

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2025

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Susan Pyart, Monique Craine, Marjorie Jopling, Sandra Clayton (via ZOOM) Arlene Jones (Via ZOOM), County Councillor David Thomas (over ZOOM)

Observers - None

The Chairman welcomed members to the April meeting of the Council. He reported the item for correspondence had been left off the agenda. The item will be included as item 11 on the agenda.

- 1. Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Ann Watkins, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Huw Williams, Sandra Howard, and Alun Thomas.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None declared.
- 3. Police Matters** – The Police advised they were unable to attend in person. However, they had e mailed the Council advising of a fire at the former Coelbren CP School site. The Police had visited the site with staff from the local fire service. Discussions will be held with the owners of the site to secure the site and resolve issues long term.
Concern was expressed at the number of speeding motor bikes using the A4067 especially on a Sunday. Excessive speed was being witnessed of bikers passing Craig y Nos. The Council will express the concerns to the Police.
- 4. Finance**
 - a) Income/Expenditure Report March 2025** – The income/expenditure report to 31 March, the financial year end, had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the bank reconciliation and the amount of £16,883.63 to be carried forward. The Council approved the report.
 - b) Budget Update March 2025** – The budget update up to 31 March had been circulated. The Council approved the report.
Budget Report 2025/2026 – The Clerk advised the budget report in 2025/26 will introduce an additional line for the Employer's National Insurance Contribution. The budget will need to be amended to include the increased level of Employers NI contribution.
 - c) Approve the April Payment Register** – The Council approved the April payment register. The increase in the Employers National Insurance contribution was noted.
 - d) Receive the Wales Audit Report for 2023/2024 FY** – Wales Audit had returned the Council's audit for the financial year 2023/2024. A copy had been circulated to the Council. The audit is unqualified and there are no issues raised. The completion of audit notice was published on 31 March 2025 together with the annual return and audit opinion..

Audit 2024/2025 – Wales Audit has circulated information to all Councils for the 2024/2025 audit. The Council will be subject to a full triennial audit. Work was underway to prepare for the internal audit to present the internal audit report and annual return for approval by the Council at its May Meeting. The notice of audit will be published on 16 June, 2025. The papers will be delivered to Wales Audit in Cardiff at the end of July.

5. **Planning** – No matters received.
6. **Footpath/Playgrounds** – The FP maintenance will commence in June/July.
Playgrounds – The playgrounds were inspected on 10 April. The corrosion on the chain connections and u-bolts will need regular inspection. The closure mechanism to the gate at Caehopkin needed attention. The football goalposts at Caehopkin are showing signs of corrosion and will need to be monitored.
7. **Approve the Council's Annual Report for 2024/2025** – The Council's Annual Report was approved. The report will be published on 22 April.
8. **Review the Council's Training Plan** – The Council reviewed the training plan. Further training modules are to be considered in 2025/2026.
9. **To nominate members to the Coelbren Interpretive Panel Sub-Group** – The sub-group will include all Councillors representing the Coelbren Ward. The sub-group will be subject to the Council standing orders and will report to the Council quarterly. All finance requests must be authorised by the full Council.
10. **Casual Vacancy Coelbren** – The Casual Vacancy at Coelbren was advertised on the 14 April.
11. **Correspondence**
 - a) **Employer's National Insurance** – OVW had replied to a question raised by the Clerk. OVW have confirmed that the payment of the Chair's allowance under IRPW regulations will be subject to Employer's NI.
 - b) **David Chadwick MP** – The MP had thanked the Council for the comprehensive response provided, in replying to a complaint, referred to the Council.
12. **County Council Update** – County Councillor David Thomas provided the following update.
 - Fly Tipping Coelbren** – The incident had been passed to the Enforcement officer for investigation. The incident had occurred on private land placing the responsibility to clean up, on the landowner. The role of the Enforcement officer will be to try and determine the source of the material illegally tipped.
 - Sustainable Powys** – PCC will hold a further briefing at Ystradgynlais on the 1st May. The Clerk will inform PCC the Chair and Vice Chair will attend the event at Ystradgynlais on the 1st May.
 - Household Waste Recycling Centre** – To date no issues have arisen on the new arrangements to use the HWRC. The booking system appeared to be working smoothly.

In conclusion he advised the Cabinet had approved an outline business case for submission to the WG for a replacement school at Sennybridge.

13. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting on the 20 March were approved and signed.

14. Matters Arising

Bench near Coelbren School – Following further discussion locally, the request was amended to have a bench undercover in the bus shelter near the former Coelbren School. The Council will explore further with PCC. County Councillor David Thomas will obtain contact details for the appropriate officer.

Community Benches – Following discussion the following criteria was agreed. County Councillor David Thomas reported that PCC was unlikely to repair or replace street or roadside benches and would obtain the formal PCC position should the Community Council wish to adopt any benches in future.

- a) Local benches not currently on the Council asset register will be inspected and monitored;
- b) Benches in good condition, not requiring maintenance, could be adopted by the Council subject to written confirmation by PCC. If a bench is adopted its location and condition and date adopted is to be recorded. The Council will have final approval prior to adoption.
- c) Benches in poor condition, requiring repair costs, will be referred to PCC for removal.
- d) The Council will review and consider demand for any benches removed and will ensure the cost of any replacement benches, if requested, are included in future Council budgets;

15. Member Issues

Bench at Caehopkin – It was reported a bench at School Road Caehopkin was in a poor condition and beyond repair. The Council agreed to arrange the removal of the bench

Speed Indicator Device – A request had been submitted to relocate the SID from Penycae to Craig y Nos. The Council agreed the request. The Clerk will liaise with PCC Highways at Abercrave.

Active Travel Manager – County Councillor David Thomas will contact the active travel manager to request his attendance over ZOOM at the May monthly meeting of the Council.

16. Date of Next Meeting and AGM – The AGM and the May meeting will be held on Thursday 15 May, 2025.