

## CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Arlene Jones, Geoff Woods, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton, Alun Thomas, Marjorie Joplin, County Councillor David Thomas (via ZOOM)

**In attendance** – PCSO Nicole Watkins, Ystradgynlais Police.

**Observers** - None

The Chairman extended a warm welcome and New Year greetings to all present.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Monique Craine and Sandra Howard (ZOOM failure).
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Declarations of interest were made by Councillors Sandra Clayton, Marjorie Jopling and Alun Thomas on item 9a Planning. Declaration of interest forms were completed under the Members Code of Conduct.
3. **Resignation of Councillor** – The Chairman reported a letter of resignation from Councillor Auriol Graham, who represented the Coelbren Ward. Auriol has moved away from the area to live near her family. The Council accepted the resignation. The Council paid tribute to Auriol's work representing the ratepayers of Coelbren. The Clerk will advise PCC electoral department and request permission to advertise the vacancy.
4. **Police Matters** – PCSO Nicole Watkins provided a brief update. There were no matters to report within Tawe Uchaf. She made the Council aware of car thefts and property from cars in the Ystradgynlais area. The Council raised concerns on the use of heavy timber transporters through the village of Coelbren. The speed of the transporters appeared excessive in a 20mph speed limit. PCSO Nicole would request road traffic police to monitor the area.
5. **Finance**
  - a) **Income/Expenditure Report to 21/12/24 (Circulated)** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report highlighting the precept income in December. The Council approved the report.
  - b) **Budget Report to 21/12/24 (Circulated)** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - c) **To confirm delegated December 2024 payments (Circulated)** – The December payment register was circulated in December. The Council confirmed the actions under item 4d of the minutes of the Council meeting on 21/11/24.
  - d) **To approve the January 2025 payment register (Circulated)** – The Council approved the January 2025 payment register.

**6. To approve and confirm the Council budget for 2025/2026 (Circulated) –**

The updated draft budget had been circulated, together with the yearend cashflow forecast.

The Clerk advised the update to the Council laptop had slowed down the start-up process, the processing of documents, documents not responding and e mail. The Council approved the purchase a new laptop, from the current budget, to prevent a sudden loss of data. The Council agreed to defer any planned playground maintenance and to the virement of £750 from the current FP Maintenance budget towards the cost of a new laptop.

In addition, details of events for the Coelbren Welfare Hall Centenary were not available in time for discussion.

The Council approved to amend the 2025/2026 budget by transferring the interpretive panel budget to Coelbren Welfare Hall Centenary. This action did not increase the precept to be requested. It also recognised the full budget for the Interpretive panel may not be required in the 2025/2026 financial year.

**Virement of Budget –** The Council approved the virement of £750 from the current FP maintenance budget, as agreed in item 6 above, to cover expenditure for a new laptop.

**The Council approved the amendment. The Council approved the budget for 2025/2026.**

**7. To approve the Precept request for 2025/2026 –** The Council considered the amendments to the budget in item 6 and to the cashflow forecast to March 2025 and approved a precept request of £29000.00 for the 2025/2026 financial year.

**8. To consider requests received for donations (Circulated) –** The Council reviewed the list of requests previously circulated. The Council agreed the following donations (See Appendix to Minutes)

**9. Planning**

**a) Ref 24/23419/CPE Rhongyr Isaf Centre, Penycae – Lawful Development Certificate application.**

Councillors Sandra Clayton, Marjorie Joplin and Alun Thomas left the meeting.

The Council considered the matter and correspondence from BBNP Planning. Following discussion, the Council agreed to submit the following comment.

The Council has always recognised Rhongyr Isaf as an Outdoor Educational Centre. It does not recognise Rhongyr Isaf as a general tourist campsite.

**b) Ref 24/23469/FUL Cae Glas, Penycae – Retrospective change of use of agricultural land to camping field for ten pitches.**

The Council considered the retrospective application. Following discussion, the Council agreed to submit the following comment.

1. The Council objects to the retrospective change of use application
2. The Council has serious concerns how this development has occurred without the knowledge of the Brecon Beacons Planning Authority and now requiring retrospective planning.

3. The Planning Authority has previously refused a similar development on a neighbouring property to Cae Glas. The neighbouring property uses the same access from the A4067 and was denied due to modification required at the A4067 junction.

4. The Planning Authority must apply a consistent approach on this retrospective application.

5. If permission is granted any footpath or bridleway crossing the land must be legally diverted.

6. Visitors must be made aware of neighbouring agricultural holdings and respect that livestock are present on the hillsides.

**10. Footpaths/Playgrounds** – The footpath maintenance programme for 2024 had completed.

**Playgrounds** – The mowing of playgrounds had completed for 2024. There are some issues arising from the RoSPA report to under consideration and quotes for work required are expected.

Following discussions under item 6 of the agenda above, non-urgent footpath and playground maintenance work required will be considered and where possible will be deferred to the new financial year.

**11. Correspondence** – The Clerk presented the following correspondence.

**a) Law Commission of England and Wales** – The Commission are currently undertaking a project on reforms to burial and cremation law and whether the Church in Wales should have a power to transfer responsibility for maintaining its closed churchyards to local councils in Wales. Noted.

**b) Consultation on Local Bus Services** – PCC has launched a new consultation on upcoming changes to local bus services in Powys. Noted.

**c) Revised Memorial Safety Policy** – PCC will be inspecting and making safe all memorials of 625mm to 1.5 meters in all Council owned cemeteries. Noted.

**d) Consultation Reforms to Compulsory Purchase** – The Government has published a consultation on reforms to the compulsory process. Noted.

**e) Senedd Constituencies** – The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru has published its revised proposals in relation to Senedd Constituencies in Wales. Noted.

**f) SID Penycae** – The Council is awaiting a response from TWM traffic on on-going maintenance costs for the SID when the warranty period expires.

**12. Laptop Upgrade Update** – Discussed under item 6 above. The purchase of a new Council laptop was approved.

**13. County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provide the following update. He presented a brief update on discussions on the PCC budget.

Work on repairs to the landslip at Pont Melin Fach were due to commence this week. The work was expected to take 4 weeks. On completion the road will be reopened.

The consultation on changes to local bus services had been launched. He had emphasised the importance of the X8 service to Coelbren and urged respondents to highlight its importance to Coelbren. The X62 service may be changed to an on-demand service.

PCC has launched the Powys Sustainable Resource Strategy consultation. The consultation focussed on future strategies for household and business waste including the circular economy, recycling, fly tipping measures and the collection of household waste.

**14. Minutes 21/11/24** – The minutes of the last meeting on 21/11/24 were signed as a true record.

**15. Matters Arising** – No reply received, to the Council’s questions, from the Active Travel Manager at PCC.

**16. Any Urgent Business – Craig y Nos** – The Council briefly discussed the storm damage at Craig y Nos and if any footpath closures, due to the storm, would be lifted soon. The general environment around the area was commented on.

**17. Date of Next Meeting 20/02/2025.**

#### Appendix to Minutes

#### DONATIONS TO ORGANISATIONS 2024/2025

ORGANISATION	DONATION 2024/2025	SECTION 137
Callwen Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Abercrave Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Coelbren Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Nantyllyn Chapel Graveyard Fund	£400	
Tynycoed Chapel Graveyard Fund	£400	
Ysgol y Cribarth	£400	
Coelbren Miners Memorial Hall		£2100
First Caehopkin Pine Scouts	£200	
Coelbren OAP	£300	
Abercrave RFC		£200
Penycae Action Team		£300
Ynyswen Action Group		£300
Ystradgynlais Community Car		£250
Wales Air Ambulance	£250	
South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue	£200	