MINUTES of the proceedings of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held at Nannerch Memorial Hall on Wednesday 7th February 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor H Morgan (Chair)
Councillor J Costidell (Vice Chair)
Councillor J Byrne
Councillor R Calderwood-Duncan
Councillor J Capstick
Councillor G Williams
Councillor F Hunter
Councillor K Weston

County Councillor A Parkhurst
Jeanne Penn, Clerk

1. **Welcome to new Clerk**
The Chair welcomed the new Clerk, Jeanne Penn, to the Council and Councillors introduced themselves.

2. **Public Participation**
None. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no requests for remote access to the Meeting.

3. **To consider accepting apologies for absence**
None.

4. **To record declaration of interests from members in any item to be discussed**
Councillor Weston declared an interest in item 11, applications for financial support, Nannerch Churchyard.

5. **To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting 6th December 2023**
The Minutes of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held on the 6th December 2023 were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. **To receive updates on progress from previous Minutes**

- **Phone kiosk interior panel designwork**. As nothing further had been heard from the contractor, the Chair had now sent them an idea for the panel. **Resolved:** if there was no further contact from the contractors within one month, Councillor Williams would organise the work.
- **Play area upgrade and green communities fund.** The Chair confirmed that a further 3 kissing gates, out of the remaining total of 11, had been installed, so this remains an on-going project. Requests had been made to ask local residents for their view about additional equipment and funds had already been ringfenced. This would be considered later in this meeting once the financial matters had been discussed.

- **Councillor's Allowance**. Newly appointed Councillor Calderwood-Duncan confirmed that he would not be claiming any pro-rata annual allowance and instead would donate back to Council funds.
- **External Audit**. The Chair confirmed that a full audit is to be undertaken this year and he would work with the Clerk to submit the required documentation.
- **Playscheme.** Following FCC providing costings of and three-yearly commitments for Community Councils, contact had been made with Nannerch Under 5's Group who noted there would not be enough interest in the scheme. **Resolved**: Not to pursue the Playscheme.
- **Village Noticeboard.** It was **agreed** that Councillor Costidell would investigate the cost of installing a magnetic type of noticeboard to replace the wooden one which required maintenance.
- **SmartWater Kits to protect property.** Cllr Hunter had contacted PCSO Tiffany Davies to find out more about this crime prevention measure advertised by the Police. If 100 kits were purchased at a significantly reduced cost of £9.99 each, free signage would be available for display around the village to deter thieves. A handful of residents had already expressed their interest via the website. **Resolved:** That Councillor Hunter would notify PCSO Davies that the Council had **agreed** to the purchase 100 SmartWater kits and offer to residents, with those most vulnerable to be prioritised. It would be optional for residents to reimburse the Council.
- **Daffodil Bulb village planting.** It was **agreed** that this matter should be added to the agenda for September.

6. To receive police update and raise any matters

The Clerk confirmed that the crime statistics for Cilcain ward for November and December 2023 noted 2 antisocial behaviour incidents in Nannerch.

Sargeant Kerry Nash had confirmed to the Clerk that PCSO's Emma Owen (92932) and Kaya Watson (94465) covered the local area, with PCSO Tiffany Davis being part of the crime prevention team.

7. To receive Streetscene update and raise any matters

Neil Hickie would no longer be attending any evening meetings due to resource implications. He had provided a copy of the latest action plan as follows:

- **Ffordd y Waen/Village Road junction markings**. A site visit took place on 2/2/24 and work would be carried out in the next few weeks.
- **Sarn Mill potholes**. A work order was issued on 5/2/24.
- **Village Road bus shelter**. Following storm damage, this had been removed from site on 24/1/24.
- **Wheeler Hill potholes**. A work order was issued on 5/2/24.
- **Recently installed BT box on Village Road**. Neil will investigate.
- **Bryn Dedwydd parking issues,** where Neil suggests in the action plan to consider a site meeting with the Community Council. A discussion then ensued about possible solutions to address residents' ongoing concerns. Councillor Parkhurst had been in discussions with the Council, and notwithstanding that a number of options had so far been explored, **it was**

agreed that he would now contact the housing department of the County Council for their views.

The Chair noted that the issue of a possible barrier on Sarn Mill Hill had not been included on the Streetscene action plan, and Councillor Parkhurst **agreed** to pursue this matter.

Councillor Byrne noted that FCC had recently replenished the grit in the yellow bins in some areas of Nannerch. A new salt bin had been requested by a resident for Llandyrnog Road. As previously agreed, the additional bin request form will be sent to resident so that their justification can be included and this will be forward to Streetscene following its return.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Hickie to follow up the outcome of the site visit held on 2/2/24; to ascertain responsibility for replacing the bus shelter; and also arrange a daytime meeting on a quarterly basis as required to ensure Streetscene actions were progressed.

8. Flintshire County Council Planning Matters

Applications received by FCC

- Application Refs: FUL/000036/24 & FUL/000037/24
  Application Types: Full building works and Listed building extensions/alterations
  Location: MELIN Y WERN, Nannerch CH7 5RH (Ysceifiog CC)
  Proposal: Demolition of old stone retaining wall and reconstruction of new masonry retaining wall including provision of EV charging point within the wall (part retrospective)
  Registered date: 15/1/2024

Resolved: To respond to FCC to request that advice and guidance is sought and then implemented from AONB and Flintshire's Historic Officer.

Decisions made by FCC

- Application Ref: FUL/000651/23
  Location: Lollipop Cottage, Ffordd y Waen, Nannerch CH7 5RX
  Proposal: Demolition of dilapidated hay barn and storage building, construction of new 3-bedroom bungalow with detached double garage
  Decision: **RO1 Refused**
  Decision date: 12/1/2024

- Application Ref: FUL/000296/23
  Location: Traws Afon, Glan Aber Junction to Tirionfa Junction, Nannerch CH7 5RW
  Proposal: Demolition of existing dormer bungalow and outbuildings
  Decision: **AO1 Approved**

Decision date: 13/12/2023

Cllr Byrne noted that the Community Council's comments previously submitted in relation to Lollipop Cottage were not available to view on the planning portal. It was **agreed** that the Chair would check why this was the case.

It was **noted** that the application dated 23/11/23 for approval of details reserved by conditions 3-7 (DET/001032/23) at Fron House, Ffordd y Cwm, Nannerch CH7 5RW continues to remain without supporting documentation on FCC's portal. The Community Council is therefore unable to submit comments at this stage. It was **resolved** to keep this matter on future agendas.

9. Financial Matters

- As at 31/12/23, there was £10,812.95 in the Current Account and £9,073.14 in the Business Reserve Account, totalling £19,886.09. This bank reconciliation position was **received and noted.**
- The receipt and payment analysis report for April to December 2023 was **approved.**
- Councillor Bryne confirmed that a random selection of payments made between April and September 2023 had been chosen and independently reviewed, and she **confirmed** that the correct recipients had been paid.
- Receipt of the third precept amount from FCC of £5069.57 on 28/12/23 was **noted**.
- Submission on 25/1/24 of Nannerch's 2024/25 precept requirement for £15,499 (3.77% on band D property) was **noted**.
- Schedule of Payments for January 2024. The Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Byrne checked the list of payments due, having reviewed the supporting invoices supplied, as follows:

Payee	**£**	**Payment method**	**Power**
Hall Hire	75.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Clerk salary	424.69	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
HMRC Clerk PAYE	106.17	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Clerk allowance/travel/print	46.66	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Clerk training	72.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Gordon's gardens Dec & Jan	90.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111

TOTAL £814.52

10. Applications for Financial Support

Two formal requests had been made in advance of the meeting, with financial accounts being provided. Other village organisations had made tentative requests (including Rainbows, and

the Sports Club), or had indicated they would shortly be doing so. In all cases, accounts would be required before items could be considered.

Since agreeing monies for the play area upgrades, estimates had been received for the equipment. Supply only costs are £5,000, with installation costs of about £4000. Richard Roberts from Aura had indicated match funding would be available for this year and hopefully in the new financial year for this project. By the time of the next meeting, the overall costs for upgrading the play area should be known and it was **agreed** that the Community Council would be in a better position to fully consider funding requests from community groups, including the 2 already submitted. **Resolved**: To place the order for the play equipment.

11. Clerk's Update - Correspondence and other items

- **Breedon Quarry liaison meeting**. This had been scheduled for 8/2/24 but had been postponed so the Clerk **agreed** to ask for a Councillor nomination to attend once she had been notified of the new date.

- **Clerk's Contract**. The Chair and Clerk had drafted the Clerk's contract. The weekly hours required to do the job had remained under discussion until now due to the Clerk familiarising herself with the role, undertaking some induction training courses, and establishing a work pattern. It was **agreed** that the contract should be signed by the Clerk and Chair, at 7 hours per week, to be reviewed in 6 months at first appraisal stage.

- **Training Plan**. Section 67 of 'The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Town & Community Councils' requires community councils to make and publish a training plan for its members and staff. It was acknowledged that Councillors had already undertaken core elements of training and had been provided with the necessary documentation. As Councillor Calderwood-Duncan had recently become a Councillor, it was **agreed** that the Clerk would send him the relevant information for induction training. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would draft a template training plan for consideration by Councillors at the next meeting.

  Training for Clerks is largely provided by SLCC, comprising informal webinars alongside more formal modular qualifications. The Clerk had embarked on ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration), with 3 further qualifications considered by the SLCC to be a requirement of the role before embarking on CILCA, the certificated course. The Clerk noted that such training was likely to take some considerable time. It was **resolved** that any additional hours required for the Clerk's training subject to discussions and agreement with the Chair, would be remunerated.

- **Moel Llys y Coed woodland planting proposals**. With NRW having recently purchased the site, Gareth Davies, Specialist Advisor Estate Planning, had emailed the Clerk to advise that they are in the process of preparing a plan for an Environmental Impact Assessment and have only so far contacted immediate neighbours and statutory consultees (CADW, Flintshire Council, AONB etc).

  Mr Davies noted that Moel Llys y Coed would not be a high priority for commercial timber but is more suited to other objectives of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate. A small proportion (approx. 20%) of conifer (mainly pine) would be included

on the lower slopes mixed with broadleaves to increase resilience and the woodland managed by long-term thinning rather than large scale harvesting. Provision has been included for increased access off the footpath from the Moel Arthur car park and discussions will be held with the AONB and CPAT for signage and historic interpretation as there are good views from the site across to Moel Arthur and over the Clwyd valley. There may be some opportunity for increased car parking at the site, but any developments in this direction would need to be low key as the land immediately adjacent to the council road is a local authority Site of Important Nature Conservation and they would want to be proactive from the outset in limiting the possibility of antisocial activity, such as off-roading, although this has not been highlighted as a risk so far.

Documents supplied show areas of open space for access, habitat and historic features and woodland of three types: the mixed woodland; low density native 'Ffridd' on the slope facing Moel Arthur, and potentially scattered native woodland on the flat area immediately adjacent to the council road. The maps are in draft internal form and have not been prepared yet for formal 'PR'. Mr Davies asked for questions and feedback from the Council.

Councillors discussed that the retaining of the previous access opportunities at the site would be welcomed. Also, that the access onto the Clwydian Range Common at the highest point was improved as the walkthrough the site (and potential forest ride) provided an easier climb for users not wishing the ascent on the Offa's Dyke National trail. However, with the part of the site being within Natural Resources Wales Priority Ecological Network for Heathland and in close proximity to habitat of the rare Black Grouse then it would also be preferable that the Western side of the site was not planted to ensure uninterrupted views from Moel Arthur to Moel Llys y Coed. There is also potential habitat for Great Crested Newt to the East of the site which will require further consideration.

- **Ysgubor Newydd Mountain woodland planting proposals.**
  The Chair will forward details of the proposals to plant mixed broadleaved woodland at the land purchased. There has been previous correspondence with regards to the possibility of dormice nearby and additional access to the site.

- **The SLCC Civility & Respect Pledge.** This pledge has been drawn up by SLCC and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). By signing the Pledge, local councils agree that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it: puts in place a training programme for councillors and staff; signs up to the code of conduct for councillors; has good governance arrangements in place, including staff contracts and dignity at work policies; seeks professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise; commits to calling out bullying and harassment; continues to learn from best practices in the sector; supports the lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge

. It was **agreed** to note the information and requirements and that this Council would continue to work towards the Pledge.

- **Email Addresses for Councillors.** Councillor Costidell explained that Councillors may wish to consider having a separate email address as name@nannerch.com for all Council business. It was **agreed** for Councillor Costidell to explore the costs and logistics of doing this.

Chairman : …… ……

- **Internal Audit Fees.** The Council had in place a 'rolling' agreement with JDH Business Services to carry out the annual internal audit. The cost for the current year would be £264 plus VAT. This information was **noted**.

- **FCC Standards Committee Vacancy.** The 5 nominations were considered by Councillors. First and second choices were **agreed** and the Clerk would notify the Legal Services Officer.

- **LGA 1972 S137 Expenditure**. The Welsh Government had notified Councils that under S137 of the 1972 Act, permitted expenditure can be incurred within the next financial year (24/25) of £10.81/elector, an increase from £9.93/elector for the current year. 2 relevant sections of this Act allow expenditure as follows:

"for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred" and "to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes."
This information was **noted**.

12. Reports and Updates from other meetings.

- **New National Park proposals.** The Chair had attended a further meeting on 30/1/24 and agreed to circulate the latest update to Councillors via email. This meeting was to update Councils following the engagement events that had taken place in 2023 which informed the public of the forthcoming consultation and share an Area of Search map based on Landmap and the National Landscape Character areas.

- **Speed Limit on Erw'r Llan**. Councillor Parkhurst and the Clerk had attended a site meeting with Richard Flood on 26/1/24. Councillor Parkhurst reported that there may be grounds for reducing the speed limit to 20mph at the village end of Pen Y Felin Road once the new Welsh Government criteria is published in the summer. Having looked at Ffordd Y Waen towards its junction with Village Road, Richard's view is that the existing speed limit is appropriate given the low density of housing. The County Council has to apply speed limits in accordance with WG criteria, otherwise it is open to legal challenge.

  After discussions, it was **resolved for the Clerk** to formally write to Councillor Parkhurst to seek a review of the County Council's current speed limits in both areas of the village and for a reduction to 20mph.

- **Integrated Transport Strategy Mold to Denbigh**. Councillor Parkhurst had been informed by Jessica Wellstead, Transport Strategy Officer at FCC, that at present there are no proposals to move forward with the cycle path. The route is a long-term aspirational route, which does not sit within an Active Travel Designated Area and would not be classed as a utility route, which is the main criteria for applying for Active Travel Funding via Welsh Government. The route itself would be classed as a leisure route. If and when funding streams become available where the route would meet the criteria, this could then be explored further. The route would require extensive land-

owner negotiations which is very often a long process and requires the collaboration of numerous service areas.

- **Memorial Hall**. Councillor Hunter provided an update having attended a recent meeting. A deep clean of the Hall would shortly commence; a skip would be used to allow groups to clear out any rubbish; hire charges would remain the same for this year; the Christmas Fair had raised over £1100.

13. Village Items.

- **AED Checks.** The Chair had checked the defibrillators at the Kiosk and Memorial Hall, which were emergency ready. He had yet to check the Cherry Pie.

- **D-Day 80.** Councillors were asked to **note** the information regarding plans for local communities to celebrate D-Day 80 on 6th June 2024, with a website link at www.d-day80beacons.co.uk

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- **Annual Litter Pick.** Councillors **agreed** to support this event again in 2024, on either the Saturday or Sunday of the second weekend in March, to be confirmed.

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 7th March 2024 (note change of day)

Chairman : …… ……