

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAW E UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2021

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Arlene Jones, Auriol Graham, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Selwyn Fyfield, Ann Watkins

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Alun Thomas, Claire Parker (Key Worker) Carol Williams (unable to connect)
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None submitted
3. **Police Matters** – The Police were unable to attend.
101 Contact Number – Sgt Bassett had replied to concerns raised by a Councillor who had received a conflicting message when reporting a matter using the 101 number. The complaint will be looked at and a further update will be provided.
A request to be made for the Police to monitor vehicle parking on Heol Eglwys, Coelbren.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the activity. The grant from PCC had been received. The Council approved the report.
 - b) **Budget Report** – The budget report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - c) **March Payment Register** – The March payment register had been circulated. The Clerk advised the preferred payment method to the Information Commissioner was via Credit Card. The Clerk would have to pay and reclaim the cost. The Clerk has e mailed the Commissioner's office to request if payment could be made by Bacs. Currently awaiting a response. The March payment register was approved.
5. **IRPW Draft Report** – The Council considered the draft report and concluded there were no comments to make.
6. **Planning – Change of Use Ty Alban Coelbren** – The Council considered the application for a change of use of Ty Alban from domestic C3 to residential care home C2. The Council expressed concern that the supporting information was inadequate and submitted the following comments;

There is insufficient detailed information on the type of Residential Care Home proposed to make an informed comment on the application. The Council feels that more information is required and respectfully ask if further detailed information can be provided to make informed comments.

The Council feels the following points are also extremely relevant additional concerns;

There are existing established care home facilities in the village on two sites;

Is there adequate off road parking available on the property for staff, deliveries and collections;

The access into the property is limited for deliveries to and collection of commercial waste from the property;

The access road into and out of the village is very congested due to parked vehicles on Heol Eglwys;

The village has a major tourist attraction – The Henrhyd Waterfall – during the summer months the village is gridlocked with an increase in vehicle movements and visitor vehicles parked in the village;

The sewage system serving the village is at capacity and problems do occur from time to time;

7. Footpath/Playgrounds

Bog Path Coelbren – The ROW Officer at PCC has advised materials to undertake repairs of the FP had been delivered and work should commence shortly. It was noted work had already started.

FP 42 Craig y Nos – The BBNP had not responded to date. The Clerk was asked to progress.

Playgrounds – The new slide has been installed at Cefnbyrle Playground. The Clerk and Councillor Arlene Jones had met the contractor and signed off the completion. Payment of the invoice is approved at item 4C above.

Smoke Free Playgrounds – Quotations for the new No Smoking signs have been sought. Any person smoking in a children's playground will be subject to a £100.00 fine.

8. Correspondence

a) **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** – The summary had been circulated. Noted that the Council will have to prepare an annual report to ratepayers by May 2022. The annual report will be based on the Council's plans and achievements in the 2021/2022 financial year.

b) **Cyber Security Guide** – The guide had been circulated to members.

c) **Active Travel Engagement** – PCC has invited suggestion for proposed active travel routes for cycling and walking. The Council could not agree on any routes to suggest.

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

The County Council remains working in a Business critical mode, critical areas are being prioritised. The dangerous trees at Caehopkin has been reported to the Abercrave Depot. The complaints of earth in the roadway at Nantfyfedwen has also been reported. Highways had undertaken work in the area claiming they would not have left the site with mounds of earth on the highway.

The PCC Cabinet budget was passed. The result of additional funding from the WG the proposed Council Tax increase was reduced to 2.9%. The budget will include £11m of further efficiencies and cuts to services.

He had received local concerns from residents in Coelbren on the proposed change of use planning application. He had confirmed the Community Council will be consulted on the proposal.

The UK Government had committed £30m towards the development of the GCRE project. The total funding required is approximately £150m. The WG will commit some funding, however, private sector funding will be critical and details around private finance was not clear at the moment.

Site restoration work of the Nant Helen site has commenced, all coal recovery operations will end shortly.

The damaged Dead End sign at Caehopkin has been referred to the Abercrave Depot.

10. **Vacancy** – No expressions of interest received.

11. **Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record.

12. **Matters Arising** –

Climate Emergency – The item is to be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

13. **Any Urgent Matters**

Waste Bins – Three large waste bins at Nantfyfedwen are overflowing and require collection. The waste was probably the responsibility of a private commercial waste collector.

Obscured Road Signs Penrycae – In response to a question the overgrown hedge was either the landowner's responsibility or the highway authority. Councillor David Thomas will check with highways and respond to Councillor Fyfield.

14. Date of Next Meeting – THURSDAY 15TH APRIL 2021