

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 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2021

Those present at the meeting were: Councillors GG Cowan (Chair), Ms N Watkins (Vice-Chair), Mrs S Gillie, B Martinetz, K Eldridge and C Harry; County Councillor R Harris was also present.

1 Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Rev J Gray, Rev M Lane, M Skinner, M Hughes and M Ewers

2 Declarations of interests.

It was agreed that these should be stated as and when the necessity arose

3 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

There was no attendance by police personnel, but a Police Report had already been distributed by e-mail. Councillor Martinetz asked about the issue of parking on pavements, which was discussed generally. Clearly, this was unacceptable. This was discussed later in the meeting. Police staff were being lost from the area; this was obviously good for them, since it meant promotion, but sadly not good for the area to have lost efficient staff.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors.

County Councillor Harris said that the issue of parking had gone very quiet since the County Council had taken over the issue. Councillor Martinetz said that disabled people had trouble using the pavements if they were blocked. County Councillor Harris said that a possible remedy was to take photographs of offending vehicles and to report the issue to County Hall. Jane Pratt was the County Councillor with

overall responsibility for highways, with Mark Hand being the overall senior officer. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to them both regarding the issue.

On the issue of speeding on the Hereford Road, Councillor Harry spoke of “Formula 1 Racing” and Councillor Ms Norma Watkins of cars driving two abreast down the road, issues that had previously been mentioned. There was also reference to speeding on St Teilo’s Road. It appears that it is planned that a general 20 mph zone will apply throughout the town. Councillor Cowan asked who was policing the speeding. County Councillor Harris also spoke of the issue with the road surface, as to which they had all been contacted. Monmouthshire County Council Highways department said that, funds permitting, this issue would be attended to in the 2021/22 allocation

County Councillor Harris said there was to be a 3.89% rise in Council Tax. He also spoke of concern regarding the boundary changes. Abergavenny Town was likely to cost those concerned £1 per week more than if they remained in Llantilio Pertholey.

He also reported that planning in the Wye and Usk Valleys was at a good slow.

Councillor Cowan mentioned the sewerage on Ross Road, which was a continual problem, and Councillor Martinetz mentioned the drains. Councillor Cowan said that he and his wife had moved into the Croesonen Parc estate 46 years previously; at that point, the drains were cleared twice a year; they had not been cleared for 10-15 years.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December 2020.

The Minutes were approved.

6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th December 2020, and specifically:

(a) The new web-site – it was agreed that the new web-site as designed by Councillor Mrs S Gillies should be put into effect. The Clerk was authorised to pay the fee required for the domain and to obtain the current web address from Mr Vaughan. Councillor Mrs S Gillies said she would like photographs of the area to go on the web-site.

(b) The Community Councillor’s Reward – this was discussed, and Councillor Cowan left the discussion whilst the Chairman’s remuneration was being discussed. However, County Councillor Harris made it clear that the allowance of £150 per Councillor was clearly established in law. An individual councillor

was not obliged to accept it, but had to “opt out” officially in writing to the Clerk. That included the Chairman’s allowance of £500. For certain councillors this would mean that it was taxable.

(c) The Risk Assessment. The Clerk said there was a fairly substantial document which he had been sent by One Voice, and which had been discussed briefly in December. Because the Council had not met since then, it was agreed that the document should be distributed by e-mail and the issue then discussed at the next meeting.

7 To consider correspondence received.

(a) The Caretaker had resigned. It was agreed that an advertisement should be placed in the *Abergavenny Chronicle* to ask for applicants for the post, combined with that of cleaner.

(b) Rentokil (formerly Cannon) – the Clerk reported back about the problems he had been experiencing with them, over billing the Council for their services during the lock-down. It was still unclear whether the Council was paying only rent for items on the premises or whether it was being billed for items which had not been supplied at all. The original contract had been agreed some time ago – probably before Alwyn Holland had been Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk should continue to press the issue, and at the end of the day should seek to end the contract completely if not satisfied.

(c) A letter had been received from Monmouthshire County Council regarding the forthcoming election. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to express the Council’s reservations concerning items being left outside the hall. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the booths were normally left outside and were not usually a problem, but other items certainly would be.

(d) The Clerk reminded Councillors of Census Day and of the need to urge people to comply with it.

(e) Councillor Cowan said that he recollected being asked to comment on the public transport infrastructure. The Clerk said he would check on this – it might have been mentioned in previous minutes. In the event that a reply was needed, Councillor Cowan said that it could take a four hour round trip to Cardiff because the buses went via Pontypool; Councillor Martinez reported on a nightmare trip he had taken via Merthyr Tydfil. The general sense of the meeting was that Abergavenny was badly served.

(f) An e-mail had been received from One Voice, inviting renewal of membership. This was agreed.

8 To consider planning matters.

There were none to be considered, although the Clerk reported that Mr Nicholls had appealed the refusal of planning permission for the site off the Hereford Road. Councillor Cowan said that perhaps there needed to be a reminder that Senedd rules required transport and pavements, and it was emphasised once again that the land was swampy.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts.

Payments were agreed as follows:

Clerk's Salary £1215.28
HMRC £243.05
British Gas £448.07
Merlin £565.50
One Voice £608

10 To consider the Financial Statement

This had been distributed by e-mail. The Clerk said that the Council had already received two instalments of a business grant, and he had been notified of a further payment of £4,000 which was to be paid into the Council's account in March.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

(a) An update was given regarding progress on the memorial garden. Councillor Ms Norma Watkins said the paths had been done, and they had received offers of wild flower seeds. Councillor Cowan said that the new gates and trees were up, and the Council now had a shed. He queried whether we had received forks for the raised beds. Councillor Ms Norma Watkins said that one lot of turf had apparently ended up in Park Street, for reasons unknown.

(b) The Clerk raised the issue of the markings in the car park, and it was agreed that he should obtain estimates for these to be renewed. The general feeling of the meeting was that this was something that the County Council might undertake, and the Clerk was advised to try them first.

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

(a) Councillor Cowan reported that the repairs had been completed to the gents toilet, the lighting and CCTV had been installed and issues with the emergency lights – six of them had faulty - remedied. He would be undertaking monthly checks, and the installer would check once a year. The CCTV

was in colour now and much clearer and “zoomable”, and would be recorded on a 2TB drive, so that it should last at least a month.

13 To receive information from One Voice Wales

(a) It was agreed that the Council’s subscription to One Voice should be renewed

14 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies.

No reports had been received.

15 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

(a) Councillor Eldridge mentioned an allotment survey which had been sent to him. Councillor Cowan said that the first issue was to identify the land to be used, before finance could be considered

(b) Councillor Mrs S Gillie mentioned the issue of dog waste bins. She wondered if we could have an extra bin and whether it might be sponsored to cover the cost. Councillor Cowan said that he doubted whether sponsorship might be found, but in any event he believed that it was going to be necessary to have a formal proposal to remove the moratorium on new bins. The Clerk was asked to check up on that point.

(c) General concern was expressed at the position regarding the blockage of the footpath by St Teilo’s Church. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Executive of Monmouthshire County Council, Paul Matthews, and it was also thought to the MP, David Davies, and that the Ramblers Association and National Parks might be copied into the correspondence. County Councillor Lane might need to be involved also.

16 The date of the next meeting of the Council was agreed to be Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7pm.