

Cilymaenllwyd Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at Caffi Beca at 7.30pm

Present: Russell Davies (Vice Chair), Anthony Jenner, Dennis Jones, Anthony Eynon, Julian Williams, Ffion John, Michael Fussell, Cllr Dorian Phillips, Janice Morgan (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Tudur Lewis (Chair), Rebecca Jaimangl-Jones

The meeting was chaired by RD, Vice Chair in the absence of TL, Chair. Best wishes were conveyed to TD who is about to receive treatment.

2. **Statements of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting 28/11/2023:**

- Minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 28th November 2023 were proposed by AJ as being accurate and seconded by AE.

Matters arise from the minutes:

Action 1: JM to present the draft training plan at the next meeting

Update: JM to present the training plan in the March meeting

Action 2: JM to fill in Section 106 form for Parc yr Odyn and Cross Inn as they are for residential use

Update: JM to submit Section 106 form as soon as possible

Action 3: JM to add the signs and equipment on the Risk Register

Update: The new signs and equipment in the grant have been added

Action 4: JM to seek advice from One Voice Wales re the insurance situation and also seek advice on other insurance companies

Update: JM explained that Clear Insurance had renewed the insurance on 3/12/23 and that the payment had now been made; it was not a matter of concern

One Voice Wales also stated that insurance prices had increased this year but it would be worth shopping round for next year

Action 5: AJ to look into the cost of refurbishing the perspex panels for the kiosk

Update: AJ said 10 Perspex panels would be required; £4.70 per panel. AJ is happy to install. It was also agreed to keep the kiosk red. A green kiosk indicates that it houses a diffib

Action 6: JM to ask Carwyn James, owner of Glandy Cross store for permission to place a notice board on the shop side

Update: JM confirmed that CJ has permitted a notice board to be placed on the side of the shop. JM to investigate the price of an aluminum notice board by the next meeting

4. **Footpaths Restoration Project Update**

- JM provided the following update:
 - The subgroup meets monthly and the last meeting was held on 22/1/24
 - Jason Lawday has been working with landowners and as a result several diversions are being made to avoid footpaths going through farmyards or close to domestic dwellings or through fields with livestock. JL has prepared the necessary documents and these have been distributed to key stakeholders and is now under a 28-day consultation period

- Claim 4 has been submitted £6K for the contractor's clearance work carried out in November
- £17,760 of the £57K grant has been spent to date
- Julie Sweet organises monthly community walks which contribute to the project outputs. They are advertised on Facebook and everyone is welcome
Action: Need to advertise the walks by other means as not everyone is on FB
- The project now has an official logo and has been shared with Carmarthenshire County Council
- A local history group is to be formed, led by Dr Stephen Griffiths. The group will focus on the last hundred years as this will include three generations that will be able to participate and contribute. An archaeologist has said that he would be willing to record and map historic items and sites in the area around the river Wenallt; can access ancient maps and information about the area related to the footpaths
 - It was pointed out of the need to be sensitive to those who are not so keen to see the footpaths being opened on their land. It was confirmed that the developments currently taking place are only made with the landowners' consent
 - RD reported that Dr Griffiths has buildings near the footpaths and would be happy for them to be used as an overnight resting point for walkers

5. 2024 Paths Accessibility Funding

- JM reported that an opportunity has arisen to apply for a 'Paths Accessibility' grant to improve the condition of footpaths. Applications must specify which footpaths they would want to improve and that the landowners' consent has also been obtained. The subgroup would like to propose submitting a grant application. An application has been drafted and sent to everyone by e-mail. The grant includes improving two footpaths: (i) one in Efailwen FP 52/5 that runs into FP 52/6 - 490 meters in total. Clearance and installation of 3 gates will be required and also a fence of approx 150 meters to prevent walkers from entering the field which is a nature reserve; (ii) the other is a FP 4/12 which is part of the Landsker Borderland Trail. The condition of this path is poor and drainage is very poor. Two ditches need to be created plus a crossing point, improve drainage, surface leveling and removal of an old fallen tree. The contractor has been on both sites; written permission received from the relevant landowners and a quote submitted: Footpath 1 at Efailwen = £ 4,060.00; Footpath 2 in login = £ 3816.00. Total = £ 7,876.00. The deadline for submitting an expression of interest is tomorrow, 31/1/24. All agreed to submit the application.

Action: JM to submit the grant application by the deadline of tomorrow

6. Remuneration 2023/24

- JM explained that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' recent report states that each Council should pay its members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 per week) towards additional home expenses (including heating, lighting, energy and broadband) for working at home. These payments will be made before the end of March. If councillors do not wish to receive this payment for 23/24, they are required to confirm this in writing before 1/3/24.

7. Correspondence

- Request received to nominate a community council representative for an additional community governor on the Governing Body of Beca and Bro Brynach Federation of Schools. The nominee does not need to be a community councillor but this vacancy can only be filled by nomination from the Community Council. The appointment to

the role will be made by the Governing Body. The name, address, email and phone number will need to be sent by 29/2/24

Action: JM to ask Sarah or Lee Roberts whether they would be interested in being nominated

- Following the 2023 Community Review, an official letter was received confirming that the two wards in Cilymaenllwyd will be combined but 9 members kept to serve Cilymaenllwyd Community Council. Therefore there will be only one ward and this will take effect in the next local elections on 6/5/27
- A list of One Voice Wales training sessions was sent to everyone for January, February and March
- Free digital skills training details were sent to everyone and also details of training technology, websites and social media training webinars. Up to 2 free places will be available to all councils. All to notify JM if they would like to attend any training

8. Finance Update and Sign Cheques

- Finance update from JM:
 - Bank account reopened on 2/1/24. On the 19/1/24 balance sheet, there was £12,538.34 in the account. This amount includes the last payment of the precept of £2,666.67
 - The money in the savings account, £743, has been put into the current account, therefore the savings account is currently empty
 - Since the balance sheet on 19/1/24 the following payments have been made:
 - £6K to the contractor for Claim 4
 - £200 for Wales Air Ambulance
 - Therefore, there is £6,338.34 in the current account at the moment. It is hoped to receive £6K from the Grant Office shortly and the sum will then be £12,338.34
- Sign cheques:
 - Urgent payments need to be made as a result of the situation with the bank:
 - £729.76 (VAT £121.63) to Carmarthenshire County Council for revamping the lanterns to LED for 2024
 - £1105.00 for Audit Wales, audit fees – 3 invoices for the full 3-year audit (19/20 £360.00; 20/21 £380.00; 21/22 £365.00)
 - £150.00 – to Jamie King for managing the website for the next 3 months (January - March)
 - £50 – Caffi Beca for two meetings (£25 each) (this meeting and previous meeting)
 - £699.40 - clerk's salary. In September and November minutes the clerk presented invoices for the second quarter (Jul - September) and the third quarter (Oct - Dec), i.e. £349.70 per quarter. The clerk has not had the opportunity to arrange payments for these two quarters; will do asap
 - Ffynnonwen's cheque for paying diffib cabinet and electrician costs, i.e. £633.40 was rejected due to our account being closed. This cheque will need to be re-issued
 - Therefore, a total of £3,367.56 payments are to be made
 - This will leave £2,970.78 in the current account. £6K is expected from the grant office and once this has been repaid, there will be £8,970.78 in the current account

9. Precept 2024/25

- The precept needs to be confirmed for 24/25 asap
- Budget forecast was presented 24/25. Expenditure of £11,750 is estimated, based on payments this year
- It is anticipated that just under £7K will be remaining at the end of this year

- One of the recommendations of Audit Wales is that councils should not carry too much money over to next year
- Council tax basis for the community for 24/25 is 354.53
- It was agreed to raise the precept by £5000 to £8,500
Action: Chair and Clerk to sign the precept form for £8,500 and return asap

10. Planning

- Two planning applications have been made since the last meeting:
 - PL/03434 - approval of details assigned by condition - release condition 3: Glandy Cross Woods, Efailwen, Glandy Cross, Clunderwen, SA66 7RS
 - Full planning permission - conservation, conversion and renovation of 3 barns into two residential dwellings: Rhos, Efailwen, Clunderwen, SA66 7XG
 - There was no objections**Action: JM to include Rhos when completing Section 106 form as are residential dwellings**

11. County Councillor's Update

- Cllr DP gave an update as follows:
 - DP has reported the potholes near Rhos and Cwmiles
 - There are also potholes near Pencraig Uchaf and the road from Login to Gwynlais is very poor
 - DP, AJ and JM attended the SusTrans public meeting in Crymych on 16/1/23 which provided an update re the old Cardi Bach railway line. Current focus is on the section between Llanfyrnach to Crymych and Rhydowen to Glandwr. SusTrans has received a grant for Stage 5 of the project, 'Concept Design'
Action: JM to forward the link to SusTrans online survey to all if they would like to complete it
 - Dolwilym Bridge - another time extension has been put on the restoration of the bridge
 - Fly -tipping - although there is a sign at the Ynys Fach site, this is still a problem
 - Ploughing Wales Championships are appealing for funding if the Community Council would like to consider making a contribution. The Championship is in Carmarthenshire on 28/9/24
 - Broadband - a meeting was held with Carmarthenshire County Council in Llanboidy recently. Voneus has taken over but they are not willing to do the work that Broadway had promised and have not given a start date either. Cabinets have been installed in some areas such as Llanboidy, Meidrim, Maenclochog, Clunderwen
 - Significant cuts to 24/25 budgets are predicted due to the financial crisis
 - Enquiries made about the regulations re parking overnight in a lay-by as a mobile had been sighted parking up and moving around for several months
Action: Cllr DP to enquire about regulations surrounding mobiles parking in lay-bys overnight

12. Health, Safety and Wellbeing

- The council checked in on the clerk's wellbeing, particularly with the unfortunate situation with the bank account. Clerk confirmed all good. The Chair thanked the Clerk for all the work undertaken by her.

13. Biodiversity

- The Biodiversity Action Plan has been shared with the Sub Group and some progress has been noted in the action plan e.g. contact made with the West Wales

Biodiversity Information Center (WWBIC). The Biodiversity Information and Communications Officer will be meeting some of the sub-group members to look at how they can provide help with wildlife recording. A site visit is planned for Saturday 23rd March

- The possibility of having a competition for the local children and young people was discussed at the last sub-grup meeting, a type of quiz and a small prize for the winner, announced on St David's Day. This would be a good way to engage with the young generation. All agreed and Cllr DP agreed to donate a £20 prize.

Action: JM to arrange a quiz competition with sub-group members relating to wildlife

- A honey farm near Carmarthen is looking for places in north Pembrokeshire to install bee hives
- Discussed the possibility of arranging a litter collection. Owing to H&S, there is a requirement to register with Keep Wales Tidy

14. AOB - none

15. Date of next meeting

- Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Caffi Beca

The meeting came to a close by the Chair at 9.00pm

Signed

Chairperson:  Date: 26-3-24