

LLANFAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Council Meeting held at
St Hilary Village Hall,
On Thursday, 1st December 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairperson: Councillor Julian Hitchcock
Councillors : Steph Bonnar, Liz Loch, Mary Llewellyn, Ray Simkiss,
Geoff Simpson and Jim Teague.

In Attendance: Jackie Griffin, Clerk.
Vale of Glamorgan Councillor Charles Champion.
Mr Watkins.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence
Councillor Heather Shaw.

Item 2: Declarations of Interest.
None declared.

Item 3: Community Police Matters.
No police report received.

Councillor Bonnar reported that she had witnessed a police drone in action at Culverhouse Cross which was observing a road traffic incident on the 'Link Road'.

Item 4: To consider and approve the minutes of the Meeting held 3rd November 2022.
Proposed by Councillor Bonnar, seconded by Councillor Simpson and **resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved as a true record. The Minutes were signed by the Chairperson.

Item 5: Matters arising from the Minutes, which are not included in this Agenda.

5.1 Item 15 - Councillor Bonnar reported that 'Greenlinks' has been added to the bus survey and the survey forms are to be collected from the Printers tomorrow.

Councillor Loch referred to an e-mail which had been sent to Councillors which related to grant funding available for feasibility studies. The Clerk to find the e-mail and send it to Councillor Bonnar.

5.2 Item 13 - Councillor Loch referred to the recent 'dog fouling' signs which have been sited around St Hilary Village Green and was pleased to report that they have been well received by complainants and resulted in an immediate effect. Thanks to be given to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Parks Department.

5.3 Item 17 – Members discussed the request for an extension to the 30mph restriction in Llandough. Councillor Simkiss was keen to see the limit extended as far as Llanfair Primary School being a 'safe route to school'.

The Clerk subsequently made a request to the Highways Department but was advised that *“part of the work to implement the 20mph default speed limit requires the Welsh Government to update the existing guidance ‘Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales’ to reflect the default speed limit change to 20mph. As a consequence, the Council is not currently progressing any new speed limits until such time that the 20mph default is implemented and the revised guidance referred above is published, unless there is a specific reason for doing so to address critical and significant road safety issues. Therefore, the Council is unable to consider the request to extending the 30mph restriction in Llandough Village at this time.”*

Councillor Hitchcock reported on the recent meeting he had attended which had given some information on the rollout of the 20mph speed limit in the Vale of Glamorgan. It was admitted that the rollout will be complex. Current 40mph speed restrictions will not be reduced to 20mph. Where the current speed limit is 30mph in streets with streetlighting that is 200 metres apart then the speed limit will be reduced to 20mph. Every area is being considered and discussed. Details of proposals will follow.

5.4 Item 16 – cutting back of verges in Llandough. Councillor Simkiss advised that the owner of a field from Lake Farm towards the village had been informed to cut back trees/shrubs on the bank on the edge of their property. This had been done ‘by hand’. Members disputed this and queried whether this should actually be the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

5.5 Item 3 – ‘Lamping’ issues. Councillor Llewellyn reported that there are occurrences of ‘lamping’ in the area. A group entitled ‘Farm Watch’ has formed and is very proactive looking for instances of ‘lamping’ and reporting them to the Police. The Police are being reactive against these crimes and using drones to assist them.

Members reported on an occurrence in Llandough recently when gunshots were heard and had created considerable concern.

Residents are to be reminded not to confront any persons of concern but report incidents to the Police.

Item 6: Chairperson’s Report.

6.1 Councillor Hitchcock advised that he had met up with Alun Cairns MP and the Director of NAT (New Adventure Travel) and they had discussed bus routes in the locality. It was reported that the partly subsidised bus, which travels from Llantwit Major to Talbot Green via Llysworney, Cowbridge, Ystradowen and Pontyclun, in one week recently was only used by 19 passengers. It was noted that the bus times are not convenient to many travellers.

The link for ‘Greenlinks’ had been given and posters prepared for the notice boards highlighting the facility and will be featured on the Community Council’s website. NAT will hire out buses for private travel.

6.2 Councillor Hitchcock reported that he had submitted a response to a Welsh Government consultation on the payment of Council Tax on second homes. It is proposed to devolve the decision on what charges are made to the Unitary Authorities. With regard to holiday lets, there will be a change in the

rules on whether council tax or business rates are paid. Presently, a 'holiday let' is exempt from paying council tax provided that the property is made available for 140 days and occupied by paying guests for 70 of those days. In these circumstances business rates are paid. However, from April 2023, a property will need to be made available for 252 days and occupied by paying guests for 182 days, in order to be eligible for business rates. If that criteria is not met then the property owner must pay council tax.

Members then discussed their concern relating to empty properties and specifically one that has been mentioned previously and how it is having a detrimental effect on the adjoining semi-detached property.

- 6.3 Councillor Hitchcock advised that he had attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in Cowbridge and had laid the Community Council's wreath at the War Memorial, on behalf of the Llanfair community.

Item 7: Vale of Glamorgan Councillor's Report.

- 7.1 Councillor Champion reported that the Conservation Officer has now left the Vale of Glamorgan Council and has not been replaced. This means that any 'Article 4 directive' is currently in abeyance.

- 7.2 Members reported that the ongoing issues with 'HGV' vehicles have been 'quiet' during the last month.
Councillor Loch reported that there was an article in a recent publication of 'The Telegraph' which had included the problems experienced in St Hilary. A copy of the article to be forwarded to Councillor Champion.

- 7.3 Councillor Champion advised that he had been corresponding with a resident from Llandough with regard to the concerns over verges on the roadside as previously reported in meetings of the Community Council.

- 7.4 Councillor Bonnar asked if there was an update on the planning application which is currently being considered for the construction 105 houses adjacent to Brookfield Park. Concerns have been expressed with regard to access to the site.

- 7.5 Members raised concerns about the recently announced closure of HSBC bank next year. This is the last remaining Bank in Cowbridge.

Item 8: Clerk's Report

8.1 Finances.

Bank balance was noted at **£2,693.29** (Current Account £1,796.51 and Business Reserve Account £896.78).

Payments made since 3rd November 2022 are:

Clerk's Salary (November) - £165.76;

HMRC Tax (November) - £41.44;

St Hilary Village Hall (Hire for meeting) - £30.00;

Society of Local Council Clerks – renewal of Membership - £56.00 (see 8.2 below - actual cost £112.00 with 50% shared with St Donats Community Council).

Payments due to be made are:

Clerk's Salary (December) - £165.76;

HMRC Tax (December) - £41.44;
The Poppy Appeal (Wreath for Remembrance Sunday) - £20.00;
St Hilary Village Hall (Hire for meeting) - £30.00;
One Voice Wales (Chairing skills course attended by Councillor Loch) - £17.50.

Monies received - None.

8.2 Claim for Refund of VAT.

The Clerk had completed the claim form on-line. £182.58 has been claimed for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st March 2022.

Item 9: To update on incidents of HGV issues in St Hilary Village.

Discussed under item 7.2.

Item 10: Reports of Representatives.

Councillor Simpson reported that the next meeting of the local committee of One Voice Wales will take place in January.

Councillor Bonnar reported that the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee will be held in January.

Councillor Loch reported that the next meeting of the Public Services Board is scheduled for 8th December 2022.

Item 11: Correspondence and Publications which do not necessarily require discussion. i.e for noting only – *previously sent out by e-mail.*

11.1 Via One Voice Wales (OVW) - Welsh Government consultation on draft Regulations to amend Class 6 of the exceptions to the council tax premiums for second homes.

11.2 Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board – Chief Executive Officer Connects Newsletters.

11.3 OVW's Document on 'Bullying and Harassment in Councils'.

All items were forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting and were noted.

Item 12: Planning Applications.

12.1 Planning Application No. **2022/01194/FUL**

Location: Fairview House, St Hilary

Proposal: Internal alterations, replacement and extension of existing utility room.

No objection.

Item 13: Place, Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday, 5th January 2023 at 7pm at St Hilary Village Hall.

..... Chairman.

Date : 5th January 2023.