

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 20th June 2024

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chair), Sandra Howard, Auriol Graham, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins Williams, Ann Watkins

In attendance – PCSO Sarah Nash Dyfed Powys Police, Ystradgynlais

Observers: Jenna Williams

The Chairman welcomed members to the June meeting of the Council. He thanked the Council for his re-election.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Arlene Jones, Alun Thomas, Monique Craine, Sandra Clayton and Geoff Woods.
2. **Declarations of interest** – None declared.
3. **Police Matters** – PCSO Sarah Nash provided an update. Patrols were continuing in the area. No updates on the vandalism at Coelbren School. Parking on the junction of Brynawelon to Heol Eglwys remained a problem. Leaflets could be prepared for residents in the area requesting co-operation to avoid parking on the junction creating an obstruction to traffic entering and leaving Heol Eglwys. Speeding traffic in Coelbren was discussed. PCSO Sarah Nash advised there was no resource available to place a traffic car in the village. The setting up of a Community Speedwatch group in Coelbren was suggested with support from Ystradgynlais Police. A suitable site would need to be identified and volunteers to be trained would require vetting. Parking on pavements at Craig y Nos remained a concern, obstructing walkers. The Police will continue to monitor.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - b) **Budget Update** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - c) **June Payment Register** – The payment register had been circulated. The Council approved the report.
5. **Planning**
 - a) **Ref 24/0778/FUL Prices Arms Coelbren** – The Council considered the application. The Council commented on disappointment at the loss of a community facility, loss of asset and loss of amenity for the village of Coelbren.
 - b) **Ref 24/0820/FUL Cefnmeusydd, Morgan Street, Caehopkin** – The application had been received earlier that afternoon. The Council agreed to convene a special meeting to consider the application. The date of 27th June was agreed.

- c) **BBNP Withdrawal of LDP** – BBNP have notified as of 7th June, the BBNP withdrew the first replacement LDP (2018-2033). The BBNP aims to agree a Delivery Agreement with the WG for a replacement LDP by the end of the 2024/2025 financial year.

6. **Footpath/Playgrounds**

Footpaths – The first round of FP strimming was underway.

Paths to Prosperity – The Chairman advised the Ramblers were going to arrange a series of training courses for volunteers. The training will focus on site safety and the safe use of equipment used for FP improvements.

Playgrounds - Caehopkin Playground – The Council had obtained an Infants Cradle swing seat from PCC storage. Matthew Thomas will programme the work to fix the seat as soon as possible.

7. **Correspondence** –

- a) **Craig y Nos** – BBNP have informed that the Wardens have a few month's backlog to complete before inspecting FP around Craig y Nos.
- b) **Recruitment and Retention of Clerks/RFO** – The Council noted the communication and advisory attachments provided by OVW.
- c) **Windows 10 End of Support** - The Council noted the Digital Information Document issued by OVW. The Council considered the decision by Microsoft to end support for Windows 10 from October 2025. The Council laptop operated Windows 10. The Council agreed to take a stage by stage approach to investigate an update to Windows 11. If compatibility issues arise the Council to review further action
- d) **Local Bus Networks Retendering** – PCC were undertaking a retendering process on bus service in the County. The newly appointed project officer at PCC had communicated inviting County Councillors and Community Councils to consider what local bus services in their area might look like. Suggestions could be aspirational but all suggestions are welcome. Comments to improve timings had been submitted to the County Councillor to be included in the retendering process.
- e) **20mph Letter from Ken Skates AS** – The Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport had written to all local authorities in Wales to encourage involvement in the WG listening programme on 20mph. The 20mph speed limit on restricted roads in Wales was not going to right from the start. Councils are being encouraged to let your highway authority know if a specific road should;
- Change from 20mph to 30mph
 - Change from 30mph to 20mph
 - Stay at 20mph
- Having considered the communication, the Council noted this matter remained an emotive subject, there was strong feelings locally for and against the 20mph speed limit. The Council had not received any communication from local residents. The Council will not respond to the communication.

8. **County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided an update. PCC were launching a new initiative on street lighting. The initiative involved changing to low energy street lighting, the low energy lights would

have reduced lighting. The initiative will comply with net zero targets and in some areas lighting will be switched off for the dark sky initiative in the BBNP. The proposal would also involve changing existing lighting in the Community. In response to a request the item will be added to the agenda for the Special Meeting on the 27th June. He reminded Councillors that street lighting was not a statutory function.

Sustainable Powys – The initiative will deliver major changes to how services will be delivered in the future. The current finance forecast was unsustainable going forward. In response to a suggestion the Council agreed that a Council meeting be convened in August to receive a briefing from the County Councillor and to deal with any urgent matters and governance issues.

9. **Finance and Governance Toolkit** – The toolkit had been updated by the Clerk and circulated for further review by the Council. The Council agreed to review the document and make suggestions at the next meeting.
10. **Vacancy Co-option of Councillor** – The Clerk reported he had received an enquiry on the role of a Community Councillor. He had responded and sent a copy of the annual return. No further contact has been received. The matter will remain on the agenda. A further co-option notice will be issued in July. In the meantime Councillors will continue to encourage locally.
11. **Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting on 16th May were signed as a true record.
12. **Matters Arising – VC Equipment** – The Clerk had managed to store the VC equipment in a spare lockable suitcase. The suitcase could be stored in the hall storeroom. The Council agreed to store the monitor in the storeroom, in the meantime the Chairman will try to come up with a suitable storage protection for the monitor.
13. **Any Urgent Matters** – The Council agreed to compliment the following local organisations for organising successful local events.
Penycae Action Team for a successful village carnival
Craig y Nos Farmers Market setting up a local venture.
Ancient Briton for the award in the Pub of the Year competition.
14. **Date of Next Meeting**

Special Meeting Thursday 27th June 2024

July Meeting Thursday 18th July, 2024