

LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILIO BERTHOLAU

Council website address-www.llantiliopertholeycc.org.uk

Chairman/Cadeiriad
Councillor G.G.Cowan
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Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire
NP7 6PF

Clerk/Clerc
Mr. R. Wade
12 Crawshay Bailey Close
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE LLANTILIO PERTHOLEY
COMMUNITY HALL ON THE 16th DAY OF JUNE 2021

Those present: Councillor GG Cowan (Chair), Councillor Ms Norma Watkins (Vice-chair), Councillors M Skinner, M Ewers, Mrs S Gillie and B Martinetz and County Councillors Rev M Lane and R Harris.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Eldridge, Harry and Gray.

2 Declaration of interests

It was agreed that these were to be given as and when they arose.

3 Discussion on policing issues with Gwent Police personnel

CSOs Laura Thomas and Lee Green attended the meeting, and they were welcomed by the Chairman. The Police Report for May 2021 had already been distributed, and the Council noted its contents.

The speed camera that was set up was near McColl's, and was looking in the Hereford Direction. Both CSOs confirmed that both the camera and their own presence both had to be conspicuous – they were not permitted to be “sneaky”. They said that it was fairly pointless anyway, as motorists going in the other direction would flash oncoming cars to advert them to the police presence. Lee Green said that a sergeant from Monmouth had used an unmarked car with a picture of a camera on the side.

Despite all the limitations, they had stopped two offending vehicles, as indicated on the report. County Councillor Lane said that the plan was for traffic coming from Triley Bridge to be subjected to a 40 mph limit until the current 30 mph limit was reached, at which point a 20 mph limit would apply. That was evidently good news. However, it was concerning that, at present, it was being experienced that vehicles would be going at 50 mph until they reached Willow Court, and there was currently only one pavement, on the east side of the road. He asked whether Traffic calming measures could not be applied, but Laura

Thomas said this was not justified by the statistical results. Councillor Mrs S Gillie said that she was especially concerned at motor bikes doing circuits, using the road as a race-track. County Councillor Harris asked about the Community Speed Camera, and Lee Green said he would speak to the ward manager. Councillor Cowan said that about two or three years previously there had been a suggestion that members of the public would be trained to use speed guns, but nothing happened.

The Clerk read out a letter he had written on behalf of the Council to Mr Pugh of Pontrilas Saw Mill, requesting that their lorries should use the by-pass unless travelling west, which made due allowance for the problem of the sharp turn by the Angel Hotel. Councillor Cowan said he had never known that to be a problem. Councillor Lane said that, when he had seen Mr Phil Davies, he had been promised that traffic could use the by-pass save when going west, but this seemed not to be the case now. Lee Green said he would speak to them. Councillor Cowan said it had been going on for 50 years, and asked if there could not be a weight limit.

The officers then left the meeting, and Councillor Cowan thanked them for attending.

4 To receive the Monthly update reports from County Councillors.

County Councillor Harris said that things were still quiet, but commented that there was less than a year until there would be elections again.

He said that the issue of the surface of Hereford Road was going to be debated, although Councillor Ms N Watkins said that her information was that work was definitely going to start in August – she had actually received a warning letter through her letter-box.

The Boundary Commissioners had reported finally – it was intended there should be 46 County Councillors.

The proposed development at Glebe Cottage was still not resolved. There had been an amendment – porches were now to be put in. Comments were still awaited from the Wildlife Trust and those responsible for bats. The Welsh Assembly would be considering especially the wild life issue, and the matter was still being considered.

5 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2021.

The Minutes were approved

6 To consider Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2021

Page 2 – 7 (b) – Councillor Ms N Watkins said she was going to be interviewing a husband and wife on Friday in relation to the advertisement for Caretaker and Cleaner. The issue was far from resolved.

Page 2 – 7 (c) – The Clerk said that Jane Lee, Clerk to Abergavenny Town Council, had told him that her Council had decided against a joint approach to the Welsh Government to the transport issue.

Page 3 – 7(d) – In relation to the markings in the car park, the Clerk said that Highways at MCC had emailed to confirm their willingness to be involved. He would continue to exert what pressure he could.

Page 3 - 8 (b) – The Clerk read out a letter from the Monmouthshire County Council which indicated that a complaint against an individual Councillor had been investigated, and that no action had been recommended. Councillor Cowan said that the issue had been resolved and was now closed.

Page 4 – 12 – The Clerk said he was still trying to remedy the issue with the flooring of the children’s playground. Councillor Cowan said this was urgent as children could be injured. The flooring needed to be re-laid. It was agreed that urgent action was required. Plenary powers were agreed for the Chair and Vice-Chair to deal with this if required.

7 To consider correspondence received.

- (a) The issue of the Councillor’s Allowance arose as a result of the Clerk announcing that he had received a letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel about the return. Councillor Martinetz spoke about the Councillor’s Allowance. It had been made clear to him that he was entitled to an allowance of £150. In anticipation of receiving this, he had paid two cheques for £75 to two charities. Now he had been told that the allowance was taxable, and that the Clerk had to deduct tax at source from the payment. Councillor Skinner read out a text from the Clerk on the 11th April, which told him that he was “entitled to £150 as of right.” Councillor Cowan said that he had arranged for a cheque to be drawn on his behalf to reflect his allowance of £650 (£500 as Chairman and £150 as a Councillor) and sent to a charity of his choice. The cheque had in fact been returned by the bank because of problems over the signatories, but the fact remained that he was committed to the gift to the charity, and would have to make up the money himself if he did not receive it in full.

The Clerk said that he had made enquiries when the issue of the Allowance was raised (*see Council Minutes for March 2021 item 6(b)*). His information then had been that he was permitted to pay the £150 gross of tax, particularly if (as he had been told would be almost universally the case) the money was to become a charitable donation. He accepted that he had paid out one cheque to a Councillor on that basis, and texted Councillor Skinner to that effect. However, he had subsequently become uncertain about the issue, and he had therefore made enquiries of One Voice, asking for guidance. That reply was absolutely clear: the payments had to be made via the PAYE scheme, as if the Councillor was an employee. He had e-mailed all Councillors on the 19th May to inform them.

Councillor Cowan said he had made telephone enquiries of HMRC, and had been told there was no need for the money to be dealt with under the PAYE scheme, and Councillor Skinner said he had also telephoned HMRC and was told that he did not have to pay tax if his income was less than £12,000. The Clerk said that he himself was very sorry about the need for the allowance to be treated in the way described by One Voice, but it was clearly the law, and he had to abide by it. County Councillor Harris said that his allowances, both from the County Council and Town Council, were treated in that way. He suggested a conversation with the monitors to clarify the situation.

Councillor Cowan said that One Voice were only a consultative body and not “in charge” of the Council. He said that. He said that the Clerk should not be required to know the necessary personal details of each Councillor because of data protection.

The Clerk said that it was important to be sure about this. He asked the Council to allow him to check the position, and to come to the Council at the next meeting with definite information. County Councillors Lane and Harris supported that view, and County Councillor Harris said there was a risk that the Clerk was being pressured into doing something impermissible.

The Chairman said that he was not prepared to wait. Councillor Martinetz made a proposition, seconded by Councillor Skinner, that the Clerk should be compelled to issue cheques today to those Councillors who wanted it. The Chairman said that the Council would take full responsibility for making that decision. The proposal was carried by a majority vote, Councillor Mrs Sarah Gillie abstaining. County Councillor Harris did not vote.

(b) The Clerk said that he had received the final Recommendations Report regarding electoral arrangements. Croesonen will now be Croesonnen. Mardy would remain as at present, and there would be one County Councillor for each. The report included mention of the objections to the movement of Llwynu Road and Vale View into the Abergavenny Town Council area.

8 To consider planning matters.

(a) DM/2021/00316 – 3 Gwent Road – Extension. This had been left open from last meeting because inadequate information had been provided, and, especially, no application form had been published. The Clerk said that it was now known that the applicant is Mrs Rae Thomas. However, the matter was still not clear because of possible problems with biodiversity. It was agreed that the Council would await a formal report.

(b) DM/2018/00834 – land west of Glebe Cottage – housing development. This had already been debated. Monmouthshire County Council had approved the development in January, but it had then been called in by the Welsh Government, and a final decision was awaited.

(c) 21/20005/FUL – Tyr-y-Wen Farm – Claire Gilbertson – application to have an outdoor riding arena. This application was agreed.

(d) 21/19862/FUL – Lower House Fields – Mr & Mrs Alford – to erect a Farmworker’s Dwelling. The question arose as to whether this was actually be tied to the permission, or whether this might be a “back door” to an ultimate sale on the open market. It was agreed that an objection should be lodged.

(e) DM/2021/00806 – 11 Croesonen Parc – Mrs M Last – application to convert garage to workshop and rear extension – this application was agreed.

9 To consider the payment of Accounts.

SSE - £2,391.06

Merlin - £320

It was agreed that Councillor Ewers should be refunded the £96.90 he had spent on materials for the memorial garden.

The Council formally confirmed the payment of cheques to Playdale (£1639.64) and Zurich Insurance (£1,623.67), and that the Clerk should be reimbursed the sum of £279 paid by him to Vision for the new printer

Concern was expressed at the possibility that Merlin were not emptying the refuse bins, and that there might be a need to ask the County Council to do so.

10 To consider the Financial Statement

This had already distributed, together with comparative statement for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21. Councillor Ms N Watkins pointed out that one figure had been omitted for the year 2020/21, and the Clerk said that was a clerical error – the totals were correct – and he would ensure that this was remedied.

11 To consider any matters regarding the Playing Fields Committee

- (a) Councillor Cowan reported back to the Council regarding the memorial garden, saying that work was progressing. Ten trees were going to be planted. He and Councillor Ewers would look at the issue together to see what else needed to be done.
- (b) The proposed use by the Welsh School of the playing-field for their sports was discussed. The Head-teacher had asked for two weeks because, she had said, each class was having its own sports, and this could only be fitted in on a daily basis. Councillor Mrs S Gillie said that this was probably because of needing staff for supervision, and that the suggested use was during lunch-breaks. Councillor Martinetz proposed that the school should be allowed a week rather than a fortnight – the 21st to 28th June - and this was agreed. Councillor Ewers said he would be arranging to cut and mark the field for this purpose.

12 To consider matters relating to the Community Hall

- (a) The Clerk said he had written to Mardy AFC to ask for their contribution towards the utilities. He accepted that the final figure, which covered two years, was somewhat prohibitive. Councillor Ms N Watkins said that the figures for the gas and electricity needed to be recalculated because the club had its own gas and electricity meters. The Clerk expressed his surprise that this had not been made clear by the club's secretary when replying to his e-mail. Councillor Ms N Watkins said she would check with the former caretaker as to the figures that would enable the recalculation to be done. The Clerk queried whether the gas bills were based only on estimated readings in any event, and that he would check on this. Clearly, visits by the representatives of the gas and electricity suppliers to read meters had not been possible during the lock-down. Councillor Mrs S Gillie asked whether it might be possible for separate bills to be put in.
- (b) The gents toilet was causing trouble. The roof had been repaired, but a leaking pipe had caused problems with the whole ceiling. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair would have plenary powers to get in a plumber.
- (c) The issue of reopening the Community Hall once more arose. Unfortunately, this was still ruled out by the pandemic. However, the search was still on to find a caretaker, and the need for sanitising would continue.

(d) The new shed had been vandalised, and three youths identified.

(e) Cardiac Rehab had been able to recover all their items from the Hall.

13 To receive information from One Voice Wales

The Clerk said that the AGM of the Monmouth/Newport Area Committee would take place remotely on the 1st July 2021.

14 To receive any reports on activities of outside bodies.

No reports had been considered.

15 To consider any matters that the Chair considers urgent.

Councillor Ewers asked once again about the issue of the right of way opposite St Teilo’s Church. The Clerk said this had been researched very carefully by the secretary to the Parish Council, and was “Permissive” only, and the land-owner had the right to block it off.

16 Date of the next meeting of the Council – Wednesday 21st July 2021 7pm.

Constitution

Councillors:-

- G.G. Cowan
- Ms. N. Watkins
- Rev. J. Gray
- M.T. Skinner
- Rev M. Lane
- M. Ewers
- Mrs S. Gillie
- K. Eldridge
- B. Martinetz
- C. Harry

3 Vacancies

cc: County Councillor R. Harris