



Llangybi Fawr Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday 8th January 2024
Llanhennock Village Hall at 7pm

COED Y PAEN Cllr Graham Rogers 07775 644527
LLANDEGVETH Chair Lorna Savidge 07809292564

LLANGYBI Cllr Peter Marshall 07415892161
Cllr Andy Hunt 07976 721650
Cllr Caroline Watts 07779503052

LLANHENNOCK Cllr Neil Statham 07792371624

TREDUNNOCK TBC

LLANGATTOCK N.C. Vice Ieuan Williams 07790285572 **CLERK** Debra Davies 07966 622085

Present: Cllr Watts, Cllr Statham, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Williams, Cllr Savidge, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Marshall, C.Cllr Bromfield and Clerk Davies

Apologies: None

Declarations of interest: None

Members of the public present: Kate Burdge

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by Cllr Statham; Seconded by Cllr Williams

Matters Arising:

1/24 Smart Water: There has been a disappointing response to the appeal for residents to show an interest in joining this scheme. To date only 20/30 properties have expressed an interest despite the fact that the Clerk had sent emails to most homes in Llanhennock; Facebook messages posted in all village groups; by word of mouth in Llangybi. A poster campaign was suggested. All Cllrs to push this forward as they felt sure that others would sign up, but just haven't got around to sending an email. Cllr Hunt suggested 100 bottles should be purchased by LFCC – unanimously agreed. Those who have already expressed an interest will be given the first opportunity to purchase the pens.

2/24 Clerk Vacancy: Debra had handed in her notice of resignation to the Chair on Nov 30th 2023. An advert was sent to OVW who published it on their website and emailed it to all clerks. Chair received an application from Kate Burdge.

Planning: None this month, but several were received during December (see below)

Local Matters:

3/24 Fence fallen on road: Wind had brought down 40m of fencing across Glen Usk Road, which was a danger on this unlit narrow lane, at night especially. Clerk notified MCC who removed it straight away.

4/24 River Usk Campaign: Campaigners have asked for a donation to help support their campaign to save the River Usk from pollution. Cllr Hunt felt strongly that LFCC should donate to this good cause and said that other CCs are supporting this group; the money is being spent on testing kits. Cllr Williams objected saying it has always been policy not to donate to any begging letters, charities or otherwise. Cllr Statham pointed out that this was just a pressure group with no public accounts published for Smart Money Cymru, and the analysis of the collected data is not published. NRW test the river quality and are the responsible regulator for river water quality. Cllr Watts agreed that LFCC cannot spend public money on an unofficial body even though it sympathises and supports the ideals of their project. C.Cllr Bromfield said that she would contact cabinet member Catrin Maby to ask if NRW are testing the Usk in our area.

5/24 Llanhennock Hall Maintenance: Cllr Statham requested a donation for Llanhennock Village Hall towards the cost of necessary updates; namely emergency lighting, a new socket and consumer unit and a new fire door; total cost would be approx. £1800. Discussion took place on the history of

donations to both halls; Clerk said that Llanhennock CC had previously given donations to their village hall during its renovations in 2018/9 and Cllr Rogers pointed out that the old Llangybi CC had helped out with payments for Wi-Fi and electric wiring repairs in the past. Llangybi hall is larger and more able to support itself with greater number residents and bookings; Llanhennock hall is now increasing its bookings since the refurbishment pre-covid from a lottery grant. Cllr Savidge had requested whether LFCC would consider donating money towards a new event tent for Llandegfedd as they have no longer have any communal space in which to congregate socially since the pub closed. She suggested instead that the village halls could possibly enable the other wards to hire their halls at reduced charge if LFCC were to support their maintenance costs. Cllrs Watts and Statham will relay these comments to their respective hall committees. Cllr Rogers proposed a £1000 donation towards Llanhennock village hall, this was seconded by Cllr Savidge, and two others agreed.

6/24 Llangybi Park brambles: Resident had emailed to ask why the 1m strip has still not been cut along his boundary with the park. MCC had promised it would be done in the autumn. C.Cllr Bromfield reported that Nigel Leaworthy from MCC has said it is on their schedule to be done when the weather picks up.

7/24 Consultation on schools: C.Cllr Bromfield reported that consultation period is live until Feb 4th on catchment areas for primary schools in Monmouthshire, which should mean that children from Llanhennock, Tredunnoch, Llandegfedd will be in the catchment for Usk (although they can still apply to go to Charles Williams if they wish)

8/24 Playground in Llangybi: C.Cllr Bromfield reported that she is able to get two second hand pieces of play equipment (a roundabout and a spinning hat) free of charge for the Llangybi playground group to install. Cllr Watts reported that the committee trying to organise the upgrade of this playground have now disbanded and she will invite them to the next meeting to explain (they have said that any monies they had already raised will be given to LFCC). Cllrs wanted to move this project forward and C.Cllr Bromfield will arrange a meeting with Nigel Leaworthy, Jon Wassal, Cllrs Watts, Hunt and Savidge.

Correspondence:

9/24 Dog waste bags and dispensers: Cllr Hunt requested more dog waste bags to be ordered. 5000 bags were purchased last August for £53.70. After some discussion on the cost effectiveness, it was decided and approved by all to purchase more bags and also ask for some dispensers which Sue Parkinson had said were available free of charge.

10/24 Tredunnoch Coronation event/Councillor vacancy: Alison Itani (who organises a social group for Tredunnoch Community) had sent a request for donation towards a belated Coronation celebration for Tredunnoch community in January. Council felt that this was not appropriate so long after the Coronation took place. Clerk reported that, since Tredunnoch still has no councillor to represent them on LFCC, Alison has offered to circulate any documents or notices sent by the clerk to those residents on her email list and will put up our minutes on their new noticeboard; this should help with communications to Tredunnoch residents at least, even though they do not have a "voice" on the council.

11/24 Road Safety Survey: this survey from OVW was circulated prior to meeting for Cllrs to complete individually; it was felt there was no need for discussion on this matter.

12/24 Grounds Maintenance: MCC quote for 2024/5 is £619.84; this was accepted. Clerk to inform MCC.

13/24 Website manager: Jamie McGowan has handed in his notice of resignation, following a lock down of the website and all councillor's emails as the domain had expired without his knowledge (he had not seen an email from the old website manager regarding changes to login details). Jamie has taken steps to rectify the situation and transfer ownership of the domain account to the clerk in order that the domain can be renewed. Chair requested that the domain be purchased for a longer period than just one year if possible. Clerk has contacted local website firms who currently manage other local community Councils in order to get some quotes for a new manager.

Policy Updates: None

Reports:

14/24 Police Report: The reports for November and December were circulated by email prior to meeting and contents noted.

Updates and any other Information:

15/24 Planning applications since last meeting: The following planning applications were received after the last meeting in November and in order to respond within the statutory 21 days Cllrs gave their comments to the clerk who forwarded them to MCC.

DM/2023/01435 Parc Farm, Llangybi - aside from the concerns about surface water drainage there was some concern about following:

Traffic up Parc Road- it is accepted visitors will all need cars to access (and therefore stay at) the pods.

Visual impact- it seems to be towards top of a pitch with views and therefore might be seen from some distance?

It says ' The development promotes the use of local rural businesses and activities, which therefore extends the benefits of the scheme to the local area and further afar'... apart from potential custom for the pub in Llangybi any benefits will not be felt by the immediate local area.

It also says ' The proposal offers out of settlement tourist accommodation which reduces the pressure on new build accommodation'.... council is not aware of any pressure locally to build new holiday accommodation; indeed, this development may impact on business for those already offering accommodation and is therefore detracting from local rural businesses.

DM/2023/01273 Croesonen , Tredunnoch – no objections were raised

DM/2023/01666 Walnut Tree Cottage Llangybi – no objections were raised

DM/2023/01658 12 St Cybi Ave Llangybi – no objections were raised

DM/2023/01646 Oaklands Parc Rd Llangybi – no objections were raised

16/24 Road signs update: MCC have ordered a new sign for Glan Y Nant, but do not feel the Kennet Grange sign is necessary as it does have a sign approaching from the east. Cllr Hunt took a photo showing the posts for this missing sign are still there and suggested to remove them may cost as much as replacing just the sign? Cllr Watts had replied to MCC requesting again for the Parc Road sign to be repainted as well. Clerk to chase up. C.Clr Bromfield also reported that the flashing speed sign in Llangybi (which still records a 30mph as green) will be changed to 20mph in due course by a contractor for MCC; no timescale given.

17/24 Blocked drains Llanhennock hill: Clerk had sent several emails to Carl Touhig regarding the flooding down Llanhennock hill on the very wet days of Dec 4,6,7th, requesting that the blocked drain by Tower house be cleared as the water runs directly down the hill and creates a deep pool on the Usk road which becomes impassable. Carl said he would send out a team but still nothing has happened. In addition, the pothole on the hill has not got bigger again. Clerk to chase up.

18/24 NALC clerk salary scales: The new salary scales for 2023/4 have now been received and the clerk's salary has been adjusted and back paid from April 2023 and includes being raised to the next scale point. Cllr Rogers had informed the accountants who have adjusted the clerk's payslip for December accordingly.

19/24 Wales Audit response for LFCC 2022-23: the annual return has been processed and has come back unqualified. No queries were made by Wales Audit.

20/24 Wales Audit response for Llanhennock CC 2021-22: the annual return has been finally been processed and has come back unqualified. No queries were made by Wales Audit.

Finances:

21/24 Raise cheques: the following cheques were raised:

a) clerk's salary for Nov and Dec including back pay £969.48 plus postage reimbursement

£12 (proposed by Cllr Rogers, Seconded by Cllr Statham);

b) HMRC charge for clerks PAYE £140.80

c) accts fees for Oct to Dec £36

- d) Llangybi Forge for post for fingerpost sign £72
- e) Jason Griffiths for repair of fingerpost £235
- f) Jamie McGowan for managing website Aug to Oct £150
- g) dog waste collection for Dec £168
- h) Llanhennock village hall rent for Mar 2023 to Mar 2024 inclusive £210

22/24 Bank Reconciliation: Cllr Rogers agreed with the accounts prepared in advance of meeting. Documents were displayed on screen and accepted. Balance at Dec 10th 2023 was £17,748.54

23/24 VAT refund paid: the refunds of £878.57 and £436.77 have now been paid into the bank.

24/24 Precept for 2024/5: Clerk had prepared a budget spreadsheet which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs discussed the details and approved the precept request of £25,000 for 2024/5. It was agreed that a larger amount than usual should be retained from last year (as had been advised in the finance courses attended by the Clerk and Cllr Rogers)

25/24 Internal Auditor: Rachel Bundy has offered to carry out the internal audit for 2023/4 for a fee of £262.50. This was agreed by all. Clerk to inform Mrs Bundy.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th February 2024 in Llangybi Village Hall at 7pm

26/24 Interview with Candidate for Clerk Position:

Kate Burdge from Llangybi, as the only applicant for the vacant position of clerk, was invited to attend this meeting and was then interviewed by the council at the end of the formal meeting. Cllr Rogers proposed to appoint Kate and this was seconded by Cllr Savidge and agreed by everyone. Kate was duly appointed as from January 9th 2024 and a copy of her contract was given to her (to be signed at the next meeting). Debra and Kate will work together for a transition period of one month and Debra has also agreed to help Kate with the internal audit process.

All members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. If remote access is required, notify clerk in advance to arrange this.

If any members of the public require to see these minutes in Welsh, please contact the clerk: d.davies@llangybi.org