

LLANSILIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MEETING MINUTES

Time and Date: 7:30 PM 10 March 2026

Venue: Llansilin Memorial Hall, Llansilin

Attendees

- **Councillors:** Meirion Thomas (Chair), David Price (Vice-chair), Wendy Clough-Jones, Hywel Evans, Hywel Jones, Malcolm Jones, and Dennis Socket.
- **Clerk/RFO:** Chris Hooper.
- **Others:** Aled Davies (Powys County Councillor).
- **Apologies:** Huw Edwards.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and approved for Councillor Huw Edwards.

3. Declarations of Interest

- **Dennis Sockett** declared an interest in matters relating to St. Silins Church, as a member of the church committee.
- **Meirion Thomas** (Chair) declared an interest in matters relating to Mynydd Mawr Energy Park, as an affected landowner.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13 January 2026 and the extraordinary meeting held on 20 February 2026 were approved as true records (Proposed: David Price, Seconded: Hywel Evans).

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- **Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:** Sarah Hooper has established a group called Calon Cynllaith to explore future uses for the school buildings. The Council discussed a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) versus registering the playing fields as a Village Green. Aled Davies (AD) advised that a CAT to the Community Council, with Calon Cynllaith acting as a management committee, would be the most effective route. He cautioned against the Village Green route at this stage as it could compromise the CAT.
- **Mynydd Mawr Energy Park:** The Clerk is continuing to chase the developers for a scheduled in-person meeting. AD noted that while some wind farm projects have been approved elsewhere, the formal application for Mynydd Mawr has not yet been submitted. There is speculation that the developer, Galileo, may intend to sell the project once planning is secured.
- **Churchyard Projects:** The curtailment invoice has been settled. Project works are now rescheduled for September 2026 to avoid the bird breeding season. To ensure environmental compliance, a qualified professional will conduct an ecology survey as

soon as possible to mitigate potential impacts on bat populations. Additionally, the Council will assist the Church with the removal of low-lying vegetation over the summer to protect local small mammals. While the Council notes that this deferral has increased the overall project cost, it acknowledges the valuable lessons learned regarding community engagement and communication.

- **Footpath Volunteers:** Malcolm Jones reported that training has been provided PCC, and volunteers have received equipment and coats. The group is currently waiting for final confirmation from PCC regarding contracted works. There are between twelve and thirteen active or potential volunteers involved.
- **Treftadaeth Llansilin Heritage Project:** Wendy Clough-Jones reported that the website is live. Upcoming events include a Huw Morris walk and a concert on 2 May in the church. Suzanne Evans is handling the lottery fund application. The Chair, Christine Mansfield, has stepped down, and the position is currently vacant. MJ suggested that assisting with the vegetation clearance would help to improve access to the heritage value of the church.
- **Hand Inn:** AD is attempting to contact Jon Johns in Building Control regarding slipping slates below the chimney and piles of rubble at the roadside, but has received no response yet.
- **Llanrhaeadr Surgery:** The Council resolved to support the campaign against closure. The Clerk will publicise the Welsh Government petition on the Llansilin Voice Facebook page. A proposal to change the service has been submitted by the surgery, but the health board has not accepted the proposal, and it disputes some of the figures. A formal consultation by the Health Board would be required over the summer.

6. Financial Matters

- **Financial statements** for the period 13 January – 7 March 2026 were approved.
- The current **bank balance** is **£9,060**.
- The Clerk/RFO noted that the £2,000 overspend against budget in 2026-27 for the conifer removal could be mostly offset by using the £1,500 set aside for the churchyard stump grinding, which does not need to happen immediately following the conifer removal and could be postponed until next financial year. The remaining £500 could be taken from the Council's float of £2,000.
- **Precept 2026/27:** The final submission of **£13,600** to PCC was confirmed.
- **Public Conveniences:** The electricity supply has been moved to Octopus Energy to reduce costs, with monthly bills estimated at £50.

7. Planning Matters

No new planning applications or decisions were received.

8. Correspondence

- **16/01/26 Llanrhaeadr YM, Penybontfawr and Llangynog Community Councils:** requests for response from the Council regarding the Llanrhaeadr surgery closure. Addressed earlier in the meeting - please see minute above '**Llanrhaeadr Surgery**'. Additionally, CH to write a letter to the health board opposing the closure.

- **21/01/26 Footpath Group (Malc Jones):** Progress update - Richard Jones has been liaising with landowners to agree access for priority paths. It is hoped that work will commence once the weather improves.
- **21/01/26 LLanrhaeadr Community Council (Ann Klages):** LLanrhaeadr YM surgery closure - addressed earlier in the meeting - see minute above '**LLanrhaeadr Surgery**'.
- **29/01/26 Canolfan Rhiwlas:** The Clerk will write a letter supporting an amendment to their constitution regarding management committee representation to ensure it is fit for purpose for their new lease.
- **02/02/26 Powys Council Council (Corporate):** New collection dates (Friday for Llansilin, Wednesday for Rhiwlas/Moelfre) were noted. Councillors were encouraged to report any "quirks" in the new system.
- **04/02/26 LLanrhaeadr ym Mochnant Primary School (Sioned Morris):** LLanrhaeadr Primary School requested that a community governor be provided by Llansilin community. The Clerk will advertise the position on social media and approach individuals if necessary. A range of candidates were proposed.
- **21/02/26 Wrexham Council (Trevor Bates):** Concerns were raised regarding a lack of formal consultation of community councils by NRW on the national park proposal. The Clerk will investigate communications received and feed-back to Trevor.
- **03/03/26 Natural Resources Wales:** Publication of the 2025 statutory consultation report on the proposed national park. No action required. AD stated that a decision needs to be made in the next couple of weeks.
- **09/09/26 Calon Cynllaith (Sarah Hooper):** Request for information about the Council's proposed approach to the registration of public green space at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith (see minute above '**Ysgol Bro Cynllaith**').

9. Highways & Environmental Issues

- **Review of ongoing highways issues:** AD met with Matt Perry (Director of Place) to review local issues, including water on the road at Rossett/Moelfre and road subsidence at Llyn Moelfre. A schedule of works is expected, though AD noted that high sickness rates within the Montgomeryshire workforce are currently impacting progress.

10. Clerk's Report & Governance

Draft governance documents (Vision and Purpose, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations) will be published on the website. Formal adoption is scheduled for the AGM in May.

11. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the road on School Lane near Rob Evan's property.
- The requirement to advertise meetings was raised. Clerk is to ensure that all meetings are advertised on noticeboards for the memorial hall, church and the Facebook page.
- The Chair, Meirion Thomas, announced his intention to step down at the AGM.

12. Date of Next Meeting: The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **12 May 2026**.