

# Llanyblodwel Parish Council

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Llanyblodwel held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm in the Llanyblodwel and Porthywaen Memorial Institute.

Present: Andrew Beckett (Chair), Ron Argyle (Vice Chair), Tony Lewis, Darren Counsell, Hollie Dixon, Neil Williams, Bethan Cross, Brian Edwards.

Also in attendance: Mrs A Jones (Clerk) 1 representatives from Cambrian Heritage Railway, 2 representative from The Llyncllys Bomber Memorial, 5 members of the public.

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### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MINUTES

#### 1.23 Welcome and apologies

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Peter Shellard and Vince Hunt.

#### 2.23 Confirmation of the Minutes

To approve and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12.05.22.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12.05.22 and they were signed by the Chair as a true record.

#### 3.23 Parish Council Annual Report

To receive an Annual Report from the Chairman followed by a Financial Report by the Clerk/RFO.

The Chair covered the following in his report:

- A new noticeboard has been installed on Coopers Lane – kindly donated by Llyncllys Aggregates and installed FOC by Evans Construction.
- LEDs have now replaced the old lights – just the two heritage lights in Bryn Melyn remain.
- VAS are up and running and the one currently situated in Dolgoch will shortly be moved to Bryn Melyn.
- Progress with the repairs to Walls in the Closed Churchyards, thanks to the community fund.
- There is currently a trail width restriction on Llanyblodwel Bridge.

The Chairman's report was **NOTED**.

Financial Report attached (Appendix A) – received and **NOTED**.

## 4.23 Presentation on the Plans for a Llyncllys Bomber Memorial

Tim Turner, who created the Wilfred Owen Memorial (artist/sculpture) spoke about plans for the Memorial. A site survey has been completed and potential for landscaping the area discussed (paved area, benches etc on the half moon grassed area at the entrance to Dolgoch.

Terry Ingram was present to advise on installation and groundworks.

The proposal is to make the memorial out of Cold Cast Iron Resin which is a fraction of the price of Bronze.

General Maintenance and Ownership – it was suggested that it would need to be taken on as a community asset so gifted to the Parish Council.

Funding – RAF Association and RBL have been contacted. The Parish Council could apply for funding and there are funds available. There are also local organisations such as STAR Housing. Approx total project cost - £10-£12k.

Next steps – permission to be sought from STAR Housing for use of the land.

*18.54 - Cllr Edwards joined the meeting.*

It was **RESOLVED** that this site is a suitable location and that the next steps will be:

- Seeking approval for use of the proposed site
- Attend the next Parish Council meeting with samples and an update
- The Parish Council to discuss on matters such as ownership, logistics of processing the project (applying for grants, fundraising, paying for the projects etc)

## 5.23 Llanyblodwel Bridge

An opportunity for residents to share their views on the width restriction trial.

*People were reminded that this does not in any way constitute or form part of a formal consultation – it is an opportunity to share views and opinions with fellow residents and Parish Councillors.*

No issues were raised. It was **NOTED** that the installation of CCTV in progress.

## 6.23 Shropshire Councillor's Report

To receive a report from Shropshire Councillor Vince Hunt.

Cllr Hunt was not present to provide a report.

## 7.23 Place Plan Review

Councillors and residents to discuss possible infrastructure projects as part of Shropshire Council's Place Plan Review. An opportunity to put forward suggestions and ideas to be investigated further by the Parish Council.

### ***What is a Place Plan?***

*There are 18 Place Plan Areas across Shropshire and the plan looks at infrastructure needs within that specific place plan area. Infrastructure includes utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, as well as other provision such as roads, schools, open spaces, flood defences, broadband, health facilities, leisure facilities, and more.*

Place plans are documents which focus on local infrastructure needs in communities across the county. Infrastructure includes utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, as well as

other things such as roads, schools, open spaces, flood defences, broadband, health facilities, leisure facilities, and more.

Local Infrastructure Funding - 90% - SC in conjunction with Towns and PCs. Priorities to meet the infrastructure needs in the area where development has taken place as identified by Towns and Parish Council's in their Place Plan.

The following suggestions were put forward by residents:

- Blodwel Bank – The Development of the Yareal Site at Treflach/Coed-Y-Go has put huge strain on the infrastructure (road) at Blodwel Bank. The road is not wide enough for 2 large tractors to pass and as a result, drains and pipes have been crushed, leaving to residents fields being flooded. There is no speed limit or double white lines so enforcement is an issue.

## 8.23 Annual Reports from Organisations in the Parish

### **Bryn Offa School**

At the start of the new academic year in September 2022 we started back with 140 children on roll, which puts us at our normal maximum capacity. We are allowed to take a few more children before we reach our fire safety limit, but at 140 we are officially full. As schools get funded for the number of children on roll, this is a good position to be in.

Approximately once every four years, schools are inspected by OFSTED and receive a report to be distributed to all our parents and an official grade for the school. We had another successful inspection and were graded as a good school once again. This is now my third such inspection as the headteacher, with all graded good. The full report can easily be found on the OFSTED website for any that are interested.

Staffing at Bryn Offa remains pretty much the same as last year, but we will have a change at the start of the Autumn Term due the retirement of Mrs Prior. We have already appointed her replacement for three days a week working between our Class One and Class Two.

It may initially look like we are in a good position, with being full and having a fantastic and stable staff and a great OFSTED behind us. Unfortunately, this is not the situation. For those of you who follow the news you will now that the recent industrial action in schools will know that part of the reason for the action is the unfunded pay increases from the Autumn Term.

To give an idea as to how an unfunded pay increase impacts on schools I can share that we finished the financial year this year with an in-year surplus of around £10k but next year will have an in-year deficit of around £20k. Having an in-year deficit is simply not possible to sustain, and it is the situation the majority of schools now find themselves in. Without additional funding even a successful and popular school such as Bryn Offa becomes completely unsustainable.

### **Headteacher**

### **Cambrian Heritage Railway**

The Chairman of Cambrian Heritage Railways gave an update on activities over the last 12 months including the opening of the Oswestry to Weston Wharf Line. They have established themselves as a significant tourist attraction in Oswestry and there is a lot more to come. Next phase – Weston through to Llynclys but this is not at costing stage yet.

Reports were **NOTED.**

## 9.23 Parish Matters / Open Forum - electors are invited to ask questions and raise matters

- Lack of play facilities for the young in Bryn Melyn
- Lack of benches in Bryn Melyn
- No signage that there are elderly people living in Bryn Melyn, no safe place to cross the road
- Long grass on verges
- Speed of traffic through Bryn Melyn

These issues were **NOTED** and will be discussed by the Parish Council.

## 10.23 Closing remarks by the Chairman

Residents were thanked for attending. Refreshments were served.

**The meeting was closed by the Chairman at: 19.44**