

Trawsgoed Community Council

Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

The Local Government and Democracy Act 2021 (Wales) requires Community Councils to publish an annual report on the activities of the Community Council for the previous financial year.

Please see a summary of the discussions of Trawsgoed Community Council. Full details of the discussions and resolutions can be found within the minutes of the Community Council meetings found on the Web Site.

Councillors

There are 10 seats on Trawsgoed Community Council.

Councillor Paul Davies was Chair until 24th May 2021 when Councillor Peter Bonner was elected Chair at the Annual Meeting for the year 2021/22 where he was previously Vice Chair. Councillor John George elected Vice-Chairman for the year 2021/22.

Payments to Community Councillors

The recommendations of the Independent Panel for Wales Annual Report in respect of payments and allowances to Community Councillors were accepted. All the Trawsgoed Community Councillor subsequently decided to abstain from receiving the mandatory allowance of £150.00 for the year 2021/22.

Meetings

During the year nine meetings were held every six weeks, with the exception of August. Two face-to-face meetings were held and the remainder virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. Each meeting is a public meeting where members of the Community are welcome to attend or make presentations.

There were no Special Meetings and the Community Council does not operate Sub-Committees.

Representatives attended a Virtual Meeting with Senior Officers and the Leader of Ceredigion County Council.

Financial Situation and Accounts

Precept (the amount requested from Ceredigion County Council to implement the Community Council's budget which in turn is funded by taxpayers through Council Tax).

The Community Council operates on a budget of £4,500 annually but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic it was felt that there was adequate contingency funding with the Community Council so that the Precept requirement could be reduced to £3,000 during 2021/22 to reduce financial requirements on taxpayers within the Trawsgoed Community Council Area.

Financial Situation

Balance 31 st March 2021	£5,093.40
Receipts:	£3,000.40
Payments:	£4,475.09
Balance as at 31 st March 2022	£3,618.71

Within the above payment figure £1,762.00 of financial donations were distributed under the terms of Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Expenditure of the Limit for 2021-22 to nine local Associations and Charities including a donation for a seat in the Village of Cnwch Coch.

Accounts

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, Regulation 14 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (the 2014 Regulations) requires local government bodies in Wales to prepare their accounts each year up to 31 March, this includes Town and Community Councils.

An Internal Auditor is required to audit the accounts and relevant documents before the Community Council approves them. The last Internal Audit of the 2020/21 accounts took place during June 2021, received by the Community Council on the 28th June 2021 before forwarding to the External Auditor, Audit Wales.

Following audit by Audit Wales a Qualified judgement was received on the 2020/21 accounts stating that although the accounts figures were in order a qualified award was given because the Governance Statement was not complete as no employment agreement was submitted to the Clerk.

Matters brought to the attention of Ceredigion County Council

Trawsgoed Community Councillors work diligently for the Llanafan and Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn wards and work closely with Ceredigion County Council and County Councillor Meirion Davies to ensure that effective services are provided by the County Council for local residents. The following are issues highlighted to Ceredigion County Council during the year 2021/22 for action.

- Road problems from potholes to flooding, trees and hedges needing to be cut back which are dangerous or impairs visibility.
- White lines were requested to be repainted and a road cleaner to visit the villages and resurface some of the small roads within the area.
- Occasional problems were noted with recycling, food waste and household waste collections.
- Hazards were reported on public footpaths, with Ceredigion County Council Officers dealing with the hazards either to resolve them immediately or by putting temporary measurements in place.
- The Smell of Sewerage was found to continue occasionally within the Village of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn with County Council Officers monitoring the situation.
- Dyfed Powys Police were contacted bringing attention to vehicles travelling quickly through the villages of the area late at night.
- BT and the Member of Parliament were contacted objecting to the proposal of landlines being transferred to Digital Phones without ensuring that there was a mobile phone signal in the area in the event of a problem with the wifi provision.

Presentations

A Poppy Wreath was placed on the War Memorial at Llanafan on behalf of Trawsgoed Community Council during a Service on Remembrance Sunday.

Public Footpaths and Common Land

Tenders are invited annually for cutting the growth on the common land in Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn from April to the end of September and also trimming along certain public paths in Llanafan until the end of July.

Planning Applications

Five Planning Applications were discussed during the year following a consultative request from Ceredigion County Council seeking the Community Council's opinion on applications. It is noted that it is the County Council and not Community Councils that make decisions on planning applications.

It was decided that the Community Council had no objection on three of the applications and comments/objections were sent on the other two applications.