

LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILIO BERTHOLAU

Council website address-www.llantiliopertholeycc.org.uk

Chairman/Cadeiriad
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Clerk/Clerc
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2021**

Those present: Councillors GG Cowan (Chair), Ms N Watkins (Vice-Chair), M Hughes, M Skinner, K Eldridge, B Martinetz, Rev M Lane, Mrs S Gillies, C Harry

1 Apologies for absence

Rev Julian Gray, Roger Harris

2 Declaration of interests

It was agreed that these would be given as and when the situation arose during the meeting.

3 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

There was no representative of the police present at the meeting. However, a formal report had been submitted, and circulated before the meeting. Considerable concern continued to be expressed at the situation with regards to speeding on the Hereford Road, and the use of heavy lorries, and particularly those from the Pontrilas Saw Mill. Councillor Rev Lane said that he had visited Pontrilas and spoken to the owner, who had been sympathetic, but had apparently not actually ordered his drivers to drive along the A465 – lorries from Pontrilas continued to use the Hereford Road, even travelling in convoy. Councillor Cowan said that what was required was a weight limit on the road, and a 20 mph speed limit.

Councillor Hughes agreed with this, commenting that the signs in Abergavenny town were wrong, in that they directed traffic up the Hereford Road rather than the A465. He also mentioned “boy racers” driving at speeds of 40 to 60 mph. This was clearly not being monitored properly by the police. He said that the Council had been trying for years to change the situation, but without success. The Clerk reminded the meeting that it was only in March 2020 that it was apparently realised that Hereford Road had been de-trunked in 1972, whereas up to that point everybody had thought it was a trunk road, and that nothing could be done to introduce traffic-calming measures. Now that this had been discovered, it

was agreed that efforts needed to be redoubled to make sure that traffic was kept orderly and pressure put on the police to control it.

So far as parking on the pavements was concerned, the Clerk said he had e-mailed Jane Pratt and Mark Hand. He had received an acknowledgment, but so far no substantive reply. Councillor Hughes said that part of the problem lay in the fact that there was insufficient parking provision, and he made a comparison with Stanhope Street, where the road was lined with cars, all parked on the pavement.

Councillor Rev Lane also referred to the issue of parking outside the Fish and Chip shop. When permission had been given for this, it had been envisaged that customers would park in the car park to the Crown & Sceptre. That pub had been closed since the start of the lock-down, but even so it was clearly wrong that people were parking along the road and even on the precincts of the pelican crossing. The Clerk also referred to an e-mail he had received from Councillor Parry on the 12th April regarding use of the land opposite Willow Court under the pylon for entertainment purposes. The police had dealt speedily with one incident but not the other.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors

County Councillor M Lane said that, because of the upcoming election, there were no Council meetings of any sort. Two pieces of good news were that the Hereford Road was scheduled for repairs in 2021/2, and there was to be “systematic dealing” with the drains. Councillor Hughes asked about the sewage system, and especially the sewage problem created by the Willow Court estate. His understanding was that, when Persimmon were given permission to build that estate, it was made a condition that they should install a sewage pumping station. This had apparently not happened. Who was supposed to enforce this? Where is the sewage going? Was it to Ross Road? Councillor Rev Lane said that, a few weeks previously, there had been a serious overflow on the Hereford Road. Councillor Hughes said that raw sewage was still going into the Gavenny, and there had clearly been a major mistake with certain houses where they emptied into the storm drains instead of the sewage system.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March 2021

The Minutes were approved

6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March 2021, and specifically the Risk Assessment

- (a) Page 3 – The Clerk had distributed the proforma Risk Assessment produced by One Voice, redacted so as to exclude reference to items which did not apply to the Council, such as the bar. It was agreed that this should be adopted subject to the fact that for “Audit Committee” there

should be a reference to “Finance Committee”. Councillor Mrs S Gillie commented that the Council would obviously be able to review this from time to time, and the Clerk said that it needed to be done annually. Any discrepancies would be revealed and discussed at the review.

(b) Page 3 - 7(a) - the Clerk said he had put into the *Abergavenny Chronicle* for the 31st March the advertisement for the Caretaker and Cleaner. So far there had been no formal applicants, although he had had a strong interest from one young lady who operated a cleaning company. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that she had been approached by a four or five people who had, however, shied away when they realised how much cleaning and sanitising would be required because of Covid 19 and also the amount of paperwork required for the caretaker job. Clearly, whoever wanted the contract would need to be interviewed and CRB checks would have to be instituted.

(c) Page 3 - 7(b) – the Clerk said that he had achieved the result that Rentokil had remitted all charges, and would not bill the Council again until July 2021. It was agreed that, in the circumstances, any change of supplier could be postponed.

(d) Page 3 - 7(c) – For the election on the 6th May, the Clerk said that the booking form had not been returned to the Monmouthshire County Council. There was a need to have a key-holder for the day of the election, and Councillor Miss N Watkins said that unfortunately she was not available that day. The Clerk said he would deal with this. Councillor Cowan remarked that it was going to be necessary for Sarah Takacs to return the keys she held. He had warned John Pearson of Monmouthshire County Council, with whom he was corresponding regarding the election, about the possibility of theft of items left outside the hall, and he noted that the hut provided by Keep Wales Tidy had already been damaged.

Councillor Martinetz raised an issue as to whether the Council workmen had to contact the key-holder to gain access to the playing-field; Councillor Cowan said that all places of that sort had the same locks.

(e) Page 3 - 7(e) – Councillor Cowan returned to the issue of transport facilities, saying that now the buses to and from Hereford were only spaced every four hours rather than two. The journey to Cardiff from Mardy still took two hours because the journey was via Pontypool. The community of Mardy was badly served. People were being asked to leave their cars at home, but were being subjected to inconvenience. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Ken Skates the Transport minister of the Welsh Government, and also ask that Abergavenny Town and Monmouthshire County Council should join in the complaint.

(f) Page 4 - 11(b) – the Clerk said he had made an enquiry of Nigel Leaworthy to see if the Monmouthshire County Council would undertake the job of renewing the markings of the spaces in the car park. He knew this had been passed on to Highways, but as yet there had been no response.

(g) Page 5 15(c) – With reference to the footpath opposite St Teilo’s Church, it now appeared that the right of way was only “permissive”, so that the land-owner, Mr Sean Carlsen, was entitled to block it. County Councillor Rev Lane confirmed this. He said he had spoken to Mr Carlsen, and he had said that path went through his garden, and he had blocked it because of Covid 19. He had not committed himself to unblocking it at any particular time.

7 To consider correspondence received, and specifically the naming of the land opposite Saw Mill, Ross Road.

There was no correspondence apart from the issue of naming the land. The Council accepted the name *Min Afon (Edge of the River)*, as suggested by the developer, and adopted by the Monmouthshire County Council.

8 To consider planning matters

(a) DM/2021/00174 – Jamie Hall - 52 Poplars Road – Demolition of garage and erection of two storey extension, single story dining room rear extension and single storey front porch extension. This was questioned on the basis that the dining room would be built over the only available parking space. On a further reference to the issue of on-street and on-pavement parking, the Clerk was instructed to query where any cars would be parked.

(b) 21/19812/FUL – Mr Alan Davies - Yew Tree Barn, Trebencyn – Ground Floor extension. This was agreed.

(c) DM/2021/00316 – Mr and Mrs M Hughes - 3 Gwent Road – Single storey rear extension. This was agreed.

(d) DM/2021/00570 – Mr and Mrs M Skinner - 13 Greystones Crescent – Proposed extension – this was agreed.

(e) 21/19791/MINOR – Elysium Healthcare Ltd - Ty Gwyn Hall – Application for “non-material amendment”. This appeared to be largely internal, but there were changes to the exterior as well. This application was agreed.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts

Council Tax £1,578.25 + tax for 2020/21. This was agreed. However, the Clerk was instructed to dispute the claim for 2020. The Chairman queried whether the Council had received the full grant available to businesses of this type.

British Gas £182.26

Merlin £464

Abergavenny Chronicle £172.80

Admin £146.79

Case Group £326.12 less £30 = £296.12. The Clerk was instructed to continue disputing this with the Case Group on the basis that otherwise the Council would end up paying for something it had not received.

Refund to Councillor Miss N Watkins for seeds for the memorial garden £129.96

Refund to Councillor Cowan for padlocks £9

10 To consider the Financial Statement

This had already been distributed. It was agreed that the next meeting would begin at 6.30 p.m. to give time for a Finance Committee meeting to approve the accounts ready for the internal auditor.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

- (a) On behalf of Mardy AFC, Councillor Skinner asked for permission to put a light roller on the ground, as suggested by Wernddu Golf Club. Councillor Cowan said that the club had agreed that the ground would only be spiked.
- (b) The issue of people walking dogs on the football pitch was discussed. Owners were not sufficiently careful about dog waste. Councillor Martinetz said that any sign which would seek to prohibit this would not be legal. Councillor Cowan said this was understood. All the Council could do was to continue to ask people not to do it, although, when he tried, he was often treated with scorn.

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

- (a) Councillor Ms N Watkins spoke about the memorial garden. She said there was now rhubarb in the garden, raspberry canes and a variety of plants. Local children had asked permission to put in seeds, and it would be interesting to see what came up. Trees included Rowan. There were bug and bat boxes and a bat detector. One local resident had come to see what was happening and had left, mightily impressed. They also had two volunteer litter-pickers. It was clear that the community was taking to the garden in a big way.

(b) Councillor Cowan said he had been approached by relatives of Doug Davies, a former Chairman of the Council, who wondered if the Council wanted a framed jigsaw puzzle of Benjamin Disraeli. It was agreed that this should be accepted and hung in the Council Chamber.

13 To receive information from One Voice Wales

None had been received

14 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies

No information had been received

15 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent

(a) The Clerk was given authority to purchase a new printer.

(b) Councillor Hughes asked about the new lease for the hall. The Clerk said that clearly the Council could not hold a public meeting to appoint the committee because of the pandemic. He would pursue the issue of the new lease with Gabbs and the complaint against Watkins & Gunn regarding their conduct *vis-a-vis* the work they had done.

16 Date of the next meeting of the Council – Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 6.30 p.m. for the Finance Committee and 7pm. for the main Council meeting.