

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILO FERWALLT BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING



BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY FULL COUNCIL - 28/04/25 AT 19:00

CHAIR: L ELLIS

CLERK: ANTHONY JONES

PRESENT:

L. Ellis, A. James, B Ball, C Scott, R. Brace, I.Shemilt, K. Laurence, N. Lomas J. Jones, H. Hartshorn, Cllr Lyndon Jones, S. Duncce.

1. APOLOGIES

N Matthews, N Lomas, L. Sudbury,

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONNEL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

- L Ellis declared an interest in the May Day event due to band participation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes from the meeting on 31/03/25 were approved.

Actions from 31/03/25

- Path repair on Murton Green — L Jones confirmed repairs due to be underway and cleansing team will also clean the bench.
- Volunteer availability for events: mostly submitted; reminder to use the WhatsApp group to update availability.

4. PLANNING

- **Loft conversion at 34 Brandy Cove Road**— No objections raised.
- **White Walls, Caswell Bay Road** — Proposal to convert current top-floor roof area into a living space. Concerns raised about potential overlooking of adjacent properties. Agreed to submit a comment raising concerns about privacy and overlooking issues.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL - MARCH 2025

- Reviewed and approved.
- Transition to new financial year and budget structure aligned A James
- Query about absence of running totals on monthly transactions — clarified these are captured separately in the budget summary.
- Savings have slightly increased due to interest.

Frequency of Account Reporting:

- Proposal to move from monthly to quarterly reports for full council — generally agreed this would be sufficient.

6. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

- See notes from meeting.
- **Risk Assessment:**
 - Importance of developing a clear risk assessment for using community facilities, especially to support vulnerable or elderly residents during emergencies.

- **Community Education & Communication:**

- Suggested use of social media, the Chronicle to educate residents about emergency preparedness.
- Proposal to include a keep-safe information sheet (e.g., “what to have on hand during a power cut”).

- **Power Cuts & Support:**

- Recollection of a recent power outage affecting some areas for up to 5 days.
- Effective community response noted (e.g., neighbours supplying hot water and warmth).
- Discussion of portable power packs as useful tools during outages—considered a worthwhile investment.

- **Neighbourhood Checks:**

- Encouragement to check on vulnerable neighbours, especially in more isolated areas like Caswell, White Stone, and surrounding hamlets.
- Suggestion to remind the community of this via regular communication as winter approaches.

Next Steps:

- Another meeting to be scheduled in September.

6. COMMUNITY BUS

- **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:**

- Previous high costs (£800–£1,500/month) have reduced.
- Recent months' costs:
 - January: £232.06
 - February: £65.26
 - March: £35.60

USAGE & PROMOTION:

- High usage between Bishopston and Mumbles; potential for increased revenue by promoting services between Mumbles and Caswell.

- **OVERCAPACITY ISSUES:**

- The bus is often over-subscribed, some residents avoiding travel due to return trip uncertainty

7. FIRE INCIDENTS

- A total of seven fires were reported recently in the area.
- Notable media coverage: featured in Wales Online and Swansea Bay News.
- Clarified that a rumored horse death was unrelated (natural causes).
- Fires came alarmingly close to homes in Copley, including N Lomas property.
- Fires believed to be deliberately set by a local teenager.
- Community members allegedly know the identity but are unwilling to report.
- Concerns about residents' safety, particularly near flammable vehicles.
- Fires occurred outside controlled burning period (post 31 March).
- Police and fire services have been engaged.
- PCSO now regularly patrols the car park and nearby areas.
- Police presence (e.g. working in car park or attending coffee mornings) is helping deter further incidents.

ACTION POINTS:

- Continue monitoring the area.
- Encourage residents to report future incidents promptly.
- Liaise with police to maintain visible presence in the area.

8. PROJECT UPDATES:

ACTIVE TRAVEL TRACK

- No formal updates reported.
- Delay in progress was attributed to planning staff being away, .

PUMP TRACK

- Meeting with Curve Studios rescheduled to 7th May.

WELLFIELD PARK

- Installation to be completed within next few weeks.

9. VE DAY & MAY DAY PLANNING

- Most logistics in place
- Marquee to arrive Friday.
- A floor will also be installed this year to improve safety.
- Weather forecast is being monitored; conditions expected to be dry as of current check.
- Grass cutting scheduled for Thursday.
- Final timings for event setup:
 - Sunday at 4:00 PM
 - Monday at 9:30 AM
- Road Closure: Road has been closed for the event; signage in place.
 - There may be some resistance from locals, but it's expected and will be managed.
 - Last year's experience was positive with no major complaints.

Expectation of some pushback from residents again this year, but reassurance given based on previous outcomes

11. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - CLLR LYNDON JONES

LDP2 PLANNING APPEAL UPDATE

- Responses to the consultation were due by 19 April.
- Swansea Council is now reviewing responses; the final recommendations are expected in 12-15 months.
- A community meeting will be scheduled at that stage to review proposed site inclusions and prepare formal responses.

THE ROUNDHOUSE

- Fire damage to the roof noted.
- Initial Council repair quote received: approx. £100,000.
- Exploring alternative quotes and crowdfunding options.
- Plan to engage Bishopston management and assess affordable options to either rebuild or safely remove the structure.

12. CLERKS REPORT

- Flat roof replacement scheduled for completion this week.
- New kitchen cupboards installed by Nigel.
- Menshed and Nigel will fit new kitchen from Wednesday coming.

Car Park Usage Concerns

Key Issues Raised:

- Increased use of the community centre car park for car sharing and all-day parking.
- Cars are often left all day, especially on Saturdays and during events like the Six Nations.
- The car park is overcrowded at school pick-up time (3:00 PM) and during large community events (e.g., Men's Shed).
- Visitors using the centre appropriately (e.g. Men's Shed attendees) are sometimes unable to park due to others using the car park as a park-and-ride facility.

Suggestions Discussed:

- Install signage with maximum parking time limits (e.g. 2–3 hours).
- Consider ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) enforcement — although costly and complex.
- Place signs stating "Car park for use of Community Centre patrons only".
- Add reminder in the community newsletter encouraging respectful use.
- Clearly communicate that the car park is not for all-day parking or coach pickups.
- Note: Some concern expressed about unintended consequences — legitimate users may be discouraged.

Action Points:

- Monitor car park usage in the coming months.
- No coaches policy to be considered.
- Revisit the situation in future meetings.

DRAINAGE REPAIR DISCUSSION

- Sinkhole has been identified -due to a collapsed pipe.
- Proposal to fix 36 metres of pipeline: replace twin wall in-case pipe bedding and reinsulate, estimated cost £9,300.
- Discussion about whether to proceed with a smaller temporary fix or complete full repair now.
- Consideration given to financial constraints: current budget insufficient to cover full repair without emergency funding or use of reserves.
- Potential to use funds from sale of land related to active travel track to support repair costs.
- Agreement that full repair is preferable to avoid repeated expenditure.
- Need for an additional quote from another contractor for price comparison.
- Potential unknown costs if further issues are uncovered during excavation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Precept to be received on 31st (date) discussed as key funding opportunity.
- Potential to use reserves temporarily and reimburse after land sale proceeds.
- Recognition that £9,300 represents nearly one-third of precept, thus significant financial commitment.

NEXT MEETING 28/04/25 AT 19:00 - Call for nominations for positions,