

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANGAMMARCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 10th November 2021
through Zoom Pro**

Present: Cllr Kay Coldrick (Chair), Cllr Jon Hather, Cllr Matt Callan, Cllr Anne Woods, Cllr Mairwen Price, Cllr Barbara Thomas,

In Attendance

Sue Lilly (Clerk)

Nicola Jones (Co-option candidate)

Apologies: Cllr Timothy van Rees, Cllr Sandra Wear

2833 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Coldrick on the change of use planning near the Bariums

Cllr Woods on the PHTB linked to the Llanwrtyd Pharmacy issue.

2834 Casual Vacancy

Nicola Jones introduced herself to the members and then returned to the Waiting Room.

The Co-option was proposed by Cllr Thomas and Seconded by Cllr Woods.

The candidate was duly co-opted on a majority vote.

2835 – Minutes of the meeting on the 9th September 2021

These were unanimously agreed as accurate and signed by Cllr Coldrick as a true record.

2836 Matters Arising

- No news on ownership of the Gardens from Powys CC
- Alexandra Hall is considering some event for the Jubilee
- Road repair Aberceiros/Newell Cottages – **Clerk to get an update**
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2837 Riverside Gardens Update

- Volunteer list has been postponed until the Spring
- Cllrs Callan and Wear will be dealing with the planting boxes outside of the toilets and the Butterfly Garden in the coming weeks. Cllr Price now has the gardening implements from Keep Wales Tidy.

2838 Bin Collection Issues

- The free purple sack issue has now been resolved and the houses that should have them, have got them.

2839 PCC, NextDoor, Meetings and other Correspondence

- IRPW Wales – as a group 5 council we have the choice of paying IRPW amounts in 2022.
- Calon Hearts Charity – taken over from Cariad. They will help out with costs of pads and support a new defibrillator when the building at Cefn Llan is complete
- MOD response was a ‘no’ to an official Dark Skies viewpoint above Llangammarch.
- SLCC has confirmed that the Clerk’s CPD is complete for 2020-2021.
- Powys Pride offer of information is not needed as this is covered within the council.
- Tirabad church. A meeting with Church in Wales on Friday 12th to look at the future. The yew trees there need to be listed.
- PSCO Trudy Davies visited the Coffee morning on the 20th October
- Play sufficiency questionnaire for our area – we have no unused places at the moment.

- Play grant is available if that changes.
- Issue about co-responder not being used for local emergencies appears to have been resolved. Llanwrtyd Fire Service 20 years anniversary – Cllr Coldrick will be representing the council.
- Llanwrtyd Pharmacy – potential closure. Letters and representations are being made by all three Irfon Valley Councils, and Cllr Van Rees. *Meeting on 11th November with MS James Evans.
- Air ambulance donation request – agreed that we would give £100
- OVW 17/11/2021, Builth, meeting on the 17th – all councillors informed.

2840. Planning Matters

- change of use for stabling near the Bariums – no objections
- granted by Powys Planning – Maesyron, Gwarceiros, Afan Lodge demolition, completion of barn, Cefn Llan farm.

2841 Public Conveniences

- The Clerk banked £5.80 on 19th Oct.
- Electricity bill – this will go up steeply due to new contract. Usage is too small for other companies to give quotes. Discussion over possibility of small solar panel. this is to be investigated further. Cllr Woods shared a link to the Welsh Government site for help with this project.
- Water bill – huge jump that needs to be investigated. Cllr Callan is going to monitor the meter whilst he works on the Gents' Toilets. It was agreed that taps should be replaced by spring-release tops to prevent the taps being left running. The hose to be turned off.
- Unexpected Grant from Powys (£1888) for keeping the toilets open will go some way to cover these expenses.
- The Water Refill tap we have agreed to, but will also need a spring release top
- It was agreed to keep the toilet open over the winter.

2842 Playground

- Weekly checks will be continued by Cllr Price
- RoSPA Inspection confirmed we need a new Bin lid? These cost around £85 and it was agreed that this should be bought. **Action Clerk**
- The gate has been highlighted for a few years by RoSPA and Cllr Callan has come up with an idea to sort the issue.

2843 Councillors Updates

- Cllr Thomas; Dog waste has increased (as is does every autumn) but human waste has been seen too
- Cllr Callan; asked about the gate at St Cadmarchs' – this is an issue for the Church. The parking of the caravan near the junction was queried. The owners will be approached, rather than bringing in Highways. Another resident queried the set-up for sewerage at Cefn Llan. The Clerk to explain to the resident. **Action Clerk.**

2844 Finance

- a) Receipts and Payments until 31/10/2021. These were unanimously agreed and signed off by Cllr Coldrick.

- b) Payments – A. Sole £180, Cllr Price £48. SLCC subs (Clerk has paid £135 this by card) These were all agreed.
- c) Budget and Precept (1) Detailed notes from the Finance Committee were sent out with the Agenda. Cllr Coldrick went through the key points. It was agreed that a small increase in the precept was appropriate, equating to 8p a week on Band D housing.
- d) Clerk's pay review. The Clerk left the meeting whilst this was discussed. It was agreed that the rate should be LC2/21 on the 2020 Scale. To be reviewed on 1st November 2022.

2845

Cllr Coldrick thanked everyone for attending and wished them a Merry Christmas.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.02pm

Notes on the 2022-23 Budget brought to the Finance Committee 1/10/2021

1. We have to allow at least £1500 in case we have an election in May. Even without an election Powys will still charge us around £400
2. If we follow the same levels of hall grants as in usual years – these will cost is over £3000
3. We now have a cleaner to pay
4. We are paying out for IRPW payments to councillors.
5. If/when the Cefn Llan land is given over to us – we should get £25K commuted sum, but also the land left to us is smaller and of little use as any sort of playing field.
6. CPD for Clerk (has to get 18 points a year) has been. bar one, managed from free courses
7. The last two years have been strange, with more expense in some places and zero in others.
8. We need about 4500-5000 unearmarked reserves to stay in the safe zone.
9. The Clerk's preliminary calculations show us only having 1800 left unless we do something

Precept

At present the precept is 10,800 – which represents £40.25 a year at Band D (everything is calculated at Band D!) = 77p per week over 268 properties.

Maybe not in January 2022, but hopefully in 2023 – we will have 29 new properties in Llangammarch – which represents £1160 extra we can ask on the precept without increasing the amount per household.

In the meantime, apart from cutting down on our grants, we might need to consider a slight rise in precept. If we asked for 11,800 precept that would raise the Band D to £44 for a year or 85p a week from 77p a week.

Reasoning from the Finance Committee:

1. Increase of Precept by £1000 (representing an increase of £4 for a year or 8 pence a week for most dwellings)
2. Increase of clerk's pay to a level agreed by the Council. No national agreement has been reached.
3. Allowing for all councillors to claim the IRPW allowances
4. Increase in Hall rent due to Alexandra Hall charge increase
5. Elections in May – minimum charge will be about £400. The charge will be another £1K if the Community Council elections are contested.
6. Hall grants – maintaining a smaller percentage for Alexandra Hall, and allowing zero for Tirabad as they got £10K of Powys in 2020
7. Reducing donations to charities
8. Allowing for replacement pads for the defibrillators
9. Toilet cleaner's wages
10. The Cefn Llan land will not be suitable for a playing pitch. There should be a commuted sum of £25K for any immediate expenses, the rest earmarked for maintenance over 25 years.
11. This leaves us with an un-earmarked sum within a suitable range
12. Once houses in Cefn Llan and Trem yr Epynt are occupied, we will be able to raise a further £1K precept in 2023-2024, with no increases to current residents.