

Cyngor Cymuned Llanddewi Brefi Community Council

Annual report 2023-2024

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Introduction

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Section 52, requires Community Councils in Wales, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report about the Council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.

Chair of the Council 2024

Cllr Bethan Griffiths.

Organisation of the Council

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council consists of ten Councillor members and employs a part-time Clerk as Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Community Council is the Burial Authority with responsibility for Llanddewi Brefi Cemetery, and also employs a part-time Burial Clerk, and Village Hall cleaner.

The Community Council is also Sole Trustee of the Llanddewi Brefi Village Hall and Recreation Ground charity. The activities of the charity are distinct from the responsibilities of the Community Council, but all Councillors are members of the Committee of Management, which holds separate meetings and submits reports to ordinary Council meetings.

The Council can be contacted by email to clerk@llanddewibrefi.org

Councillors

The following members were elected uncontested at the Local Elections 2022:

Eirwen James, Caryl Jones, Rhodri Evans (Local Ward member of the County Council, and Vice-Chair 2024-2025), Emmanuel Kincaid, Dafydd Lloyd Jones (Chair 2024-2025), Beth Griffiths (Chair 2023-2024), John Lloyd Griffiths, Lynet Pugh, and Enfys Hatcher Davies.

Councillors Lynet Pugh, and Enfys Hatcher Davies resigned with effect from May 2023, and Councillors Angela Evans and Gareth Jones were elected in a [by-election](#) held to fill the casual vacancies in July 2023.

Contact details for all members are published on the Council's website at <https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/community-council/council-members/>

Meetings of the Council

Ordinary Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every month, with the exception of August.

Agendas and minutes were issued electronically by email and published on the Council's website. Hybrid Meetings were held throughout the year, with provision for remote

attendance by Councillors and members of the public in accordance with chapter 4 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Ten ordinary meetings were held during the year to 31/03/2024, in addition to the Annual Meeting in May.

The following extraordinary meetings were also held:

- 22/01/2024 – To approve a revised budget for 2024-2025, following the late receipt of by-election costs from Ceredigion County Council.
- 19/10/2023 – To receive a presentation by Galileo Energy regarding the Bryn Cadwgan Wind farm proposal.
- 27/06/2023 – To consider the agenda of the ordinary meeting scheduled for 12/06/2023, cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, and to receive a presentation by Belltown Power regarding the Waun Maenllwyd Wind farm proposal.

Declaration of member’s interests and attendance at meetings is noted in the following table, which includes links to agendas and minutes published on the Council’s website at Llanddewibrefi.org:

Meetings of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council 01/04/2023-31/03/2024													
Agenda	Minutes	Attendance											
		Caryl Jones	Beth Griffiths, (Chair)	Rhodri Evan	Emmanuel Kincaid	Dafydd Lloyd Jones, (Vice-Chair)	John Lloyd Griffiths	Eirwen James	Lynet Pugh (to 05/2023)	Enfys Hatcher Davies (to 05/2023)	Angela Evans (from 09/2023)	Gareth Jones (from 09/2023)	Pat Parry
Agenda – 11/03/2024	Minutes – 11/04/2024	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P	P
Agenda – 12/02/2024	Minutes – 12/02/2024	A	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P	A
Agenda – 22/01/2024	Minutes – 22/01/2024	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P
Agenda – 08/01/2024	Minutes – 08/01/2024	A	P	P	A	P	P	P			P	A	P
Agenda – 11/12/2023	Minutes – 11/12/2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P
Agenda – 13/11/2023	Minutes – 13/11/2023	A	A	A	P	P	P	P			P	P	P
					D								

Meetings of Llanddewi Brefi Community Council 01/04/2023-31/03/2024													
Agenda	Minutes	Attendance											
		Caryl Jones	Beth Griffiths, (Chair)	Rhodri Evan	Emmanuel Kincaid	Dafydd Lloyd Jones, (Vice-Chair)	John Lloyd Griffiths	Eirwen James	Lynet Pugh (to 05/2023)	Enfys Hatcher Davies (to 05/2023)	Angela Evans (from 09/2023)	Gareth Jones (from 09/2023)	Pat Parry
Agenda – 19/10/2023	Minutes – 19/10/2023	A	P	A	P	A	A	P			A	P	A
Agenda – 09/10/2023	Minutes – 09/10/2023	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			P	P	P
Agenda – 11/09/2023	Minutes – 11/09/2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P
Agenda – 10/07/2023	Minutes – 10/07/2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					P
Agenda – 27/06/2022	Minutes – 27/06/2023	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					P
Agenda – 12/06/2023	Postponed												
Agenda – 06/06/2023	Minutes – 06/06/2023	P	P	P	P	P	A	P					A
Agenda – 15/05/2023	Minutes – 15/05/2023	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					P
Agenda – Annual Meeting 15/05/2023	Minutes – Annual Meeting - 15/05/2023	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					P
Agenda – 11/04/2023	Minutes – 11/04/2023	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	A			P
	Present (P)	11	13	11	14	13	10	15	1	0	8	7	12
	Apologies (A)	4	2	4	1	2	5	0	0	1	1	1	3
	Declaration of Interest (D)	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Payments to members

Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, community and town councils are relevant authorities for the purpose of remuneration.

Consequently, individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community or town council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW).

In the IRPW report dated February 2021, Determination 42 required that all community and town councils must make available a mandatory annual payment to each of their members as a contribution to costs and expenses.

In accordance with Determination 4 of the IRPW annual report published in February 2023, all members gave notice that they did not wish to receive the mandatory basic payment of £156 to members of the Community Council for the financial year 2023/2024.

In addition to the Chairman's allowance of £50, the only other payments to members in relation the year to 31/03/2024 were reimbursements for items or services purchased on behalf of, and authorised by the Council, and recorded in the minutes.

Governance

The Council received an unqualified audit opinion for 2022-2023 from Audit Wales on 01/11/2023, with no further recommendations for improvement.

An unqualified audit opinion means that:

On the basis of the audit, in the auditor's opinion no matters have come to their attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in the Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The full [audit report](#), and the [Notice of conclusion of audit](#) and right to inspect the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2023 were published on the Council's website on 02/11/2023.

The following reviews are carried out during the year:

- Risk assessment
- Asset register
- Internal Auditor's terms of engagement and appointment

Budget reviews were also carried out throughout the year and formed the basis of setting the precept of £14,400 for 2024-25. The most significant factor in the increased demand for the current year was the higher than expected cost of the by-election held in July 2023.

Activities

Members have maintained and updated the Community Website throughout the year, and the Council has maintained and checked the Public Access Defibrillator situated on the square.

The Council tendered for the grass cutting service for 2024-2026 in December 2023, and maintained the grassed areas of the cemetery and churchyard, in addition to the playing fields and playground areas.

The [Remembrance Day Service](#) was held on 12/11/2023 at the War Memorial in the cemetery, led by the Chair of the Council and Parch. Carwyn Arthur. Local organisations and residents placed wreaths at the memorial.

The Council placed a Christmas Tree and lights on the square, kindly donated by Richard Elliot, and organised a Christmas lights competition, with a prize hamper donated by members.

A Santa visit and grotto was also arranged at the village hall, with mince pies and mulled wine served by The New Inn, and the Santa Sleigh being kindly loaned by Cyngor Tref Tregaron.

The usual annual donation was made to the Royal British Legion, and Community grants and donations were awarded by the Council to the following local organisations using powers under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- Young Farmers Club – Bonfire night fireworks
- Gogerddan Hunt

Consultations

Wind Energy

The Council engaged in consultations relating to proposed [Wind Energy proposals](#) within and in close proximity to the community, at [Waun Maenllwyd](#) and [Bryn Cadwgan Energy Park](#), and is involved in ongoing consultations regarding development of these schemes and potential community benefit.

Information regarding both proposals has been made available on the community website, and this is periodically reviewed and updated:

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/wind-energy-proposals/>

Planning

The Council responded to statutory consultations regarding ten local [planning applications](#) during the last year, and provides links to planning information on its website:

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/community-council/planning-applications/>

Ceredigion Community Review 2023

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBC) is currently carrying out a review of Community Council areas in Ceredigion on behalf of the County Council.

Llanddewi Brefi Community Council submitted its response to LDBC's initial consultation in July 2023.

Draft proposals by the LDBC for amalgamating community councils were received in March 2023, and the Community Council prepared a presentation for a public meeting, held in April 2024, to explain the issues and implications for local services, and to raise awareness of the consultation and decision process.

Details of the presentation, consultation documents, draft proposals, and the Community Council's initial response are published on the community website:

<https://www.llanddewibrefi.org/notices/ceredigion-community-review-2023/>

Achievements

Village hall and Recreation Ground

As Sole Trustee of the Village Hall charity, a committee of the Council secured grant funding of up to £40k for energy efficient improvements through the Boosting Energy Efficiency in Ceredigion's Community Buildings (BEECCB) programme, replacing lighting and improving insulation to the Hall. The works are to be completed by December 2024.

An application for a National Lottery Community Fund Grant by the Hall management committee for community projects and activities during the King's Coronation year was awarded £9,950. Activities were developed in collaboration with user groups, and a yearlong programme of events engaged the whole community and regenerated interest in

the village hall and recreation ground as a community hub and focal point for social interaction.

The Community Council applied for funding from Cymru Football Foundation, to improve the changing facilities at the hall and provide additional equipment storage. [Planning permission](#) for the storage building proposed as part of this application was granted in May 2024.

Members also organised Community Volunteers to help clean and tidy the community centre grounds.

Youth club

A pilot scheme to provide access to an informal youth social space at the Community Centre attracted new users and re-engaged young people, as part of the Cynnal Llanddewi Brefi project, supported by the Cynnal y Cardi LEADER grant scheme in 2022.

The Youth 'Drop-in' sessions ran twice a week from August to the end of October 2022, with up to 18 regularly attending. A survey questionnaire completed by all attendees indicated a high level of satisfaction with the facilities, session times, and volunteer supervisors, and the Community Council resolved to continue provision and review the project in June 2023.

As a result of feedback provided through consultation with volunteers, attendees, and parents, it was agreed to change the age range and provide more structured sessions with activities as a youth club for children aged 9–13, with sessions run on a monthly basis during term-time.

Wildlife garden

A Woodland trust grant was awarded in 2022 to develop a wildlife garden and plant trees as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The plan developed as part of the Cynnal Llanddewi project has now been implemented, with paths and planting completed with the assistance of Spooner Landscapes and the Llanddewi Brefi Nature Reserve group. Further work on this project is ongoing and supported by the Council's [Biodiversity plan](#), with a commemorative bench ready to be installed to mark the Coronation in 2023.

Council's Priorities for 2024-2025

The draft proposals by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LDBC) for reorganising Community Councils in Ceredigion will have significant implications for the governance, organisation, and funding of Llanddewi Brefi Village Hall and Recreation Grounds. The Community Council is currently Sole Trustee for the charity, and will need to seek professional advice and consider whether alternative governance structures may be more appropriate in the event that the draft proposals in their current form are to be implemented with effect from the next local council elections in 2027.