



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 7pm, Thursday 19th March 2020 at Llanharan Rugby Club.

Present: Councillors: Roger Turner (Chair), Chris Parker (Vice Chair), Geraint Hopkins, Jeff Williams, Robert Lewis-Watkin, Dan Morelli, Barry Stephens, Will Thomas and Pam Uppal.

Apologies: Councillor Serkan Aksin

Also: Catherine Kennedy (Acting Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

2020/110 - WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Serkan Aksin

2020/111 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

2020/112 – PUBLIC REQUEST TO SPEAK

A member of the public asked if there had been any progress regarding the proposed bridleway between Argoed Avenue and Dany-Graig Rd. The Chair stated that he had put in a request for a Rights of Way Officer to write to the owners of the land informing them of a suitable surface for the bridleway. The Chair confirmed these actions had been completed, however, due to family illness no further progress had been made on the construction of the bridleway.

The member of the public went on to ask if the Council had discussed the possibility of improving Bridleway 3 and was informed that the community council is looking at upgrading the bridleway using Community Infrastructure Levy monies.

2020/113 - CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

RESOLVED

Four casual vacancies to the Council were filled by a single composite resolution.

In accordance with *The Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) (Wales) Order 2004, S1* a declaration of acceptance and an undertaking to abide by the council's code of conduct was signed by all new Members.

The following is a breakdown of new members and the wards they represent.

Brynna – Councillor Helen Donnan



Llanharan – Councillor(s) Parmindra Pannu and Janine Turner

Llanillid – Councillor Rhys Jenkins

On behalf of the council, Cllr Roger Turner extended a warm welcome to the new members.

2020/114 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 20th February 2020 were approved and adopted as a correct and accurate record of events.

NOTED

- a. It was noted that the former Councillor William Hopkin was honoured to receive recognition of 'Freedom of the community' for his tireless work. There would no longer be a public presentation due to the Covid-19 state of emergency, however, a ribbon/scroll of recognition would be prepared and a private presentation would be arranged once circumstances allow.
- b. It was agreed to add 2 planters to the previously agreed list to be situated at the site of the old BT telephone box and park bench in William Street, pending removal of the telephone box by BT.
- c. It was noted that Bridleway 44 is closed and a proposal was put forward to upgrade the A473 up to Brynna woods to a bridleway.
- d. Cllr Geraint Hopkins updated attendees on HR developments.

2020/115 - THE WILDLIFE TRUST

Apologies were received from the Wildlife Trust who due to the Covid-19 crisis were not able to attend to carry out the planned presentation.

2020/116 - MEMBER UPDATES

- a. Cllr Geraint Hopkins updated attendees regarding issues around the Covid-19 pandemic following a recent statement from the Leader of RCT.

Cllr Hopkins proposed a Llanharan Community Council 'Community Resilience Scheme' to support members of the community who may be self-isolating and struggle to access groceries and prescriptions.



RESOLVED

A motion was passed to prepare a flyer offering support to those who need it and recruiting support from those who are able to help. The flyer will be published on the council website, social media and a printed copy delivered to every household in the community.

- b. Cllr Roger Turner updated attendees regarding the upgrade of Llanharan Cemetery, with new bins arriving in the next few weeks. He went on to provide an update on the Llanharan bypass stating that he had met with officers and was shown the defined route and that drilling has been completed
- c. Cllr Chris Parker stated that due to Covid-19 unfortunately Brynna Carnival will not be taking place this year.
- d. Cllr Jeff Williams stated that it has been 13 years since the new Llanharan Railway Station was opened and he felt that it was time the original sign was now taken down. Cllr Geraint Hopkins agreed to contact Network Rail to arrange removal and to ask them to tidy up the bushes around the station.

2020/117 - CORRESPONDENCE

- a. It was reported that following correspondence between the community council and Llanmoor Homes regarding an envelope of land owned by the latter in Meadow Rise, that in the absence of a formal agreement the community council would no longer maintain this land.

ACTION

It was agreed that the council would write to Llanmoor Homes to clarify the situation.

- b. It was noted that following correspondence received, the Wales Audit Office had carried out an audit of processes and procedures and would in due course prepare a report for the council.
- c. Following correspondence from the local authority setting out the renewal terms of a longstanding legal agreement between themselves and Llanharan CC, the cost of the annual rental for a piece of land crossing the Pendre Allotment site has been increased to £500 pa. It was also reported that the road adjacent to the allotment garden and to the rear of Pendre Crescent which is owned by the local authority needs tidying up.

ACTION



Cllr Geraint Hopkins will contact the local authority to arrange the tidying up of the road to the rear of Pendre Crescent and adjacent to the Pendre Allotment Garden.

- d. It was noted that Welsh Water are carrying out a survey of the Jubilee St Allotment Garden water supply to ensure the correct metering is in place.

2020/118 - **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Council expenditure for February 2020 was noted by members.

2020/119 - **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Recent planning applications were noted by those present. Cllr Chris Parker asked for the planning application for Lanelay Hall to be noted as a possible retrospective application.

2020/120 - **MINOR AUTHORITY GOVERNOR**

RESOLVED

A motion was passed for Cllr Janine Turner to be appointed as the Minor Authority Governor for Dolau Primary School.

2020/121 - **MEADOW RISE ENCROACHMENTS**

Householder one – It was reported that land ownership deeds for the council owned Meadow Rise play area had been presented to householder one who agreed that they had encroached onto council property with their garden fence, however, they stated that they were unable to move the fence line at this time.

Householder two - Householder two had not responded to an invitation to meet with councillors to discuss the land deeds.

Further identified encroachments - It was reported that two more encroachments had been identified in the same area, to be referred to as householders three and four.

At this point Cllr Dan Morelli declared an interest as a friend of one of the householders. He suggested that consideration be given to developing a strategy/policy for encroachments on Community Council land to ensure all allegations are dealt with in a consistent and equitable manner.



RESOLVED

To write to householders three and four to inform that encroachments had been identified and for legal advice regarding the encroachments to be sought and brought back to council in due course.

2020/122 – COUNCIL WEBSITE

MOTION

The motion was unanimously passed to develop a new website using the company agreed during the previous tender process.

2020/123 - MAINTENANCE UPDATE

A report of work carried out by the maintenance staff was noted and a general discussion followed regarding duties deemed safe for staff to carry out during the Covid-19 crisis.

2020/124 - LOCAL POLICING

RESOLVED

A motion was passed to write to the police authority requesting that they delegate a representative to attend meetings of the council.

2020/125 - URGENT MATTERS

Covid-19 update

It was reported that advice from One Voice Wales was to suspend April meetings of the council and to await information regarding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) normally held in May. The annual signing of the financial details is currently under review by the Welsh Government.

Council decisions cannot be made by email and/or telephone, therefore, in the absence of council meetings, One Voice Wales advise for delegation of powers to be authorised by council.

RESOLVED

The motion was passed to delegate powers to the Clerk, the Chair and the Vice Chair to sign off spend (already agreed in the budget) up to the value of £10,000 in the absence of council meetings during this period of Covid-19 crisis.



Cllr Roger Turner (Chair)

Signed: