**ANNUAL REPORT**

**DYFFRYN ARDUDWY &TALYBONT**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**2023/2024**

**A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN – CLLR. STEFFAN CHAMBERS**

It is a pleasure to present Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Community Council's second annual report which records the work that has been undertaken in 2023/24 and how we are working with the community to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of both villages to make them an even better place to live and visit. The vision is to “ensure that Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont continue to be a pleasant and welcoming place for people of all ages to live because they will feel safe, have opportunities to be physically and mentally healthy and to socialise and work in a quality environment. It will also be a place that welcomes visitors and lives with them easily.” The report aims to give a taste of the work of the Community Council during the year and how the Council promotes life for residents of all ages, business owners, societies and visitors to the villages. We acknowledge that this is a challenging environment for everyone and we are committed to work together with the community to achieve the vision. Although there are plenty of challenges for us as a Community Council, we have managed to carry out a number of exciting projects. It is a privilege to be Chairman of the Community Council.

**Membership**

**Llanenddwyn Ward Llanddwywe Ward**

Cllr. Steffan Chambers (Chairman) Cllr. Beth Bailey

Cllr. Sian Edwards Cllr. Edward Griffiths

Cllr. John Ceri Evans Cllr. William Hooban

Cllr. Evan Owen Cllr. Denise Stone

Cllr. Nia Rees (Vice Chairman) Cllr. Sion Ifor Williams

Cllr. Edward Williams

Cllr. Jennifer Yuill

**Staff**

The Council has one member of staff, Annwen Hughes, who is the Clerk and Finance Officer. She works part-time. The Clerk may be contacted by e-mail annwen@btconnect.com, letter to Crafnant, Llanbedr, Gwynedd LL45 2PH or phone 01341241613/07919582741.

**Meetings**

Normal meetings of the Council are held monthly except for August at the village hall, Dyffryn Ardudwy on the first Tuesday of every month.

**Website**

Information about the Community Council including the agenda for meetings, policies and news is available on the Community Council’s website: [www.cyngordyffryntalybont.co.uk](http://www.cyngordyffryntalybont.co.uk)

**EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP**

The Community Council is a member of One Voice Wales, which is the main representative body for Community and Town councils in Wales. The Community Council elects Members to other external bodies, namely, Elin Humphreys Committee, village hall Committee, and the Governing Body of Dyffryn Ardudwy Primary School.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Community Council has adopted a Member’s Code of Conduct and a register of interests is kept for each member. Each Councillor has to declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of each meeting and these are noted in the minutes. The Community Council is audited by internal and external auditors annually. The internal audit is undertaken by the Audit Department of Gwynedd Council and the External Audit by the Wales Audit Office.

**FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE**

The Community Council sets a budget annually and monitors expenditure against budget throughout the financial year by receiving a regular report from the Clerk. The main source of income for the Community Council is the precept which is set annually and presented to Gwynedd Council in January for the following financial year. The precept is collected on behalf of the Community Council by Gwynedd Council and is the only source of tax revenue available to Town and Community Councils. The process of deciding on the level of precept includes the preparation of a draft budget on the basis of the financial situation of the Community Council by considering the likely costs, plans for projects, setting an amount for contributions - within the guidelines published annually - and any other financial matters. Consideration is also given to the reserves held by the Community

Council to ensure an appropriate precept is set. The level of precept was kept at £50,000 for 2023/24.

Income & Expenditure 2023/24

Income Expenditure

£ £

Bank Interest 449.53

Precept 50,000.00 Cemetery Income 5,623.72

Mantell Gwynedd SPF Grant 26,060.00

Gwynedd Council SPF Grant 25,720.13

Reimbursement Footpaths Cutting 931.75

V.A.T Reimbursement 6,406.75

Cut Grass on Footpaths 2,115.00

Cut grass in both play parks 1,890.00

Cut grass in all cemeteries 2,735.00

Cemetery Expenses 1,865.00

Cut grass in various locations 1,373.00

Cut grass in football field 1,260.00

Upkeep of flower pots in Talybont 391.90

Eradicate Japanese Knotweed 120.00

Toilet Partnership 4,000.00

Clerk’s Wages 2,956.80

Clerk’s Costs 1,455.75

Tax on Clerk’s Wages 722.40

P.A.Y.E on line 216.00

Translator 1,508.35

Hire of Meeting Room 735.00

Internal Audit 2022/23 282.00

External Audit 2018/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 & 22/23 2,315.00

Printing Leaflets 335.00

Community Survey 3,240.00

Architect’s Fees 310.00

Repair Play Equipment 400.32

Inspection of Play Equipment 162.00

New Play Equipment 38,070.00 Development of Car Park (First Payment) 30,864.16

Donations 3,500.00

Donation to Village Hall 6,000.00

Donation to Wales Air Ambulance 500.00

Donation to Snooker Club 500.00

Donation to HAL 11,063.76

Council’s Insurance 1,954.27

One Voice Wales Membership 334.00

Christmas Tree 264.00

Christmas Lights 2,870.40

Microsoft Teams Licence 94.80

New Pads for Defib 141.60

Various 707.39

Bank Costs 113.00

£115,191.88 £127,365.90

**BUDGET**

The Council's precept is £50,000 and is earmarked as follows:-

Donates £4,000 to Gwynedd Council to keep the public toilets in Talybont open all year round.

Also has donated £11,063.76 in this financial year to Harlech and Ardudwy Leisure (HAL) to keep the swimming pool open. The Council has decided not to carry on contributing to Harlech and Ardudwy Leisure from the next financial year onwards.

The Council also pays a translator to attend Council meetings every month, and has spent £1,508.35 during this financial year.

The Council spends a substantial sum to cut the grass in the cemeteries of Llanddwywe and Llanenddwyn together with the public cemetery and this work is carried out every two weeks during April to October. Also spending a significant amount to cut the grass in the play park in Pentre Uchaf and also the grass in the old play park at the moment until the work of developing the car park starts and this is done every two weeks, also the grass around various places is being cut every two weeks and the grass at Morlo Park and Penybont Garden and the grass on various public footpaths are cut at least twice a year and also the local football field near Pentre Uchaf is cut every two weeks. The cost of all this work in this financial year was £9,418

The Council donates to various organisations in the area annually at their monthly meetings in October and March and have contributed £1,500 to Ysgol Feithrin y Gromlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy, £1,500 to the Dyffryn Ardudwy Primary School, contributed £500 to the Welsh Air Ambulance, £500 to Meirionnydd YFC and £500 to the Snooker Club. The Council contributes £6,000 annually to the Village Hall Committee due to the Community Council been Trustees of this organisation. This contribution is included in the Council's precept, as is the £500 contribution to the Welsh Air Ambulance.

The Council annually orders a christmas tree to be placed near the toilets in Talybont and this year a christmas tree was ordered to be placed near Huws Gray in the village and also christmas lights were purchased to be placed around the street lamps in the village of Dyffryn Ardudwy. This will be extended during the next financial year as the Council have agreed to purchase more christmas lights to place around the lamp posts and also place some in the Talybont village.

During the year the Council has carried out improvements to Pentre Uchaf play park by adding to the existing play equipment by receiving a grant of £26,060 from the Common Prosperity Fund 2023 - Mantell Gwynedd Voluntary Sector Fund. The Council is also pushing ahead to develop the old play park near the post Office into a car park due to a shortage of parking spaces in the village and has been successful to receive a grant of £66,094. Common Prosperity Fund 2023 - Gwynedd SPF Regeneration Fund. The work of developing the car park is nearly completed.

**Council work and responsibilities**

**Property management**

1 play park namely Pentre Uchaf

The Public Cemetery

The Public Footpaths

Penybont Garden

Morlo Park

Bus shelters in the area

Public Seats

Arrange the Remembrance Day Service

**Administration**

Gwynedd Council appointed as Internal Auditors 2022/23

Allowances – review no change, no payments

Council website

Keep a risk assessment.

Keeping a record of interest