MINUTES of the proceedings of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held at Nannerch Memorial Hall on Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors H Morgan (Chair), J Byrne, G Williams, J Costidell (Vice Chair), K Weston and J Morgan-Millington. County Councillor Andrew Parkhurst and Jeanne Penn, Clerk.

1. Public Participation

Residents Andrew and Angela Whitehead. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no requests for remote access to the meeting.

2. To accept apologies for absence

Councillor Calderwood-Duncan. Note was also made of the expected resignation of Councillor Capstick, following her recent move from the village.

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

Councillor Weston declared an interest at item 9, financial matters relating to financial support for Nannerch Churchyard. Councillor Weston took no part in the discussion at this stage and was not present when the decision was made.

4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting 7th November 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.** PCSO Tiff Davies had provided the Clerk with a written update to confirm that she would continue to seek any further interested residents in Village Road. She had now registered the school, and would be meeting with the Clerk later this month to discuss where signage could be displayed.
- **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. A target date of May 2025 to coincide with VE Day-80 had been set
- **Bulb planting.** This took place on Saturday 1st December, organised by the Vice-Chair and involved local residents who assisted with the planting of 300 bulbs around the

village. The Chair thanked the Vice Chair for organising and those who attended and planted the bulbs and hoped that this would be an annual event

- **Replacement planter.** The Vice Chair confirmed that the old planter had been removed and Tony Willis-Culpit had measured up for the replacement.

6. To receive police update and raise any matters.

Crime statistics for October 2024 noted 1 antisocial behaviour offence, and 1 violence and sexual assault offence.

7. To receive Streetscene update and raise any matters

An action plan had been received from Neil Hickie on 29th November, with the following update:

- Pothole repairs before Nant y Cwm on Ffordd y Cwm, on Plas Yw Road towards Moel Arthur, and on Sarn Mill had been completed.
- Pothole repairs on Llandyrnog Road, on Ffordd y Waen and on Trefechan Lane were ongoing.
- Blocked gullies on Village Road had been cleared.
- Regarding a request for signage on Lane to Piw Gwyn to deter inappropriate large vehicles, this situation would continue to be monitored.
- The request for a crash barrier at Sarn Hill had been escalated to management.
- Potholes noted on Sarn Mill Road, along with the bottom of Sarn Mill Hill entering the A541 where metal and concrete were exposed, were awaiting the Contractor.
- A work order had been issued on 31/10/24 for the damaged 'Give Way' post on Village Road.

Councillor Parkhurst noted that he had undertaken a recent site visit with Neil Hickie, whereby all these matters had been brought to his attention.

The residents from Hawthorn Cottage reported that the flooding had worsened in Bryn Road (Hawthorn Lane) just outside their property for the past 5 years with much surface water on the carriage way, not from their land. They noted that 'grips' in the verge had recently been made by a JCB digger and wished to know if this had been done with the consent of the Community Council. The Chair advised that such highways matters were the responsibility of Flintshire County Council (FCC), and that residents and/or the Community Council report such matters to Streetscene at FCC. The residents confirmed that they would now make direct contact with Streetscene.

8. Flintshire County Council Planning Matters

- Planning application ref FUL/000801/24, for ASHP installation at 15 Pen y Coed, CH7 5RS. Councillors **noted** no objection to this application

- No planning applications had been **approved** by Flintshire County Council

- Under the Environment Act 1995, Hedgerow Regulations 1997, a Hedgerow Removal application had been submitted for track to Bryn Goleu Agosaf land and Pen Yr Erw cottage to facilitate farm access to the fields and cottage. A new hedge with similar native species will be replanted. Councillors **noted** no objection to this proposal as long as the new native species hedge was replanted.

9. Financial Matters

- Cilcain Community Council has settled the invoice from October for re-charge of purchase, supply and delivery of pads for their defibrillator. This shows as a miscellaneous receipt of £50 in the accounts.

- Budget Setting 2025/26. The Clerk had circulated a revised budget following discussions at November's meeting which was **agreed** by Councillors. This included a proposed amount of £3,100 for grants and donations.

- Precept Requirement 2025/26. The Clerk had previously circulated a document to Councillors to calculate the precept requirements for 25/26, based on three models: one of keeping the precept requirements the same as last time (ie NCC receiving the same amount as the current year, £15,499); one to increase the revenue by just a small amount, to £15,650; and one of not applying any increase.

  This year, the number of equivalent Band D properties in Nannerch has fallen from 281.80 to 272.52 which means that keeping the precept at £15,499 would represent an increase of 3.4%. For a precept of £15,650, this would mean an increase of 4.42%. If NCC chose not to apply any increase, the precept amount would fall to £14,989.

  By applying a 4.42% increase to the precept, this would mean the Council's proposed income against expenditure would be almost the same. Any deviations from the 4.42% increase would mean the Council would have to reduce its expenditure, with the most likely result being a cut in the amount of grants being allocated.

  Estimated expenditure for the year ending 31/3/25 anticipates an estimated bank balance of just over £15k, which includes the ring-fenced projects of £6500. So based on all these assumptions and estimations, the available balance for running costs would be just under £9k. This is in line with a recommendation that Councils should maintain a bank balance of between 3 and 9 months' worth of net expenditure to cover contingencies and cash flow issues.

  The Clerk therefore recommended a 4.4% increase as the preferred option, which was **approved and agreed** by all Councillors.

- 5 applications for financial assistance in 2025/2026 had been submitted from local groups. The information had previously been circulated to Councillors for their perusal. Note was also made that Nannerch Players had contacted the Clerk to say that they would not be holding a summer production in 2025 and therefore would not be submitting an application.
  Following discussions, it was agreed to award Nannerch Rainbows £420 towards their member annual subscriptions; Nannerch Churchyard £1000 towards maintenance of

the grounds; £1109 to Nannerch Sports Club for their annual insurance costs plus a 50% contribution of grounds maintenance.
One of the 5 applications was deferred pending receipt of additional information, and another application was not supported.

- External Audit Reports for 22/23 and 23/24 had been received by the Clerk on 27/11/24 and shared with Councillors.

  The 23/24 unqualified audit only noted one matter and recommendation (not affecting the audit opinion) to be addressed as follows: *"The internal auditor signed the annual return after the Chair. Going forward, arrangements should be put in place to ensure the internal auditor signs the annual return before the Chair."*

  The 22/23 audit noted that a **qualified** audit was undertaken with a more detailed report, in summary stating: *"I am unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly presents the Council's receipts and payments and financial position. The Council has not kept adequate records to support the reported staff costs, total fixed assets and total other receipts figure. I am unable to conclude whether or not the Annual Governance Statement is consistent with the Council's internal controls and governance arrangements for the year"*.

  The 2 reports were **noted and received**.

  The Clerk had already drafted an action plan to address many of the matters going forward and/or would prevent such a recurrence in future. Some actions would routinely be addressed now that the Clerk vacancy had been filled. The Clerk also drew Councillors' attention to some inaccurate statements in the report of the 22/23 audit, relating to the submission of information by the Council, which had been mislaid by the auditors because of problems with their technical and administrative systems. This matter had also been brought to Councillors attention in previous meetings. This action plan was **agreed** by Councillors.

  The Clerk reminded Councillors that invoices from External Audit for these 2 pieces of work had not yet been received.

  It was also **agreed** to publish the full Wales Audit completion notice on the website from 6th December for 14 days allowing a right of inspection-plus a hard copy on the notice board.

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

Payee	**£**	**Payment method**	**Power**
Clerk net salary-November	361.60	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111 & 112
HMRC Clerk's PAYE-November	91.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111

Clerk allowance/travel/print	37.79	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Gordon's Gardens	100.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
Pennykid & Keegan Insurance	161.17	BACS	LGAct 1972 S.111
TOTAL	**751.56**		

10. Clerk's Update - Correspondence and other items

- The meeting dates for 2025 were **noted.**
- The publication of 'The Value of a New National Park in Wales' was **noted**, with Councillors agreeing to inform the Clerk of any comments to the consultation.
- Councillors **noted** the approved scheme of delegation if required over the Christmas and New Year recess, with any urgent invoices requiring payment (likely to be from Audit Wales) being authorised for approval by the Chair and Vice Chair.
- The following policies and documents had been updated with only minor amendments required: FOI Publication Scheme; Investment Strategy; Internal Controls; Standing Orders. Councillors **approved** these documents which would be added to the website.
- Councillors considered FCC's letter regarding winter preparations, and it was **agreed** for the Vice Chair to be nominated as the local member of the community to receive daily details of the proposed gritting actions together with an accurate weather forecast for the area.

11. Reports and Updates from other meetings.

County Councillor Parkhurst noted that he would be meeting with the Protect Earth tree planting project on site on 18th January 2025 at 2pm if any Councillors also wished to attend.

Regarding parking along Village Road following a car being clipped by a gritter lorry, Councillor Parkhurst concurred with Councillors' views that any parking restrictions imposed would have to be on both sides of the road which would not be desirable, and would just move and increase the parking difficulties elsewhere in the village. No one at the meeting wanted to see double yellow lines.

Councillor Parkhurst also informed Councillors about the recent changes to the various political groups within Flintshire County Council.

12. Village Items.

- **AED Checks.** The Chair confirmed that the 3 defibrillators were emergency ready in accordance with the regular checking schedule.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm