

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th February, 2024

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Monique Craine, Ann Watkins, Alun Thomas (via ZOOM)
County Councillor David Thomas

In attendance: PC Luke Shackley, PCSO Nicole Watkins Dyfed Powys Police

No Observers present

The Chairman welcomed members to the February meeting of the Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Gail Hopkins-Williams, Sandra Clayton, Geoff Woods and Auriol Graham.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted
3. **Police Matters** – PC Luke Shackley provided an update. Very few crimes have been reported. Speed checks are continuing in the area. He provided feedback on local juvenile care homes at Ynyswen and Coelbren there had been no incidents requiring Police resource time. In response to a question the Police would try to attend the drop in session held by the Ramblers at Coelbren Hall on Saturday. Councillor Arlene Jones provided detailed background to the Police on the purpose of the day and her role on the management group of the Geopark and of recommendations under consideration to move the boundary South beyond its current limits to coincide with those of the National Park.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The report to the end of January had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report highlighting the VAT reclaim income of £2046.40. 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) **February Payment Register** – The Council approved the February payment register.
5. **Planning** –
 - a) **46 Station Road, Coelbren** – PCC have refused permission to erect a two storey side/rear extension.
6. **Footpath/Playgrounds**
 - a) **Paths to Prosperity** – The Ramblers were holding a drop-in event at Coelbren Welfare Hall on 17th February. Councillors were keen to highlight areas of SSSI in the area of Coelbren. The Council would also highlight the annual Footpath maintenance budget, for maintenance and strimming of the footpath network.
 - b) **Playgrounds** – The entrance gates at Cefnbyrle and Caehopkin, raised in the RoSPA report had been investigated.

Caehopkin Playground – The entrance gate had been inspected. PCC had encountered a similar problem on a gate in the North of the County. PCC would contact the gate manufacturer to obtain information on rectifying the self-closure mechanism.

Cefnbyrle Playground – Matthew Thomas had provided a quote of £400.00 to remove the gate post and to re-set the post as required in the RoSPA report. The Council agreed to instruct Matthew Thomas to undertake the work.

Penycae Playground – The PAT had reported a gate post at the bottom end of the park had rotted. The Clerk had acknowledged the report to PAT. The Council will hold a further

meeting with PAT to discuss issues raised in the RoSPA report. The Council's insurers had advised clear guidelines to the Council and its responsibilities under the policy to protect the Council in the event of a liability claim. The gate post will be inspected by the Council at the site meeting. The Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable date with PAT.

7. Correspondence

a) Review of Polling Districts 2024 – PCC had published a link to a consultation to review its polling districts and polling places. Following a discussion the Council noted there was no alternatives available in the Community as polling stations.

b) Use of IT Training – OVW advise that funding has been made available by the WLGA to deliver free training webinars on the use of IT, websites and social media. Places were limited on each webinar. Councillors should contact OVW to book places.

8. Vacancy Ynyswen/Penycae Ward – A notice of co-option has been submitted to electoral services for checking before issuing. When confirmation is received the notice will be published on the Council website social media, local social media groups and notice boards.

9. County Council Update – County Councillor David Thomas reported as follows; The County Council budget was to be considered by the full Council on Thursday 22nd February. The UK Government was providing £600m additional funding to Local Authorities in England. There would be consequential funding for Wales of £25m to be allocated to Local Authorities in Wales. Powys was anticipating additional funding of £900k, to be used to ease pressures on Social Care and Education. The additional funding is welcome, however, Powys will have to review what services and how it can deliver services in future years as Council budgets were expected to reduce. Powys was launching a consultation on the review of services under the heading of Sustainable Powys. The consultation would be wide ranging to allow public participation. Powys were planning to hold an on-line event with Town and Community Councils in Powys in March. A possible date for the event is the 21st March and he asked the Council to consider rearranging the March meeting of the Council, should the event be held on the 21st March. The Council agreed to the request if required.

10. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18th January, 2024 were signed as a true record.

11. Matters Arising

Bench at Cefnbyrle – PCC have approved the Council's request to place a bench next to the bus stop on Cefnbyrle Road. The Clerk had obtained prices for benches from Streetmaster at £425.00 and SLPW at £369.00 plus vat in both cases. In addition, Matthew Thomas had quoted £400 to construct a concrete base with fittings to secure the bench in position. A query was raised at the cost of constructing the base. Before making a decision Councillors will meet Matthew Thomas on site to determine the position of the bench and to understand the costs involved.

12. Any Urgent Business

Craig y Nos – In response to a question the Council advised the area around Craig y Nos was in the BBNP and monitored and maintained by the National Park. Any issues arising could be submitted to the BBNP using the appropriate on-line forms. For planning matters there is an on-line form to request enforcement action if appropriate.

National Trust Car Park Coelbren – The Chairman reported he had received several local enquiries and concerns, relating to the continued use of the National Trust Car Park. County Councillor David Thomas advised the Highways comments to the original planning application required the construction of a vehicle splay to improve traffic visibility. No further planning application has been submitted by the National Trust. The Council

suggested that a polite enquiry could be submitted to the National Trust, to establish if any progress was possible.

- 13. Date of Next Meeting** – The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 21st March 2024. However, the date may be changed to accommodate a T&CC meeting with PCC entitled Sustainable Powys. The event will start to look at how services, in future, can be delivered in a different way due to budget pressures.