

# Annual Report 2022-23

## Introduction

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Section 52, requires Community Councils in Wales, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report about the Council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

## Organisation of Council

Llanrhystud Community Council consists of ten Councillor members and employs a part-time Clerk as Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.

## Chair of Council 2022-2023

Councillor Gareth Flynn.

## Elections

Elections were conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and as a result Gwyn W. Evans, Charles Green and Iestyn Tudur-Jones were welcomed as newly elected members. Thanks were expressed to the outgoing members Eirwyn Evans, Claire Jones and Dewi Jones for their service.

## Appointments

The Clerk, Lloyd Osborne, informed the council of his resignation in June but agreed to continue in the position until a replacement was found; after due process, a new Clerk was appointed, Eifion Robinson. The council thanks L. Osborne for his hard work during his time as Clerk.

## Councillors

Llanrhystud Community Council (LICC) serves the townships of Myfenydd, Haminiog and Deiniol, represented by the following councillors:

- **Myfenydd:** Glyn Davies, John Evans.
- **Haminiog:** Gareth Flynn (Chair), Charles Green, Gwyn Jones, Morris Jones, Donald Morgan, Sharon Richards, Iestyn Tudur-Jones (Vice-Chair).
- **Deiniol:** Gwyn Evans (also County Councillor)

Clerk / Proper Officer & Responsible Financial Officer: E. Robinson

## Council representation on other organisations' committees

One Voice Wales, Ceredigion Area Committee: C. Green

## Memberships

One Voice Wales (OVW)

## Llanrhystud Community Council meetings

Members of the public are very welcome to attend Llanrhystud Community Council meetings, which take place on the first Wednesday (at Llanddeiniol Church Hall) or Thursday (at Llanrhystud Memorial Hall) of each month, with the exception of August – please check the website for information on where and when the next meeting will be held.

Agendas are published at least three working days in advance of meetings and the minutes are published, on the website, within 7 working days of the meeting.

Declaration of member's interests and attendance at meetings is noted in the following table, which includes links to agendas and minutes published on the Council's website at [www.cyngorcymunedllanrhystud.com](http://www.cyngorcymunedllanrhystud.com):

Meetings of Llanrhystud Community Council 01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023											
		Attendance									
		Gareth Flynn	Iestyn Tudur-Jones	Gwyn Evans	Glyn Davies	John Evans	Charles Green	Gwyn Jones	Morris Jones	Donald Morgan	Sharon Richards
Date	Documents										
N/A	N/A	No April Meeting									
11/05/2022 (Annual Meeting)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
11/05/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
01/06/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P, D	A	P	P	P	P, D	P, D	P	P	P
06/07/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	P
10/08/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	A
07/09/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P, D	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
05/10/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P, D	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
02/11/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	P	P	P, D	P	P	A	A
07/12/2022	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
04/01/2023	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
01/02/2023	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
02/03/2023	<a href="#">Agenda</a> / <a href="#">Minutes</a>	P, D	P	P, D	P, D	P	P	P	P	A	P, D
Present (P)		11	9	12	11	12	12	11	10	6	6
Apologies (A)		1	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	6	6
Absent without Apologies (X)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Declaration of Interest (D)		4	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1

## **Work of the Council**

### *Road Traffic Group*

LICC continue to support the inspired work carried out by the Road Traffic Group (RTG) - a local volunteer group that have taken on the task of resolving road safety issues within the village of Llanrhystud, specifically looking to create a safe walking route to the school. The council have been mediating between the RTG and Ceredigion County Council in order to progress work on developing safe routes within Llanrhystud village. Despite the frustrations of what seems to be very little progress, the members of the RTG are to be commended for their perseverance and determination to finally resolve an issue that has been ongoing for more than three decades.

### *Planning Applications*

12 planning applications submitted by members of the community were considered during this period.

## **Achievements**

### *Active Play Session*

Llanrhystud Community Council arranged for RAY Ceredigion to provide 6 Active Play Session in the park during the Summer of 2022, which also including a selection of healthy snacks and provision of drinking water. These play sessions were extremely well received by the community, resulting in 92 children (from 26 families) attending.

The feedback from parents was excellent. The sessions enabled children from the village, including a dispersed rural community, to meet up. The sessions catered for all ages and abilities allowing them to mix, explore their imagination through play and interact with one another in a safe environment, with many children making new friends.

## **Key objectives for 2022-23**

### *Biodiversity*

LICC have taken positive steps towards promoting biodiversity within the community during this period. The council have been proactive in seeking advice from relevant sources on how the community can play its role in building resilient spaces for nature, a key responsibility of town and community councils under Section 6 of The Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

A sub-group of LICC members have met with R. Auckland, our Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership (LNP) coordinator, on two occasions; the first of which was to talk through ideas and draft a plan of action to assess the current status, the potential for specific projects and how to promote involvement. The second meeting with R. Auckland involved a winter evening's visit to the community playing field; the aim was to assess the potential of areas for starting projects that target specific ecosystems, or species, that are already present but that could flourish with some encouragement.

LICC members are due to meet again with our LNP coordinator early in the next period, in order to agree the next steps in our aim to increase biodiversity and build more resilient spaces for nature.

### *Playground refurbishment*

Recognising that the playground on the community playing field is showing signs of its age, the LICC have held an initial consultation with G. Byrne, RAY Ceredigion (a charity providing activities that support the health and wellbeing of people of all ages and abilities) on how to approach the task of refurbishing the community playground, as well as areas within the playing field surrounding the football pitch.

Thanks to the children of Myfenydd School, who supplied lots of ideas for which items of play equipment they would like to see in a refurbished playground. As a result of this initial survey, LICC have been able to gather important information allowing us to carry out an initial assessment of opinions, with further consultation opportunities to be scheduled soon with the aim of involving the whole community to have a say in what they would like to see in a refurbished the community playing field.

### *Registration of land as village green*

LICC aim to have the area upon which the Llanrhystud village noticeboard is located, officially recognised as a village green, since it has been regarded as such for some time. The council has worked on gathering

evidence of the use of the area by the community and included this in an application to Ceredigion County Council to have the land registered as a village green; this would provide the community with an official area, with a central location in the village of Llanrhystud, for communal use.

#### *Provide translation service for meetings*

To improve public engagement, as well as adhere to the Community Council's own Welsh language policy, the services of a translator for monthly council meetings were sought throughout the year. Although a number of possible candidates were identified, use of a translator's service did not come to fruition during the 2022-23 period and is now a priority for the 2023-24 period.

#### **Future priorities for 2023-24**

The objectives detailed above are long-term projects and will continue into, and possibly beyond, the 2023-24 term.

A short-term objective is to procure the services of a translator for the Community Council's monthly meetings.

#### **Assets**

Street furniture:

- 9x bench; 2 currently removed - to be replaced.
- 1x noticeboard.

Bus shelter

Playing field

Garage (on playing field)

Playground equipment:

- 2x single bench.
- 4x single bench with back rest.
- 1x double bench with central back rest.
- 2x double bench with table.
- Balance walkway (wooden).
- Scooter carousel.
- Wooden train (toddler seating).
- 2x swing (toddler).
- 2x swing (child/teenager).
- Hut (wooden).

#### **Services Managed**

##### *Grass Cutting*

LICC thanks H. Morgan for cutting the grass around Llanrhystud village noticeboard and D. Moore for cutting the grass of the community playing field throughout the year. It is noted that some areas of the playing field have been left uncut, allowing the grass to grow taller to provide more natural environments and habitats for wildlife.

##### *Internal Audit*

An internal audit was arranged for the previous financial year (2021-22), which was executed by A. Morgan and completed satisfactorily by the 20 June 2022.

##### *Website*

The current Community Council website, although functional, is recognised as not being very inspiring and LICC are keen to improve the situation, to have a website that can be the first port of call for all members of the community, as well as visitors, to find out everything there is to know about the community. Whilst this work is being carried out, information relating to the Community Council such as meeting agendas and minutes, policies and procedures, will continue to be available, as well as the ability to contact the council via the website *Feedback* page.

## Finance (year ending 31 Mar 23)

### Income

- Precept 2022-23: £8,600
- Bank interest: £32
- Total Income: £8,632

### Expenditure

- Clerk's salary and administration costs: £2,465
- Total other payments: £3,634
- Total Expenditure: £6,099 \*

### Balance as of 31/03/2023

- Community Account: £10,325.97
- Business Account: £8,592.53
- Total: £18,918.50

\* This figure does not include payments that are currently on hold to payees that are currently undergoing, or have recently undergone, changes in banking arrangements.

## Donations

Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows expenditure that will bring direct benefit to the area and its inhabitants if no other powers can be used. Community grants and donations were awarded by the Council to the following local organisations:

- Neuadd Goffa Llanrhystud Memorial Hall £100.00
- CFfl Llanddeiniol YFC £100.00
- Llanrhystud Walking Football Association £100.00
- Cymdeithas Cymuned Llanddeiniol Community Association £100.00
- Eglwys Llanddeiniol Church £100.00
- CFfl Ceredigion YFC £100.00
- Y Ddolen £100.00
- Apel Plas Antaron Appeal £50.00
- Ysgol Myfenydd £100.00

Section 137(3) of the Act also permits the Council to incur expenditure for some charitable purposes, and the usual donation was made to the Royal British Legion and Wales Air Ambulance. In 2022-23, the Council made payments totalling £1,500.00 under section 137.

## Governance

The Council received a qualified audit report for 2021-2022 from Audit Wales, which is published on the Council's website. However, the only basis for qualification of the audit was that PAYE had not been correctly operated in relation to the former clerk's salary for part of the year to August 2021. The Notice of conclusion of audit and right to inspect the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2022 was published on 20/03/2023.

## The Council can be contacted through the Clerk:

### By post:

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