

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 15th April, 2021

Present: Councillors Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Arlene Jones, Auriol Graham, Alun Thomas

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Susan Pyart chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Stephen Davies, Ann Watkins, Selwyn Fyfield, Clare Parker (Key Worker) Carol Williams (Unable to join)
2. **Declaration of Interest** – No declaration submitted
3. **Police Matters** – The Police responded to concerns of traffic congestion outside the shop on Heol Eglwys, Coelbren. Parking spaces will be created on the shop front.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Year End Report March 2021** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - b) **Budget Report Year End March 2021** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report
 - c) **Payment Register April 2021** – The April payment register had been circulated. The April payment register was approved. Noted that the payment to the Information Commissioner's Office approved at the March meeting will be paid in the April payment run. The reason is the late receipt of Bacs information from the ICO.
5. **Planning**
 - a) **Dol Henrhyd, Coelbren** – The Council considered the proposal and had no comments to make.
 - b) **Global Centre of Rail Excellence** – The Council considered the proposal and following a detailed discussion, agreed to submit the following comments.

Tawe Uchaf Community Council is grateful for the opportunity to submit comments, as consultees, on the proposed development of a Global Centre of Rail Excellence. Tawe Uchaf Community Council (the Council) welcomes the major investment and future local employment opportunities to be created both directly and in local supply chains.

However, the Council continues to have concerns, some major, on the direct impact from the proposed development. The concerns are set out below;

Visual Impact

The visual impact of this development on the village of Caehopkin is a major concern. The Council has raised these concerns previously in comments submitted on previous planning applications. The Council seeks assurances that screening proposals to mitigate the visual impact of this development on Caehopkin must be both adequate and effective.

Noise Pollution

The impact of noise pollution is a further major concern. The impact of noise pollution can have a serious effect on local communities, living close to major industrial developments. The Council seeks further assurances that noise levels will not exceed the levels published in the supporting documents submitted by the applicant, namely;

- 10.1 Noise Emission Day
- 10.2 Noise Emission Evening
- 10.3 Noise Emission Night

Proposed Set up of a Local Liaison Group

The Council respectfully proposes the creation of a Liaison group formed from the Council and the Operating Company to monitor the Visual Impact and Noise Pollution, from the site. The formation of a local Liaison group will be able to deal with potential problems as they arise and before they create wider problems

Ecology/Biodiversity

The area within the plan boundary for Nant Helen contains rare species of plants discovered during a survey in respect of application 20/0738/FUL. These are: common wintergreen, lesser bulrush, floating bur-reed, greater tussock sedge, spiked water milfoil, royal fern and viviparous fescue. Common wintergreen, despite its name, is rare, is a new record for Powys and is listed as endangered in the Plant life Red Data List for Wales. A combined report by PCC and NPT ecologists imposed translocation method statements as a condition for site development. The Council seeks assurances that mitigation measures to protect and maintain the future of the rare species found on the site are effective. The Council respectfully requests details of the proposed action plan to protect the ecology and biodiversity found on the site.

Reserved matters outstanding from planning permission reference 20/0738/FUL - Complimentary Earthworks

The conditions remaining outstanding from planning ref 20/0738/FUL. The conditions refer to earthworks and drainage at Caehopkin. The conditions must be discharged before planning permission is granted.

6. **Footpath/Playgrounds** – A loose concrete slab on the Nantfyfedwen Path had been reported to Martin Davies the PROW Officer at PCC. The loose slab had been re-laid.
Bog Path FP1 – PCC have advised a further section of boardwalk would be installed in the near future. The provision of an interpretive panel was being considered to highlight the local history and biodiversity of the area.
Playgrounds – Playground inspections had recommenced following lockdown.
Asset Register Updated March 2021 – A copy of the updated register had been circulated. The Council asset register had been updated to include the new slide at Cefnbyrle and removal of the old slide. The Council approved the updated asset register
Playground Signage – The Council approved the purchase of 4 new playground signs and a quantity of No Smoking signs for the play areas to highlight the smoke free playground legislation in Wales.
Land at Craig y Nos – The surface of the land at Craig y Nos was being disturbed by moles. The Clerk advised the Council that action should be taken and requested approval to ask Matthew Thomas to place mole traps. The Council requested that a quotation be obtained from Matthew Thomas for consideration at the May meeting.
7. **Correspondence** – The following items of correspondence was submitted
 - a) **Implementation of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** – From 1st May local authorities are required to make arrangements to ensure their meetings are capable of being held remotely, also changes to the way documents are accessed and summonses sent. The right of the public and press to attend meetings will be restored that will be subject to any continuing public health regulations.
 - b) **General Power of Competence** – The WG are consulting on a proposal that community councils eligible to exercise the general power be provided power to trade in their ordinary functions.
 - c) **Climate Change Newsletter** – The March newsletter has been issued by the WG.

- d) **Compulsory Purchase Powers** – The WG has published the WG Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) supporting the use of compulsory powers by local authorities to facilitate the economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic.
- e) **MacMillan Cymru** – Request for financial support. The Clerk was asked to advise a request should be re-submitted for consideration in January 2022.
8. **County Council Report** – County Councillor David Thomas reported as follows;
Following complaints temporary repairs have been undertaken to repair ruts on Cefnbyrle roads.
Complaints of trip hazards on pavements in Morgan Street, Caehopkin, have been investigated and temporary measures undertaken to eradicate the trip hazards.
Waterfall Country – Traffic planners are considering a consultation on proposals to impose three traffic restriction orders. Two orders at Ystradfellte and one at Coelbren. The proposals will not be consulted on until car parking provision at Coelbren has been resolved. During April and June several Environmental study groups will visit the area. The groups will adhere to strict Coronavirus regulations and compliance with regulations will be monitored.
9. **Vacancies Coelbren and Penycae Ward** – No expressions of interest received.
10. **Climate Emergency** – Discussion deferred to the next meeting
11. **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2021 were signed as a true record.
12. **Matters Arising** – No matters raised.
13. **Any Urgent Business** – No matters raised.
14. **Date of Next Meeting – THURSDAY 20TH MAY 2020**
The Clerk advised the Council AGM will revert to May. The AGM will be held prior to the ordinary meeting of the Council on 20th May 2021.