MINUTES of the proceedings of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held at Nannerch Memorial Hall on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors H Morgan (Chair), J Byrne, G Williams, J Costidell (Vice Chair), K Weston, J Morgan-Millington and R Calderwood-Duncan. 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 Capstick and County Councillor Parkhurst.

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 3rd October 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.** More than 80 kits had been distributed by PCSO Tiff Davies, who had also provided the Clerk with an updated map of the village showing uptake of dwellings. It was **agreed** that Councillors Morgan and Morgan-Millington would target more of their neighbouring properties. It was also **agreed** that the Clerk would report back to PCSO Davies and ask her to attend properties in Village Road where further involvement was required to allow signage to be displayed. By next month, it was hoped that PCSO Davies would be able to advise where signage could be placed in the village. The Clerk had also met with PCSO Kaya Watson, the local PCSO for Nannerch, on 28th October to establish another named Police contact for the local area.
- **Village Noticeboard repairs.** The Vice Chair **agreed** to attend to the repairs to patch up the lead.
- **Armistice commemorative structure.** This remained an ongoing project following the Chair meeting with the family to discuss the proposals for the cast.
- **Bulb planting and replacement planter.** The Chair presented an invoice for the purchase of 350 bulbs, at a cost of £35 plus VAT and delivery. This would be added to the schedule of payments for approval at this meeting. The Chair would organise a date

for planting imminently. The Vice Chair had received further details from Tony Willis-Culpit for the replacement wooden planter. Cost would be in the region of £250. It was **agreed** to commission this purchase.

6. To receive police update and raise any matters

Crime statistics for the months of both August and September were nil.

7. To receive Streetscene update and raise any matters

An action plan had been received from Neil Hickie on 31st October, 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; on Ffordd y Waen.
- 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, this situation would be monitored
- The request for a crash barrier at Sarn Hill had been escalated to management.
- 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 (see also update below).
- A work order had been issued on 31/10/25 for the damaged 'Give Way' post on Village Road.

Neil had also noted that: the outstanding pothole repairs in Nannerch had been prioritised for week commencing 04/11/24; the planned "Pot Hole Pro" repair at Sarn Mill/Junction A541 was delayed due to the road closure at the Caerwys Hill and the opportunity was taken to patch the hill while the closure was in place-a return date has been requested; the gullies on Village Road, Nannerch were last cleaned 22/03/24; the road sweeper would attend the village on Friday 8th November to remove the leaves in readiness for the Remembrance Sunday procession on Village Road.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would seek progress to bring all these outstanding matters to Streetscene's attention.

8. Flintshire County Council Planning Matters

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

9. Financial Matters

- Councillor Capstick had independently reviewed and verified a random 10% sample of invoices from the 6-month cash book to check correct payment processes. She had reported to the Clerk via email on 14/10/24 that all processes appeared in order.

- The Asset Register for 2024/25 was **noted** and **approved**. There was no material change to the document approved earlier in the year, as no new assets had been purchased.
- The Risk Register (otherwise known as the Financial Risk Assessment) for 2024/25 had been reviewed, amended, and was **approved** by Councillors.
- The Financial Regulations (based on OVW model template) were considered and **approved** by Councillors.
- Cilcain Community Council had been invoiced in October for re-charge of purchase, supply and delivery of pads for their defibrillator. This invoice remained outstanding and once received, would show as miscellaneous income in the accounts.
- Precept discussions for 2025/26 would need to be agreed by December's meeting, therefore the Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2025/26 for consideration at this meeting, alongside the actual 6 months expenditure for 2024/25, with supporting notes/explanations which Councillors **agreed**. Councillors reviewed the budget headings and the comments received were as follows: the Clerk's salary costs would need to be increased by a further £340 for lower NI thresholds being introduced in April 2025; the rental for the hall was likely to reduce going forward; the costs of the ongoing external audits remained unknown; the capital expenditure for play equipment would now be less than £8000. Regarding income, it was noted that: there would be only a small amount of VAT to claim at year end; no grants were received and miscellaneous income would be less than £350. Most of the allocated annual budget for grants and donations had already been utilised. As applications for donations would only now be considered annually in December, the final proposals for grants and donations going forward could be considered at December's meeting. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would prepare a revised budget based on these discussions.
- The Chair and Vice Chair had checked the schedule of payments due for October 2024, having reviewed the supporting invoices/paperwork supplied. Payments were therefore **approved** by all Councillors as follows:

Payee	**£**	**Payment method**	**Power**
Clerk net salary-October	420.60	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
Clerk net pay increase April-Sept	96.33	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
HMRC Clerk's PAYE-October	105.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
HMRC Clerk's PAYE April-Sept	24.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
Clerk allowance/travel/print	37.79	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Gordon's Gardens	60.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111

FCC Play Area installation match funding	2250.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 S14 para 27
Royal British Legion poppies	98.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 S137
Boston Seeds daffodil bulbs- refund to Chair	40.99	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
TOTAL	**3132.71**		

10. Clerk's Update - Correspondence and other items

- The draft Independent Review Panel for Wales (IRPW) for 2024/25 had been circulated to Councillors for consultation which is open until 29/11/25. This would be the last year of existence of the IRPW. From 1/4/25, the responsibility for its functions of setting levels and remuneration of members of Councils will transfer to the Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC). As a Group 5 Community Council, the proposals in the draft report were to keep reimbursement/remuneration levels as the current year, which is a maximum allowance of £1500 for Chair, £500 for Vice Chair, costs towards working from home of £156 for all Councillors, plus a £52 consumables allowance. This report was **noted,** as was the fact that none of Nannerch Community Councillors currently make any claim.

- The 2 online mandatory training sessions delivered by FCC in October on 'Standards and Code of Conduct' had been attended by Councillors Morgan, Costidell, Byrne, Weston, Morgan-Millington and Capstick, plus the Clerk. FCC Monitoring Officer had asked Clerks to provide him with a list of attendees plus an assurance that all non-attendees had undertaken further training via the electronic information circulated. This was **noted**.

- The Clerk had attended FCC's Standards Committee joint meeting with Town & Community Councils on behalf of Nannerch on 2/11/24.

- The Clerk informed Councillors that as part of the ongoing review of policies and procedures, the following would be submitted for approval at the next meeting in December: FOI Publication Scheme; Investment Strategy; Internal Controls; Standing Orders.

- At the Clerk's appraisal in October, it was highlighted that the Clerk had not taken, nor received holiday pay due to the part time and ad hoc nature of the job. It was therefore **agreed** that the Clerk would submit a request for financial reimbursement at the end of December 2024, based on the pro rate leave entitlement for the annualised hours worked.

- The Council must produce a biodiversity report (which may be included in the annual report) under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Chair had produced such a report in previous years and it was therefore **agreed** that he would supply a succinct summary of the Council's most recent achievements in readiness for early 2025.

- The pay award under Local Government Pay Agreement 2024/25 had been agreed in October 2024, backdated to 1/4/24. This had resulted in the Clerk receiving a 63 pence per hour pay rise which had now been actioned. This increase was **noted** by Councillors.

11. Reports and Updates from other meetings.

In the absence of County Councillor Parkhurst, he had submitted a report as follows:

Streetscene Coordinators. *My request for Streetscene coordinators to be allowed to attend community council meetings (eg quarterly) on a time-off-in-lieu basis has been rejected, at least until any change in shift patterns. Meanwhile, I suggest regular site visits are arranged with Neil during normal office hours to discuss any particular issues.*

Bryn Dedwydd Sheltered Housing Review. *The age threshold for new applicants will increase from 50 to 55. Younger applicants who require level access accommodation will still be considered though.*

Aura. *Pleas by opposition councillors to continue negotiations with Aura over the running of Flintshire's leisure and library services were rejected by the new Coalition Administration. FCC has now set up a local authority trading company (LATC) to run these services. FCC has said, that assuming all staff wish to transfer to the LATC, the services should run as normal after an initial closure for a few days from 1st November to complete health and safety checks and rebranding. Some councillors, including myself, have expressed disquiet over the lack of information provided and the many questions which have gone unanswered. Holywell Leisure Centre should be unaffected by these changes, other than the Library situated within the Leisure Centre.*

Standards. *At the last Community Council meeting I mentioned the case of the Buckley Town Councillor who was the subject of a Standards Committee hearing following complaints to the Ombudsman that he had publicly called for the Town Council clerk to resign. The Standards Committee resumed its hearing and decided to impose the maximum sanction of a six months' suspension. The Committee's deliberations were held in private but it seems that they put particular weight on what they saw as the Town Councillor having ignored the advice of the Monitoring Officer. The point was also made that regardless of whether the Town Councillor had specifically identified the Clerk when he called for a resignation, it was pretty clear to everyone to whom he was referring. Some observers thought the sanction particularly severe especially in view of the 'inequality of arms' during the hearing process. The Ombudsman had a heavyweight barrister, and the Standards Committee had its own solicitor appointed by the Monitoring Officer's team both lined up against an elderly town councillor and a county councillor who was trying to support him. One lesson to take away from this is woe betide anyone who ignores the Monitoring Officer's advice!*

FCC Budget 2024/25. *FCC has launched a public consultation to get residents' views on how to plug next year's £38.4m black hole. The consultation is available on FCC's website (Budget Consultation 2025 / 2026) or at any Connect Centre. The deadline for responses is 24th November.*

A New National Park? *There is also a consultation over the proposals to create a new National Park in North Wales. The consultation can be found on Natural Resources Wales' website (www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk). The deadline for responses is 16th December.*

12. Village Items.

- **AED Checks.** The Chair confirmed that the 3 defibrillators were emergency ready.
- **Remembrance Sunday.** The Community Council purchased wreaths would be laid at the cenotaph at 11am on Sunday 10th following a church service starting at 10.15am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7pm