

**CYNGOR CYMDEITHAS LLANFYNYDD  
LLANFYNYDD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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The council welcomes postal correspondence in Welsh or English - Croesewir gohebiaeth trwy'r post  
yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg

**Minutes of the meeting of Llanfynydd Community Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday,  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Speit Chapel Vestry.**

**146/15: PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr. Brian Thomas, Cllrs. Meirion Jones, Mairwen Rees, Lee Strudwick, Haydn Jones, David Jones & newly co-opted Council members Cllrs. Dylan Thomas & Sarah Thomas. In attendance was the clerk Mrs. Elaine Blakeman.

Also Present: Claire Papworth, Helen Sargent & Sue Fitzgibbons & Community Officer Roger Anthony.

**147/15: APOLOGIES:** County Cllr. Mansel Charles.

**148/15: CHAIRMANS WELCOME** – The chairman welcomed everyone present.

**149/15: COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY - 142/15: Casual Vacancy** – The Chairman welcomed the 2 recently co-opted Council Members Mr. Dylan Thomas & Mrs. Sarah Thomas. The new Councillors were presented with copies of the Code of Conduct for Members of Llanfynydd Community Council, The good Councillors Guide 2012 & a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The declarations were signed by both Cllrs. & witnessed & signed by the clerk. It was noted that the new Councillors would require Code of Conduct training.

**150/15: DYFED POWYS POLICE REPORT** - Community Officer Roger Anthony noted that there had been another spate of gate theft in the local area. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> spate carried out in the last three months. The Ammanford area has also been affected.

**151/15: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The chairman explained to the new Cllrs. that all interests had to be declared preferably at this point in the meeting, if not at the point of interest. It was also explained that if the Cllrs. felt they had an item that needed to be declared regularly then they could in fact apply to the Standards Committee for a dispensation. It was agreed that the clerk would forward Dispensation forms to all Cllrs.

**152/15: MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr. David Jones & seconded by Cllr. Mairwen Rees that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 be accepted as a correct record of proceedings.

**153/15: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a. 135/15a JAPANESE KNOTWEED – It was noted that the permit had been received & read out for spraying the Knotweed on the banks of the River Sannan opposite the Pen y Bont Inn. It was noted that Cllrs. Lee Strudwick, Meirion Jones & Chairman Brian Thomas were all named on the application & plan on spraying the common land in the village centre river bank, under the supervision of Mr. Meirion Rees. Cllr. Lee Strudwick is to obtain the product.

- b. The council were presented with two letters from Mrs. Helen Williams & George & Christine Avis who gave permission to Llanfynydd Community Council, to access their land to assist in the spraying of the banks of the River Sannan. Both these letters also stated that they had reported the matter to CCC & had no success in the matter.
- c. Dwr Cymru Welsh Water grant – the clerk noted that she had looked into this & there may be a grant available for the eradication of Invasive Non-Native Species. It was agreed that the clerk would look at the application form & fill it out if possible.

### **154/15: CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were discussed and noted:

#### **Correspondence for October meeting 2015**

##### **PLANNING**

1. E/32605 – Chris Williams, Land near Bryn Yr Eglwys, Llanfynydd, Installation of a 30m high tower with 6 Antennas & 2 dishes. There were no comments regarding this planning application.

##### **Finance**

- 2. BDO – Annual Return, Notice of Conclusion & Invoice
- 3. Wales Audit Office – External Audit Arrangements

4. NRW – Permit for Applying Herbicides near Water

5. Clerks & Councils Direct Sept issue

6. Noah's Ark- Summer Newsletter

7. Play For Wales brochure – autumn 2015

8. Llanfynydd TOW – Thank you for donation & invitation for Chairman & Clerk to Llanfynydd Horse Racing evening. It was noted the Chairman did attend.

9. Welsh Government – Preparing for Public Services Boards Conference

10. OVW - Proposed changes to Planning Policy Wales Chapter 10 and Technical Advice Note 4: Retail Centre Development. Link available on request. It was requested that this link be forwarded to all Cllrs.

##### **Late Correspondence**

11. Letter from Mr. Chris Papworth – Freedom Of Information request regarding standing orders

A letter was received the day before the meeting, by hand to the Chairman by Mr. Chris Papworth. The letter arrived outside the three day statutory window for finalising agenda items, however it was presented to the Council as an urgent item.

Mr. Papworth's letter expressed concern over Llanfynydd Community Council behaviour and procedures & stated he suspects a rogue element operating within the Council. Mr. Papworth suggested that the "questions raised in his letter be answered in open council debate now, including the public i.e. not in a "closed door" private session". He noted that on 16/02/15 he received after a FOI request, a copy of the Llanfynydd Community Council Standing Orders, a OVW Model Standing Orders which the council stated they had adopted in the letter.

Mr. Papworth's questions were as follows:

Question 1) Were all Cllrs. when debating adoption of this document, aware that it is 18 pages with 123 SO's with a further 106 sub-sections, all of which when adopted **must be** complied with?

Question 2) When prior to the 16/02/15 were the SO's debated, adopted, and on what date?

Question 3) Why was this never recorded?

Question 4) If all Cllrs. had read and debated these SO's prior to adoption, why are 19 SO's left unqualified in the 43 blank spaces provided?

Question 5) Which Councillor proposed adoption of this OVW model?

(When it is clear that the LCC **does not** comply with so many of these 123 SO's and therefore adoption immediately puts the LCC into breach of its procedures and into disrepute)

Question 6) Are Cllrs. aware that having adopted this OVW Model SO document, the SO's within can only

be reviewed under a, b, and c below and in no circumstances?

- a. Only at an AGM, as per SO 5j (ix).
- b. Only by resolution and only in regard to a specific agenda item, as per SO 25(a).
- c. Only under terms laid out in SO 25(b) and in accordance with SO 9.

Question 7) How is it possible, that these SOs' claimed as adopted on 16/02/2015, were only issued at the Sept 2015 LCC meeting for proposed debate and adoption at the October meeting?

Question 8) Has some or all LCC Cllr's attempted again to mislead/misdirect the public, this time by supplying false documents and making false claims under a Freedom of Information Act request?

Question 9) If so who exactly is responsible?

Question 10) Those responsible have deliberately acted outside your code of conduct in particular Part 2. Point 1 (a)(b)(c)(d), Point 6. 1(a), and 7(a)(b).

Mr. Papworth requested that the Cllrs. **NOT INVOLVED** take a vote of "no-confidence" and ask for resignation of any individuals involved?

Mr. Papworth proceeded to request under the Freedom Of Information Act that an accurate record be made of the direct answers to all 10 questions and a copy be sent to him.

The Council discussed this letter but as Cllrs. Dylan Thomas & Sarah Thomas were attending their first meeting, they only observed on the matter. The clerk noted that the Standing Orders that were sent to Mr. Papworth back in February 2015 were those that had been on file from the previous clerk & therefore she assumed that the Council had adopted those particular Standing Orders previously. It was noted that OVW had sent out a set of Standing Orders & recommended that Councils follow them. None of the Councillors present had any recollection of ever having adopted the Standing Orders, but noted that they had been used as a guideline. The Councillors felt that they needed more information to respond to Mr. Papworth's FOI request, but were anxious that the response would then be outside the recommended time frame for response to a FOI request. Based on the current information the Councillors decided the answers to Mr. Papworth's questions would be as follows:

1,2&3) To the Councils knowledge at present there is no record of when or if the SO's have been adopted, as the said SO's were on file the clerk assumed that they had been adopted.

4) None of the current Cllr.s has debated the SO's and at present have no information of previous Cllrs. having done so.

5) The Council are unable to answer this question.

6) Current Cllrs. have not yet adopted the SO document.

7) There is no particular reason why the SO's were proposed for debate & adoption in the October meeting.

8) No, the Council are not aware that any Cllr. has attempted to mislead/misdirect the public.

9) This question is Not Applicable.

10) This is a statement so the Council are unable to answer it, but the Council feels that nobody has deliberately acted outside the Code of Conduct.

The Council decided that the clerk would respond to Mr. Papworth's FOI request, but first draft a letter & send to all Councillors for approval. Cllr. Meirion Jones noted that as the Council didn't have enough information at present with regards to the record of the adoption of the SO's, he abstained from the decision to respond to Mr. Papworth's FOI request.

Cllr. Meirion Jones stated that he had never seen the Standing Orders prior to the September meeting when the clerk had presented him with a copy. In order to clarify some information Cllr. Jones then requested that the clerk contact OVW & enquire as to when they were first established, when the Standing Order Document was first set out by OVW & to enquire as to what Part 1 of the document is.

#### **155/15: HALL PLOT/COMMUNITY GARDEN**

- a. 138/a: Items held at school – Cllr Lee Strudwick has removed items from the shed & they are now being stored in the YFC storage container in the village..

- b. 138/c: Cllr. David Jones has cut the grass & will cut again next week. Chairman Brian Thomas is to trim.
- c. 138/d: County Cllr. Mansel Charles noted previously that the compost bin is still available & he would organise delivery.
- d. Community Garden – with the school now having been sold it was noted that the Gazebo had been removed by the Diocese Archdeacon Roger Hughes. The Archdeacon has agreed to return the Gazebo to the village pending a letter from the Community stating that they agree to maintain it. Cllr. David Jones is to contact the clerk with a forwarding address & the clerk is to forward the letter.
- e. Llanfynydd Information sign – it was agreed that this sign on the wall in the garden needs to be removed & brought to the Hall Plot.
- f. Benches – it was agreed that the benches in the Community Garden needed to be removed & brought to the Hall plot & that this would take place by the Cllrs. on Saturday next.

### 156/15: ROAD MAINTENANCE

The clerk noted that she had not contacted CCC on any of last months road issues, but would do so immediately.

- a. 139/15a: Right of Way opposite Meadow View – Clerk is to contact CCC for update. To be reviewed.
- b. 139/15b: Bridge by Penybont – The clerk is to contact CCC for update. To be reviewed.
- c. 139/15c: Pot holes at Bryn Yr Eglwys up to the Brechfa Forest- The clerk is to contact CCC for update. To be reviewed.
- d. 139/15d: North Lodge Pant Glas Hall – It was noted that the problem is actually the Tarmac which appears to be a patch repair & is higher than the gully, which prevents the water from getting to the gully. The clerk is to contact CCC again. To be reviewed.
- e. 139/15e: Missing sign Corner Opposite the Farmers – The clerk is to contact CCC for an update. To be reviewed.
- f. 139/15f: Neighborhood Watch sign by Speit Cemetery near the sewage works – To be reviewed.
- g. 139/15h: Pen-Y-Goitre, It was noted that a pot hole is appearing approx 500m from the farm entrance. County Cllr. Mansel Charles is to follow this up.
- h. Gwaelod Y Maes – It was noted that there is subsidence opposite the milk stand, 50m west of Gwaelod Y Maes, on the junction turning up to Lletyngors. The clerk is to contact CCC.
- i. Llwyncelyn yard – It was noted that some ditches need clearing on the road that goes through Llwyncelyn yard out to the junction at the far end. The clerk is to contact CCC.
- j. Street Lighting – It was noted that the street light outside Rose Cottage does not come on in the morning. Cllr. Haydn Jones is to contact the clerk with the light no, so she may contact CCC.

### 157/15: PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. 140/15b. E/32536 - Mr TJ, Mrs EE, Mr CP and Mrs EM Davies, land opposite Llys y Nant, Llanfynydd, for 12 No. detached domestic properties and 1 pair of semi-detached houses. The clerk informed the council that she had contacted the planning dept regarding the errors on the location plan & the council's request that condition 106 be applied to this planning application, but as yet had no response.
- b. E/32605 – Chris Williams, Land near Bryn Yr Eglwys, Llanfynydd, Installation of a 30m high tower with 6 Antennas & 2 dishes. There were no comments regarding this planning application.

### 158/15: FINANCE

- a. 141/15a: The annual return was returned from BDO auditors. The report was accepted by all Councillors. An invoice was also received & a cheque was prepared & signed for accordingly. The clerk noted that the Notice of Conclusion had been placed in the notice board advising that the audit had been completed.
- b. 141/15b: The clerk presented a salary invoice for June, July & August & an invoice for expenses

incurred from 06/0515-01/09/15. Two cheques were prepared & signed accordingly.

- c. Receipts were presented from Cllr. Mairwen Rees for the Creffiau Plwyf project. A cheque was prepared & signed accordingly. The clerk is to hold on to the receipts, but keep them separate.

**159/15: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. 143/15a: Creffiau Plwyf Llanfynydd Parish Craft – It was agreed that this would appear on the agenda in future. Cllr Rees noted that she had met up with the local craft group. A craft session with Maureen Williams has been organised for the Reading Room, Cwrt Henri on 28/10/15, 10am. Also Ann Richards from Igam Ogam, Llandeilo is to do a session one evening on machine appliqué. Cllr Rees is to arrange posters for these events & she has already organised posters for the project on the website. Cllr. Rees noted that the National Lottery had confirmed that it was normal practice for her to use her personal bank cards when purchasing items for the project & that she could be reimbursed accordingly.
- b. 143/15b - Llanfynydd Former VA Primary School. The clerk noted that she had not yet contacted the solicitor (Carreg of Llandeilo) involved in the sale to ask what their take is on the original will stating that the building is only ever to be used for educational purposes, but would do so immediately. It was noted that the school had been sold at auction.
- c. 143/15d: Dog Foul – To be reviewed.
- d. 143/15e: Review of Standing Orders – Due to a lack of time it was decided to postpone the review of Standing Orders to the November meeting with a view to adopting them. The clerk is to forward a copy of the Standing Orders to Cllrs. Dylan & Sarah Thomas for review.
- e. Tredomen – It was noted that some of the Councillors had attended a site meeting at Tredomen. It was agreed that the house would be re-roofed back & front & that central heating would be installed.

**160/15: MEETING CLOSED**

Chairman Cllr. Brian Thomas closed the meeting at 10.06 pm and invited the members of the public to make any comments they may have.

**161/15: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved that the next meeting of Llanfynydd Community Council would be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm, Speit Chapel Vestry.

Signed... *B. Y. Thomas* .....

Date.....

The Chairman Mr. Brian Thomas closed the meeting at 10.06pm so that members of the public that were present may comment.

- Mrs. Claire Papworth expressed her concern that with all the extra items that are being brought to the Hall Plot that it be taken into consideration that there be room for the LVS Marquee which measures at 3'9". Mrs. Papworth noted that on the website the photos are outdated. She stated that the school appears quite dominant & the fact that Llanfynydd does not have a school anymore that it may be looked at. Also Mrs. Papworth noted that the Councillor's contact details need updating.
- Ms. Sue Fitzgibbon asked if there is anywhere else the Community Council meeting could be held as the acoustics are terrible & that she finds it very hard to hear what is being said at the meeting.

