

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BODFARI COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Held at The Dinorben Arms (Private Dining Room), Bodfari on the 11th of March 2025
and by TEAMS conferencing software:

Join Teams 7pm to 8pm by: Meeting link:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9330983989846?p=OAX7qlQkP979W6ABgC>

Join Teams 8pm to 9pm: Meeting link:-

<https://teams.live.com/join/9362654332717?p=P0mP8f0T2B5HulH4hp>

Present:

Cllr Philip Barley (Chair) (PB)
Cllr Julie Burnage (JB)
Cllr Martin Shutt (MS)
Cllr Rebecca Parrin (RP)
Cllr Nigel Bunton (NB)
Cllr Sue Davidson (SD)

Also present:

Heather Eubank (Clerk)
Cllr Chris Evans. (CE)

1. Apologies:

Cllr Julie Johnson (JJ)

PB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked MS (who leaves at the end of March 2025), for his many years of service as a BCC Councillor

2. Declaration of interests: None.

3. Urgent Matters: Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) of LGA 1972.

None.

4. To receive minutes of the meeting of 11th February 2025.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 11th February 2025 be approved as a true record.

Proposed: **SD** Seconded: **RP**.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

- i. **Phone Box.**
Waiting for decorator to quote on work required.
Actions:
Create a project of work to be circulated and discussed. (Action ?? RP??)
- ii. **Unity Bank Mandate to be signed by all HSBC**
Signed by the current HSBC signatories. All documentation is completed and ready to be posted to Unity Bank in the new financial period.
Actions:
Complete the transition of bank accounts from HSBC to Unity bank and issue Councillors Unity login details April 2025 – HE.
- iii. **Noticeboard(s)**
Ongoing.

Action:

Inspect Noticeboard for repairs needed – JB/JJ.

iv. **Storage/Archiving of BCC documentation.**

New BCC document to be completed by May 2025. Permanent archive storage needed.

Action:

Complete new Retention/Disposal Policy – HE/PB.

v. **Defibrillator Training Event (New Defibrillator).**

The Dinorben Arms hosted the defibrillator training on the 27th February. The event was attended by 13 people and all feedback was very positive. A further 17 people are expected to attend the next event on the 19th March from 1pm-3pm at the Salusbury Arms in Tremeirchion. An email was sent to the Dinorben Arms to thank them for hosting the event and supplying free tea and coffee.

Chris West (NHS Executive) who provided the training, inspected Ysgol Bodfari defibrillator and confirmed it is in good condition and should be viable for another 5 years. He also confirmed it contained the option to switch the defibrillator to child mode. Further training events are planned for 2026; these will be hosted in the Cym and Waen area but residents of Bodfari will be included in the advertising for attendees.

RP informed the Council that her and Stuart would be paying for, and installing a new defibrillator outside the Oriel Gallery in Bodfari. BCC agreed they would fund the replacement pads for this new machine as they do for the Ysgol Bodfari Defibrillator as they are vital equipment for Bodfari residents. Councillor Evans stated he would speak to DCC to see if there were any commuted sums available for this defibrillator installation.

6. County Councillor's Report.

Circulated prior to meeting (Appendix 1). The spend on the electric vehicle was highlighted by Councillor Evans, who questioned if the spend on this vehicle was essential and if that funding should have been used elsewhere.

7. Planning and Highways:

a. **Highways.** No roadworks planned for this area.

b. **Planning. Application: 41/2024/1589/PF Lleoliad / Location: Lodge Farm, Bodfari, Denbigh, Denbighshire, LL16 4DT Cynnig.**

Details of this application were received after the agenda was published so could not be discussed. HE emailed DCC to ask that they extend the 21-day window to respond until after BCC's next meeting on the 8th April 2025.

8. Finance

a. **Financial report.** Bank Balances 28th February 2025. Main Account £10545.25. Reserve Account £4598.62. There is £5,353.74 left to spend in the earmarked Community spend monies, which is included in the main account balance reported above.

Banks statements for both accounts sent to Councillors before the meeting.

b. **Cheque Payments.** - For approval and dual signatures for cheques.

i.	Clerks Salary February 2025	£266.21
ii.	HMRC Tax and NIC February 2025	£231.27
iii.	Charity donation Ysgol Bodfari	£200.00
iv.	Charity donation St Kentigern's Hospice	£200.00
v.	Harold Smith process for Re-Automatic Enrolment fee	£36.00
vi.	One Voice Wales 25-26 membership fee	£77.00
vii.	Clerk stationary expenses Dec 24 to Feb 25	£30.03

Invoice received after issue of agenda. None.

c. Other Payments.

- i. Bank Charges from the 6th Jan to the 5th Feb 2025 (debited by Bank) £7.40

d. Income. None.

e. Proposed Virements to the 2024-2025 Budget.

Move £1150 from Councillors allowances to Audit fees.

Move £300 from Councillors allowances to Insurance fees.

Move £50 from Councillors allowances to Community Capital funds.

Move £1000 from Grounds Maintenance to Community Capital Funds.

Move £100 from Room Hire to Community Capital funds.

Move £150 from Annual Report to Grounds Maintenance.

Move £115 from miscellaneous to Clerk Salary.

Move £110 from Website to Clerk Salary.

Move £5 from ICO License to Clerk Salary.

Move £20 from Stationary to Clerk Salary.

Copy of revised 24-25 budget circulated prior to meeting.

f. Clerk extra hours required Dec 24- Mar 25 for 25-26 budget setting, precept claim and Scribe training. 15 hours.

Document showing estimated payments due before March 31st 2025 and remaining available funds circulated to Councillors for information only.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Information, Virements and Clerks extra hours provided for February 2025 be approved.

Proposed: PB Seconded: MS.

9. Village Playground and Park

- i. **Park Inspections.** SD provided Park Inspections for February 2025.

ii. **Cementing furniture into ground.**

HE asked John Roberts to check which furniture needs securing. Councillors discussed the need to move furniture around the park when changes are made.

No action at this time.

iii. **The Play Company Repeat Inspection form.**

It was resolved that the repeat order form should be signed and returned to the Play Inspection Company. The charge will be £136 plus Vat for the inspection, which will be due in December 2025.

Action:

Sign the order form and email to The Play Inspection Company – HE.

iv. **Tree Work; decision on work to be completed.**

Briefing paper prepared by HE to summarise the advice and associated quotes from 3 arborists for work in the park. Each arborist's proposal was different. The briefing paper also advised what budget was available to spend. Councillors resolved to get a further quote from Aerial Arborists that is more comparable to the other 2 quotes received. It was also decided to check if the tree issues mentioned in the Play Inspection Report are included in the initial quotes.

Action:

Gain a further comparable quote from Aerial Arborists and ensure tree issues mentioned in park report are included – SD.

Ask Phil Lloyd and Cambrian if the tree issues mentioned in park report are included in their quotes and if not, send a revised quote – SD.

Send Park Report to SD – JB.

v. **New Fencing Recreation Ground.**

PB had studied the Recreation Ground deeds and noted the fencing on the road side of the Recreation Ground appears to be on BCC land. The fencing has been intentionally damaged to create an alternative entrance and exit to the Recreation Ground from the road that leads from the Dinorben Arms to the main road. This is dangerous, and all previously erected signs are damaged and being ignored. A permanent solution is needed. In addition, behind this fence there is a copse that is full of brambles, and another internal fence on the Recreation Ground that has also been damaged. BCC estimate that the cost to replace the external fencing on the road side would be approximately £48 per metre plus labour, with additional costs associated with clearing the copse and removing the internal fence, then installing new metal fencing. Clarification is needed as to whether responsibility for the replacement / repair of this fencing sits with BCC or DCC.

Action:

Approach DCC to report the damaged fencing – CE.

vi. **Date for Recreation Ground and review of 3-year budget.**

Action:

Decide a date - ALL.

10. Important Correspondence.

Extraneous fence erected on the Hannah Jane Smith Recreation Ground (BCC land). This is in the process of being moved back to the correct boundary line.

PB received correspondence from DCC Planning Department on the 17th January 2025 regarding planning application 41/2024/1034/PF. DCC had misunderstood his response to this correspondence so PB resolved to write to DCC planning again to clarify his position.

Action:

Point of clarification to DCC: PB

11. Fixed Asset Register.

Propose and Second Fixed Assets Register for 2024-2025 period.

Proposed as correct by: PB

Seconded by: SD

12. Wales New National Park Proposal.

Clerk for Llanfair DC Community Council emailed (see below)

"I've been asked to reach out to the various community and town councils within the bounds of the proposed new National Park, in the hopes of organising a meeting (most likely virtual) between council representatives.

The Llanfair DC Council has felt that the voices of locals are not being heard in the consultation on this project, and came to the idea that a joint response/enquiry from several councils would hopefully get more traction.

If you feel that your council(s) may be interested in a meeting to discuss the possibility, please do let me know at this address, even if it's just to say that the matter will be raised at a coming council meeting."

It was resolved that BCC would like to take part in a meeting to discuss this fully with other town and Community Councils.

Action:

Reply to email to confirm BCC's intention to attend the meeting - HE.

13. AOB.

CE donated a Hamper to be raffled by Ysgol Bodfari. The funds raised will be used to buy plants and flowers for planters in memory of his late mother, Janet Evans, who was a dinner lady at Ysgol Bodfari. Tickets are 50p each and can be bought at Ysgol Bodfari.

Next Meeting 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday the 8th of April 2025 at the Dinorben Arms (Private Dining Room), Bodfari

Appendix 1 – Councillor Chris Evan's Report.

Arddangosfa Crocws yn ei Blodau ym Mhlas Newydd

Mae gerddi hanesyddol Plas Newydd yn Llangollen wedi'u trawsnewid unwaith eto yn fôr porffor a gwyn syfrdanol, wrth i filoedd o grocysau flodeuo ar draws ei lawntydd.

Caiff ymwelwyr â'r safle darluniadwy brofi arddangosfa drawiadol o liw, sy'n nodi dyfodiad y gwanwyn yng nghanol Gogledd Cymru.

Mae'r crocws ymhlith y blodau cyntaf i flodeuo rhwng diwedd y gaeaf a dechrau'r gwanwyn, gan ymddangos yn aml mor gynnar â mis Chwefror.

Mae'r blodau egniol yn darparu ffynhonell hanfodol o neithdar a phaill ar gyfer gwenyn sy'n ymddangos yn gynnar a pheillwyr eraill.

Mae'r gerddi ym Mhlas Newydd yn enwog am eu lleoliad rhamantus a'u hanes cyfoethog, sy'n adnabyddus am eu cysylltiad gyda Ledis Llangollen. Bu i'r Fonesig Eleanor Butler a Miss Sarah Ponsonby ymgartrefu ar y safle ar ddiwedd y 18fed ganrif ac roeddent yn hoff o fyd natur a garddio.

Trawsnewidiodd y Ledis y safle yn dirwedd ramantus, llawn planhigion lliwgar, llwybrau troellog, rhaeadrau a nodweddion addurniadol, sy'n dal i gyfareddu ymwelwyr hyd heddiw. Mae arddangosfa fywiog y crocws yn deyrnged haeddiannol i'w cariad tuag at arddwriaeth, sy'n ychwanegu at harddwch y gerddi y buon nhw'n eu trin ar un adeg.

Maent yn eu blodau ar hyn o bryd a disgwylir iddynt fod ar eu hanterth am wythnos arall. Caiff ymwelwyr a ffotograffwyr eu hannog i wneud y mwyaf o'r uchafbwynt tymhorol trawiadol hwn, cyn iddynt ddiplannu am flwyddyn arall. Gellir ymweld yn ddyddiol â gerddi Plas Newydd yn Llangollen yn rhad ac am ddim, a bydd y giatiau'n cau wrth iddi nosi.

Meddai Jillian Howe, Swyddog Ymgysylltu â'r Gymuned Tirweddau Cenedlaethol: "Mae arddangosfa'r crocws ym Mhlas Newydd yn olygfa syfrdanol bob amser ac maent wedi blodeuo'n arbennig eleni. Mae'n wych gweld cymaint o ymwelwyr yn mwynhau'r gerddi, yn union fel yr arferai Ladis Llangollen. Dewch draw i fwynhau'r olygfa dymhorol syfrdanol hon, tra bod y blodau ar eu gorau!"

Meddai'r Cynghorydd Alan James, Aelod Arweiniol Datblygu Lleol a Chynllunio: "Mae Plas Newydd yn drysor hanesyddol yr ydym ni'n ffodus iawn o'i gael yma ar garreg ein drws yn Sir Ddinbych.

Mae'r eiddo hanesyddol yn gyfle i archwilio cyfoeth o hanes ac mae'n le gwych i bawb o bob oed ymweld ag o."

Crocus Display in Full Bloom at Plas Newydd

Llangollen's historic Plas Newydd has once again been transformed into a stunning sea of purple and white as thousands of crocuses burst into bloom across its lawns.

Visitors to the picturesque site are being treated to a spectacular display of colour, marking the arrival of spring in the heart of North Wales.

Crocuses are among the first flowers to bloom in late winter to early spring, often appearing as early as February.

The vibrant flowers provide a crucial source of nectar and pollen for early-emerging bees and other pollinators.

The gardens at Plas Newydd are renowned for their romantic setting and rich history, famously associated with the Ladies of Llangollen. Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby made the site their home in the late 18th century and were lovers of nature and gardening.

The Ladies transformed the grounds into a romantic landscape filled with exotic plants, winding paths, waterfalls and decorative features that still enchant visitors today. The vibrant crocus display is a fitting tribute to their love of horticulture, adding to the beauty of the gardens they once cultivated.

The flowers are currently in full bloom and are expected to be at their peak for a further week. Visitors and photographers are encouraged to take advantage of this spectacular seasonal highlight before they fade for another year. The grounds of Plas Newydd in Llangollen are free to visit daily with gates closing at dusk.

Jillian Howe, National Landscape Community Engagement Officer, said: "The crocus display at Plas Newydd is always a breath-taking sight and this year's bloom is truly exceptional. It's wonderful to see so many visitors enjoying the gardens, just as the Ladies of Llangollen once did. Come and experience this stunning seasonal spectacle whilst the blooms are at their best!"

Councillor Alan James, Lead Member for Local Development and Planning added: "Plas Newydd is a historic gem that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep here in Denbighshire. The historic property offers a unique exploration of a wealth of history and is a brilliant place to visit for all ages.

UK's first electric 4x4 coming to maintain Denbighshire landscapes

A UK home grown electric powered all-terrain vehicle is set to take to the hills of Denbighshire and the surrounding areas.

Denbighshire County Council's Fleet Department has secured a Munro Series M electric 4x4 vehicle to support the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscapes team.

The vehicle has been supported in part by gap funding from the Welsh Government's Energy Service.

Currently in production, the Scottish produced all-terrain vehicle will replace a fossil fuel powered pick-up truck that has come to the end of its fleet life. It will be based at Loggerheads Country Park.

Countryside rangers will use the Series M, the first series production vehicle to come from Scotland for more than 40 years, to support their daily role in managing the landscapes in their area.

The vehicle has been picked for tackling the terrain of the Clwydians and other hilly sites thanks to its thorough testing on all types of off-road situations and its ability to tackle gradients above 40 degrees.

Introducing the Munro is part of Denbighshire County Council's continued drive to reduce fleet carbon emissions, improve air quality and lower long-term maintenance and service costs by replacing end of life vehicles with proven EV equivalents.

Councillor Barry Mellor, Lead Member for Environment and Transport said: "The Council remains committed to tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency declared in 2019 and it's great to see a UK developed EV replacing the end of life 4x4 fossil fuel driven vehicle. This will provide a robust all terrain service for the rangers while providing greener and cleaner mileage at a lower fuel and general maintenance cost as well. A fitting vehicle to operate within our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

Russell Peterson, CEO & Co-Founder, Munro Vehicles said: "We're thrilled to partner with Denbighshire County Council as the first local authority in Wales to deploy the Munro Series-M. This marks a significant step toward sustainable, all-terrain capability for public services. Denbighshire's commitment to innovation and net-zero aligns perfectly with our mission to deliver rugged, reliable, and fully electric 4x4 solutions. We look forward to seeing the Series-M in action, proving that zero-emission vehicles can handle the toughest jobs."



Many Thanks
Cllr Chris Evans
Independent Group