

## Cyngor Cymuned Tawe Uchaf Community Council

### Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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

**In attendance** – PC Simon Beaton, Dyfed Powys Police

1. **Apologies for absence** – were accepted from Councillors Alun Thomas and Carol Williams
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted
3. **Police Matters** – The Clerk reported that PCC had failed to respond to the Council's further e mail requesting information originally requested following a site meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. The Council registered disappointment. Councillor Ann Watkins advised another accident had occurred on the Mill Bends causing damage to her property and leaving a trail of debris on the roadside.  
In response to issues raised by the Council, PC Beaton advised incidents of anti-social behaviour was a concern, vehicles and property had been damaged. The Police were taking action locally to deal with the problem.  
PC Beaton will provide a follow up on reports of motor bikes being used on the cycle path and on the access routes towards the forestry near Coelbren.
4. **Finance**
  - a) **Wales Audit Report** – Wales Audit have completed the Council Audit. The Council received an unqualified audit report. The Council approved the Audit report. The completion of audit notice and annual return will be published on the Council website.
  - b) **Income & Expenditure Report** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - c) **Budget Report** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - d) **Payment Register** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the Q3 Office expenses claim also circulated. The Council approved the January payment register.
5. **Budget 2022/2023** – The Council approved the agreed budget for the 2022/2023 financial year.
6. **To make a Precept 2022/2023** – The Council considered the approved budget and the year end expenditure profile provided by the Clerk. The Council agreed to maintain the precept for 2022/2023 at £25,000.00. The Clerk will submit the precept request form to PCC.
7. **Donation to Organisations** – The Council discussed the budget for donations and the list of written requests received from Organisations. The Council agreed to prioritise donations to local organisations. The Council agreed to proceed to make donations. See appendix to minutes.
8. **Planning** – No items received.
9. **Footpath/Playgrounds** – The Chairman reported the access gate into the FP to the two bridges adjacent to the Llech trail was broken. The closure weights had been cut preventing the gate to close. The Council agreed to refer the matter to the BBNP Footpath Officer.  
**Bog Path** – The Clerk will contact Matthew Thomas to progress a completion date for work across the Bog Path. In response to a question the Chairman advised the Onllwyn Community Council would make improvements to the section of the FP in their Community.  
**FP Moriah to Dark Arch** – The surface condition of the FP will continue to be monitored.  
**Playgrounds** – The January playground inspections have not been completed.

## **10. Correspondence**

- a) **WG Consultation Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils** – The Council noted the closing date and will consider a response.
- b) **Powys LDP Delivery Agreement** – The Council noted the correspondence
- c) **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – The Council noted the correspondence. The Coelbren Welfare Hall was considering a village tea party for the Jubilee.
- d) **International Tip** – Celtic Energy will be responding to the Council in detail, following the Council’s request for a tree planting scheme.

**11. Council Self Assessment Toolkit** – The nominated group of Councillors had reviewed the section on Leadership and people. The self-assessment revealed the Council performed strongly on the Governance issues, however, there are weaknesses in the area of the Council as an Employer. The group suggested the issues on the Council as an employer will be addressed over a period of time following the elections.

**12. County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas gave the following update. The County Council’s draft budget for 2022/2023 will be considered at a full County Council meeting at the end of February. The proposed budget included an increased settlement from the WG and provided some relief to the financial pressures facing the County Council budget. In addition internal cost saving plans will be required. However, demands for services and support activities will increase due to the pandemic. The draft budget included a proposal to cap the Council tax increase to 3.9%.

**Street Lighting** – A review of street lighting was underway with limited reductions in street lighting or changing existing lights to lower energy lights. Public safety is a major consideration. Complaints are being received from areas where low energy lighting is being trialled.

It was reported a street light at the junction of Brynawelon was on 24hrs. The light number will be provided and reported to street lighting.

**Trees Caehopkin** – The ash trees at Caehopkin are going to be cut down. A date could not be provided at this time.

**13. Minutes** – The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> November and the Special Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were signed as a true record.

## **14. Matters Arising**

**Cefnbyrle Play Park** – The faults identified to the safety surfaces at the park to be referred to Matthew Thomas for attention.

## **15. Any Urgent Business**

**Caehopkin Request for Car Park** – The Council agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Henrhyd Waterfall Project** – Community Councillors for the Coelbren Ward were invited to attend a site meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at the Henrhyd Car Park to discuss a possible regeneration scheme. PCC, BBNP officers will also attend.

**16. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.**