

## CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Present** – Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Arlene Jones, Auriol Graham, Susan Pyart, Selwyn Fyfield, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Ann Watkins County Councillor David Thomas.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Alun Thomas, Huw Williams, Clare Parker (Key worker). A late apology was also received from PCSO Mahmood Rahimi.
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None submitted.
3. **Police Matters** – PCSO Rahimi had forwarded late apologies. The Council raised the following issues to be forwarded to the Police  
To request an update on the number of visitors continuing to travel into the area against Covid 19 restrictions and the number of prosecutions;  
Large gatherings of mountain bikers around the Caehopkin area;  
Speeding on the A4067 from Ynyswen to Craig y Nos.  
Road traffic accidents involving straying livestock.
4. **Finance**
  - a) **Income/Expenditure Report December 2020** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - b) **Budget Report December 2020** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - c) **To approve the Payment Register** – The January payment register was approved. Copy included as appendix to the minutes.
5. **To confirm and approve the Budget for 2021/2022** – The third draft of the budget had been circulated. The Council approved the Budget for the 2021/2022 financial year. Copy appendix to the minutes.
6. **To make the Precept** – The Council considered the year end forecast circulated together with the approved budget. The Council agreed to request a precept of £25,000.00 a reduction on the previous year.
7. **To make Donations** – The Council considered the list of requests for donations and agreed to make the following donations. (Appendix to Minutes)
8. **Planning – The Meadows, Cefnbyrle Erection of Porch and Extension** – The Council considered the proposal and agreed to submit the following comment. The Council agreed in principle with the proposal provided the integrity of the sewage pipe is not compromised.  
**Strategic Development** – The Council received and approved the information circulated by the Clerk following the virtual presentation by the Welsh Government.
9. **Footpath/Playgrounds** – The following issues were raised.  
**New Gate FP 42 Craig y Nos** – A message of thanks to be sent to Steffan Edwards of BBNP for the work installing the new gate.  
**FP 42** – The BBNP to be requested to inspect the integrity of the FP that farm waste is not leeching into the FP.  
**Bog Path** – The Council asked if there was an update on the proposed repair work on the path. The Clerk will make some enquiries.
10. **Correspondence**  
**Section 137** – The Welsh Government have notified the appropriate sum for the purposes of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 for Community and Town Councils for 2021/22 is £8.41.

**Internal Audit Fees** – The Council agreed to a request from Lyn Llewellyn to increase the annual fees by 20% to recognise the additional work required by Audit Wales.

**Audit Wales Schedule** – Audit Wales have issued the audit schedule for the 2020/21 Audits.

**Waterfall Country** – The Council received a written update (circulated) from Councillor Arlene Jones. The key points included the impact of Covid 19 on the National Trust where organisational changes were being implemented. The Community was losing some valuable local contacts within NR who were familiar faces in and around Coelbren. There were changes in the Senior Management of the BBNP. The update included information on the Geopark, the new displays installed at the Country Park with additional displays to be installed when convenient all highlighting the local history and geology.

The Waterfall Country project had received the conclusions to the consultations by Severn Wye. The recommendation was to set up an area wide community organisation which could be involved in shaping and delivery of infrastructure projects and service delivery. Both projects have been disrupted by Covid 19.

**11. County Council Report** – County Councillor David Thomas reported as follows;

The County Council continued to work in a business critical mode with emphasis on continuity of critical issues around Covid 19 regulations and support measures.

The Test Track and Trace performance in Powys was exceptional with a 99% success rate in tracing suspected contacts. The vaccine roll out in Powys was proceeding well with vaccination of over 80's almost completed. The PTHB website included several forms for completion on-line if appointments could not be made or if transport difficulties required a local appointment.

The County Council budget situation could show a slightly better outcome over previous years with an improved settlement in the revenue support grant from the WG. The underlying budget position remained a concern and further reductions in service delivery was under consideration. A feasibility study was under consideration to move to a 4 week refuse collection.

The recent heavy rains had caused serious flooding in Ynyswen. A landslip had caused a culvert to fail and the storm drains had been overwhelmed. The highways team were investigating the landslip area and possible repair.

In response to a question he would report the fly-tipping at Tynycoed car park.

**12. Vacancies Coelbren and Penycae Ward** – No formal expression of interest received.

**13. Minutes** – The minutes of the previous Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2020 were approved.

**14. Matters Arising – Council Laptop** – Maintenance of the Council laptop has been deferred due to the current lockdown.

**15. Any Urgent Matters** – No matters raised.

**16. Date of Next Meeting – THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021.**