

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANBERIS Llanberis Community Council

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2021 MEETING:

Minutes of the Council Meeting held via Zoom (thanks to HLJ for arranging) on Wednesday 14th April, 2021 at 7pm. The Chairman welcomed members and Chris Williamson who attended to discuss creating a Bike Track by Llyn Padarn (subject to planning permission).

1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES:

Padarn Ward: Rhys ap Gwilym (Chairman), Olwen Gwilym, Bethan Holding, Heather L Jones, Cllr. Kevin Morris Jones, Kim Jones, Claudia O'Donnell, Helen Sharp, Trystan Thomas.

Apologies: Gwilym Evans, Iwan Harding,

Peris Ward: Iola Owen, Llinos Haf Pritchard.

Also present: Dei Tomos (Clerc).

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Will be documented where relevant.

3 BIKE TRACK - CHRIS WILLIAMSON:

Chris Williamson (CW) was welcomed to discuss the possibility of creating a bike track on the shore of Llyn Padarn at Glyn Rhonwy. (Apologies received from Carwyn Williams, Parc Padarn, Gwynedd Council, who was unable to attend because of other work-related commitments). He explained that there were several issues being discussed: size of the track, the environment and the fact that the land is within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), flooding, safety, maintenance and parking. He added that he and a colleague, who could not be present, had discussed the trees and vegetation with a local expert and concluded that there were no rare plants at the proposed site. He added that he had been informed that the development would not impact on the Arctic Char, an important fish in the lake, nor on a plant of the water plantain family. Some of the ash trees are diseased and will be felled in the near future.

He was of the opinion that once built, the track would not require a lot of upkeep and maintenance. He is confident that local bike enthusiasts would ensure that litter would not be a problem and that the track would be used by different age groups and not just by children.

The level of water in the lake can rise significantly during wet weather and it is difficult to judge how this might affect the track, but a good foundation and drainage should mitigate against this. It is unlikely that the track would contribute to any water pollution.

CW considers this type of track to be safer than a skate park since it would not have any hard edges and that a track winding through trees on a one-way circuit would not be very dangerous. He wants the development to be as natural as possible and stressed that this would be a resource primarily for the local community but would be used by visitors as well. The asphalt surface would mean that its use would not be restricted to cyclists.

Several councillors expressed their concern that the track would be an additional financial burden for the Council but KMJ and the developer were keen to stress that they would like to see the Council lease the land from Gwynedd Council (GC), insure the track and undertake maintenance. It is not known whether Natural Resources Wales will endorse the plan and it was difficult to decide to support the proposal but, in principle, it appears that the majority would support the development.

There was a caveat that the term of the lease could be an issue for the Council in the future. CW was thanked for attending the meeting and for his contribution.

4 CONFIRMATION:

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 10th March, 2021 were confirmed as a true record and arrangements will be made for the Chairman to sign them. Proposed and seconded: HLJ / KJ.

5 MATTERS ARISING:

1. Cynllun Cyfall:

The service is still available.

2. Quarry workers' memorial.:

The Clerk reported that he had received 4 outline proposals for the memorial and there may be another couple due to be delivered within the next few days. Once that have all been submitted, they will be distributed to members and there may be an extra meeting to discuss them.

3. Dôl Elidir playing field:

It was reported that it was impossible to take a wheelchair through the gate. The Clerk will contact GC.

4. Ger y Llyn playing field:

Further problems with the swings.

5. Sheep:

Nothing has changed but references were made to several breaches in boundaries which would allow the sheep to come into the village.

6. UEFA Pitch:

The Clerk has received only one reply to a request for quotes to repair the surface and the cost would depend on the extent of the area to be repaired. The Clerk feels that we should ask for somebody from the manufacturing company to visit the pitch to assess the work needed and quote for the repair. Caernarfon Rugby Club have had their pitch repaired recently and RhaG said that he would contact them for further details.

6 OTHER MATTERS:

1. Parc Bach:

The Clerk reported that he had asked EB to tidy the area and to remove moss from the brickwork. The work has been completed to a high standard. EB also suggested that the seating area was also treated. This was accounted for in the last financial year. There was a suggestion that the gate should be looked at and possibly modified. The Clerk will contact EB to carry out the work.

2. Llanberis Band Instruments:

Some years ago, the instruments that belonged to the old Llanberis Band were given on loan to Dolbadarn School. A letter was received stating that the instruments had been found in the school and because the school has no use for them, they were asking if they could be sold to somebody like Ysgol Gerdd William Mathias and the money raised used by the school. It was agreed that the Council will arrange for somebody to inspect the instruments and if they were up to standard, they should be offered to some organisation that would appreciate them and used for young children.

7 PLANNING:

Gwynedd Council:

C21/0206/15/LL - Gwesty Victoria Hotel, Llanberis - *Creating a covered outdoor seating area* - No objections.

C21/0233/15/LL - Regent House, 59 Stryd Fawr, Llanberis – *application for the demolition of extensions at the back of the property and the erection of a two- storey extension* – No objections.

C21/0289/15/DT - Summer Hill, 6 Ffordd Tŷ Du, Llanberis - *application to demolish existing annexe and replace with a two-storey annexe* - No objections.

Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA):

NP3/15/44H - Pant y Cafn, Llanberis – *Proposal for change of use of garage and workshop into holiday accommodation and new hallway* - No objections.

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

1. HSBC:

Message received from HSBC regarding a cheque for £4,000 made payable to GC in May 2019. Although GC had received the money, the amount had not been taken from the Council's account, despite the fact that the Clerk had raised the matter with the bank. The cheque was included in the account for 2018-2019. This message was received by e-mail and therefore it was agreed to wait for further correspondence.

9 FINANCE:

1) In the bank on 28th March, 2021

Current Account: £16,193.06 Deposit Account: £5,365.97

2) Payments Confirmed:

TOTAL £465.00

3) Received between 29/02/2020 and 28/03/2021:

Zero

Proposed and seconded: TT / OG.

10 FOOTPATHS / CEMETERY:

1 Cemetery

The Clerk had received a complaint that soil and stones had been left against the wall by the bins. The Clerk was asked to arranged for the area to be cleared.

2 Footpaths:

Issues regarding the condition of the path by Gardda, Nantperis.

11. EXTERNAL REPORTS:

1. Electric Mountain:

RhaG, KMJ, TT and the Clerk took part in a Zoom meeting that had been arranged by Plaid Cymru Arfon with representatives from Llanberis and Llanddeiniolen Community Councils to discuss the future of the Electric Mountain. In the Clerk's opinion, there was some scaremongering by Sian Gwenllian (SG), Assembly Member, regarding not only the future of the building (it will probably be demolished) but also the power station itself. She has been led to believe that the power plant may close down for a period for refurbishment and that this, naturally caused her some concern for jobs and the long- term future of the plant. But recent correspondence from the National Grid has stressed the importance of the plant to the grid, some were of the opinion that every effort will be made to ensure that the plant will continue to operate to its maximum capacity whilst the work on new cables and machinery within the plant itself is undertaken.

SG promised to consult with Engie (the plant's owner) and the National Grid for more details. The future of the Electric Mountain building was also discussed with some representatives keen to see the owners making some financial endowment or the land it stands on for the benefit of the community. The Council's representatives stressed that they didn't want to see any development that would not be in keeping with the surrounding area of the lake and the meadows.

12 NEXT MEETING:

Date of the next meeting Wednesday 12th May, 2021 at pm.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: Rhys ap Gwilym

Clerk: Dei Tomos

Date 12th May, 2021.