

## **Cilymaenllwyd Community Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday evening, 28th November 2023 at Caffi Beca at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Anthony Jenner, Anthony Eynon, Dennis Jones, Rebecca Jaimangl-Jones, Julian Williams, Ffion John, Michael Fussell, Cll Dorian Phillips, Janice Morgan (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies:** Tudur Lewis, Russell Davies

The meeting was chaired by the previous Chair, AJ, in the absence of the current Chair TD and Vice Chair RD

#### **2. Declarations of interest:** None

#### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting 26/09/2023:**

- The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 26th September 2023 were accepted as an accurate record, proposed by AE and seconded by JW.

#### **Matters arising from the minutes:**

- Biodiversity Action Plan/Report: JM has drafted an action plan and is on the agenda for discussion (see item 10)
- Publicising the new website: JM confirmed that the website details had been sent to Carmarthenshire County Council. A poster has been placed on the Glandy Cross notice board and on the Facebook page. An ad has been sent to Y Cardi Bach for the January issue. A poster to placed on the Ffynnonwen Center notice board.
- Volunteer training guidelines: JM will ask Jason Lawday for a copy
- Section 106: JM sent an email to the Bureau Department inquiring about how much S106 funding is available for Cilymaenllwyd but had not received a response. JM has downloaded the S106 application form to complete for the Twm Carnabwth Sculpture Fund
- Fly -tipping: it has been confirmed that a fly -tipping sign has been placed in the Ynys Fach car park
- Actions relating to the grant project footpaths - see Section 4 for an update
- Training Plan:
  - JM stated that the training plan was yet to be completed; will present at the January meeting. We are required to publish a training plan under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

#### **Action: JM to present the draft training plan at the next meeting**

- FfJ attended the Code of Conduct training on 22/11/23
- Rubbish around a house for sale at Glandy Cross: everyone to keep an eye
- Risk assessment: JM has drafted and is on the agenda for discussion (see item 9)
- Christmas dinner: it was agreed to postpone until the New Year

#### **4. Footpath Restoration Project Update**

- JM gave an update on the grant project:
  - JM confirmed that members of the sub-group had spoken to CHartt re the path from Penrallt to Pantyrodyn and was now happy. The sub-group agreed to invite RD to join as a member as the neighbours were in regular contact with RD
  - JM also confirmed that the footpath diversion proposals had been extensively discussed at the last sub-group meeting and that Jason Lawday would draft a map of these proposals to share with the relevant landowners

- Minutes of 2 sub-group meetings had been sent to all. The third meeting was held on 13 November and RD has now joined this sub-committee
- The landowners are keen to keep the footpaths as close to the forest to avoid walkers going through open fields where animals graze. Jason Lawday has drafted a map showing the new proposals – the red path going up through the Wenallt forest, and extending the footpath up to Rhydymerydd. The original route goes through Rhydymerydd yard but the proposal is that the footpath keeps closer to the forest, away from the yard and then onto Rhosfach
- Letters and a map of the proposals were sent to the landowners, i.e. Charlie Hartt, Twose Maenhir, Davies Rhydymerydd, Summer Llandre and Marchgwyn asking for written permission to proceed with this. Charlie Hartt, Twose Maenhir, Davies Rhydymerydd and Summers Llandre have signed to confirm. Although Marchgwyn does not own land where the red route lays, they have expressed some dissatisfaction. Jason Lawday is going to draft a diversion order and there will be a 30-day consultation period. This process may take two months, therefore the contractor's clearance work is paused until all this has been done. The contractor has been informed and it is anticipated that works will resume in February
- In terms of payments, 'Claim 1' was submitted for £5,760. We are required to pay the contractor first before the money can be claimed. Much evidence had to be presented with 'Claim 1'
- 'Claim 2' has now been submitted for £6,000 - the contractor's second invoice for clearing FP 4/16/3 (£4,800) and for clearing FP 4/15/1 (£1,200) - clearance work of 1,303 meter; 2,068 has been cleared since the start of the project
- Progress reports are produced by Julie Sweet to accompany each claim and are very comprehensive. JS also takes photographs of the clearance work regularly as evidence
- The next meeting is on Monday 11th December where Jason Lawday will advise us on the next steps

## **5. Correspondence**

- E-mail received from Audit Wales asking additional questions re our 22/23 annual return. JM confirmed that she had provided answers to all the questions
- Thank you message received from the secretary of Ffynnonwen Social Centre for paying for the difib cabinet and electrician costs to install. Ffynnowen Centre is running a course on how to use the diffib on 8/12/23 6-8pm and councillors are welcome to attend
- Appeal letter for financial supported received from Wales Air Ambulance. It was agreed to give £200 as in 2021 and in previous years
- Appeal letter received from the Federation of Carmarthenshire Young Farmers' Clubs – we have not given in the past as have donated to Pembrokeshire
- Appeal letter received from the 2024 Maldwyn Urdd Eisteddfod – we supported Carmarthenshire last year and usually support when the Eisteddfod is within county
- JM confirmed that she had sent a copy of the Draft Independent Panel for Wales Annual Report on Remuneration to all. The Panel welcomes council feedback to two aspects the Panel has recommended to ensure that community and town councils are not losing out as they fulfill their duties: (i) basic payment for the extra costs of working at home. Each council must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra expenses of the home (including heating, lighting, energy and broadband) of home working; (ii) a specified payment for consumables. Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of the office consumables needed to fulfill their role, otherwise councils must enable members to claim a full refund for the cost of their office consumables. The consultation period

ends on 8th December 2023 and everyone is welcome to send any comments they have

- Letter received notifying that the expenditure limit under Section 137 will increase from £9.93 to £10.81 per elector for 2024/25. S137 allows councils to spend money on projects that are considered to benefit some or all of their residents, for charitable purposes. There are 643 constituents in Cilymaenllwyd, therefore £6,950.83 can be spent under S137 in 24/25. This will need to be carefully considered when setting the 24/25 precept at the January meeting in order to utilise it effectively.

## 6. Finance Update and Signing Cheques

- Finance update:
  - On 21st October there was £4,465.12 in the current account, after paying the contractor for his first invoice of £5,760. On 20th November £3,907.59 was in the account, indicating that 'Claim 1' grant payment had not come through. As a result, cheque 100836 for the contractor for 'Claim 2' has been rejected due to insufficient funds in the bank. JM visited Barclays on 24/11/23 and it was confirmed that £10,411.33 is in the current account and £743.74 in the savings account. The grant money for 'Claim 1' had come through that morning. However, Barclays informed JM that the account had been frozen that afternoon due to failure to submit requested information. JM said she had provided the necessary information back in February. The bank assistant said that they would investigate the matter. After several phone calls, Barclays confirmed that this was an error on their part, that the information had not been uploaded successfully. Therefore, they are reopening the account but it may take several weeks
  - JM stated that this unfortunate situation is creating difficulties as we cannot pay the contractor and therefore cannot claim grant funding.
- Cheques to be signed:
  - Wales Air Ambulance: £200
  - Caffi Beca: £25
  - Council Insurance: £534 (see H&D section 9)
  - One Voice Wales: £75
  - Clerk's salary for the third quarter: £349.70

JM to make the payments once the bank account has been reopened.

## 7. Planning

- The following planning applications were noted:
  - PL/06297 – removal of Condition 5 attached to planning permission W/38893, to allow retention of the existing wooden structure on site and the retention of a touring caravan for ancillary domestic purposes – Parc yr Odyn, Hebron SA34 0XT
  - PL/06801 – change of use of the former public house to 1 residential dwelling and associated works - Cross Inn, Efailwen SA66 7XB
  - PL/06718 – restoration and renovation of 2 traditional barn buildings at 6 units of holiday let accommodation with associated landscape works – Coynant, Login SA34 0XE
- No objection to the above applications was voiced.  
**Action: JM to complete Section 106 form for Parc yr Odyn and Cross Inn as they are for residential use**

## 8. County Councillor's Update

- Speed limits – all the signs are now in place and 20mph signs have been placed near Ysgol Beca and Ffynnonwen. The 40mph speed limit has been extended down to Caer Bedw
- Cllr DP attended a roads budget meeting last Thursday for next year. The budget was previously £8m per year until last year which was £3.7m (22/23). This year the budget fell to £1.6m and for 24/25 will fall below £1m. The financial situation is a major concern and significant cuts will be made to road repairs and not much will be done. The main road was done earlier this year.
- Ysgol Beca request to close the road between the school and Capel Nebo on 18/12/23 - Cllr DP has spoken to the Police. The request will need to be made to the County Council, therefore he will contact them.
- Dolwilym Bridge – the metal material has arrived and will be done soon
- The following was reported:
  - a section of the road near Llwynyrebol is in poor condition
  - water accumulating every time it rains in places on roads, particularly between Marchgwyn to Pantyblodau – the pipe may need to be cleaned due to blockage
  - a section of tarmac rising near Llysnewydd

## 9. Health, Safety and Welfare

- Risk Register – was presented for review. It was agreed to add the following:
  - signs x 2 (Meini Gŵyr and Ynys Fach information panels)
  - equipment (strimmers) which will be purchased for the grant project – maintenance**Action: JM to add the signs and equipment on the Risk Register**
- Community Council Insurance:
  - JM reported that the insurance needs to be renewed on 3/12/23 and has received a quote of £535 for the next year from Clear Councils (formerly BHIB). It was confirmed that this insurance policy includes the appropriate levels of insurance
  - JM explained that due to the unfortunate situation with the bank, we will not be able to make a prompt payment to the insurance company. JM was advised to seek advice from One Voice Wales re the insurance situation
  - JM will update everyone of the situation by email**Action: JM to seek advice from One Voice Wales re the insurance situation and also seeking advice on other insurance companies**
- Defibrillator pads - it was agreed that the Community Council should pay for maintenance costs for the diffib at Caffi Beca

## 10. Biodiversity - Draft Action Plan

- JM reported that the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1, Section 6 requires councils to have a biodiversity action plan in place and publish an annual report on what is being done to promote biodiversity in the community
- JM has drafted an action plan and sent a draft to everyone to read. It was agreed to adopt the action plan
- Biodiversity has been added to the agenda as a standard item in order to update the action plan regularly
- RJJ stated that there is an app available that can identify different plants. This information can be fed into the LERC (Local Environmental Records Centre). RJJ walked the footpaths that have been cleared and hopes to go again in the spring to look at the various plants growing in the grant project area. It is also hoped to work with the local primary school on this aspect and share information.

## 11. Any Other Business

- Logo for the Community Council - Ysgol Beca have started the design of a logo. RJJ will follow up on this
- Login kiosk – this is owned by the Community Council. It was proposed that the kiosk could be restored as an information hub for the community, to include information on walking maps, walking opportunities and other interesting information. New Perspex panels would need to be installed and a paint coat required  
**Action: AJ to look into the cost of replacing the Perspex panels**
- The council discussed obtaining a notice board to disseminate information to the community; it was agreed that near Glandy Cross shop would be the best site  
**Action: JM to ask Carwyn James, owner of Glandy Cross shop for permission to place a notice board on the shop side**
- Ysgol Beca has a gardening club first Saturday of each month; the community is welcome to help with the gardening
- Login Chapel car park – it was highlighted that walkers park their cars in this private car park and whether members of Login Chapel should be approached to seek permission. This will be discussed at the next sub-group meeting
- FP 4/10 footpath from Ffynnondeg, passed Rhos to Pencraig Uchaf - Rhos landowner has expressed a wish for a diversion

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

- Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Caffi Beca.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.30pm

Signed

Chair: TR Daw

Date: 30/1/2024