MINUTES of the proceedings of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held at Nannerch Memorial Hall on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors H Morgan (Chair) J Byrne, J Capstick, J Costidell (Vice Chair), and R Calderwood-Duncan. County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst. Jeanne Penn, Clerk.

1. Public Participation

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no requests for remote access to the meeting.

2. To accept apologies for absence

Councillor Weston, Councillor Williams and Councillor Morgan-Millington.

3. To record declaration of interests from members in any item to be discussed.

There were no declarations of interest received

4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting 5th September 2024

The Minutes of this Meeting of Nannerch Community Council were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. To receive updates on progress from previous Minutes

- **SmartWater uptake.** After 3 events, most recently at the community café, a total of 70 kits had been issued. PCSO Tiff Davies had provided the Clerk with a map of the inner village showing uptake of dwellings. The Clerk and Councillor Costidell had **agreed** on a leaflet drop at those houses whose residents remained without a kit. It was **agreed** that Councillors Costidell, Capstick, and Calderwood-Duncan, together with the Clerk would target those properties. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would seek further information from PCSO Davies about the uptake in the Pen y Felin area of Nannerch in case outer areas of the village required reminders too.
- **Village Noticeboard repairs.** An update would be provided by Councillor Calderwood-Duncan at the next meeting.
- **Armistice commemorative structure.** The Chair would be meeting with the family next week to discuss the proposals for the cast.
- **Bulb planting and replacement planter.** The Chair had received a quote for the purchase of 350 bulbs, at a cost of £35 plus VAT. It was therefore **agreed** to purchase these items. The Vice Chair had received suggestions from Tony Willis-Culpit for the

wooden planter to replace the damaged container by the war memorial. It was **agreed** for Councillor Costidell to confirm the size and shape of the planter and seek a quote for this item.

6. To receive police update and raise any matters

Crime statistics for July noted 5 crimes: 2 anti-social behaviour incidents, 1 of criminal damage/arson, 1 of public order and 1 of violence/sexual assault.

7. To receive Streetscene update and raise any matters

An action plan had been received from Neil Hickie on 27th September, with the following update:

- A work order had been issued for the following Pothole repairs: before Nant y Cwm on Ffordd y Cwm; on Plas Yw Road towards Moel Arthur; on Sarn Mill; on Llandyrnog Road; on Little Wheeler.
- Potholes by Grey Cottage on Ffordd y Waen had been repaired
- Pothole repairs on Trefechan Lane were ongoing.
- The clearing of drainage channels near Hawthorn Cottage was completed on 27/09/24
- Regarding a request for signage on Lane to Piw Gwyn to deter inappropriate large vehicles referred to the situation being monitored, Cllr Parkhust confirmed that residents have erected their own sign and this will be monitored
- The request for a crash barrier at Sarn Hill had been escalated to management and Neil had requested an update.
- Regarding the potholes noted on Sarn Mill Road, along with the bottom of Sarn Mill Hill entering the A541 where metal and concrete were exposed, Neil noted that this had been programmed for the "Pothole Pro" vehicle and will be completed in the next few weeks.

Councillors also noted there were blocked gulleys on Village Road and wished to know the frequency of these being emptied. A further issue was reported regarding soil falling off tractors which had compacted on Pen y Felin Road before Nannerch Hall Farm. The 'Give Way' sign at the junction of Erw'r Llan and Village Road opposite the pub had been damaged.

It was once again **agreed** that the Clerk would express the Council's continuing dissatisfaction and bring all these outstanding matters to Streetscene's attention.

County Councillor Parkhurst informed Councillors that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council regarding the lack of presence of Streetscene Officers to attend Council meetings on a regular basis to address such matters. The Chief Executive would be discussing with Kate Wilby, Chief Officer.

8. Flintshire County Council Planning Matters

No planning applications had been **received or approved** by Flintshire County Council

9. Financial Matters

- The Cashbook for 6 months 1/4/24-30/9/24 was **received**. It was **agreed** that to ensure financial probity, a Community Councillor should independently review and verify a random 10% sample of invoices to check correct payment processes. Councillor Capstick agreed to undertake this and report back.

- The Budget Monitor at half year stage was **received**. Budget is 'on track' regarding most expenditure and income. Note was made of the following: Smartwater signage invoice would be approved this evening with overall costs of this initiative being slightly less than budget; the outstanding invoice to FCC/Aura of £2250 had been chased by Clerk. Ringfenced monies for play area will be underspent by approx. £2k; the Armistice Memorial remains an ongoing project with £3k budget allowance to include cost of installation; there remains a budget of £3500 for footpath improvements of kissing gates; External Audit costs remain unknown whilst not yet concluded.

  Expenditure for the 6 months is £11,322.39, alongside income of £13,190.91 during the same period.

  Precept discussions for 2025/26 will be due at December's meeting, alongside budget setting for the next financial year, together with consideration of grants/donations, notwithstanding grants may not be allocated until the new financial year. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would place a post on Nannerch P&P to remind local communities and groups of the application process.

- The Bank Reconciliation for quarters 1 and 2 was **received and approved**. The bank balances totalled £17,775.33 at 30/9/24, represented by £12,716.78 in the reserve account and £5058.55 in the current account.

- The Chair and Vice Chair had checked the schedule of payments due for September 2024, having reviewed the supporting invoices/paperwork supplied. Payments were therefore **approved** by all Councillors as follows:

Payee	**£**	**Payment method**	**Power**
Clerk net salary-September	246.34	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
HMRC Clerk's PAYE-September	61.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Clerk allowance/travel/print	37.79	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Gordon's Gardens	170.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Detertech Smartwater signage	390.00	BACS	Local Government & Rating Act 1997 S31
TOTAL	**905.13**		

10. Clerk's Update - Correspondence and other items

The Clerk's appraisal had been undertaken by the Chair and Vice Chair immediately before this meeting.

The Clerk had attended a OVW webinar on 1/10/24 following a Senedd Inquiry (Local Government & Housing Committee) into the 'Role, Governance & Accountability of the Community & Town Council Sector', which is running until 18/10/24. The terms of reference of the Inquiry are: to look at the role and value of the sector; to consider its fitness for purpose; to consider governance and scrutiny arrangements; to look at the scope of technology to improve service provision and local participation; to explore how new powers and responsibilities are utilised to support communities. The Clerk provided Members with a summary of emerging themes and the concerns raised by Clerks at the webinar. OVW would be submitting this information to the Inquiry. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would keep Members appraised of developments following its conclusion.

The mandatory on-line Code of Conduct training for members by FCC on 22nd and 24th October was **noted**. So far, 5 Councillors had indicated their attendance.

Additional free places for Councillors for certain OVW online training modules between October and December was **noted**.

11. Reports and Updates from other meetings.

County Councillor Parkhurst reported as follows:

- The new Leader of FCC has been appointed - Dave Hughes.
- The frequency of the black bin collection is likely to be 3 weekly.
- A meeting had been arranged for 24/10/24 for FCC and Aura to discuss leisure services from 1/11/24 onwards. Community Councillors requested that Councillor Parkhurst ensured the County Council's continuity of provision for safe play areas, including regular inspection, maintenance and insurance cover.
- A recent meeting of the Standards Committee had considered a difficult and sad case which had progressed to Public Services Ombudsman for Wales stage. The learning from this case was that early intervention and possible informal resolution may have resulted in a more beneficial outcome for all parties.
- Ongoing issues regarding lack of parking spaces for residents at Bryn Derwydd would not be addressed in the near future by FCC because of budget constraints.

The Chair reported on the forthcoming public consultation period on the proposed New National Park for Wales. Local in-person events were taking place later this month in Loggerheads and in Mold, which the Chair circulated to Members.

12. Village Items.

- **AED Checks.** The Chair confirmed that the 3 defibrillators were emergency ready. Having purchased additional pads for Cilcain's defibrillator last month, it was **agreed** that the Clerk would now invoice Cilcain Community Council for these products, at £50 (net amount plus carriage).

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7pm