MINUTES of the proceedings of the Meeting of Nannerch Community Council held at Nannerch Memorial Hall on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7pm.

PRESENT:

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

1. Public Participation.

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no requests for remote access to the meeting. Nannerch Bonfire Committee members Sally Owen, Richard Moore and Natalie Williams joined the meeting: the Chair welcomed them and made introductions. The Chair agreed to take their item (listed on the agenda at item 10-Clerk's Correspondence) earlier in the meeting-see item 6a below.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Councillor Kevin Weston.

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

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

4. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting 6th March 2025.

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.** PCSO Tiff Davies had confirmed that all 100 Smartwater kits had been issued and registered to Nannerch residents. In addition, over 60 households had signed up to North Wales Police's 'Community Alert' website. PCSO Davies and Sgt Carrington congratulated the Community Council, the Clerk and Nannerch residents for such a positive response to this crime prevention initiative. The Clerk had contacted FCC about the rules for correctly erecting signage, who had requested that Sgt Carrington should pursue this matter on behalf of the Community Council.
- **Village Information Board in the Phone Kiosk**. The Chair and Councillor Williams **agreed** to pursue this outstanding matter.
- **Armistice commemorative structure.** The Chair had arranged a meeting with Mr Archdale on 7/3/25 to discuss the commission, which remains an ongoing project with a target date of May 2025 to coincide with VE Day-80 celebrations.

- **Replacement planter.** This item had now been received and the Vice Chair would be planted out in the next couple of months. As no invoice had yet been received for this work, it was **agreed** for the Clerk to contact Groundworks directly.
- **Litter pick.** The Clerk had requested loan of the items from FCC, and these would be delivered in readiness for 15/3/25. The Vice Chair would put a post on Nannerch P&P to advertise the event. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would also apply to Keep Wales Tidy to obtain some free litter picking equipment for future use.
- **2 Co option Vacancies.** The advert was live, with a closing date for expressions of interest by 21/3/25. The Clerk would report on the matter at the next meeting.
- **Biodiversity Report.** The Chair was waiting to see if National Landscapes will be able to assist in writing the report and assist with funding for any items or recommendations prior to finalising.
- **Trees in Village Road**. A reply had been received from Stuart Body, the Forestry Officer from FCC, to offer advice regarding duty of care for owners of trees and FCC's responsibilities where dangerous trees are identified. Mr Body explained that FCC is unable to commit to carrying out tree risk assessment surveys for trees not on FCC's land. The Clerk confirmed that the resident who had contacted Community Councillor Weston had been invited to submit his concerns directly so these could be forwarded to FCC. The resident had also been directed to the section of FCC's website to report such matters. This position was therefore **noted** by Councillors.

6. To receive police update and raise any matters.

Crime statistics for December 2024 noted 1 burglary offence. No information was available for January 2025. The Clerk had not had a response regarding statistical feedback following the speed camera intervention.

6a. Nannerch Bonfire Committee correspondence.

Sally Owen drew Councillors' attention to the contents of the letter sent from Nannerch Bonfire Committee (NBC) to the Community Council on 12/2/25. NBC were dissatisfied with the decision made at December 2024's meeting, not to financially support their organisation for the 25/26 year. They commented that their event was the largest event in terms of attendance, and they faced increasing costs alongside organising fund raising events throughout the year. The letter referred to other community organisations, some of whom had received funding, and another where the decision had been deferred. The letter described a lack of transparency regarding the reasons for rejection, and not referring to their organisation by name in the December minutes.

A discussion then ensued between Councillors and NBC committee members.

Sally felt that there was a personal bias by the Community Council, and Natalie suggested a 30 second phone call from the Clerk to NBC to explain why their organisation wasn't being named would have been helpful. Richard said there had been a significant delay in informing NBC that their application had been unsuccessful.

The Chair explained there was an allocated annual budget of £3000 for such expenditure and explained how Councillors decide on granting financial assistance. He confirmed this is based on need, not on attendance or membership and that hoped the Bonfire committee don't consider themselves more deserving based on attendance than other local groups.

He noted that the organisation whose application had been deferred wouldn't necessarily be receiving financial assistance as it was not considered a community grant and that we were exploring other ways to assist.

He said that the Community Council agree to spending in the best interests of the Community and commented that not everyone in the village support the bonfire event with some residents complaining to the Council about parking and risk of injury and distress to household pets and livestock.

Furthermore, the Chair explained that the December minutes hadn't been ratified until February's meeting, so this inevitably would have delayed any formal notification. The Chair suggested that if NBC were financially struggling later this year and the event may not be able to take place for such reasons, they may wish to submit a request for consideration of a financial contribution at that stage.

The Clerk explained that she had taken advice from SLCC regarding the contents of the December minutes relating to this agenda item, and whether NBC should have been named in the minutes. The response had been that the Council should record its decisions appropriately and transparently, and the minutes as they stand (ie not naming NBC) are acceptable; there is no right or wrong way to minute any unsuccessful group as this may breach GDPR requirements. However if NBC representations wish that their organisation is named as being unsuccessful, this can be minuted upon request at the March meeting.

The Chair reminded the Bonfire committee that we had supported them in the past (£500 in December 22, £500 in December 23 and £500 in March 24- financially more than some other community groups in that period) and no village group should expect guaranteed funding every year or have any sense of entitlement. We have moved the decision making for Community Grants into a single month, rather than ad-hoc to ensure fairness to all those who apply. He confirmed that the Sports Club have been awarded more money than normal to ensure that their facilities are maintained while match funding was available by FCC as there was a risk that these would be lost to the village.

It was therefore **agreed** that a further minute should be made at this meeting to formally record that the application submitted by NBC and discussed at the meeting in December 2024 was unsuccessful.

7. To receive Streetscene update and raise any matters

An action plan had been received from Neil Hickie on 6th March, with the following actions outstanding: Pothole repairs on Llandyrnog Road, on Ffordd y Waen and on Trefechan Lane; a request for signage on Lane to Piw Gwyn to deter inappropriate large vehicles continues to be monitored; the compacted soil on Pen y Felin Road needs removing.

The Clerk had already contacted Streetscene about the regular dog fouling in the walkway between Erw'r Llan and Bryn Celyn; it was unclear if this had been done, and no signage had yet been received despite further requests. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would forward this matter to Neil Hickie to chase the outstanding action (ref 2502 1699363).

Further reports at this meeting for Streetscene action were as follows: potholes on the Nannerch side of Wheeler hill; the damaged 'school' sign halfway down Erw'r Llan; the damaged lamp post near the phone kiosk; flytipping by the bench on Ffordd y Waun (already disposed of by Vice Chair). The Clerk **agreed** to pursue these actions with Streetscene.

A Councillor noted the roundabout in the play area was sticking, whereby the Clerk **agreed** to report to Richard Roberts of FCC.

8. Flintshire County Council Planning Matters

Note was made that no new planning applications had been received by FCC. A decision had however been made on 4/3/25 relating to planning application FUL/000801/24, refusing installation of ASHP at 15 Pen Y Coed, CH7 5RS. Reasons for this are outlined on FCC planning portal.

9. Financial Matters

- The updated budget monitor for 24/25 up to month 11 had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting, with known expenditure for March also included. Councillors **approved** this budget monitor, noting also the following matters: the invoice from external audit for 22/23 full audit has not yet been received (£600 notional amount); a replacement notice board will be required in the next financial year with a suggested £1500 cost; there may be may be an outstanding invoice relating to the materials used to make the planter; the Clerk's costs in 25/26 would need a 12% increase to reflect annual leave entitlement, plus the lowering of the NIC employer's threshold, alongside any national pay award agreed.

  There is also 'ringfenced' expenditure not yet spent for footpath improvements (£3500); armistice memorial (£3000); orchard and trees replacement (£200), all of which will be carried forward into 25/26. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should now prepare the budget monitor for 25/26 in readiness for the meeting in early May.

- It was **agreed** to seek one Councillor (not the Chair or Vice Chair who 'signed off' payments on the schedule) to select a random sample of 6 items in the cash book between October 24 and March 25, who could review the associated paperwork and independently verify that proper procedures were in place. Councillor Byrne offered to do this and report back at the next meeting.

- The Chair and Vice Chair had checked the schedule of payments due for February 2025, having reviewed the supporting invoices/paperwork supplied. Payments were therefore **approved** by all Councillors as follows:

Payee	**£**	**Payment method**	**Power**
Clerk net salary Feb 25	322.80	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111/112

HMRC Clerk's PAYE Feb 25	56.80	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111/112
Clerk allowance and travel	27.60	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111/112
SLCC Membership	110.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 s.111
OVW Membership	92.00	BACS	LGAct 1972 S.111
TOTAL	**609.20**		

10. Clerk's Update - Correspondence and other items

- **Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru (DBCC).** Councillors **noted** the electoral review programme consultation which is open until 24/3/25.
- **FCC's Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance.** Councillors **noted** this consultation (open until 21/3/25) which gives guidance to accompany LDP policies relating to 3 specific areas: space around dwellings, retention of local facilities and affordable housing.
- **Independent Review Panel for Wales Annual Report.** The Clerk reminded Councillors that the functions of the Panel will transfer to the Democracy & Boundary Commission on 1st April.

  Regarding Community Councillor allowances, it was **noted** that: all 'opt outs' of allowances will need to be declared in writing (the Clerk will send out the pro forma as usual in April); an allowance of £156 pa (non-taxable) can be claimed towards extra household expenses; an allowance of £52 pa can be claimed for office consumables; financial loss, along with travel & subsistence, remain optional-as they are already; cost of care and/or personal assistance allowances remain mandatory; the Chair can claim up to £1500 optional allowance; the Deputy/Vice Chair can claim up to £500 optional allowance.

  There is also an optional allowance of up to £30 for members' attendance at meetings from April 2025 onwards, which each Community Council can decide whether to introduce or not. It was **unanimously agreed** that this optional allowance should not be included.
- **Information & Data Protection Policy**. The updated policy was **approved** and will be placed on the website.

11. Reports and Updates from other meetings.

County Councillor Parkhurst reported on key developments at FCC as follows: a rise in council tax of 9.5% had been agreed with some services having to be reduced but an amendment to soften the impact on Council Tax and schools' budgets, as well as safeguarding public conveniences was rejected. The extra £1.2m from WG had been put into reserves. Regarding the proposal to extend the areas included of 20mph speed limits in Ffordd y Waun and Erw'r Llan, Councillor Parkhurst explained that FCC were awaiting guidance from WG, which was due in April.

12. Village Items.

- **AED Checks.** The Chair confirmed that the 3 defibrillators had been checked 3 weeks ago and remained emergency ready in accordance with the regular checking schedule.
- **Resident's letter.** The Clerk had received an email from a local resident which had been brought to Councillors' attention. However as the contents did not relate to, or were the responsibility of, the Community Council, the matter was not discussed further and the resident had been notified of this.
- **VE-80 celebrations**. The Vice Chair noted that she was unsure if any of the other village organisations were holding celebration events. She **agreed** to make contact to see if a joint celebration could be co ordinated on bank holiday Monday, 5th May. It was **agreed** to make £250 available from Community Council funds to support the events. The Clerk **agreed** to forward information she had received regarding national celebrations and suggestions to mark the occasion.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7pm