

# Cyngor Cymuned Llannon Community Council



## **Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Llannon Community Council**

**on**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 6.30pm**

**Held remotely via Zoom**

**Meeting commenced at 6:30pm**

**The Chair, Cllr. J. Owen presided over the meeting.**

### **Minute No. 130 – Members Present.**

Cllr. R. Lloyd-Davies (RD)

Cllr. E. G. Evans (EGE)

Cllr. Ll. Davies (LD)

Cllr. S. Stewart (SS)

Cllr. P. Owen (PO)

Cllr. C. Davies (CD)

Cllr. S. Eldridge (SE)

Cllr. J. Anderson (JA)

Cllr. G. Jones (GJ)

Cllr. R. Jones (RJ)

### **Also Present:**

Mrs. C. V. Hope – Clerk (CH)

Mrs. Ff. Lewis – Deputy Clerk (FL)

### **Minute No. 131 – Apologies and reasons for absence.**

Cllr. N. Thomas – Prior engagement.

No other apologies were received through the Clerk.

### **Minute No. 132 – Declarations of Interests.**

There were no new declarations of interests.

### **Minute No. 133 – Public Participation.**

The Chair welcomed the members of public (MOP) to the meeting. The Chair explained the protocol and procedure of the meeting to the members of the public and asked the Clerk to take note of any questions raised from the members of the public. The Chair asked the members of the public if anyone wished to address the Council.

**MOP1** - Spoke to the Council with regards to the proposed development at Tumble. The MOP expressed how important this proposed development would be for Tumble RFC and the improvement of the current facilities would benefit the club greatly. The MOP informed the Council that over 250 people use the club and was supportive of the proposals that are in place. The MOP thanked the Council and the Clerk for being part of the plans.

**MOP2** – The MOP informed the Council that they have dealt with the Clerk on numerous occasions and said that on each occasion the Clerk had been very helpful. The MOP stated that it was very important for them that the proposed developments of the changing facilities went ahead as the local teams that are currently using the facilities are growing all of the time. There have been occasions where they have had to travel to other sites due to the waterlogged pitch. The MOP stated that the proposed development would offer opportunities within the community for all ages. The MOP thanked the Council and the Clerk.

**MOP3** – The MOP agreed with the previous representatives. The MOP stated that they play for a local team and use the current facilities 3 to 4 times a week. The MOP stated that currently the standards of the facilities aren't always adequate to the teams training needs and improving the site would have a positive impact on the team. The MOP was very happy and pleased that

someone is looking into improving the facilities and that the community deserve this.

**MOP4** – The MOP informed the Council that they work for Tumble Family centre that currently use Y Cwtsh. The MOP also informed the Council that Tumble Family Centre are grateful to the Council for allowing them to use Y Cwtsh. The family centre are hoping to stay at Y Cwtsh and developing the current facilities would help them and would benefit the community. The MOP stated that having these facilities within the community offer a safe place for families and that having these facilities within the community are extremely important. The MOP supports the proposed development and stated that they thought it was a very good idea.

**Minute No. 134 – Discuss the recommended budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year.**

The recommended budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year had previously been circulated to all members of the Council via email by the Clerk.

The Chair asked the Council to express their views and feelings towards the recommended budget.

RD stated that as the Chair of the Personnel Committee, staffing will always be the largest part of the budget. RD informed the Council that the salary section of the budget is not the money that the staff 'take home', the salary budget will include NI, Tax and pension contributions that the Council have to pay to outside bodies. The recommended budget has an increase of 5% for salaries which considers the NALC pay increase that the Council will be required to pay by law. RD stated that the Council are very fortunate to have such a good team of staff and is very grateful for all the hard work that they do for Llannon Community Council. RD recommended that the Council approves this budget.

SS, the Chair of the Finance Committee, informed the Council that the Committee have looked at the financial records in detail and have been working on the recommended budget. SS stated that the decisions made within the recommended budget weren't made lightly and have weighed heavily on her mind. SS informed the Council that over the years LICC has expanded due to the amount of asset transfers made. LICC have invested in 3 playgrounds. SS also informed the Council that if the Council wished to invest

in further developments of their facilities, then the Council would need money for match funding. SS recommended that the Council approve this budget.

JA informed the Council that she has read the detail report. JA expressed that it will be good to embark on new projects to improve the community and understands and appreciates why there is a need for the increase within the recommended budget. JA stated that the community survey that LICC produced was a good indication of what the people in the community would like from the Council and that it was a way for the Council to create the recommended budget. Whilst she didn't want to increase the budget under the current climate, she also understood why the increases had to be made.

EGE agreed with the comments that JA had made. EGE also agreed that we are in difficult times. EGE was happy that the Council has been able to cover a lot within the recommended budget to enable the Council to improve the facilities within the community. EGE thanked the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and all of the staff for their hard work and was impressed with the improvements that have already been made.

LD stated that the Councillors that have spoken prior to her have covered most of what she was going to say. LD stated that there is a need to improve the facilities that the Council own and this budget would allow the Council to do so.

RJ stated that he was glad that the other Councillors are happy with the recommended budget however he is not happy with the increase. RJ stated that the recommended budget isn't good for all the residents that live within the community as the sports clubs will benefit but what about music and the arts. He was also concerned that not everyone will be able to afford the increase.

CD Stated that the Council need to invest in the community in order to raise the standards.

PO agreed with the majority of what had been said. PO stated that with the increase of new housing there would be a need for more facilities within the community to accommodate this. Moving forward LICC would need to apply for grants to enable the Council to have new facilities and improve the assets that they currently hold, to do this the Council would need to have the money available for match funding.

GJ stated that he had mixed feelings about what has already been discussed. GJ agreed with RJ and felt that the increase in the precept won't go down well with the members of the public. GJ stated that the Council need to recognise that there is a rise in the cost of living.

JO explained to the Council that the rise in the precept would be for a Band D Council taxpayer, the rise for Band C, B and A would be lower.

SE stated that in order for LICC to be able to carry out their plans to improve facilities then they would need to accept the recommended budget. SE stated that when he speaks to members of the public the topic of conversation comes back to improving facilities within the community. SE thanked the Clerk and the staff for their hard work and efforts in trying to make the community a more enticing place to live in.

RD stated that the Council have a responsibility to listen to the residents and that the results from the community survey showed that there is a need for improvements to the facilities that LICC own. RD stated that all of the wards within LICC deserve to have these improvements.

SS stated that she was aware that this is a difficult decision for the Council to make and appreciates that not all residents of LICC will be happy with the decision made.

*SS proposed that the Council accept the recommended budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year that has previously been circulated to all members of the Council via email by the Clerk. PO seconded the proposal. GJ and RJ against. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council accept the recommended budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year that has previously been circulated to all members of the Council via email by the Clerk

**Minute No. 135 - Discuss the recommended precept required for the 2024-25 Financial Year.**

SS informed the Council that the recommended precept required for the 2024-25 Financial Year followed logically from the decision made to accept the recommended budget.

*SS proposed that the Council request a precept amount of £468,386.69. RD seconded the proposal. GJ and RJ against. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council request a precept amount of £468,386.69.

**Minute No. 136 - Discuss the recommended reserves required for the 2024-25 Financial Year.**

SS informed the Council that the Councils General Reserves need to be higher and recommended that any other income generated should be allocated to the General Reserves.

*SS proposed that the Council accept the recommended reserves required for the 2024-25 Financial Year as recommended, with any additional income received being used to supplement the reserves. SE seconded the proposal. RJ against the proposal. All other members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council accept the recommended reserves required for the 2024-25 Financial Year.

***The Chair closed the meeting at 7.10pm***

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

**(Chair)**