

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2024

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Sandra Howard, Arlene Jones, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Ann Watkins,

No observers present

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillor Auriol Graham, Monique Craine, Alun Thomas, Sandra Clayton and County Councillor David Thomas.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted.
3. **Police Matters** – The Police were unable to attend. The Police provided an e mail response to confirm all current matters continued to be monitored and patrols have been set-up on the cycle track.
The Council highlighted that gates on the cycle track were being left open and there is evidence of motor cycle use on the cycle track compromising the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. The matter will be referred to the Police.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure** – The report to the end of September had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - b) **Budget Report** – The report to the end of September had been circulated. The Council approved the report.
 - c) **October Payment Register** – The Council agreed to include the invoice from PCC for RoSPA inspections, received on the day of the meeting. The Clerk will circulate an amended document. The Council approved the October payment register.
 - d) **2025/2026 Budget Discussion** – The working document had been circulated for discussion. The Council considered the document line by line.
There will be no changes to the staffing budget;
The following budget lines were proposed for increase.
OVW Membership increase to £300
Defibrillator Consumables increase to £400
Craig y Nos Mowing increase to £750
The Council agreed to set-up a sub group to commence work on planning content for an interpretive panel and agreed to maintain the preparation budget at £1000.
5. **Planning – Ref 24/0820/Ful Cefnmeusydd, Caehopkin** – Councillor Susan Pyart advised the Powys planning committee had deferred making a decision, due to the absence of any information from Powys Children's services on the matter.
6. **Footpath/Playgrounds** – The Clerk advised the continuing wet weather had prevented playground inspections.
Footpaths – The final round of footpath strimming will complete in early November. All work will be invoiced to the Council in November.
7. **Correspondence**
 - a) **HMRC** – HMRC have written to note a late payment by the Council to HMRC. Any current arrears to be paid by 22/10/24. The Council noted all payments to HMRC are made by the 26th of every month, however, one payment had been delayed beyond

the month–end, earlier in the year. The Clerk had also written to payroll at PCC to establish if HMRC had changed payment dates. The Council agreed to monitor the situation. The Council further agreed if a further letter is received, requesting a payment, the Clerk is granted powers to arrange an immediate payment to HMRC.

- b) **OVW/SLCC Event 20/11/24** – The Council approved the attendance of the Chairman and Clerk at the event at the cost of £65 plus vat per delegate. The Council authorised the Clerk to make the payment for the event.
- c) **Grass Cutting at Caehopkin** – PCC have confirmed the area is cut once a year. The area will be cut when the weather improves. However, the situation is being reviewed to be included on a more frequent schedule next year.
- d) **Cycle Track 43** – A response had been received via County Councillor David Thomas. However, to date a reply, from the Active Travel Officer, to issues raised by the Council was awaited.
- e) **Proposed Pen Caer Lan Solar Farm Seven Sisters** – The Council had received notification of the proposed development. The Council noted the content.
- f) **Coelbren Welfare Hall Centenary** – The hall committee had written to request an additional donation from the Council for 2025 to support events commemorating the hall centenary in 2025. The Council agreed to defer the request to the next meeting to discuss possible inclusion of a budget line in the 2025/2026 budget.
- g) **Forest Fawr Geopark** – Councillor Arlene Jones had circulated a detailed update on the proposed extension of the southern boundary of the Geopark and the next stage of the review. A further verbal report was given to clarify the process. Further questions were raised on whether the Geopark would eventually comment on planning consultations. The Council noted the report.
- 8. **IRPW Draft Report 2025/2026** – The report had been circulated. The Council noted there was no changes to allowances for Town and Community Councils. The Council will continue to apply the report recommendations, respecting the wishes of individual Councillors. The Council requests that consumables are claimed separately. It was noted the work of the IRPW would be transferred to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru from April 2025.
- 9. **IRPW Chairman’s Allowance** – The Council approved payment of the Chairman’s allowance. The payment will be made via the Council payroll.
- 10. **Consultation on Future Role of Community & Town Council Sector** – Councillor Arlene Jones presented the Council response to the consultation. The Council approved the response to be submitted to the WG b the 18th October.
- 11. **County Council Update** – No update available.
- 12. **Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting on 19th September were signed as a true record.
- 13. **Matters Arising**
 - Laptop** – The planned meeting with Curry’s was postponed as the person was on leave. The Clerk and Chairman will re-arrange. The Council laptop will be inspected and all data will be backed up to establish if the laptop can be updated. A cost may be incurred for cloud access. The Council authorised the Clerk to proceed and to pay any costs incurred.
 - Llech Trail Audio Points** – The Chairman advised he had collected one of the audio points for repair.
- 14. **Any Urgent Business** – Councillor Ann Watkins advised that two local businesses had received awards, namely Dan yr Ogof Caves and Penycae Inn. The showcaves had received a Powys Business Award for excellence in sustainability for tackling climate change

Penycae Inn had received a Buildings Excellence Award as Regional Winners for the best Non Residential Extension, Alteration or Conversion. The Council agreed to send congratulations to both businesses..

15. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 21st November 2024.

Appendix

MONTH – OCTOBER 2024

DATE	REF	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
17/10/2024	0 22	Audit Wales	Audit Fee 2023/2024	£200.00
17/10/2024	0 23	J E Gwilym	Q2 Office Costs	£185.79
17/10/2024	0 24	Payroll	October Payroll	£690.60
17/10/2024	0 25	HMRC	October deduction	172.60
17/10/2024	0 26	Powys County Council	RoSPA Inspections	£224.64
17/10/2024	0 27	SLCC Events	2 x Conference fee	£156.00
			Total	£1629.63