

LLANCARFAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANCARFAN



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LLANCARFAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING ON ZOOM AT 7.30PM 18th FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT Councillors: Cllr K Kemp, Cllr T Thomas, Cllr A Rees, Cllr J Lott, Cllr M Hughes, Cllr J Scott-Quelch, Cllr J Angell, Cllr T Bluff-Higgins, and Cllr P Bear.

Visitors Cllr G Kemp
Mr R Alexander, Independent Standards Committee Member, on behalf of Democratic Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Apologies Cllr M Thomas

In attendance Mrs J Western – Clerk

1802/426 To Receive Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Thomas.

1802/427 To receive any declarations of interest
Cllr T Thomas declared an interest for items 1802/438, 1802/439, 1802/440, which all involve Pancross Farm. The items are at the end of the agenda so that Cllr Thomas can leave the meeting before they are discussed.

1802/428 To approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting of 21st January 2021
The minutes of meeting of 21st January 2021 were **Approved** – Proposed by Cllr T Thomas and seconded by Cllr J Lott.

1802/429 Matters arising from the minutes
2101/413 - The amended risk assessment was sent out by Chair.
2101/418 - A letter was written to the Chairman of the governors regarding the change of name for the new school building.
2101/424 - A letter was written to Evan Williams regarding his recent success in the Welsh Grand National.
2101/425 - A letter was written to Edward Thomas regarding the complaints received.
2101/420 - Cllr T Thomas spoke to Evan Williams regarding the mess on the road. Mr Williams confirmed that he had not made the mess but cleared it up anyway.

1802/430

To agree action for the maintenance which needs to take place:

Councillors Angell and Hughes walked the whole of the burial ground perimeter to check the items. The river level needs to reduce before it can be properly inspected and quoted for.

Footbridge

The footpath has settled on the church yard side. The footbridge panelling has rusted screws holding it down, it is not an issue which is going to cause any danger, but they will need replacing.

Riverbank Walls

In the corner, by the church, the wall has washed away to the extent that the tree stump that was there has now fallen into the river and as part of the works, it will have to be lifted out.

There are three local contractors who would be interested in the work on the river wall and the footpath; Mr Gibson, Mr Gretton, and Mr P Woods. These contractors will be approached by Cllr J Angell and Cllr M Hughes but quotes cannot be sought until the water level decreases.

Trees and Hedges

The quotes which were given last year have been revisited from JV Trees and Esa Treecare and an additional quote from Harri Trotman at TopCut Tree Services has been sought.

All quotes were discussed, and Cllr J Angell made a proposal to go with the contractor who has quoted for all the tree and hedge work required, this was seconded by Cllr Tim Bluff-Higgins and agreed by all. Cllr M Hughes will liaise with the chosen contractor, TopCut Tree Services and try and negotiate a slightly lower price based on the other quotes.

An application would need to go to the Vale of Glamorgan council to remove the Holy tree which is growing into the Yew tree. This will be done by the contractor.

Councillors discussed how the LCC became responsible for the Burial Ground. It was not unusual at the time of the transferred ownership, the Church in Wales was trying to off load many burial grounds, Wenvoe Community Council and Dinas Powys Community Council also took over their church yards. The Church in Wales is delighted that it has nothing to do with the church yard and would not be interested in taking back ownership.

1802/431

To discuss the NantCarfan Catchment Project

Cllr M Thomas gave apologies for this meeting so this item will be deferred until next month.

1802/432

To discuss the flooding in Llantrithyd and water discharging from Pantyffynnon quarry

The Quarry discharges water daily into a small stream which flows through the middle of Llantrithyd. With the excessive amount of rain that has occurred in the last month, the water discharge from the quarry has increased incredibly. One part of the drainage system goes along one of the main access roads into Llantrithyd. This road has been flooded and impassable three or four times in the last month. The

Vale of Glamorgan Council has had to come out twice in the middle of the night to close the road and rescue vehicles which have got stuck. It is becoming an increasing problem. As yet, houses have not been flooded but there has been a lot of difficulty with access to the village and car engines being flooded.

In addition to those problems, the quarry has changed ownership and the new owners plan to make a planning application to the Vale of Glamorgan council at the end of the month to increase the amount of quarrying in the north quarry and to dig deeper. Correspondence that Cllr A Rees received from neighbours of the quarry and their worries and fears about what will come to pass in terms of water discharge, the number of lorries and noise associated with it has been forwarded to the Chair.

The blasting is also an issue. When blasting was taking place at the beginning of February, a house which is a mile away shook. This means that the houses closer are being affected greatly.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has confirmed that the quarry is not exceeding its current allowance. However, it was noted that this has not been checked since the quarry changed ownership in the summer. It is very clear that the quarry has significantly increased its activities since last summer. It is a concern that the quarry intends to increase this further.

Cllr G Kemp indicated that the quarry had not been quarrying up to its limit previously and although it has increased, it is still within its limit. With regards to the planning application, the Vale Council would definitely have a better look at the situation. As part of the planning committee for the Vale, Cllr G Kemp is unable to prejudge the issue but did state that if the application was to be called in then local residents would need attend if they wanted their views to be heard.

There are two residents who have written to Cllr A Rees regarding their worries. Both have different concerns regarding the quarry. One is concerned with the wall between the deer park and the quarry falling into the quarry if more activity continues and the other is concerned about the noise. The Residents' Association in Llantrithyd has sent information to residents alerting them to the pending application.

One member of the Residents' Association is currently trying to find out if the quarry has a discharge licence. If a planning application is being submitted, a discharge licence would have to be in place so if they do not have one, they should be looking to put one in place for the purposes of the application.

Cllr P Bear has carried out some research into the quarry and previous planning applications. In 1997, the quarry submitted an application for a change in working systems, and this reduces the life of the quarry to 2025 when it was originally 2042. This means that whatever happens, the quarry is going to cease in 2025. In June 2018, the quarry submitted a scoping report regarding what the new development is going to be and asking if an environment impact assessment and planning application would be required, to which the Vale council replied yes to both.

They are pumping because they are far below the water table, 50-60 metres or more. This new planning application, if it follows the scoping application that the quarry submitted in 2018, implies they will go down about another 15 metres and then when they stop, they will be back filling the quarry. As soon as they stop

pumping, the quarry will fill up with water which will take about three or four years to fill up and will end up being about 73 metres deep. This space is then going to have to be kept secure.

The councillors are happy to let the Llantrithyd Residents' Association continue to carry out the research and will keep on the agenda for next month.

Regarding the flooding issue in Llantrithyd, Cllr T Bluff-Higgins has followed up with Clive Moon at the Vale Council and is waiting for a response.

Cllr J Lott has also emailed Clive Moon about the flooding in Llancadle and about three or four days later, a drainage lorry came out and cleared a lot of the blockages along the lanes in the vicinity but the men carrying out the work told Cllr Lott, that they were just trying to get the water flow moving again as there were blockages from the hedges being cut. South of Llancadle, a JCB is needed to come out and dredge and that particular team did not have the facility available to them. Cllr Lott will contact Clive Moon again regarding this as there has been very little rain this week and the area is still flooded.

1802/433

Committee updates

Road Matters Committee – Cllr A Rees

Email correspondence to Michael Clogg about the works around LCC area was circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. With regards to the road which runs from Bonvilston Hall into Llantrithyd village, which was very flooded, the Vale Council acted very quickly and cleared the drains with an hydraulic pump. The residents of Llantrithyd are very grateful to Michael Clogg for doing this so promptly.

Unfortunately, the patching that was done on the roads in Llantrithyd a few weeks ago is already deteriorating.

The works on top of the quarry road which meets the A48 have been completed and that has made a huge difference. It is much safer to turn on and off the A48 now.

During a meeting with the Vale Council which took place near Pancross Farm two years ago, promises were made by the Vale Council for the road to be dramatically improved and kerbing to be introduced. Two major areas where they have introduced the kerbing along the Llancadle to Llancarfan road have improved things significantly but there are many areas where the road is completely disintegrating that still need to be addressed. It was acknowledged that a lot of resurfacing of the road has taken place and extended into hedge rows as well as kerbing some of the entrances into farmland which has help stop the water. It has improved the situation compared to what it was like although not as much as was promised.

Cllr J Scott-Quelch has reported the road from Llancarfan through Walterston to the Five Mile Lane as it has huge pot holes and craters. Some work has taken place on this road there but not a great deal. When the Vale team visited, the potholes were covered with water and ice. Cllr G Kemp has spoken to the Director for Housing and the Environment at the Vale Council about the situation, and he has confirmed that he will look into it.

Cllr M Hughes has photographed the road through Walterston, where there are large amounts of standing water, for reference. There is one very large culvert which seems to be blocked and holding back a huge amount of water. Some of the

potholes have been marked out for resurfacing but these were closer to the Five Mile Lane than Llancarfan.

The actual road from Llancarfan to Walterston is also broken up with lots of potholes and needs resurfacing.

Cllr G Kemp commented that the Cabinet Member, Peter King, was invited, at a council meeting last year, to discuss the issue of poor roads and then see the problem areas, but he did not go want to come out to rural Vale to inspect the problem areas due to Covid.

Brewers Lane is still an issue. It is no longer passable. It was on the Vale list for repairs last year or the previous year, but it was not done because it did not score highly enough. Cllr A Rees mentioned Brewers Lane specifically in her email to Michael Clogg to update him, so he is aware of it. It is thought that the criteria for getting the road repaired lies with amount of use the road has as well as the condition of road. However, if the road was in better condition, it would get more use.

There are two blocked drains the east side of Walterston Fach and they need jetting. Cllr T Thomas spoke to someone from the Vale Council who had jetting equipment and arranged to meet him the following morning but the man from the council did not turn up.

Councillors to use 'What3Words' to report any potholes and road issues to the Vale Council.

ACTION - Cllr G Kemp to follow up with Miles Punter and report back.

Planning Committee

Planning Applications

1. **2021/00048/FUL - Oaklands, Broad Close Lane, Moulton**
Extension to existing dwelling to include part build above existing garage, demolition of conservatory replaced with two storey extension and single storey extension to the side. Demolition of existing out building to be replaced with smaller scale double garage, stables and outbuildings.
RESOLVED - No comments to be made.
2. **2020/00718/FUL - Land off Broomwell Lane, Llancarfan**
Erection of agricultural building, polytunnel and retention of horticultural outbuildings and access track
No further information has been submitted.
ACTION - Cllr G Kemp will follow up regarding the call in.

Planning Approvals

3. **2020/01245/FUL - Cliff Farm, Llancarfan**
Garden Room Extension

Burial Ground Committee

Meeting to update forms will take place when face-to-face meetings are allowed.

Community Engagement and Future Generations

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee

Nothing to report.

1802/434

Correspondence

Land Registry Survey needs to be completed by next week.

ACTION - Cllr K Kemp and Cllr J Scott-Quelch will liaise to complete the survey.

The Church yard is registered to the LCC but it is also registered to the address of a previous clerk. This needs to be updated through an application to the Land Registry. The land would need to be registered to the clerk's address.

ACTION – Cllr K Kemp will complete the application to the Land Registry.

Following the recent damage to the Burial Ground wall, the clerk contacted the insurance company to see if it would be viable to insure the wall against further incidents. The insurance company responded with questions regarding the size of the wall and potential rebuild costs.

ACTION - Cllr J Angell will put together budget cost to send to the insurance company.

Email about the bench from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The old bench was taken away by the owner of the house it was outside.

Code of Conduct email was circulated from One Voice Wales. Councillors agreed it was very informative and helpful. There were no further comments to be made.

The clerk has received an email from a resident suggesting that the Community Council should be actively looking to protect the existing site of the Llancarfan Primary school from development if/when it becomes available for sale by Vale of Glamorgan Council. The resident feels that this is something that the Community Council should be pro-active on before irreversible decisions are taken elsewhere.

Cllr M Hughes has also spoken to the resident about the school and was going to ask that it be put on next month's agenda. The LCC should be proactively looking at options. When the Labour administration took over, Cllr Lis Burnett gave promises about focus on protecting assets within rural communities. This should become a focus area for the next six to twelve months. Cllr J Angell stated that there was mention of asset transfer, but it did not go any further.

ACTION - Agenda item for next month

A resident from Llanbethery contacted the Clerk regarding a defibrillator for the village. The resident had previously contacted Cymru Hearts, who and advised her to contact the LCC regarding funding opportunities. The Clerk has enquired to Cymru Hearts regarding any grant opportunities and has received an email back this evening so this will be put on the agenda for next month.

ACTION – Agenda item for next month, Cllr M Hughes to also speak to the resident about the Llancarfan defibrillator.

Two residents have contacted Cllr M Hughes regarding the state of dog fouling in the village. Residents are walking through the burial ground with dogs despite signs saying it is prohibited.

ACTION - Clerk to council Vale regarding the signage for the Vale and put on the agenda for next month.

1802/435

Finance

The Burial Account has now been closed and the funds have been transferred into the general account.

Payments

Clerk Wages January 2021	£338.90
HMRC PAYE Clerk January 2021	£75.00

All payments were agreed by all. The cheques and audit to be signed by Chair and Cllr J Scott-Quelch at the next available opportunity.

Transfer and Amalgamation

Burial account to general account	£1946.48
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Bank Balances

Opening statement balance as at 18 th February 2021	£21,826.49
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Projected balance at 18 th March 2021	£21,318.99
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1802/436

Reports from Representatives, Clerk and PSCO

One Voice Wales - Cllr P Bear

The meeting was quite interesting and had included a visit from a representative from the Land registry, pushing their services and trying to encourage all Community and Town Councils to register their land. They are offering an annual of £680 for up to 90 units or £30 per registration up to a land value £80,000. All the LCC land has been registered.

Reports about Glamorgan heritage and new visitor centre in Southerndown which looks great but currently has no visitors due to Covid.

Ian Perry from St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council have been experiencing problems with the Vale of Glamorgan Council over the extension of St Nicholas school. They had a meeting which they invited the Vale Council representatives to but they did not turn up. It was suggested that Community councils who are having problems with planning could co-operate as a group of councils in order to hire planning advice. Barry Town Council have also offered their part time employed planning officer for their expertise on a paid basis. In contrast, St Fagans Community Council stated that they had experienced good relations with the Section 106 officer and case officer.

Airport committee – Cllr J Scott-Quelch

There has been an 87% reduction in activity over the last year. The rates relief system that was announced for English airports has not been introduced by Welsh Government.

The airport has remained open with flights for essential purposes and sports teams. Some of the staff are on furlough until the end of April and some have been seconded to Track and Trace and Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Qatar Air flights from Cardiff have been delayed indefinitely and KLM has been delayed until at least March 2021. Tui flights are on sale but it is not known when they can operate.

Llancarfan Primary School – Cllr J Scott-Quelch

No meeting has taken place.

Tarmac Liaison Committee – Cllr T Thomas

The meeting is being held on Monday so report at next month's meeting.

Vale Community Liaison – Cllr A Rees

The meeting took place virtually on 26th January 2021.

Dog theft in the Vale has been a big problem. Be careful of people taking an interest in or photographing dogs.

The fire service had to deal with the major flooding event in Dinas Powys on 23rd December.

There was an exchange between St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the lack of clearing of the footpaths on A48 for the past ten years. Landowners are responsible for overhanging trees, but if they do not clear it, the Vale should clear it and charge landowners, but this has not been happening and residents of St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council have been asking for a long time.

There was a presentation about the National Census, which is on 21st March 2021, with prompts to complete it.

The Vale of Glamorgan annual delivery plan and wellbeing objectives to be published on the 31st March 2021.

Police Report

The PCSO for Llancarfan is PCSO Owain Reynolds. Unfortunately, PCSO Reynolds was unable to attend the meeting tonight but will try to attend future meetings as and when he is able. In his absence, PCSO Reynolds has asked the clerk to pass on the following information:

Llancarfan – December 2020	
10/12/2020	Male knocking on doors at night looking for money for his "Charity". Male has been identified, but has not been located. He has continued this month (February) in different villages.
22/12/2020	Minor altercation on private property. No complaints made to Police following arrival.
1 Domestic related call - No details can be provided	

Llancarfan – January 2021	
05/01/2021	2 Sheep attacked and killed by dog on farmer's land. No dog or owner identified.

16/01/2021	Gates have been opened and sheep escaped. Not left open by owner. Member of public left gate open by mistake or on purpose. No person identified. Sheep returned to field.
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Llantrithyd – December 2020	
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Llantrithyd – January 2021	
12/01/2021 and 16/01/2021	Damage to gates and locks. (Possible due to lamping)
21/01/2021	Abandoned Vehicle (Due to flood water)
31/01/2021	Theft of feeding troughs

Llanbethery – December 2020	
10/12/2020	Suspicious male collecting for charity. Enquiries on going to speak to locate male.

Llanbethery – January 2021	
30/01/21	Large gathering - COVID breach

Llancadle – December 2020	
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Llancadle – January 2021	
03/01/21	Theft from vehicle. Items stolen from inside vehicle.

1802/437 Items for consideration for next month's Agenda

No additional items to those already mentioned in action points.

1802/438 To receive an update on the noise reported from Pancross Farm.

Cllr T Thomas left the meeting prior to this item.

Following discussion at last month's meeting, the Chair wrote to Edward Thomas of Pancross Farm and he subsequently phoned Cllr K Kemp regarding the issue. Mr Thomas was informed that the person who had made the complaint had suggested that the building could be insulated to help lessen the noise. Mr Thomas confirmed that the installation had been completed the end of the previous week. Cllr K Kemp passed this information on to the complainant, who confirmed that Mr Thomas had been to see her and promised to do one or two other things as the insulation had actually made the noise worse. Cllr K Kemp was unable to get a further update prior to the meeting but will suggest to the resident that if the issue is not sorted to refer it to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

1802/439 To discuss the recent damage to the burial ground wall.

The wall around the burial ground was damaged on 28th January 2021 by a large trailer which was being towed by a larger tractor which tried to pass a parked van. The driver of the tractor did not ask the driver of the van to move. Luckily, there was a witness to the event who was able to identify the person who damaged the wall as the driver of the tractor did not stop. The driver works for Pancross Farm and the farm has said that they will get their stone mason to carry out the repairs.

ACTION - To go on agenda again for next month

1802/440

To discuss the run-off from the Biodigester area.

Cllr J Angell was approach by a resident in Llancarfan who lives opposite the ford who was complaining of large amounts of extremely muddy water that was flowing off the hillside down through her house. A lot of the houses there have drains as when it rains hard, you get some water flow but this water appeared to have oil in it. The resident has contacted the farm and Edward Thomas came down to look and thought there was a leaking pipe or similar at the top of the hill by the biodigester and confirmed that he would deal with it. Mr Thomas also offered to power wash the drive to clean away any residue.

The public footpath runs alongside the biodigester and it is visible that a volume of dirty water has been running from the biodigester area down the hillside through into the house behind.

The off cuts from the maize are fed as a base material into the biodigester. According to their planning permission, this is to be stored in a hardened area with a concrete wall around it. This is not there. There is just a huge pile of feed material covered in tarpaulin, so anything that is leaking out of that, will leak down the hillside.

It is thought that the storage is not as per the planning application or planning permission.

A diversion trench has been dug. If the run off stops, has it been diverted somewhere else. It has been happening for a short while, since before Christmas.

Mr Thomas came down and power washed the drive but we need to see what happens when it rains again.

It is our duty as public officers to raise concerns to planning committee.

ACTION - Chair to contact the Vale to investigate to see if there is the breach, Cllr J Angell to give details to Chair.