

Cyngor Cymuned Tawe Uchaf Community Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th March 2025

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Susan Pyart, Gail Hopkins-Williams, (via ZOOM), Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Geoff Woods, Ann Watkins, County Councillor David Thomas (via ZOOM)

Observers - None

The Chairman welcomed members to the March meeting of the Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Huw Williams, Sandra Clayton, Alun Thomas and Marjorie Jopling.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None declared
3. **Police Matters** – The Police did not attend.
4. **Finance**
 - a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The income/expenditure report to February had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report
 - b) **Budget Update** – The Budget update to February had been circulated. The Council approved the update.
 - c) **March Payment Register** – The Council approved the March payment register.
5. **Planning**
 - a) **Powys LDP Open Spaces** – The Council had reviewed the open spaces register for Coelbren. County Councillor David Thomas reminded the register only referred to land where no development will be allowed. The Council will respond advising the Council is aware that the GCRE now owns land on Mynydd y Drym
6. **Understanding the Planning System** – The Chairman expressed an interest. The cost per delegate is £50.00. The Council approved the Chairman's attendance and payment of the invoice. The Clerk will register attendance and request an invoice.
Footpath/Playgrounds – Footpath maintenance will commence in May or June.
7. **Review and approve the updated Asset Register** – The updated asset register had been circulated to include the new Council laptop. The Council approved the updated asset register.
The Chairman advised there were benches in the village of Coelbren not on the register. The benches had probably been put in place previously, by the County Council. The Council will investigate the condition of the benches and make further enquiries with the County Council before making a decision to adopt the benches. An enquiry was raised in relation to benches on Cycle Path 43. It was noted these benches may have been placed during the construction of the Cycle path.
8. **Correspondence**
 - a) **Storm Darragh Complaint** – A resident of Coelbren had submitted a complaint directly to David Chadwick MP alleging a lack of response by the Community Council during storm Darragh. The complaint alleged power had been off for four days and no one had checked on her welfare in that time. The Councillors in the village of Coelbren had reviewed the allegation and more widely the impact of the storm in Coelbren and the impacts of the storm in the north of the Community including coverage on main stream media. Following an investigation the Council had prepared a detailed response to the MP to highlight inaccuracies in the complaint. The Council approved the response.

- b) **Senedd Review Final Determination** – The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru has confirmed and published its final determinations for the 2026 Review of Senedd constituencies. Noted.
- c) **IRPW Annual Report 2025/26** – The IRPW have published the annual report for 2025/2026. It is the final report from the IRPW. The functions will now transfer to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru.
- d) **PAVO** – PAVO has invited Community and Town Councils to become members. Membership is free. The Council agreed to become members.
- 9. **Review Amended Annual Report 2024/2025** – The Council reviewed the amended annual report. The Council requested that all references to Bannau Brycheiniog should be consistent and reference to Brecon Beacons should be changed. The Clerk was asked to ensure all typing errors and grammar are corrected. The report will be approved at the April meeting of the Council.
- 10. **County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided a brief update. Currently, the main focus was the reorganisation of secondary education in the Builth Wells area.

Sustainable Powys – A further briefing is being arranged for C&TC at Ystradgynlais on 1st May at 7pm. The Council will be allowed two delegates.
- 11. **Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council on 27th February, were signed as a true record subject to the following correction. The list of those present had duplicated with the list of apologies. The Clerk will correct the lists.
- 12. **Matters Arising – FP Craig y Nos** – In response to a question the Council noted that certain FP's into the Park remained closed due to fallen trees.
- 13. **Member Issues** – Councillor Arlene Jones raised two issues following her recent meeting with the Coelbren OAP.

Bench at School Bus Stop – A request to provide a bench near the bus shelter outside Coelbren School. The Council will consult with Powys Highways to seek permission to place a bench. The Council will also investigate relocating the bench from outside the former health centre.

Bus Service – A request to redirect a bus service through Cefnbyrle to help ease access to the village shop at Coelbren. It was noted the new bus timetables had recently been approved and published by PCC, therefore, a service redirection was not possible. The Chairman advised there was a daily service available around midday running into Coelbren. The bus will then route to Banwen and back into Coelbren allowing time to shop and take the bus back to Cefnbyrle. The Chairman will provide the timetable to Councillor Arlene Jones.

Audio Points Llech Trail – The Chairman advised that the audio points recovered for investigation required a replacement part. The component in question was available. The Council approved that the Chairman try to source the parts required to enable the repair of the audio units. If new push switches are required the Chairman was asked to source and purchase the items. The estimated cost is £10 per push switch. The Council will refund costs to the Chairman.
- 14. **Date of Next Meeting – 17th April 2025.**