

# Cyngor Cymuned Llandeilo Ferwallt

## Bishopston Community Council Meeting

BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY FULL COUNCIL - 30/03/25 AT 19:00

Chair: L Ellis

Clerk: Anthony Jones

### **Present:**

L Ellis, N. Matthews, A. James, I. Shemilt, K. Laurence, N. Lomas J. Jones, H. Hartshorn, R. Brace, Cllr Lyndon Jones

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

R. Brace

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- Existing declarations noted:
  - Pump track project - S Dunce
- No additional declarations of personal or prejudicial interest were raised at this stage

### **3. Approval of Previous Minutes**

The Chair invited approval of the previous meeting minutes.

### **Public Participation – Comments on Minutes**

A member of the public raised concerns relating to:

#### **3.1 Agenda Transparency**

- Query regarding inclusion of pump track discussions within the broader “Copley Woods” agenda item
- Concern that this may not have been explicitly itemised

#### **3.2 Declaration of Interests**

- Concern raised that potential conflicts of interest may not have been formally recorded in the minutes
- Comment that greater transparency is required for public confidence

#### **3.3 Tree Felling Decision (Copley Woods)**

Extensive concerns were raised regarding:

- Whether a formal arboricultural survey had been undertaken
- Conflicting accounts between Council and contractor regarding survey work

- Justification for felling multiple trees where no clear safety risk was evident
- Suggestion that trees were healthy and not suffering significant ash dieback
- Concern regarding:
  - Use of public funds
  - Decision-making process
  - Lack of consultation
  - Potential procedural irregularities

The resident indicated:

- Evidence (photos and professional opinion) would be submitted
- Request for independent investigation

### **Council Response**

- Council reiterated that decisions were based on advice from a professional tree surgeon
- Acknowledged that documentation would need to be reviewed
- Agreed that transparency and evidence review were necessary

### **Outcome**

Minutes approved **subject to inclusion of the following action:**

#### **Action:**

- Conduct a full review of the tree felling decision, including:
  - Arborist advice
  - Contractor communications
  - Decision-making process
- Findings to be reported in future minutes

## **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **4.1 Tree Management and Governance**

- Discussion highlighted need for:
  - Clear documentation of professional advice
  - Consistent process for environmental decisions
  - Explicit recording of risk assessments

#### **Agreed:**

- Future tree-related works to require:
  - Written evidence
  - Clear audit trail

## **5. Planning Applications**

- **5.27 Church Lane (Revised Application)**

Background:

- Previous application refused due to:
  - Scale and elevation
  - Design within conservation area
  - Impact on neighbouring privacy

Revisions include:

- Removal of dormer window
- Adjustments to roofline
- Changes to elevations and entrance
- Reduction in visual impact

**Decision:**

No objection provided development complies with previous planning inspector recommendations

## **6. Finance and Governance**

### **6.1 Accounts Update**

- Clerk reported:
  - Overpayment in January corrected in March
  - Current accounts show positive balance

### **6.3 Financial Governance**

Council agreed to formally adopt The Finance and Governance Toolkit for Community and Town Councils.

**Action:**

- Minute formal adoption

## **7. Community Projects**

### **7.1 Community Park**

- Grant application submitted (£20,000)
- Swansea Council to lead procurement for cost efficiency

### **7.2 Zip Wire Repair**

- Damage identified
- Repair cost: £1,506.32

**Decision:**

Approved unanimously

**Actions:**

- Proceed with repair
- Explore extended warranty options

**7.3 Pitch Drainage Issues**

- Ongoing waterlogging affecting use
- Likely blocked or failed drainage system

Discussion included:

- Lack of historical records of drainage layout
- Need to locate pipes before committing to major works

**Actions:**

- Investigate pipe locations
- Assess feasibility of clearing existing system
- Consider alternative drainage solutions if required

**8. Events – May Day**

- Farmers' market confirmed (10:00–15:00)
- Entertainment scheduled
- Vendors and facilities arranged

**Actions:**

- Install temporary road safety signage
- Finalise logistics and communications

**9. Car Park Management****9.1 Incident Report**

- Sign knocked down by vehicle
- Offensive graffiti identified

Issues:

- Possible criminal damage
- Anti-social behaviour

**Actions:**

- Review CCTV
- Report to police
- Retain evidence

**9.2 Usage Concerns**

Issues raised:

- Non-residents using car park for long periods
- Impact on:
  - Local businesses
  - Elderly residents
  - Community activities

**Agreed Approach:**

- Car park primarily for community use
- Short-term parking acceptable
- Long-term use discouraged

**Action:**

- Develop public guidance for newsletter

**10. Swansea Council Update from Cllr Lyndon Jones**

Key Updates:

- Tree safety works initiated following near-miss incident
- Road repairs and drainage improvements underway
- Additional signage installed (some vandalised/removed)

Community Initiatives:

- One Stop Shop event successful
- Film club expanding (high attendance)
- Litter pick planned

**12. Any Other Business**

None formally raised

**Next Meeting - 27/04/26 at 19:00**