

MINUTES OF THE LLANDEGLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, LLANDEGLA AT 7.00 P.M.

1: PRESENT:

Councillors Gwyneth Dillon (Chair), Elizabeth Parker-Clark, Hillary Berry, Gaynor Wonderley, Janet Strivens, Steve Swygart, Denbighshire County Councillor Terry Mendies, together with Messrs Fraser Robertson (Llandegla Rectory Association), Hugo Watts (Members of the Public) and Gwyn Davies (Clerk to the Council).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councillor Sandra Rogers.

3. 'MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. 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 received.

4. 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 10 MINUTES."

None received.

5. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING.

Members confirmed the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 minutes as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. FUNDING APPLICATIONS TO FURTHER IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.

The Members discussed the possible identification of Community projects that require funding, such as Cae Mair, Community Picnic Area, former BT Kiosk, Public Notice Boards, School Projects, Chapel Car Park provision, footpaths extension, additional signage etc before exploring the funding avenues available to the Community Council and other organisations locally. Members elected the following Sub-Committee to discuss the way forward - Councillors Gwyneth Dillon, Janet Strivens, Hilary Berry and Steve Swygart. The Sub-Committee has the power to co-opt Members from other groups within the Community.

7. REPORT FROM DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR TERRY MENDIES.

If there are any issues that are of concern, please get in touch. BUDGET DEFICIT.

As you may have read in the press, DCC is facing a deficit of around £15 million in this year's budget, and £20 to £30 million in the fiscal year 24/25. The Cabinet are seeking savings. One of the first casualties are the Libraries. The opening hours have been reduced by 50% to save £440,000. Consultations are ongoing, the main causes of the deficit are Homelessness, Social care increases, and inflationary costs.

CHANGE OF SPEED RESTRICTIONS.

I remind everyone that under the new Welsh Government Law, all 30 mph zones have reverted to 20 mph from 17<sup>th</sup> September. This is not popular. There is some confusion that continues to reign, particularly in our rural areas as to what speed restrictions apply.

### FLOODING.

Storm Babet caused flooding throughout the County, not least of which in Llanarmon. I have raised a work order to dig Culverts on Lon Llanarmon down to the Bridge. A DCC Officer is applying to the Welsh Government for funding for better and permanent mitigation measures at the Bridge. As storm Cieran arrives from Thursday DCC's emergency number is 0300 123 3068.

### FLY TIPPING.

There were two incidents of fly tipping at Pistyll Gwyn Quarry that was reported by myself. It has been removed, one offender was believed to be a camper, the other, a local address could not be identified. It is important to report these incidents ASAP to deter further fly tipping.

### 8. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S UPDATE ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES.

#### A. Picnic Area Entrance/Common Land Solicitor appointment update.

Members resolved for the Clerk to write to Jon Owens, Solicitors from St.Asaph of the intention to establish ownership of the "Llandegla Picnic Area land".

#### B. Authorised Bill Payments:-

1. HSBC monthly fee £5.00.
2. Royal British Legion for the annual Poppy Wreath £100.00.
3. White Oak Property Services for the community grass cutting £210.00.

#### C. Appointment of Internal Auditor.

Members appointed Mr Dafydd Rhys Jones of Rhuthun as the Council's Internal Auditor.

#### D. Llandegla Remembrance Sunday Service 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Council has safely received the annual Poppy Wreath which will be laid at the Llandegla Remembrance Sunday Service.

### 9. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS COMMITTEE.

Councillor Steve Swygart provided Council with the following written report:-

With regards to the October 23 meeting of Llandegla CC on the above topic, I wrote to you after the September 23 Llandegla CC (on 08/09/23) that we had resolved to go with the £7k quotation from GH Lewis of Ruthin (see attachment), contrary to your assertion in the October 23 minutes.

As there appear to be no other funding routes to get this built, we will have to use money from the Commuted Sums pot, and I think that Gwyn forwarded us an application form for this. Gwyn, could you please be so kind as to do this again to this email address, as there is always confusion with the Apple e—mail system? I will get the form completed asap and certainly in time for any approval necessary by Council at the December meeting.

As we all know from the original quotation received from DCC, we are conscious not to be overcharged, as their civils department is now "a fee earning department", seeing as they had budgeted £12.5k for this and our quotes from DCC-approved contractors ranged between £5k and £9k.

I had been exploring the possibility of getting a contractor to DCC to design a scheme for this to cut down on the £3.5k they were charging for this and "project management" (the one that came out to look at the road from a safety perspective), but he has not responded to my emails and phone calls/messages, so I can only assume that he is not prepared to get involved, despite being keen to meet us initially.

I am also conscious that DCC (Mr Billington) was requiring us to tell him where the money was coming from and so get his hands on the Commuted Sum application process. I don't know whether or not this is actually part of the correct process, but some oversight is required to ensure that we are not overcharged in all of this, which is where we would be looking for you to support.

Our route to get this built must now be to

Engage with DCC to start getting this built (Mr Billington) – Llandegla CC.

Apply for £11k of the Commuted Sum (£3.5k for the design etc, £7k for the contractor with say £500 contingency) – Llandegla CC.

Presumably (a) and (b) get linked together within DCC - we'd like you to oversee this process for the reasons given above.

Get a date and get it built.

#### 10. URGENT BUSINESS UNDER SECTION 100B(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

A: Councillor Hilary Berry confirmed her affiliation to The Labour Party with immediate effect as a Labour Member on the Llandegla Community Council.

B. There is currently a consultation process of transforming the local AONB into a "National Park". The consultation ends on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 with an open meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Llangollen Town Hall.

C. Members resolved to grant permission to Councillor Janet Strivens to purchase 500 daffodil bulbs and a memorial Oak Tree to be planted as soon as possible for the budget of £150.00.

#### 11. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 IN THE LLANDEGLA MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.00 PM.