

CYNGOR CYMINED TAWU UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th February, 2022

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Gail Hopkins Williams, Carol Williams, and Alun Thomas.

2. **Declaration of Interest** – None submitted.

3. **Police Matters**

Speeding A4067 – Powys Highways had finally provided response to the questions previously requested by the Council.

Hard Standing Go Safe Vehicle – Powys Highways and Go Safe had now agreed they were unable to locate a suitable site to provide hard standing that is safe. The Council did not accept the response and will challenge the decision.

Speed Indicator Devices – Powys Highways had provided details of approximate costs to supply and install each socket and the supply of post per sign. Each socket £660.00 and £132,00 per post. The Council would need to source the SID's from PCC approved suppliers to specifications approved by PCC.

County Councillor David Thomas advised on a discussion with a County Councillor colleague following a social media post of SID's being provided and located on Cradoc Road, Brecon. He had discussed a possibility of transferring the SID's between Brecon and Penycae and Craig y Nos, as the signs could only be displayed for temporary periods in each location. The Council supported the proposal and the Clerk was instructed to write to Powys Highways submitting the proposal and requesting approval from the Portfolio holder for Highways. The Council recognised, if approved, the connections and set up costs will be met by the Council.

Repeater 30 mph Road Markings – The Council reluctantly accepted the comments by Powys Highways not to provide the road markings due to the proposal by WG to impose 20 mph limits on certain road in Wales during 2023.

Obstructed Road Signs – The Council noted the review of obstructed road signs will be undertaken shortly and action taken requesting landowners to maintain to prevent obstruction of road signs. The Council did not accept the suggestion from Powys Highways that the Council contact landowners to ensure hedges are maintained.

4. **Finance**

a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the income from the VAT reclaim. A donation to a local organisation had not completed due to changes to the bank account. The Clerk had received a written apology with revised banking details. Councillor Ann Watkins advised she had noted the entry on the report and had also made enquiries and proposed the donation be paid in March. The Council agreed. The Council approved the report.

b) **Budget Report** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report The Council approved the report.

c) **February Payment Register** – The register had been circulated. The Council approved the report.

5. **Planning**

a) **12 Station Road Coelbren** – The Council considered the proposal. The Council will not make any comments.

b) Tawe Car Centre – The Council considered the proposal. The Council agreed to submit the following comments

1. Adequate off road parking must be provided at each dwelling;
2. The configuration of the access into the development should be relocated from its proposed position and must provide a clear unobstructed view of the A4067 to allow safe entry and exit to and from the development;
3. The access to the site is further compromised, looking North, by on road parking on the A4067, by vehicles from neighbouring properties, and a blind spot created as the road elevation rises looking North;
4. The A4067 highway has a speeding problem. The speeding problem is well documented by the Community Council and is the subject of correspondence between the Community Council and the highway authority; The Council suggests improved highway signage is provided, including speed indicator devices, on the A4067, at both North and South approaches to the development site.
5. The culvert running adjacent to the site has flooded on previous occasions and a review of flood prevention measures on the culvert should be undertaken.
- 6. Request for Car Park Caehopkin Playground** – Councillor Susan Pyart had circulated information provided by some residents in Caehopkin. The proposal requests the creation of car parking in the lower part of the playground to reduce traffic congestion at the junction of Davies Street with Abercrave Terrace. The Clerk advised the Council owned the playground following the asset transfer from Powys County Council. The Council requested the Clerk to obtain initial information from Powys County Council if any legal obligations remained to be observed on the Playground site. There is a drainage system in the lower corner of the field to be considered. Local Councillors will follow up by holding discussions with residents in the village. Further reports will be submitted to the next meeting.
- 7. Request for Christmas Lights Coelbren** – Councillor Auriol Graham introduced a request, received from a ratepayer, if Christmas illuminations can be provided in Coelbren. The Council had no experience of providing Christmas illuminations. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries and provide details to the next meeting.
- 8. Coelbren Regeneration Meeting Update** – Councillor Arlene Jones provided an update of the on-site-meeting in Coelbren on the 10th February. The meeting was attended by officers of PCC, BBNP and local Councillors from Coelbren. A wide range of ideas was considered to develop proposals into a regeneration plan to pursue regeneration funding. The strategic direction would be to attract support and maintain tourist activities and deliver economic benefits to the village and encouraging local business to get involved. Active travel opportunities to be explored for improvement and possible expansion. Investigate Improvements on the current temporary car parking arrangement to improve road safety and traffic congestion. Explore availability of external access toilet facilities for use by visitors. Develop local history themes recalling the industrial history of the village as a railway hub and coal mining to record and display on Interpretive Panels, located around the village. Further meetings will be held, including local organisations, to develop a workable scheme.
- 9. Footpaths/Playgrounds Matters**
Bog Path – Work to upgrade the surface of the FP has recommenced.

Stile at Penwyllt – A broken stile at Penwyllt to be referred to the BBNP to investigate.

Nantfyedwen Path – A stile near the County Road needs to be replaced by a gate to improve access to the FP. The Chairman has spoken to the Landowner who has given consent for a gate to replace the stile.

BBNP Review – Councillor Arlene Jones advised the WG was considering changes to streamline the process for the diversion of footpaths making it easier to complete the process more quickly when a diversion is approved.

Playgrounds – The Clerk advised he had been unable to undertake inspections since the last meeting.

10. Correspondence

a) **Town and Community Council Elections** – Details of a remote briefing session on 22nd February had been circulated to Councillors.

b) **Section 47 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** – OVW have circulated the results of a survey on multi location meetings. The WG one size fits all approach failed to understand the difficulties experienced by Councils who did not own their own meeting rooms and not possess the technical experience or budgets to provide multi location meetings. The results of the survey are being communicated to WG.

Following discussion the Council agreed to return to face to face meetings for the AGM of the new Council scheduled on 19th May, provided Covid regulations have been relaxed.

c) **Powys LDP** – OVW have held discussions with PCC to provide Town and Community Councils with the opportunity to comment on the LDP. Currently Town and Community Councils are not statutory consultees. OVW will endeavour to ensure Town and Community Councils become statutory consultees for LDP.

11. **Local Council Toolkit** – The Chairman and Clerk will provide feedback to the WG. The toolkit has been well received and the guidance contained in the document is very helpful. The document has helped the Council to identify areas to strengthen.

12. **County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided the following update
Budget – The PCC draft budget proposals have not changed. The budget will be considered by a full Council meeting on the 24th February. There remains a possibility for additional funding from the WG.

Trees Caehopkin – The ash trees at Caehopkin are being cut and removed.

Street Lights at Heol y Gwydde – A complaint to provide street lighting at Heol y Gwydde was under consideration.

GCRE – A briefing is being held on Friday 18th February, to provide an update on the status of the project. Any update will be reported to the next meeting.

Nant Helen Restoration – Complaints are being received from residents at Penrhos on the current restoration work in progress.

13. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the previous meeting on 20th January 2022 were signed as a true record.

14. **Matters Arising – Coal Tips South Wales** – The Clerk advised no response had been received from James Evans AS.

15. Any Urgent Business

a) **School Closures** – All schools in Powys will close on Friday 18th February due to the red weather warnings for Storm Eunice.

b) **Henrhyd Waterfall** – Concerns that a gate close to the access points is covered with razor wire. There is a public safety risk. It was unclear if the gate was on a right of way. Further local enquiries will be made.

c) **Roadside Ditches Coelbren** – A local highway inspector will be asked to inspect the ditching work on the roadway leading to the forestry.

16. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17th March 2022

NOTE – The next meeting will be deferred to Thursday 24th March 2022.