

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2025

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Arlene Jones (via ZOOM), Geoff Woods, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton, Monique Craine, Marjorie Jopling, County Councillor David Thomas (viaZOOM)

In attendance – PCSO Nicole Watkins and Sally Watkins Ystradgynlais Police.

Observers - None

The Chairman welcomed members to the rearranged February meeting of the Council. The meeting scheduled for the 20th February was postponed as the Clerk was unwell.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillor Sandra Howard, Sandra Clayton, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Huw Williams and Alun Thomas.
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None declared
3. **Police Matters** – PCSO Nicole Watkins advised that patrols in Coelbren had increased due mainly to issues with a care home in the village. Parking issues around the village shop were being monitored including engagement with individuals. The situation was improving, however, if necessary traffic enforcement could be asked to monitor.
In response to a question the Police advised they had not witnessed any speeding on Heol Eglwys. They will speak to Go-Safe who will inspect the area for suitability to employ hand-held speed monitoring equipment. Visits had also been made along the forestry road, there were no instances of fly tipping to report. Concern was expressed over the use of social media platforms in reacting to recent motor bike thefts. The matter is being investigated.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The report to the end of January had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the income and expenditures. The Clerk highlighted the demand from HMRC for unpaid Employer's National Insurance Contributions. Payroll had confirmed that the payment of Employer's NIC was due but unable to provide the reasons why. The Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman executed a payment to HMRC of £134.22
The additional NIC payment of £14.52 will be added to future monthly payments to HMRC. The Employer's NIC is not deducted from the net salary, it is an additional Employer's contribution. The payment will have a negative impact on the payroll budget for 2025/2026 as the payment is not included in the budget. The Council will address the payroll budget in April. The Council approved the report and action taken by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.
 - b) **Budget Update** – The report had been circulated. The Council approved the report.
 - c) **To approve the February Payment Register** – The register had been circulated. The Council approved the report including the additional Employer's NIC payment.
5. **Planning – Pen Caer Lan Solar Park** – The Council noted the communication.
6. **Footpath Playgrounds** –
Caehopkin Playground – The Clerk advised he had received further requests for an infant's cradle swing at Caehopkin. The Council had previously approved the work. Matthew Thomas has now installed the swing and new chain support.

7. Correspondence

- a) **Review of 20mph Limit in Powys** – PCC has published a review document of requests received to change the 20mph speed limit back to 30mph. No requests for changes were received in Tawe Uchaf.
 - b) **Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029** – The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys has published his policing priorities for the period 2025-2029. The key priorities are 1) Supporting victims and preventing victimisation 2) Supporting safe communities by preventing harm; 3) Supporting a more effective justice system.
 - c) **Vacancy Coelbren Ward** – Electoral services have noted the vacancy. The Council can proceed to advertise the vacancy. The Council will advertise the vacancy in April.
 - d) **Electoral Review Programme 2025** – The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru has published its Policy and Practice document in preparation for the 2025 electoral review programme.
- 8. Review the Draft Annual Report 2024/2025** – The draft annual report had been circulated. The Council agreed to include a statement there would be no impact on planning by the extension to the Geopark. Under prosperous community any reference to the Waterfall Country can be removed.
- 9. To approve the updated Section 6 Environment Report** – The report had been circulated. The Council approved the report. The report will be published to the Council website and will require updating every three years.
- 10. To review the OVW Digital Review Recommendations** – Councillor Arlene Jones led the review of the OVW Digital Review recommendations. There were options provided where the Council would need to decide whether to adopt or continue with the status quo. The conclusion of the report commended the Council on the standard of digital maturity it displayed ensuring compliance with expectations set out in the WG legislation. The Council agreed it would not look to adopt any of the suggestions in the review as there were other matters with higher priority.
- 11. Household Waste Recycling Centres - New arrangements** – The Chairman raised questions on the new arrangements being introduced on the 1st April. Visits to the HWRC will need to be booked before visiting, including charges being introduced for DIY waste. County Councillor David Thomas advised the new arrangements had been approved by PCC in 2024 and had been well communicated. The alternative to charging for DIY waste would have required the closure of one of the HWRC in the County. The Council expressed concern that a consequence of charging could result in an increase of fly tipping.
- 12. County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided the following update; The landslip at Pont Melin Fach has been repaired and the road has reopened; The Bus services consultation held by PCC had now closed. Services within Tawe Uchaf will remain unchanged; A full meeting of the County Council had approved the Council budget for 2025/26. An additional £7.4m of additional funding had been provided for education services in the County.

There followed a discussion on the move to on-line services and consultations across a range of essential services. The move did not respect the fact that there are members of the public who have no access to use on-line services and the only option is use the telephone service provided often with long waiting times. It was

noted that hard copies of consultation documents could be copied and placed in public places.

13. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting on 16th January 2025 were signed as a true record.

14. Matters Arising – No response received from the Active Travel Manager on issues raised on Cycle path 43.

15. Any Other Business –

The Council congratulated Penycae Action Team on gaining the award of £1500 from the Tesco Community Award.

Going forward this Item will be replaced on the agenda by Member Issues

16. Date of Next meeting 20th March 2025

Councillor Alun Thomas had e mailed apology as he had been unable to connect on ZOOM.