

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED – LLANDEGLA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 over Zoom at 7.00pm**

### **1. Welcome**

#### **Attendance**

Councillors Gwyneth Dillon (Chair), Elizabeth Parker-Clark, Wendy Spiers, Sandra Ellis-Rogers Gaynor Wonderly, Hilary Berry, and Sam Roberts, the Clerk.

#### **Apologies:**

Apologies received from Cllr Neena Barlow.

### **2. Declarations of interest - it is a requirement that declarations from a member include the nature of the interest and whether it is personal or prejudicial' (standing orders no. 57)**

None made.

### **3. Public participation - public participation session this provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda – (time for this session is limited to ten minutes)**

Matthew Ellis, a member of the public, spoke on the proposed National Park. He is a member of NRW, but is speaking today as himself, not as a member of NRW. He voiced potential issues with the park, such as risks to wildlife, including the black grouse. He does, however, believe that the park is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bolster various businesses across the area. This includes social events, such as comedy evenings and Burns Night. He believes that the positives outweigh the negatives overall. The planning would go from four different panels to one, allowing for more consistency, though requirements would need to be clearly set out. He is hopeful that if the park goes ahead, given the rising importance of sustainable transport, that it would support increased public transport services and infrastructure. He acknowledged parking as an often-raised issue that would need to be tackled.

Councillors discussed the current government initiatives around transport reworks. The potential for the park's funding – including the national fund for National Parks -- to be used to provide the necessary infrastructure improvements was discussed.

Councillors thanked Mr Ellis for his contribution and input.

### **4. New National Park Consultation**

Councillors spoke on the various potential benefits of a new National Park. Most-raised were the economic benefits for local business, especially tourist-adjacent sectors like outdoor recreation and holiday accommodation. Also raised under this

*GADillon* 4/12/2025



umbrella were the sources of funding National Parks have access to – other than the National Park Fund itself, this would include grants that the area may be able to make use of. The initial investment to set up the park could also do a lot of good, improving infrastructure and transport links to benefit both the park and those living in its boundaries.

Also discussed were the possible benefits to wildlife conservation efforts, environmental works, and protection of local heritage. With the funding, manpower, and associated resources of a National Park, much could be done to bolster efforts in these avenues.

Councillors also discussed potential issues the proposed National Park may cause or exacerbate. Infrastructure was central to this, as Denbighshire does not, in the Councillors view, currently have the required parking facilities, road maintenance budget, or public transport that a significant influx of tourists would require. If these can be addressed by the park's initial and ongoing funding, then the impact may be minimal, or even a net positive. Without hard budget information, however, the Councillors felt that they could only speculate.

Similarly, Councillors discussed the potential risks to wildlife and the environment if the park and tourist influx are not properly provided for. Litter bins and public toilets, for example.

The proposed National Park's potential to impact housing and Planning were also covered. Councillors were concerned by the potential of house price inflation on young people, as well as the impact of Planning changes to locals, and any possible rise in Council Tax. Farmers, especially, may have to make adjustments to fit new Planning rules. The above-mentioned change to Planning panels – shifting to one to cover the entire park – was discussed further, with Councillors concerned about the local area losing an element of control over its own Planning processes. It was mentioned that Llandegla in particular may not be greatly impacted by new Planning restrictions, if only due to the existing issue of being at sewage capacity.

The Council also discussed the apparent contradiction of Welsh Government approving and funding a large tourist-based project like a National Park while also implementing a Tourism Tax, granting local Councils the power to raise taxes on holiday accommodation, and similar initiatives.

The Council settled on being in favour of the proposed National Park on principle, but with concerns that they would like addressed. The lack of information of the budget allocation in particular needs to be rectified, as without it, weighing the issues of infrastructure, environmental impact, and so on becomes impossible.

GADillon 04/12/2025

The Chair **Proposed** putting this forward as the Council's response to the proposal, to be written up by the Clerk and sent with County Councillor Mendies to the DCC meeting on the matter on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Cllr Spiers **Seconded**. Vote passed in favour.

**5. Urgent Business under Section 100B(4) of the Government Act 1972**

**6. Date of the next Council Meeting**

The next meeting will be a General Meeting, held at 7pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

GADillon 24/12/2025