

# **Cyngor Cymuned Llannon Community Council**



## **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Llannon Community Council**

**on**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 6.30pm**

**Hybrid via MS Teams and in Tumble Hall**

**Meeting commenced at 6:30pm**

<p><b>The Chair, Cllr. R. Lloyd Davies presided over the meeting.</b></p>
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### **Minute No. 76 – Members Present.**

Cllr. R. Lloyd Davies (RD) – Tumble Hall.

Cllr. J. Owen (JO) – Tumble Hall.

Cllr. P. Owen (PO) – Tumble Hall.

Cllr. T. Stillman (TS) – Teams.

Cllr. E. G. Evans (EGE) – Tumble Hall.

Cllr. J. Anderson (JA) – Tumble Hall.

Cllr. R. Jones (RJ) – Teams.

Cllr. N. Thomas (NT) – Tumble Hall.

### **Also Present:**

Mrs. C. Hope – Chief Officer (CH)

Mrs. Ff. Davies – Deputy Chief Officer / RFO (FD)

Miss. B. Davies - Welsh Language interpreter.

Mrs. L. Davies – Welsh Language Interpreter.

Mr. L. Andrews – Security.

**Minute No. 77 – Apologies and reasons for absence.**

Cllr. Ll. Davies (LD) – On holiday.

Cllr. C. Davies (CD) – On holiday.

Cllr. S. Eldridge (SE) - On holiday.

Cllr. S. Blackmore (SB) – Work commitments.

**Minute No. 78 – Absence without apologies given.**

None.

**Minute No. 79 – Declarations of Interests.**

There were no new declarations of interest.

**Minute No. 80 – Policing Matters.**

The Chief Officer informed the Council that there wasn't a meeting this month with the police and there have been a few incidents regarding anti-social behaviour.

**Minute No. 81 – Public participation.**

The Chair noted there were two members of the public present and stated this Section was up to fifteen minutes long and each person could speak for up to three minutes in total. A member of the public stated she wished to address the Council.

The Chair asked the member present to introduce herself and reiterated she could speak for three minutes.

**The Chief Officer set a timer for three minutes.**

The member of the public introduced herself as Denise Whitty and stated that she lives in Tumble Ward. Mrs Whitty requested that if any members were unable to hear her, they should indicate this to her as she is not used to speaking in such a large room. Mrs Whitty had prepared a statement which she read:

*Thank you for the opportunity to speak in this meeting. I appreciate the hard work that Councillor's undertake and the essential role that you*

*play in our community, and we place our trust in you to make decisions that impact our lives. I encourage all Councillors to read all relevant documentation carefully.*

*Mrs Whitty then stated that she knows it has been raised before that people complain about what the Council does but do not put their names forward. Mrs Whitty stated she was guilty of that and appreciates it is a lot of work and she appreciates it is an important role. She then continued to read out her prepared statement.*

*I encourage all Councillors to read all relevant documentation carefully. It is vital that you ask whether all meeting minutes truly reflect what was discussed and whether the decision made aligns with the expectations of the constituents.*

The Chief Officer asked the Chair to clarify which item of the agenda Mrs Whitty was speaking about and noted that it must be regarding a specific agenda item.

Mrs Whitty stated it was regarding item 7 and that she was going to state it was really important the Council read minutes really carefully.

Cllr. Julie Owen stated that she felt insulted as all members take their responsibilities importantly and read the minutes very carefully.

Cllr. Phil Owen reiterated that all Councillors read the minutes.

Cllr. Julie Owen stated she spends hours and hours reading and requested that Mrs Whitty move on to her point.

Mrs Whitty stated it was her point then continued to read her prepared statement.

*It is vital that you ask whether all meeting minutes truly reflect what was discussed and whether the decision made aligns with the expectations of the constituents. By fostering open dialogue and being mindful of public perception, for example the meeting at the end of May.*

The Chair asked Mrs Whitty if she was concerned that the Council do not read the minutes properly.

Mrs Whitty then stated that regarding item 7 of the agenda – there was a committee meeting and she wanted to reflect on the feelings of the community.

Mrs Whitty then stated that she listens quietly when you speak so she would like the Council to listen whilst she speaks.

**A buzzer then sounded to indicate the end of three minutes.**

The Chair informed Mrs. Whitty that her time to make representations had ended and thanked her for her time. Mrs. Whitty stated she had not been given three minutes to speak as she had been interrupted.

The Chair stated that Mrs Whitty could have a further minute to make her representation.

The Chief Officer advised that it must be regarding a specific agenda item, for example the Minutes dated 24/07/2025, Mrs Whitty could make a comment or ask a question. Or the Personnel Committee minutes she could do the same. The Chief Officer advised that if she asks a specific question, the Council can choose to respond this evening or prepare a written response. The Chief Officer reiterated that Mrs Whitty cannot generalise about what is going on. This is in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

Mrs Whitty suggested that the Council were to consider the feelings of the community when discussing in meetings and feels that she is making quite a fair point here.

The Chair then stated that Councillors take our job very seriously and consider in great detail every decision we take. We all consider very carefully on every point and we have to make a decision for the whole community not just a few that might not agree. We can never have 100% positive feedback and in any occupation that would be difficult but she does accept Mrs Whitty has concerns about the Council but her concerns about the minutes and us actually reading them is not right.

Mrs Whitty then stated she has prepared something that should not take two minutes uninterrupted and she does not think it is unreasonable to read for two minutes.

The Chief Officer stated that the rules of the Council do not allow anyone to read statements that do not relate directly to an agenda item. The Chief Officer stated she would re-set the timer to allow Mrs Whitty a further minute to speak and it must be regarding a specific agenda item. The Chief Officer also stated that if Mrs Whitty has any other concerns or complaints the council has a policy and all she needs to do is complete the form and the Council can consider her issues, however this is not an open forum and there is a specific way the meeting must take place.

**The Chief Officer set the timer for one minute.**

Mrs Whitty then stated that when you do actually hold meetings and you make a decision that is within the rules, that you really need to make sure that it passes the smell test and when you are signing tonight for the meetings that have gone, especially the personnel meeting, she would really appreciate that you have a think about how the people in the community will feel about your decision. What she will do though...

**A buzzer sounded to indicate that the minute had ended.**

... is she will post what she intended to speak about today that she wasn't able to on Facebook and if the Council wishes to respond to it you are more than welcome.

The Chair advised Mrs Whitty that if she wants the Council to respond to anything it must be sent to the Chief Officer, anything posted on Facebook will not be addressed by the Council.

Mrs Whitty then stated that she will write to the Clerk and to ensure that she gets a response, she will cc the whole Council.

**Minute No. 82 – The Chair's Report.**

A copy of the Chair's report was sent previously to all members of the Council via email by the Chief Officer.

**Minute No. 83 – County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr. Ll. Davies sent her report via email to the Chief Officer who in turn forwarded the report to all Councillor's via email.

The Chief Officer has not received a report from Cllr. D. Jones.

**Minute No. 84 – Confirmation of the minutes of the EGM on 23.07.25.**

*JO proposed that these minutes were a true record. TS seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the minutes of the EGM on 23.07.25 (prints of which having been previously circulated to members) be taken as read, and the same are hereby verified, received, and confirmed by all respectively.

**Minute No. 85 – Confirmation of the minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting on 28.07.25.**

*PO proposed that these minutes were a true record. JO seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting on 28.07.25 (prints of which having been previously circulated to members) be taken as read, and the same are hereby verified, received, and confirmed by all respectively.

**Minute No. 86 – The Chief Officers' report.**

The Chief Officer reported on the following:

- **Elections.**

The Chief Officer advised that the vacant seat in Tumble Ward was uncontested and Sarah Kate Harris (Liberal Democrat) has been elected as the new member.

Three names have been put forward for the Cross Hands Ward an election for these seats will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025.

PO asked the Chief Officer how much will the election cost LICC? PO also asked if any of the people that called the election actually stood as a candidate?

The Chief Officer stated that she hasn't been given the overall cost from CCC but estimated that the cost of the election will probably cost LICC in the region of £8000. The Chief Officer informed the members present

that this cost will have to automatically go on next years budget, which will have an impact on LICC's budget.

PO stated that the people who called the election had no intention of standing for the Council and felt that they shouldn't have wasted the taxpayers money.

- **Safer Routes in Communities.**

The Chief Officer has been working on a Safer Routes in Communities bid for improvements to Cross Hands. The bid has been endorsed by Cross Hands School and County Cllr. Ll. Davies. The bid includes improvements to public footpaths, a zebra crossing by the school, creating a parent shelter and widening the school entrance.

The plan also includes the creation of a footpath around Cross Hands Park to link up the two schools and housing, widening of the footpath behind Cross Hands tennis courts to link with the school and creating a path between Heol Ty Newydd and Tirwain Park.

- **Local Places for Nature.**

The Chief Officer and the Chair met with the local places for nature team who have recommended a wildlife trail at the bottom of Cross Hands Park. They informed the Chair and Chief Officer that they have found evidence of otters at the bottom of the park.

- **Carmarthenshire County Council.**

The officers from CCC have visited Y Cwtsh to meet with the Chief Officer to discuss and look at the statistics and paperwork needed to enable LICC to apply for financial support. The officers in attendance were very excited to see the plans for the future redevelopment and informed the Chief Officer that they are very keen to start working further with Y Cwtsh.

There will be an Emergency Food Grant available from CCC which will be based on the current usage of Y Cwtsh. Y Cwtsh should be entitled to around £7000 worth of food from Castell Howell. This will be a great help towards topping up supplies.

CCC will be releasing a Capital Fund which will be for the purchasing of shelving, fridges and such likes. This funding will be up to the value of £5000.

- **Ten Towns Initiative.**

An application for Padel Courts at Cross Hands Park will be submitted. The Chief Officer has spoken to Officers at CCC who have informed her that no other application has been submitted.

- **The Pavillion at Parc Y Mynydd Mawr.**

The redevelopment plans are moving at a fast pace. The Chief Officer has had numerous meetings with consultants. The Chief Officer informed the members present that the best estimate for the whole cost of the redevelopment will be provided to her at the end of the week.

The Planning Approval conditions state more detailed coal mining investigations must be carried out which will involve plant machinery being present on site for a few weeks.

The Chief Officer noted that a final decision on the total contribution from CFF will be granted in August.

The Chair stated that the reason why there's been a delay with the Cymru Football Foundation panel meeting is because a few residents made objections against the planning application, triggering a meeting of the Planning Committee. As the Planning Approval was received later than expected CFF had to delay the decision until their August meeting.

The Chief Officer has a meeting with the Cymru Football Foundation next week after their panel have met.

An application has been sent to the National Grid for the electricity supply to be updated to a three-phase supply that will be split from the rugby club changing rooms.

Solar Panels, batteries and an inverter will not be included in the overall tender and will be separate. This will enable LICC to apply for grant funding that will be available at the time.



- **Summer Activities.**

The Chief Officer provided information regarding the extensive, free activities being arranged by Llannon Community Council over the summer holidays for the children within the community. The Chief Officer informed the members present that there have been over a hundred bookings alone this week. The free family breakfast club has also been extremely popular.

The Chief Officer stated that LICC have gained many volunteers through the summer clubs due to parents and guardians bringing the children and offering their help. The Chief Officer thanked Kelly and Gareth for their hard work in organising these activities and thanked all of the volunteers that have helped.

- **Cinio & Chlonc.**

The Chief Officer advised that attendance is growing every week with over a hundred attendees at the Summer Spectacular.

Two trips have been organised. One to Brecon next week and another to Saundersfoot at the beginning of September. Both trips are full.

Cinio & Chlonc has finished for the summer period and will start back on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The Chair informed the members present that the volunteers have been a massive part of Cinio & Chlonc and have become like a family. The Chair stated that Cinio & Chlonc has helped bring a group of volunteers together and that it has been really nice to see and be part of.

- **Tumble Rugby.**

Tumble Rugby Club organised a prom night which brought all primary schools within the community together. The Chief Officer helped them with all the paperwork needed. The Chief Officer congratulated Tumble Rugby on such a successful event and hopes that this will continue.

- **Staff.**

The Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer attended the first ever conference to be held with the SLCC at Llandrindo Wells. This gave them both the opportunity to network with other Welsh Clerks. Whilst at the conference they attended a session on Martin's Law. LICC will need to

be made aware of Martin's Law as this may have an impact on future events. The Chief Officer will present relevant information at a later date.

NT stated that more has been done for this community in the last few years and this is down to the hard work and dedication of the Chief Officer. NT thanked the Chief Officer for everything she has done and is doing for the community.

The Chair stated that the Chief Officer has also turned the Council from being non statutory to now compliant.

**Minute No. 87 – To receive the Quarter One 2025-26 Finance Report.**

A copy of the Quarter One 2025-26 Finance Report has been circulated via email to all members of the Council from the Chief Officer prior to the meeting.

*NT proposed to accept the Quarter One 2025-26 Finance Report. JO seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council accept the Quarter One 2025-26 Finance Report as previously circulated via email from the Chief Officer.

**Minute No. 88 – To agree the Council's Annual Report / Progress on Well-being Objectives 2024-25.**

The Chair informed all of the members present that the Chief Officer is waiting for information to enable her to complete both reports and that an EGM will be called next week to discuss this item of the agenda.

**Minute No. 89 – To receive Councillor Training Dates.**

The Chief Officer previously circulated possible training opportunities to all members of the Council via email.

The Chief Officer also informed the members present that she has spoken to Carmarthenshire County Council who have provided her with the slideshow of the Code of Conduct training that they conducted. The Monitoring Officer at

CCC is happy for the Chief Officer to use the slideshow provided to carry out a group training session for all members of LICC. The Chief Officer will be looking at providing the training session during the month of September.

**Minute No. 90 – To confirm receipt of the following planning applications.**

**PL/09549** – Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project – Verge at Heol Parc Mawr Workshops, Cross Hands, Llanelli, SA14 6RE.

*PO proposed that the Council have received the above planning applications. NT seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council members have received planning applications PL/09549.

**Minute No. 91 – To discuss the following planning application.**

**PL/09561** – The construction of a Frozen storage and distribution facility with associated vehicle parking and external areas – Castell Howell Foods, Heol Ty Newydd, Cross Hands, Llanelli, SA14 6SX.

The Chair asked all members of the Council if they wished to comment on the above planning application.

*PO proposed that the Council write a letter of support for planning application PL/09561. NT seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Council supply a letter of support for PL/09561.

**Minute No. 92 – Personnel Matters.**

The Chair informed the Council that the next item on the agenda should be discussed in camera as these were Personnel Matters. The Chair thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and kindly asked them to leave.

***7.17pm Miss. B. Davies, Mrs. L. Davies, Mr. L. Andrews and all members of the public left the meeting and did not return.***

**Minute No. 93 – To receive notification of the Local Government Pay Award.**

The Chief Officer provided all members present with the agreed Local Government Pay Award and stated that this has now been finalised and agreed and therefore these will be the new pay scales that the Council will have to pay the members of staff.

**Minute No. 94 – To discuss the appraisal of the Chief Officer and salary review.**

The Chief Officer addressed the Council and stated that her role as Chief Officer for Llannon Community Council has been the proudest thing that she has ever had the opportunity to be part of.

The Chief Officer informed the Council that she had no involvement in creating the agenda for the Personnel Meeting, this was created by the Deputy Chief Officer alongside the Chair. The Chief Officer made it very clear that she did not want the honorarium and does not want the Council to feel like that they have to grant her this. The Chief Officer stated that if the Council decide to grant her the honorarium, she will be donating the money received to Cinio & Chlonc for their Christmas lunch.

***7.27pm The Chief Officer thanked the members present for their support and left the meeting.***

The Chair provided the members present with a full report following the Chief Officer's appraisal.

All members present discussed the Chief Officer's current position and the extra responsibility and work that she has been doing. The members present also discussed presenting the Chief Officer with an honorarium.

The following recommendations were made by the Personnel Committee:

- Chief Officer's salary to be increased to SCP Point 46, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.
- Honorarium to be awarded.

*NT proposed that the Full Council accept the recommendations made by the Personnel Committee. JO seconded the proposal. All members present in favour.*

**Resolved** that the Chief Officer's salary is to be increased to SCP Point 46, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 and to award the Chief Officer with an honorarium

***The Chair closed the meeting at 7.33pm***

Signed ..... Date .....

(Chair)