

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2024

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Geoff Woods, Auriol Graham, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton, Marjorie Jopling, Monique Craine

Observers – No observers

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the November meeting of the Council

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Alun Thomas and County Councillor David Thomas.
2. **Declarations of interest –**None declared
3. **Police Matters –** The Police had e mailed they were unable to attend. The Council agreed to request the Police to continue monitoring all issues previously referred to the Police by the Council.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Report –** The report to the end of October had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The December income will include the third precept payment. The Council approved the report.
 - b) **Budget Report –** The updated report had been circulated. The Council approved the report
 - c) **November Payment Register –** The report had been circulated. The Council approved the November payment register.
 - d) **Delegation of December Payments –** The Council approved the delegation of authority for December payments to the Clerk and Councillors on the bank mandate, if no meeting is convened in December.
 - e) **To approve and adopt the updated Financial Regulations –** The updated Financial regulations had been amended and circulated. The Council approved and amended the updated Financial regulations. The Chairman signed the regulations.
 - f) **Budget 2025/2026 discussion –** The draft budget document, including amendments from the last meeting had been circulated for further discussion. The Council could not discuss the Centenary donation request from Coelbren Hall as information had not been received. The Council agreed a donation could be approved and paid, in this financial year, from unused reserves or the virement of a current budget line.
5. **Planning**
 - a) **Cefnmeusydd –** Councillor Susan Pyart reported the Planning Committee had approved the change of use at a meeting held earlier that day.
 - b) **LDP Site Update –** Powys CC had responded to the Council's query on site ID370 at Tawe gorge. PCC confirmed the site straddled both Tawe Uchaf CC and Ystradgynlais Town Council area.
6. **Footpath/Playground Reports –** The final round of footpath maintenance would complete in early December. The invoices will be received for payment in December.
Brambles on Black Path – Councillor Susan Pyart advised she had discussed, with Matthew Thomas, the problems where brambles are encroaching into the footpath. The Council approved remedial work to eradicate the problem. The Clerk will write to Matthew Thomas to request a quote for the work.

Playgrounds – The Clerk had inspected the playgrounds on the 4th November. Ground conditions remained poor at Cefnbyrle and the football pitch at Caehopkin. Pictures of key components highlighted in the RoSPA report had been circulated for consideration by the Council. The Council agreed to continue monitoring the corroded components on the swings and also request a quotation from Matthew Thomas to replace the components. A further quotation will be requested to power wash the climbing frames at Caehopkin. The investigation work, to rectify the closure mechanism, to the entrance gate at Caehopkin is to be undertaken.

Park Bench Maintenance – A report was submitted that the bench near The Lon, at the junction with the A4067 needed repair to the seating panels. The Council approved the repairs. The Clerk will write to Matthew Thomas to obtain a quote for the work.

7. Correspondence – The Clerk presented the following correspondence.

a) Sustainable Powys Meetings – PCC have advised the Council can send two delegates to the event at Ystradgynlais on 2/12/24. The Chairman had already registered. Councillor Susan Pyart was nominated to attend as the second delegate.

b) Cycle Track 43 – The Travel Manager at PCC had responded to the Council. The Clerk had replied, highlighting inaccuracies in the reply and suggesting the Travel Manager should review the information he had provided. The Council will arrange a discussion with GCRE to highlight problems created by opening up the large gates crossing the cycle track. The opened gates allowed access on the path by motor cycles compromising public safety.

A further matter will be referred to the Travel Manager where a disabled cyclist is unable to access the cycle track on an adapted bicycle. Photographic evidence of the problem will also be provided.

c) Craig y Nos Farmers Market – The Council approved a request made by the Organiser of the farmers' market, to pay for a sail flag at the entrance to the farmers' market at Craig y Nos Country Park. The estimated cost of the sail flag is £253.14. The expenditure was approved and will be paid upon the receipt of an invoice.

d) Geopark Southern Expansion – Councillor Arlene Jones had circulated a response to the Council on questions raised on the possible boundary expansion. The response confirmed i) the boundary of the National Park will not change; (ii) it will not introduce any planning controls; (iii) will not change or introduce any regulations for the public; The Council noted the points made.

e) Section 137 Expenditure 2025/2026 – The Welsh Government have advised that the appropriate sum under Section 137(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2025/2026 will increase from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

8. Laptop Upgrade – The Chairman updated the Council on discussions he and the Clerk had held with Curry's. Two options available to upgrade the Council laptop. The Chairman outlined both options, highlighting a significant cost difference between the quotes due to the difference in Cloud registration and term of contract. The Council considered both options and agreed to approve the quote for £107.58 to update the laptop to include Windows 11, Office 365 and MS Office Cloud.

9. County Council Update – No update provided.

10. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting held on 17/10/24 were signed as a true record.

11. Matters Arising – Interpretive Panel – A sub-group will be chosen at the February Meeting of the Council to set out content for the interpretive panel.

Audio Points Llech Trail – The Chairman updated the Council advising due to workload he had been unable to complete the repairs on the audio points. He suggested the Council may need to consider replacing the audio points with modern

equipment. The Council would need to work with a partner organisation or seek grant aid to fund such a project.

12. Any Urgent Business

13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 16th January, 2025