

6th November 2024 7pm Ordinary Meeting of Llanarmon yn Ial Community Council**Canolfan Dewi Sant and via Zoom**

1. Present: Susan Jones (Chair), Darren Pollard (Vice), Kevin Ford, Trevor Brand, Richard Rogers, Cllr. Terry Mendies (zoom), Hannah Munro (zoom), Norma Wright (Clerk) **Apologies:** none

2. Meeting Open to the Public & Press for 10 minutes: (Code to attend via zoom was available via the Clerk).

Public: Hugo Watts attended, he updated the council on maintenance issues. He praised the quality of the fireworks display by Kevin Ford and the success of the bonfire night event as a whole; most enjoyable.

3. Declaration of Interest & Gifts: Susan Jones declared a family interest in planning **15/2022/0378** and left the building taking no part in Council discussions. Trevor Brand declared an interest as being a neighbour of **15/2024/1426/PF** Pant Terfyn planning application; he left the building and took no part in Council discussions. Susan Jones and Darren Pollard declared an interest of being members of the Canolfan Dewi Sant Committee; they took no part in Council discussions.

4. Read and Confirmation of Minutes: of the Meeting held 2nd October. **Resolve:** Confirmed and accepted as a true and correct record by the Council. Prop: R Rogers Sec: K Ford

5. Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda: Council were sorry to hear that Cllr T Mendies car had been badly vandalised.

6. Cllr Terry Mendies Report:

REFUSE COLLECTIONS: The new waste collection system is having problems, with 'Trade Waste and Green Waste' collections. There are discussions to give residents an "Extension Period" as way of compensation. Collections have improved due to the recruitment of more staff and the purchase of more vehicles; missed collections report to me, for an internal dedicated system.

PLANNING: a. 15/2023/0911 Parc Farm Caravan Park. M Holland has organised a public meeting, at the Old School Room, Llanarmon for 21st November 7.30pm: b. Container opposite Llanarmon School: DCC Planning is aware of this 40ft container parked on agricultural land, a site meeting gave an audit on what's on the land. I have arranged a meeting with DCC Planning Dept on 20th November to discuss this and other breaches in the ward.

HEN ARDD CAR PARK: A site meeting with the Clerk and Mike Jones DCC Traffic was held Sept still waiting for a reply from DCC.

FLOODING ON PANT DU ROAD & GRAIANRHYD (near Rose & Crown): Site meeting with D Pollard and Mark Evans from DCC Highways for Wed 13th Nov at 9.30am to discuss flooding and road safety; preventing damage to the road during winter.

ROAD REPAIRS AND POTHoles "WISH LIST" FOR 2025: Each year in December I submit a list of road repairs that need to be rectified; to be included (hopefully) in the Budget starting April 2025. If residents have suggestions e-mail me with the details. Assured that top of the list is the Llanarmon School Road, with requests for signs to slow traffic down and footpaths are cleared leading to Ysgol Bro Famau. Also, Pant Du Road from Eryrys towards Burley Hill Quarry, and the Graianrhyd flooding issue.

7. Planning: Members should view applications prior to the meeting on Denbighshire County Council's website: <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/planning-and-building-regulations/search-and-comment-on-applications> Chair reminded the Community Council to be fully aware of the boundary of the Conservation Area for Llanarmon when making planning decisions.

15/2022/0378 erection of 33 dwellings and associated works on land rear of Maes Garmon estate, Llanarmon: Council appreciated that the planning applicant was trying to solve problems on site; in particular by rearranging the housing positions to reduce established properties being 'over-looked'. Council aware of increased traffic around the village, which may need to be addressed by DCC; no residents attended. **Resolve** Supported.

15/2024/1376/HH Tyn y Mynydd, Llanarmon: Installation of 2 air source heat pumps. **Resolve** Supported.

15/2024/ 1387/HH Castell, Eryrys: Erection of a replacement flat roof garage/associated works. **Resolve** Supported.

15/2023/0911 Parc Farm Caravan Park, Graianrhyd Road, Llanarmon-Yn-Ial: Residents will hold a public meeting to discuss this application; their details will be sent directly to DCC planning. **Resolve** Council has already made comments at previous meetings; they have no further points to raise.

15/2024/1337/HH Siglen Rhos, Graianrhyd: Demolition of existing outbuildings/erection of replacement two story outbuildings for double garage and workshops, first floor games room and balcony. Council discussed planning problems on site and future possibilities of 'change of use' with this planning application. **Resolve:** Supported.

15/2024/1426/PF Pant Terfyn, Graianrhyd, Mold, Denbighshire, CH7 4QS: Siting of 3 glamping pods and associated works. **Resolve:** Council request the DCC Planning Committee consider this application; in line with DCC policy on further camping/caravans/lodges/pods in this area. **Resolve:** Not Supported.

8. Finance Matters, Accounts, and Schedule of payments:

a . One Voice Wales have updated the **Financial Regulations** and **Standing Orders** these had been circulated to Councillors for consideration and adapting. **Resolve:** To Accept and adopt the reviewed regulations. Prop: S Jones Sec: D Pollard. No abstentions or votes against, motion carried.

b. Internal Financial Risk Assessment, Virement of Funds, accounts and bank reconciliations reviewed, with consideration of budget controls **The Statement of Internal Controls.** **Resolve:** To accept and adopt. Prop: S Jones Sec: D Pollard. No abstentions or votes against, motion carried.

c. PRECEPT - A draft precept calculation had been circulated to Councillors for consideration prior to the meeting. The accounts and budget were considered and approved, including an assessment of the reserves. **Resolve:** Council voted for the Precept to be kept the same as 2024/2025 at £23,562 (twenty three thousand five hundred and sixty two pounds) for 2025/2026. Prop: K Ford. Sec. R Rogers. No abstentions or votes against and the motion carried.

Council fully aware of the amount being carried forward; this is mostly due to waiting for the lottery grant for Llanarmon play equipment. Councillors and locals fully support the Llanarmon Playing Field plans, and are hopeful of the application to the Lottery Community Fund being successful. If awarded the next step would be the tendering process, which the Clerk has been in touch with DCC who (for a charge) will assist in the process required to tender. If no award is granted; then LCC will consider annually purchasing the equipment piece by piece; which is possible now there is a master plan of what is wanted and where the equipment will be placed.

Precept to include – Donations: Ysgol Bro Famau £150; Wales Air Ambulance £300, due to being a much used and needed service in this rural community. Supporting the Llanarmon Show, junior prizes £100; Community Pensioners Xmas Event £50; Chair's fund £50; to encourage more use of the skate park and a variety of Youth Activities £150.

Clerk: to receive the annual 2024-25 NALAC pay award for Clerks and approved the increase salary scales in accordance with the Clerks contract of employment, plus relevant expenses.

Contracts: Jones & Graham will continue as payroll provider: JDH Business Services will remain as the Independent Internal Auditor; as they provide a professional Internal Audit Plan, and report- letter of confirmation of engagement will be sent. Council pleased with the standard of work from the Grass-cutting and general maintenance services contract held by White Oak Services from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027.

Insurance: Council to remain with Clear Insurance Company; best price found as now the second year of a five year agreement. Council discussed the burden and difficulty in raising funds to pay for the increased cost of insurance for

Canolfan Dewi Sant: In order to keep the hall open it was agreed to increase the insurance contribution for financial 24/25 year to £1500; Then to increase the contribution in financial year 25/26 to £1600.

Cemetery Charges: Council agreed to continue supporting the WAG of not charging for local children's burials, up to the age of 18; and not to increase the LCC Burial Charges.

Rent: The Raven Hearse House will remain the same. The two grazing charges will increase to £20 for 2025/2026.

Ear Marked Reserves: Election costs £2,500 and Llanarmon Playing field currently at £17061.74; Defib project £4700.41; Youth Activities £393.40 are ring fenced; as part of the planned expenditure scheme.

Fixed Assets Register and valuations were agreed and adopted: Council has been open and prepared for consultations with the local community, making sure they are informed of the intension to sell the land at the rear of Tyn Llan; originally intended to be used for St Garmon's cemetery overflow, but it no longer meets current planning regulations.

WAG Mandatory Allowances has been confirmed these allowances are no longer subject to income tax or national insurance under the provisions for Home Working in section 316A of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, providing there is a formal written arrangement between the Council and those claiming the allowance declaring that they regularly carry out Council work from home. Each councillor voted not to accept these payments for 2025/2026 agreed they will be reviewed annually for each Precept.

Resolve: To accept and adopt all Precept- budgeting figures. Prop: S Jones Sec: D Pollard. No abstentions or votes against, the motion carried.

d. 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 statutory limit is £11.10 per elector. Council Tax base for the Community is 639. This tax is based on number of properties, the bandings, exemptions/ discounts council tax premiums and any estimated new properties that are expected to be brought into the listings in the 2025/2026 financial year.

e. Five Year Plan:

The total refurbishment of Llanarmon Playing Field as a priority.

Funds required for developing car parking spaces at Hen Ardd, Eryrys these are unknown at this time. Due to replying delays by DCC, despite many requests by Cllr Terry Mendies.

The upgrading and maintenance of Graianrhyd Playing Field.

Buy stones and repairing the walls around Canolfan Dewi Sant graveyard, painting fence.

Ensuring the Maes y Droell cemetery extension becomes fit for purpose.

Encouraging and promoting public groups/committees with events.

Carrying out required tree maintenance and replanting.

Encouraging biodiversity within our community.

Upgrading the Webpage and supporting its development; H Munro will contact Kevin Patterson to review and aid with improvements.

Resolve: to accept and adopt Prop: D Pollard Sec: R Rogers. There were no votes against or abstentions and the motion was carried.

f. D Pollard checked, signed and dated all the bank statements against all transactions, on all accounts; they were correct. S Jones confirmed, signed and dated authorisation for internet banking / card payments; balances and all transactions were correct.

g) Council agreed and voted to authorise the following Payments Schedule. To prevent being over-due, and when required some invoices are paid, Council agreed with the procedure, as all payments transactions on all accounts are minuted. Fireworks invoice transfer from account 7881 into LCC main £299.41 (less VAT and £488 cash taken at gates already banked): Skate board lessons £300 transferred from 3981 into LCC main account. Business Internet banking security details had been reset. **Resolve:** Adopted Prop: K Ford Sec: D Pollard. There were no votes against or abstentions and the motion was carried.

£ 5.00	HSBC charges chg8 (taken 21 st Nov)
£609.33	Clerk Pay Nov
£141.40	HMRC Nov
£402.00	Defib Store (pads & batteries) for Ysgol Bro Famau
£61.99	Gardeners Dream Daffodil bulbs
£35.98	Name2Net (website name)
£6.19	Post Office to Lottery
£944.89	Crazy Fireworks
£155.88	Zoom
£ 25.00	Tech 51 cable
£76.86	Viking Office
£300.00	Wales Air Ambulance (donation)
£150.00	Ysgol Bro Famau (donation)
£1500.00	Canolfan Dewi Sant Insurance (donation)
£100.00	H&S Playing Field Warden
£48.70	Clerk expenses office, mileage

h) Council agreed a donation of £50 to the Regional Committee of Urdd Gobaith Cymru in Denbighshire, in October's meeting but Clerk waiting for corrected bank account details.

i) Zoom informed council prices will increase by £10.

j) The defibrillator replacement batteries and pads costing approx £325 (VAT reclaimed) for Llanarmon School arrived; Clerk delivered them to the school, as this machine is now registered as belonging to LCC by the NHS.

k) Clerk had tried and will try again to make enquiries with Swayne & Johnson Solicitors concerning selling the land at Tyn Llan. Following legal advice and sufficient notice to the farmer - the land will be valued and placed on the public market as legally required; if the valuation vs. the cost is thought to benefit the community.

9. Maintenance

1. Biodiversity Ongoing Plans: LCC pleased that DCC Tree Officer Tom Hiles had confirmed the number and types of trees to be donated. These will be planted by White Oak around the community; along with two saplings donated by Ceris Jones, Graianrhyd. The LCC bulbs purchased have already been planted by White Oak.

2. Kiosks: Eryrys has a new first-aid kit.

3. Llanarmon Playing Field: White Oak has started the repairs and coating of weather proofing to the two old wooden benches. The old swings will be cut down as now considered unsafe; they will hopefully be used for flower/ herb growing areas in the playing field. K Ford has repaired the plug in the shelter. The front gate lock has been broken and the rear gate lock stolen; both lock will be replaced.

4. Defibs: D Pollard checked Eryrys; Clerk checked Graianrhyd; noted both defibs alarms are not working in the cabinets. Sue Hanahoe checked Old School Room; Martin the Llanarmon Shop.

5. Following the large number of smashed glass bottles found in St Garmon's graveyard, plus reports of vandalism and break-ins into the church; the Council agreed to purchase CCTV cameras; for approximately £100 and erected by Kevin Ford. The required signs will also be purchased and erected. **Resolve:** To purchase at least two cameras, on St Garmon's Church building; management of the system will be in the control of the Church wardens. Prop: D Pollard Sec: K Ford.

10. Dates of Meetings, Events and Training (future or attended)

- a) Sunday 10th Nov 4pm Remembrance Sunday Service, St Garmon. S Jones will lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the community council.
- b) 5th Nov Bonfire & Fireworks Event. Council sincerely thanked Kevin Ford, family and team of volunteers for the excellent firework display and bonfire. The evening was well attended; £488 was taken on the gate.
- c) 7th Nov 6-7.30pm Gwernymynydd Village Hall Consultation on Wales's New National Park; K Ford attending .
- d) Next week D Pollard will attend a site meeting with T Mendies and DCC; concerning local roads flooding.
- e) **Training Clerk attended;** 12th Nov 2pm-4pm Councils Connect Session around Funding, Grants and Precepts
13th Nov 2pm-4pm Forecasting, Budgeting & Setting the Precept for Local Councils. Oct/ Nov for tablet/ phone/ computer. Essential Digital Skills Course, Dewi Sant.

11. Correspondence: Councillors agreed appropriate correspondence had previously been forwarded by the Clerk during the course of the month.

1. One Voice Wales have submitted their response to WAG stating that Town & Community Councils in Wales are at the front line of democracy and their roles should be protected.
2. **Review of Polling Districts, and Polling Stations;** consultation period 15th Nov until 15th Dec 2024; details and questionnaire on DCC website.
3. **WAG consultations by 17 Jan 2025,** on promoting a high performing new Planning Service, preserving trees and woodlands – new regulations. Proposals;-Increasing planning application fees (including a pathway to full cost recovery); reintroducing the Performance Framework; bursaries and apprenticeships; shared service delivery, planning skills hubs and extending the Local Development Plan; <https://www.gov.wales/promoting-resilient-and-high-performing-planning-service>.
4. National minimum wage/national living wage will be increased from April 2025: Aged 21 and over – from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour; 18 – 20-year-olds – from £8.60 to £10.00 per hour: Apprentices from £6.40 to £7.55 per hour. The increase for 18 – 20-year-olds is the largest on record and is the first step towards a single rate for all adults.
5. DCC required confirmation of the road name in School Lane, Eryrys; LCC have concerns of further confusion.
6. The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee request views on the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals Wales Bill. Improve the accessibility of Welsh minor amendments to the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019.

12. Unrhyw fater arall / other Matters Brought to Councillor/Representatives Attention:

1. The dumping of tarmac at the entrance of Nercwys forest has been reported to AONB and DCC.
2. Reported that lack of parking places in Eryrys village continues to cause problems and friction as more public events take place. Cllr Mendies will continue to press DCC.

13. Meetings: General Meeting of the Council will start at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at Canolfan Dewi Sant. **All minutes are 'draft' until signed off by the Chair.**

Meeting ended 8.40pm

Signed Dated.....