

## CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Arlene Jones, Auriol Graham, Geoff Wood, Susan Pyart, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton, Alun Thomas, County Councillor David Thomas

**Observers** Mr Brian Joplin and Mrs Marjorie Joplin

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillor Monique Craine, Huw Williams and Sandra Howard,
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None declared.
3. **Police Matters** – The Police not in attendance. The Clerk to progress updates on previous issues.
4. **Finance**
  - a) **Income/Expenditure Report June** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised. The Council noted the June payments were released slightly late, on 1<sup>st</sup> July and not included in the expenditure column. The Council approved the report.
  - b) **Budget Report June** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - c) **July Payment Register** – The register had been circulated. The Council approved the payments.
  - d) **Delegation of August Payments** – The Council approved the delegation of August payments to the Clerk and the members included on the bank mandate. The delegation will be used if the Council does not meet in August.
5. **Planning – Powys LDP** – The presentation slides from PCC had been circulated to the Council. The Chairman gave a brief overview from the on-line meeting with PCC Planning. Powys will commence a consultation process with T&CC, on the stages of the LDP, starting in August.
6. **Footpath/Playgrounds**

**Playgrounds** – Playground inspections were undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> July. All equipment checked and no issues found. The ground at Cefnbyrle remained wet in places. The gate at Caehopkin not closing effectively. Hedges were being cut back. Penycae had no issues.

**Footpaths** – The BBNP had replaced the stile at Craig y Nos.

**Obstruction of Pavements** – In response to a question the Clerk advised that in most cases, hedgerows obstructing pavements are the responsibility of landowners to maintain and to avoid the obstruction of pavements used by pedestrians. The pavements from Abercrave to Penycae were highlighted as problem areas where pedestrians had to walk in the highway. The matter will be passed to County Councillor David Thomas.

## **7. Correspondence**

- a) **Farmers Market** – Councillor Sandra Howard had sent an e mailed query on parking at the Farmers Market. Councillors who had attended, stated no vehicles were parked on the A4067 at the recent event. It was a matter for the park management to organise on-site parking.
  - b) **Senior Leadership Team Officer** – PCC have advised that Sharon Frewin, Head of Adult Services, has been assigned as a link officer for the locality and will act as a facilitator and named contact point for escalation. The role will involve attending a few meetings per year.
  - c) **National Trust Contact** – Chris Smith had introduced himself as the Head of the NT Countryside team across Mid and SE Wales. He had requested an opportunity to meet the Council. The Clerk had responded positively. Councillor Arlene Jones had met Chris at a recent Geopark event. A possible meeting was discussed along with local issues in and around Coelbren. The Council agreed a meeting should be arranged between Chris and the members for Coelbren.
  - d) **Numeracy Grant Scheme** – PAVO have advised a grant is available to local groups wishing to set up a scheme. The Council noted the content.
  - e) **T&CC Climate Event** – Councillor Arlene Jones expressed an interest, however, she was already involved with many other local groups and had concerns if a clash of dates arose. The Clerk will register the interest and comment on concerns.
- 8. IRPW Payment to Members** – The letter and pro forma had been circulated to members. The Clerk explained the requirement for all Councillors to complete each section of the form. The Council agreed a deadline of September meeting for the return of forms. The Council further agreed that a claim form with receipts must be submitted to reclaim any office consumables costs.
- 9. County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided a brief update.
- Street Lighting** - The information provided by the Council had been relayed to street lighting.
- Cefnmeusydd Planning** – He confirmed that he had called in the planning application for determination by the Planning Committee due to public concern.
- Sustainable Powys** – He reiterated his commitment to present to the Council. However, he could not confirm a date as the presentation slides were not available. He will advise the Council when available to convene a Special Meeting.
- 10. Confirm Date for Sustainable Powys Presentation** – A Special Meeting will be convened when the presentation slides are available.
- 11. Finance and Governance Toolkit** – The Council to consider setting up a small group to undertake a further review of the document and continue the self-assessment section. Review to commence in the autumn.
- 12. Vacancy Ynyswen/Penycae Ward** – To date, no expression of interest received.

The Council asked the observers if they had an interest in becoming a Community Councillor. Mrs Marjorie Joplin expressed an interest. The Council welcomed the expression of interest and unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Joplin. The Clerk will issue the Declaration of Interest for completion together with a copy of the Code of Conduct.

**13. Minutes** – The minutes of the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June and of a Special meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June were signed as a true record.

**14. Matters Arising – Council Laptop** – The Clerk had made enquiries. The current laptop could be upgraded but may require additional hard drive upgrade. The Council discussed the possible replacement of the current laptop. The Clerk advised there was no budget available to replace the laptop. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries on replacing the laptop and report back to the Council.

Further, the Council agreed to apply for membership of the Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales.

**15. Any Urgent Business**

**Llech Trail Audio Points** – The Chairman advised, that the Council had an obligation to ensure the audio points on the trail, were in a working condition. A recent inspection revealed a problem with four audio points and would need replacing. The Council approved a request to purchase 4 new audio boxes at an estimated cost of £1.73 each.

County Councillor David Thomas advised the BBNP may revisit the trail project to review and consider some improvement. The BBNP will probably contact the Council as previous partners in the scheme.

Following on, the Council recognised that any activity proposed under Paths to Prosperity must exclude footpaths in the National Park area. The Council could remind the group how the initial proposal was introduced, to consider links from the reopened FP's across the former Nant Helen Opencast mine to existing FP's.

**Chairman Leave** – The Chairman advised he would be away for the September meeting.

**Clerk Leave** – The Clerk advised he was hoping to take annual leave late September/October.

**16. Date of Next Meeting – THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024.**

**A Special Meeting is to be convened in August for the Sustainable Powys Presentation.**