



Llangattock Community Council

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANGATWG

Kay Bailey
Clerk
16 Kennelwood, Gilwern, NP7 0BD

Thursday 5 July 2018

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Community Hall on Tuesday 14th June at 6.30 pm.

Public Participation.

At the May Ordinary meeting a vote was taken to hold this meeting in private. However, Cllr J Charlton raised doubts that voting at that stage was appropriate and correct and that a vote should be taken before the meeting on the day. As the agenda for this meeting did not have an item to vote for this action, then the meeting would need to be open to the public.

Clerk requested the Chair call for the Standing Orders to be suspended to allow the meeting to continue. All Cllrs voted to suspend the Standing Orders for the duration of the meeting.

Present Cllr R Jones (Chair), Cllr Gill Parsons, Cllr Ann Williams, Cllr Jackie Charlton

In Attendance Clerk (Kay Bailey)

114/18	Apologies absence	for	Cllr Gwyn Dobbs Cllr June Dobbs Cllr Major (Ret'd) Nic Shugar
---------------	------------------------------	------------	---

115/18	Members' declarations interest	of	Reminder to members. A personal interest is also a prejudicial interest because under the objective, public perception test (<i>Para 12(1) of the Members' Code of Conduct</i>) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you may also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonable regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. There were no declarations made.
---------------	---	-----------	---

116/18	To receive a report from the Clerk regarding Code of Conduct and how to respond to a breach
--------	--

The Clerk informed Councillors on the process for reporting breaches in the Code of Conduct (available on Llangattock-cc.gov.wales/documentation).

The Clerk explained the following:

Councillors have a duty as part of the Code of Conduct to report any suspected breaches to the Monitoring Officer at Powys County Council.

Councillors can also report breaches to the Ombudsman whether the Monitoring Officer agrees with this or not.

The Ombudsman can also be used by the public if they feel a breach of the code has occurred.

The details for the Ombudsman as are following:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
CF35 5LJ

0300 790 0203

ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Their complaints procedure can be undertaken online at:

<https://www.ombudsman.wales/>

The Clerk confirmed that a complaint is under investigation, however, once a complaint reaches this stage no further information can be discussed or given regarding it until the Ombudsman has concluded their investigation.

The Clerk also explained that complaints are not made by bodies but by individuals. Cllr Jackie Charlton was concerned that this has not been explained explicitly previously.

117/18	To discuss the views of each Councillor regarding any potential Code of Conduct Breaches (three minute each)
--------	---

Cllr G Parsons informed the Council that she had received two pieces of correspondence from residents regarding potential breaches of the Code of Conduct. These were passed to the Council and the Clerk to read, but she required them back for the time being.

These were noted and discussed in detail, along with the following issues:

A Cllr has taken down a wall on his property which is within the National Parks Authority. This is an eyesore and potentially dangerous to the public as it has not been agreed or being dealt with by a professional.

A Cllr felled trees within the Recreation ground without Council or Park permission

A Cllr trailed an electric cable from their property to their home for personal use

A Cllr is approaching residents when in the park on various occasions in a disturbing manner

A Cllr is stating his position when talking to residents and asking what they are doing whilst on Council grounds

ACTION: For Cllr Parsons to liaise with the residents to talk further with the Clerk and the Chairman

ACTION: For the Clerk to contact the Parks Authority to confirm more of the wall on the property has been demolished.

ACTION: For Cllr J Charlton to liaise with the appropriate department in Powys regarding any potential safeguarding issues that were highlighted in the residents letters

Cllrs J Charlton, and G Parsons requested that the Council discuss what actions can be taken regarding the conduct of a fellow Cllr regarding continuing potential breaches of the Code of Conduct.

This was discussed, and all Cllrs present agreed that the actions were causing great concern to the residents and the seeming lack of action from the Community Council on the matter was also creating frustration and resentment towards the Council.

A vote of no confidence was discussed, the Clerk confirmed that whilst a vote can be taken it would not mean that a Cllr must resign. Advice taken from One Voice Wales discourages these votes because they are not legally binding.

The Cllrs were concerned that the public were made aware of their right to make complaints directly, although any complainants must have direct knowledge of any evidence given.

ACTION: Clerk to place all contact details of the Ombudsman on the Noticeboards, Website and Facebook page

ACTION: For the Clerk to email all Councillors with the details also.

Cllrs discussed further ways in which they could reassure the public of their commitment to the Council's standing within the community, and that they are listening to the concerns of the public regarding the above.

ACTION: For the Clerk to write a letter to the Cllr listing the concerns raised above regarding conduct.