm, Efailwen, Clunderwen, SA66 7XG Closing date: 07/ 06/2023
- No objection was expressed to the above applications.

9. Training Plan

- An invitation was sent to Councillors to attend the Code of Conduct training on either 12/06/2023 at 2pm or 24/07/2023 at 6pm; face to face or online. Everyone is encouraged to attend. AE confirmed attendance in the 12/6/23 training session; JM will register AE.
 - Carmarthenshire County Council's review will need to be completed by 1 July, which is a data request relating to number of declaration of interests made in 22/23; how many had received the code of conduct training in the same period and also whether the community council has a training plan. JM will complete this survey.
 - The community council will need to have a 4-year training plan in place until 2027. As the first step, everyone will be required to undertake an assessment of their training needs.
- Action: JM to forward the Learning and Development Plan form to all for completion, grade themselves against the core competencies and return asap**
- A training plan will then be produced specifying which training sessions Councillors could do over a period of time, to also include training plan costs. This training plan will need to be approved at the next meeting and published on the website.
 - It was noted that JM had attended the Code of Conduct training in April and FJ and JW had attended the New Councillors training in May.

10. County Councillor's Update

- Cllr DB reported that he had been on the fly tipping task and finish group looking at private and public land; they are looking at making the two work together.
- The new waste collection arrangements have led to a significant reduction in the number of black plastic bags and more blue bags and food bags being used. This has made a big difference with the County Council exceeding its target.
- The Cardi Bach is now in stage 4. An ecology study has been carried out and now looking at opening two sections: Glandwr to Llanglydwen and Llanfyrnach to Crymych.

- Voneus Broadband – 4 fibre boxes have been installed in the area and fibre broadband will be installed by the end of summer. This area will come under Llanboidy.
- Roads – ten roads in the area need to be resurfaced including the main road from Efailwen down to Caer Bedw.
- A request has been made for the verge along the road from Blaenafon to the school on both sides to be cut, as children walk to school. Cllr DP will send an email.
- Attention also drawn to the water pipe ramp that crosses the road near Pantyrweigen and Llwynyrebol, that this is dangerous and the road is poor. Also the ditches between Ysgol Beca and Chapel Nebo are being crushed by heavy vehicles
- It was reported that dog fouling was a problem and if bins could be placed in certain locations.

11. AOB

- New Model Standing Orders have been issued by One Voice Wales which all community councils are required to adopt in order to fully comply with the law. JM will go through these and distribute them for all to read and approve at the next meeting
Action: JM to send out the new Standing Orders for all to read and approve at the next meeting
- Rhian Williams was praised for keeping the Rebecca Riots memorial stone area so tidy. Space for vehicles to pull in on the other side would be very beneficial as it is a site that attracts visitors.
Action: TL to ask James Morris, the owner of the land opposite the Rebecca Riots memorial if he would be willing to consider giving some land for cars to pull into. It would be necessary to go through the correct channels if in agreement
- The new owners of Rhosnewydd have found old records of the community council in the attic. AJ will hand them over to JM
- Vivian Williams confirmed that this was his last meeting as he has decided to step down as a Councillor. VW has been a Councillor since 1972 and has enjoyed the good collaboration over the years. TL thanked VW for his service and contribution to the Council's work.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 7.30pm at Caffi Beca.

The meeting was closed by the Chair

Signed

Chair:



Date: 25/07/2023