

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th July, 2025

Present – Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Susan Pyart, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Sandra Howard, Arlene Jones, Geoff Woods, Anne Watkins, Alun Thomas, Sandra Clayton, Marjorie Jopling

In attendance PCSO Sarah Nash Ystradgynlais Police

Observers - None

- 1. Apologies for absence** were accepted from County Councillor David Thomas.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None declared.
- 3. Police Matters** – PCSO Sarah Nash provided an update on Police activity. PCSO Nash referred to the recent fatal RTA on the A4221. She had spoken with colleagues in Traffic and had no further information at this time.
The Clerk introduced correspondence received from Jo Lancey of PCC with information following a highway investigation of the site. The communication advised that due to the type of incidents Highways would be unable to engineer for the type of incident and there are no issues with signing and lining or highway alignment. The Council discussed the response and agreed a response to Jo Lancey. The Council agreed to outline previous engineering work where the length of the filter lane was reduced to accommodate the crossing from the cycle track and whether it should be reviewed. In addition, the Council suggested the provision of double white lines might discourage overtaking on the stretch of highway.
PCSO Sarah Nash continued by advising there had not been any recent instances of anti-social behaviour in the Community. In response to a question PCSO Nash advised that road traffic police were in the area frequently monitoring speeding traffic and the areas around Craig y Nos were also monitored frequently. Speed checks were continuing on 20 mph road and prosecutions issued for exceeding the speed limits are being issued. She noted the effectiveness of the Speed Indicator Device at Penycae. She suggested the Council should consider setting up Community Speed Watch groups. The Chairman thanked PCSO Sarah Nash for the update.
- 4. Finance**
 - a) Income/Expenditure Report June 2025** – The report to the end of June had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
 - b) Budget Update June 2025** – The budget update to June 2025 had been circulated. The Council approved the report.
 - c) July Payment Register** – The July Payment Register was approved.

- d) To delegate responsibility for August Payments** – The Council approved the delegation of responsibility for statutory payments in August to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.

5. Planning – No matters received

6. Footpath/Playgrounds

- a) Footpaths** – The Chairman and Clerk had not met with Matthew Thomas, who is on leave. Councillor Pyart reported unresolved issues between Powys CC and the landowner over a boundary fence on the black path.
- b) Playgrounds** – The Council discussed a recent playground inspection report circulated by the Clerk. The Council deferred making any decisions on the points raised. It was noted that investigation work will be undertaken on the entrance gate at Caehopkin playground to resolve closure issues. If the gate could not be repaired the Council will need to consider budgeting for a new entrance gate. The Clerk suggested Councillors should visit their local playgrounds to understand the issues raised from the regular inspection reports.

Single Point Swing Penycae Playground – The Clerk presented a quote from Wicksteed to change the universal joint assembly on equipment at Penycae Playground. The part is a critical safety feature on the equipment. The total cost to replace the universal joint is £1902.00 plus vat. The Council complained about the cost of the replacement part and suggested that local handymen be asked to inspect the universal joint with a view to making a replacement.

The Clerk explained the component was a safety critical part on the equipment and only supplied by the original equipment manufacturer. Councillor Alun Thomas supported the Clerk's comment.

The Clerk advised the Council, it would be acting against the advice of the Clerk if a local approach was adopted to even consider a local handyman approach to make such a safety critical part and significantly increasing the risks to users.

The Council's insurance would be invalidated if a non-standard component was used as a replacement. The Council agreed to a site visit with the Chairman to inspect the equipment. The matter will be deferred for further discussion at the next meeting of the Council when the annual RoSPA report may be available. In the meantime, the Clerk will consult Stephan Butcher at PCC for his advice.

- 7. Interpretive Panel Update** – A brief report suggested information was available to collate and commence preparation work on the make-up of a panel, which would need to be bi-lingual. Councillor Arlene Jones had spoken with the BBNP to try to establish names of manufacturers of panels. Councillor Jones will progress further and try to establish the costs of manufacturing and erecting a panel at a chosen site.

8. Correspondence

- a) Bus Shelter Near former Coelbren CP School** – The ownership of the former school building had not been determined. Powys CC have confirmed the current

shelter needs to be replaced and are committed to replacing the shelter when funding becomes available. The Council will continue to try and establish the owners of the former school to try and facilitate the removal of overgrown scrub that will obstruct the construction of the replacement bus shelter.

- b) **Cycle Track 43** – The travel officer at Powys CC has advised that GCRE have not provided any proposed dates for the site meeting. When dates are available the Council will be advised.
- c) **OVW Constitution and Governance Framework** – OVW have written to all Community and Town Councils to describe important proposed changes to governance arrangements. An EGM will be convened remotely at 4.00 pm on 3/9/25. The Chairman will represent the Council.
- d) **Sustainable Powys** – Powys CC has written to Community and Town Councils to advise a new resource hub has gone live. The new resource hub allows Community Councillors to access and share information, ideas and experiences.
- e) **Defibrillator Ynyswen** – The guardians have advised the pads will expire in September and will need replacing. Councillor Susan Pyart advised the pads will need replacing on the defib at Caehopkin. An update will be provided on the defib pads at Coelbren. The Council agreed to replace the pads for the defibrillators at Ynyswen and Caehopkin and if required for Coelbren.
- 9. **County Council Update** – No update provided.
- 10. **Councillor Training** – The Standards Community Sub-Committee at Powys CC has considered the Code of Conduct training for T&CC's and are making an approach to Bethan Evans, Governance Training and Consultancy who is a training provider and has provided well received Code of Conduct training to County Councillors. The company can record a training session around 1 ½ hours in length. The recording could be made available to all T&CC's at a cost of £30 per council. T&CC's need to make expressions of interest by 1/8/25. The Council agreed to submit an expression of interest.
- 11. **Councillor Remuneration** – The Clerk referred to a letter and form circulated to Councillors and explained the content. The Clerk requested the return of the forms as soon as possible to allow any payments to be made at the September meeting.
- 12. **Councillor Vacancy** – Electoral Services at Powys CC have advised a Notice of Election could be published. If no response is received to the Notice of Election the Council can then proceed to publish a Notice of co-option. Electoral services will be consulted at each stage. The Council agreed to publish the Notice of Vacancy on Monday 28th July, 2025.
- 13. **Minutes of the Meeting on 19/6/25** – The minutes of the previous meeting on 19/6/25 were signed as a true record.
- 14. **Matters Arising** –

Parking at Craig y Nos – Parking on Council property at Craig y Nos was being monitored. No further incidents of parking on the Council land had been reported. The matter will continue to be monitored when farmers markets were held.

15. Member Issues

Post 16 Education in Powys – Councillor Sandra Howard raised the consultation by Powys CC on post 16 Education in the County and provided a detailed explanation on the choices proposed in the consultation. The options being proposed were to provide post 16 education at either Brecon or Newtown. She felt it unreasonable to expect Maesydderwen pupils to travel to Brecon to pursue post 16 education for a number of valid reasons. The Council agreed with the comments and instructed the Clerk to communicate its objections to the proposal to the Education Department at Powys CC.

Bin Collection Penwyllt – Councillor Marjorie Joplin raised the issue of bin collection problems on Penwyllt Road. The collection of black wheelie bins was being missed on regular basis and there had been vehicle failures preventing bin collection up at Penwyllt. The Council agreed to refer to Powys CC

Relocation of SID – The SID had not been moved due to the unavailability of a suitable vehicle from the local highways depot. The Chairman and Clerk will discuss the possibility of future relocations with Matthew Thomas.

16. Date of Next Meeting – The Council agreed the Council will not meet in August unless urgent matters are raised requiring a Special Meeting. The Council approved that governance issues on statutory payments for August are delegated as per minute 4d.

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 18 September 2025.