

## CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Remote Council meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

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

**In attendance –** PCSO Mahmood Rahimi

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Clare Parker (Key worker) Carol Williams (unable to join).
2. **Declaration of Interest –** The Chairman and Councillor Selwyn Williams declared on agenda item 7 planning.
3. **Police Matters –** PCSO Rahimi updated the Council on visitors travelling into the area, contravening lockdown restrictions and outlined the Police approach. Any local concerns should be reported using the 101 number with a vehicle number plate.  
There are no reports of road traffic accidents involving straying livestock. In the event, the Police will take appropriate action with the owner of the livestock.  
The Go-Safe van had recorded 4 captures, exceeding the speed limit, over a 6 month period to December 2020. He noted local frustration that traffic speeds increased when the van was not present.  
He raised awareness for increased vigilance in villages for strange transit sized vans visiting local areas and trespassing on private property. Any sighting or concern should be reported using the 101 number with number plate information where possible.  
The Council thanked PCSO Rahimi for his attendance.
4. **Finance**
  - a) **Income/Expenditure –** The report to the end of January had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. In response to a question a full explanation was provided on donations previously and currently provided to local halls. The report was approved.
  - b) **Budget Update –** The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The report was approved.
  - c) **February Payment Register –** The February payment register was approved (See appendix to Minutes)
5. **Code of Conduct Draft Guidance –** The draft guidance was discussed with several questions raised. The Council had no further comments to make on the draft guidance.
6. **Climate Emergency –** The Council opened a discussion on declaring a climate emergency. The Council agreed to defer further discussion pending consideration of an action plan.
7. **Planning – Blossom Cottage, Penycae –** The Chairman and Councillor Selwyn Fyfield left the meeting for this item. Councillor Susan Pyart took the Chair. The Council discussed the proposal in detail. Following discussion the Council agreed to comment as follows;  
The Council agrees in principle with the proposal; However, the Council deeply regrets the change of design affecting the character of an old property in the village;  
Councillor Stephen Davies returned to the Chair.
8. **Footpaths/Playgrounds**
  - Bog Path Coelbren –** The Clerk was asked to request an update from the Right of Way Officer at PCC.
  - FP 42 Craig y Nos –** The Chairman had inspected the FP recently, following issues raised at the last meeting. Concerns remained and the Clerk was asked to follow up on previous

correspondence with BBNP. The Chairman would also highlight to BBNP issues noted during his visit, including photographs of the FP.

**Playgrounds** – The actions arising from the recent RoSPA inspections, listed below, were discussed.

#### **Caehopkin**

**Carousel Super Nova** - Repair to surface required as grass matting does not cover the full surface area;

#### **3 Bay Swing** -

Chain wear to be monitored;

Further trip points identified with hard kerb edge 3m from centre of swing within fall space

**Goal Posts** - Treat corrosion and repair - This work identified as project with Probation service.

#### **Cefnbyrle**

**Slide** - All recommendations will be eradicated with installation of new equipment. Further advised the work was scheduled to commence on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The grant funding had been received.

#### **Penycae**

**Basket Swing Single Point** - Universal joint should be dismantled and inspected on a regular basis according to manufacturer's instructions;

The Council agreed to arrange on-site inspections with Matthew Thomas and local members when lockdown restrictions had been lifted to formulate action plans.

The Council is to establish if PAT can meet the costs of regular equipment maintenance inspections required to comply with the RoSPA recommendations.

9. **Correspondence** – The following correspondence was presented

**Grant for Carers** – Revised banking details had been provided.

**Review of Remuneration Framework** – The IRPW inviting expressions of interest from councils to participate in the process. Noted.

**Community Broadband** – The PCC community broadband officer has provided an update on the planned fibre roll out from Penycae to a southern point near Cray reservoir. Roll out work has already started. Further advice and assistance is available.

10. **County Council Report** – County Councillor submitted a brief report by advising the County Council remained working in a business critical mode due to the lockdown
- He had raised the concerns of fly tipping near Tynycoed Chapel. The land in question is private land. The area will be monitored and further enforcement notices will be issued.
- The serious flooding at 11 properties at Ynyswen was being followed up. Earthworks on the breach of the waterway had been completed. Water was now flowing in its natural course.
- Smoking in children's playgrounds will be banned from the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2021. The Community Council playground signs already included the No Smoking logo.
- Discussion on the draft County Council budget continued. The draft budget proposed by the Cabinet had been challenged. A grouping of councillors have now prepared an amended draft budget proposal for consideration and included a reduction to the proposed council tax increase. Further discussions were continuing.
- Nant Helen – In response to a question he advised a site update report had been issued to members of the site liaison committee. Coal recovery would end shortly. Site restoration work was also proceeding.

The Council thanked County Councillor Thomas for the update.

11. **Vacancies** – No expressions of interest have been received.

12. **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, were signed as a true record.

**13. Matters Arising** – No matters raised.

**14. Any Urgent Business** – A question was raised of debris on Camnant Road and the Forestry Road toward Bach y Gwreiddyn following ditching work. County Councillor David Thomas will raise a query, however it is unlikely that highways have worked in the area.

**Trusteeship** – Councillor Arlene Jones advised she was a trustee of a new body named Waterfall Country Cymru Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The body was applying for charitable status. The Council's register of member interest will be updated.

**15. Date of Next Meeting** – **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**