

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 31 July 2023 at 7.30 pm in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Bleddyn Huws, Catrin Davies (County Councillor), Nia Richards, Rhian Evans (Vice-chair), Elgan Evans, Nest Jenkins, Mererid Watson, Siôn Pennant ac Enoc Jenkins.

Clerk: Lynwen Jones

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Eryl Bray

3. Declaration of Interest

No one had any interest to declare.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 26 June 2023

Proposed: Nia Richards; Seconded: Siôn Pennant

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct.

5. Matters arising:

- i) Matters reported to the County Council via Clic:
 - a. Roadworks adjacent to Bont-goch Church had not yet completed
 - b. Roadworks opposite Cerrig Mawr had been completed
 - c. New salt bin – nothing to report. The council was asked to consider whether more salt bins were needed. Siôn Pennant didn't think that there was one in Bont-goch
- ii) The remainder of the cattle grids had been cleaned
- iii) New noticeboards – Enoc Jenkins to speak with John Henry Jones to ask for a date (and also for the work in the cemetery)
- iv) Work in the cemetery – the hedge will need cutting on the village side before any work can be done

Action – the Clerk to contact Dafydd Williams to request that he cut this hedge and the hedge in Cae Bach asap

6. Section 6 – Biodiversity

Nia Richards had responded to the Keep Wales Tidy survey noting what training was required. She had prioritised dog fouling, climate change and biodiversity.

She noted that the 'Best Garden for Biodiversity' competition had been included in the Show programme. (The prize money would need to be transferred to the Show Committee.)

She requested the Council's permission for her and Eryl Bray to hold events on the stand in the Show. She also asked for permission to start a Seed Group – to collect seeds from plants that grow well locally, to be distributed between any interested local residents, possibly over a cup of tea, e.g. St David's Day or during the Cwtsh Cynnes sessions. Both ideas were approved unanimously. Catrin Davies stated that she would also discuss this with Sgubor y Coed Council.

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7. New Matters

i) Renewing the maintenance/grass cutting contract:

The current contract ends in Marc. The contract includes:

- Cutting the grass on the Green;
- Cutting a path through the grass to the bench at Brynhyfryd until July, then doing a full cut;
- Cutting the grass and hedge in Cae Bach;
- Cutting the grass in Bont-goch play park;
- Cutting the grass in the cemetery.

The hedges in Cae Bach, Bont-goch play park and the cemetery will need to be cut before the end of the contract and asap.

Resolved: the new contract should contain the following for the year:

- The Green – grass cutting x6
- Brynhyfryd – cutting a path to the bench only until May, the grass cutting x3
- Cae Bach – grass cutting x6; giving the hedge one good cut then cutting it as needed to keep it in check
- Bont-goch play park – grass cutting x6; giving the hedge one good cut then cutting it as needed to keep it in check
- Tal-y-bont Cemetery – grass cutting x4 with the first cut on 1 June; giving the hedge one good cut then cutting it as needed to keep it in check.

It was suggested that Dafydd Williams and Robert Griffiths (Ffos-y-grafel) be asked to tender.

P.G. – the Clerk to let the above know about the tender

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had forwarded all relevant electronic correspondence to the Councillors during the month. Particular attention was given to the correspondence below:

One Voice Wales:

- i. Information on the Sustainable Drainage Feasibility Grant – need to inquire whether this would be useful for the drainage issues in Cae Bach
- ii. July and August training dates – a £100 bursary is available to pay for training. The Councillors were reminded of the basic training arranged by Llangynfelyn Council in Llan Fach on 7 September.

9. Planning

No applications had been received; however, Siôn Pennant noted that a Planning notice was being displayed in Bont-goch.

Action – the Clerk to check whether the Planning Department has the Council's current contact details

10. Financial matters:

i) 2022-23 end of year report and list of Council assets:

The Clerk had sent the completed annual return to the Councillors in advance. The Chair noticed that some of the figures did not balance correctly. The Council approved the annual return on the condition that it be corrected. It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk review and sign the form before the Clerk sends it to the external auditor, along with the relevant documentation.

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Siôn Pennant stated that a brand-new bench had been gifted to Bont-goch play park and that this would have to be added to the asset register.

ii) The Council's current financial position

The Clerk distributed details of the Council's current position, as follows:

Current account: £4,701.72

Savings account: £4,800.18

Tabernacl account: £4,435.12

Following a telephone conversation with HMRC, the Clerk understood that a VAT repayment of £1,257.50 had been received (to be added to the above sum in the current account), but was awaiting confirmation of this.

iii) Invoices payable:

- a. Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall: Council meetings (April-July); Cwtsh Cynnes (April-June); Broadband (April-July) – £445.50

The Council pays £50 a month for broadband, and it was queried whether a better deal was available.

- b. Tal-y-bont Show: prize for the Best Garden for Biodiversity competition – £20.00

Resolved to pay the above costs. Proposed: Catrin Davies; Seconded: Bleddyn Huws

iv) It had not been possible for the Clerk to register for online banking as her name was not on the mandate. Llangynfelyn's Clerk is on the Council's mandate, and five Council members have the right to view the accounts at any time. One of the five is responsible for verifying the accounts each month.

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk's name be added to the mandate in order to proceed with this. The five names currently on the mandate are: Ellen ap Gwynn, Bleddyn Huws, Enoc Jenkins, Nest Jenkins and Rhian Evans.

11. Play Parks

- i) Play Park Committee held on 4 July 2023: the Clerk had distributed the minutes for information. There had been a lot of enthusiasm and many fundraising ideas had been proposed; a duck race was being arranged to be held on the day of the Tal-y-bont Show. It was also noted that Ceri Bethan Morgan was keen to be involved, and it was decided unanimously to co-opt her onto the Committee.

Proposed: Nia Richards; Seconded: Catrin Davies.

ii) Monthly reports

Bont-goch: wet under foot with brambles growing by the gate. Catrin Davies suggested possibly investigating Sustainable Drainage Grant

Nia Richards had not had a chance to check the playground – she would do so in the next few days and pass the form on to the Clerk. It was queried who owns the land at Cae Bach – the Community Council owns the equipment and pays for all the maintenance work. It also pays £10 a year to rent the football field.

Action – the Clerk to look through the paperwork to try to discover who owns the land

iii) Next rotas:

August – Ellen ap Gwynn; September – Mererid Watson; October – Catrin Davies; (Siôn Pennant to inspect Bont-goch play park)

12. Any Other Business

- i. A company had been cutting grass on behalf of the County Council along the Cwmceulan road, making a mess and breaking many of the poles.

Action – letter of complaint and photographic evidence to be sent to the County Council.

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Catrin Davies requested that photos be sent to her and the Clerk

- ii. The hedge at Anwylfa near Dôl Pistyll was overgrown and protruding over the pavement
Action – *the Clerk to contact the occupants asking them to trim the hedge*
- iii. Work had started on the road next to Tanffordd and would take at least six weeks to be completed. There was no lighting available for pedestrians.
- iv. Numerous potholes in the road from Pen-sarn to Cwm Pandy bridge – Catrin Davies to report this via Clic.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.

Signed: _____ Date: _____