

MINUTES OF THE LLANDEGLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH MARCH 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 7.00 P.M.

1: PRESENT: Councillors Karen Bellis (Chairman), Steve Swygart, Clair Livingston, Sandra Williams-Blythin, Gwyneth Dillon, Denbighshire County Councillor Martyn Holland and the Clerk.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None received.;

3. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN ITEMS OF BUSINESS ITEMISED ON THE AGENDA (STANDING ORDERS NO. 57): None received.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION.

No issues were received from the member of the public in attendance.

4. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTYN HOLLAND.

A. the AONB Sustainable Development Fund will double for 21/22 to £100k. How to apply for Community Projects within the AONB can be found on the AONB website.

B. The speed bumps were removed on the 15th January.

C. Rubbish fly tipped on the back road from Llandegla to the B5431 was removed and searched. Sadly there was no way of identifying the culprits.

D. The sofa tipped in the old quarry in Old Gate Lane has been removed by DCC.

E. There was a further incident of fly tipping by the same company on the A525 by the illegal Travellers site. This was witnessed by three people and the police are back on the case.

F. There are 23 houses in the ward listed on the DCC empty houses register. (75 houses in Rhyl West). A total of 500 houses across the County at a time that we are looking to house people. It is important that we return these to the housing stock.

G. If you have members of your family who are hoping to stay in the county but cannot afford to buy in the area or who are looking to get on the first rung of the housing ladder it is important that they register an interest with the County.

These figures help the County plan what type of housing is required in all our communities when we are looking at the next LDP.

H. I have a one to one with the Highways team on the 8th March to look at grit bins, pot holes and the state of our unclassified roads in the ward

5. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING.

Members confirmed 7th January 2021 minutes as a true record.

6. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

The applicant has withdrawn planning application: 27/2020/0869 for proposed two storey pitched roof extension at Pendinas, Water Treatment Works, Ruthin Road, Llandegla.

7. FORMER BT KIOSK IN LLANDEGLA.

A. Councillor Janet Strivens agreed to contact BT to seek permission for the usage and the movement of the former BT Kiosk from the current location in Llandegla.

B. the Clerk will write to the Llandegla Community Shop Committee seeking permission to relocate the kiosk outside the Shop.

8. PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD REPAIR/RENEWAL AT THE LLANDEGLA CAR PARK.

The Chairman will make enquiries with local tradesmen for a quote to repair the Llandegla car park notice board.

9. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES UPDATE.

- A. the Clerk reported that there were no applicants received for the two vacant seats that exist on the Council.
- B. Denbighshire County Council confirmed that there was no request for a by-election for the vacant seat following the recent death of the late Bob Barton.
- C. the Clerk will now publish the new “Co-option” notice for the three vacant seats that exist on the Council.

10. WEBSITE UPDATE.

Councillor Janet Strivens reported that Mr James Farley has 50% completed the new website of the Llandegla Community Council.

11. TO ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OR CLERK (STANDING ORDERS NO. 24): None received.

12. FINANCE ISSUES:-

- A. the Clerk circulated Members with the bank transactions for the period 1st April 2020 to 28th February 2021.
- B. Members approved the following Schedule of Payments:-
 - 1. Estate of the late Bob Barton – Members Allowance £80.00.
 - 2. Clerk’s salary for the quarter ended 31st March 2021 £560.20.
 - 3. HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE for the quarter ended 31st March 2021 £160.00.
 - 4. Clerk’s expenses for the year ended 31st March 2021 £426.96.
 - 5. Llandegla Memorial Hall – 2018 Council meetings £64.00.
 - 6. Llandegla Memorial Hall – 2019 Council meetings £56.00.
 - 7. Mr Fraser Robertson – 2020 Community Christmas Tree £72.00.
 - 8. Mr Steve Swygart – gravel for the Community Top Field £88.80.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

- A: Application: 17/2021/0024 - Erection of extensions to front and side of dwelling with balcony over, and conversion to form additional living accommodation at Bryn Hyfryd, Llandegla – Members raised the concerns that the subject planning application and plans will overlook the privacy of the neighbouring property.
- B. Application: 17/2021/0004 - Variation of condition 6 of planning permission code number 17/2014/0980/PF to provide ex-situ rather than in-situ bat habitat mitigation measures at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla - the Community Council will rely on the Ecology Officer's report to the subject planning application and plans.
- C. Application: 17/2020/0547 - Conversion of detached garage to form 1 dwelling including ground and first floor extensions, connection to existing septic tank, formation of access and parking, landscaping and associated works on outbuilding at Tegla House, Wrexham Road, Llandegla – the Community Council has concerns that the subject planning application and plans is outside the Llandegla Village Plan for housing development which is considered to be in an open space.
- D. Application: 17/2021/0074 - Siting of an office accommodation building to be used in conjunction with the existing use of site at Coed Llandegla Visitor Centre, Llandegla – no objections.

14. TO REVIEW ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED THAT REQUIRES ATTENTION – already covered elsewhere within the minutes.

15. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS COMMITTEE.

See appendix 1 at the foot of the minutes.

16. TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Due to the continued Covid-19 restrictions there were no report received.

17. ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION BY COUNCILLORS.

Items for discussion at the next Council meeting:-

A: Llandegla Memorial Hall Covid-19 Zoom package grant aid.

B. Community Council forward financial spend commitment.

C. Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022 Celebrations.

18. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH MAY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING.

APPENDIX 1.

Councillor Steve Swygart provided members with the following email report from Ruth Calcraft, Countryside Officer of Denbighshire County Council:-

- LEI stands for Landscape Enhancement Initiative and it is a grant fund administered by National Grid to mitigate for the impact of its infrastructure (pylons around here) on protected landscapes (in this case the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB).
- The grant has already been applied for by us (the AONB) and is paid by us on completion of the agreed works, or alternatively we can use the grant to deliver works on behalf of the recipient.
- The grant amount (which has already been determined) is supposed to reflect 75% of total costs, and the additional 25% of the cost is the match funding provided by the recipient either through cash, volunteer time etc.
- The project started in October 2019 and is intended to run for 3 years, so we are now in year 2.
- Works were agreed prior to the submission of the grant in May 2018 with the Leisure Committee and there was also a community consultation day organised in the shop. There is some flexibility in altering the plan, but how straight forward it is depends on what is proposed e.g. like for like changes are generally fine but a completely new aspect of work would need to be cleared with National Grid first, which takes around 2 months. If possible, what would be very useful now is if it can be confirmed that the Community Council are happy with the planned works, including the alterations that we, the AONB, have suggested. I've attached a map and drawn a table below to detail all the aspects of the updated plan, suggested who is taking the lead on delivery and the available grant. Hopefully it all makes sense and will help everyone gain a good understanding of the overall plan. We'd be very happy to meet on site to go through everything as well, when the Council are comfortable to do that.

All information should be in the table below but just to draw your attention to a few important points that would be great if they could be addressed to allow things to get moving a.s.a.p.

- 1) Is it possible for the Community Council to organise a cut and collection of cuttings and a harrow of the meadow area before April? I think we discussed this Steve, and you asked if the AONB had the machinery to harrow, but we don't unfortunately so we are hoping that your contractor might. This will really help with the success of the seed germinating when sowed.
- 2) Are there any issues with changing the hedge laying in the top field to the boundary on the left (as shown on the map) from the original plan of laying the boundary on the right? The reason for this change was that the hedge on the left is less gappy and more uniform in age, and also avoids potential privacy issues. And it appeared some bits of the hedge on the right may have already been recently worked on. In addition by changing to the left, lovely views towards the Clwydian Range would be enhanced.
- 3) We need to carry out some tree management work in the Environmental area. It would really help the assessment of what works to do/not do if there was a guide as to how much the site might be used by the community. I know when we spoke Steve, you didn't feel the school would be interested in using it much, maybe an annual trip for some organised activities? We are looking to carry out the access improvements works to the area within the next month and there is a budget to repair/replace the bird hide in the Environmental area within this LEI plan. The area might also be of interest to the St Tecla project (see 4) below).

Are there any other aspirations to use the site? If not, then is it best to assume use will mainly be ad hoc by individuals/small groups out for a stroll, with possible occasional school visits?

4) There is potential to link the LEI project and the St Tecla's project (being led by Barry Evans and Karen Bellis, part of which involves glebe land adjacent to the quarry at number 4 on the map). Are the Community Council happy for the projects to work alongside one another where appropriate, for example potentially transferring some of the LEI funds for hedge laying at the Environmental area (5d), which on reflection has quite a good boundary for wildlife already, to hedging work around the glebe land instead?

5) Are there any elements of the LEI plan that the Community Council feels it no longer wishes to proceed with?

In reply to the email from Ruth Calcraft the members confirmed:-

1. We have asked our contractor to look into getting a harrow to do the work. Will respond when I know more.

2. No problem to lay the hedge on the L of the field looking in. Only issue would be to ensure privacy for my house which is adjacent to the field on that side. I don't think there is anything significant to lay outside my back door (just brambles.....), but just check it first, please.

3. We can confirm that the school are definitely NOT interested in the Environmental Area. One of our Councillors made contact with the head teacher immediately after the last Council meeting, who confirmed the point. This is a great shame in my view. How times change with a change of head teacher.... Currently, there are no other aspirations to use the site, and so it is hard to justify doing any significant work in the area. We can only consider that people would use / pass the area sporadically, as I have been doing during lockdown for an ascent of Moel Garegog along the ridge.

4. Yes, we are happy for these two projects to work alongside each other as you suggest.

5. Perhaps 5e is the one project that should be curtailed in view of comments made in 3 above? I hear from my sources in the community that you already plan to start 5b with the replacement of 3 of the stiles that lead to the Environmental Area, so that is good news.