

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th September, 2025

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies, Gareth Hayton. Geoff Wood, Susan Pyart, Sandra Clayton, Ann Watkins, Marjorie Jopling, County Councillor David Thomas

Observers - None

In attendance – PCSO Rachel Williams Ystradgynlais Police

The Chairman welcomed members present to the September meeting of the Council.

- 1. Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillor Alun Thomas, Sandra Howard and Arlene Jones.
- 2. Declarations of Interest –** None submitted.
- 3. Police Reports –** PCSO Rachel Williams provided a brief update. No issues to report in the Community.

RTA on A4221 – The Council considered a response from Jo Lancey in answer to queries raised by the Council on the road layout at Cefnbyrle, namely, double white lines and extending the filter lane. The response stated that neither suggestion would have had any impact. The Council agreed to request a meeting with Jo Lancey for further discussion.

Speeding at Penycae – The Clerk introduced correspondence from a resident at Penycae. The e mail had been referred to the Council by Powys Highways. The resident submitted a complaint of traffic speeding through the village of Penycae, of an incident involving the loss of a puppy and raising a query on the effectiveness of the Council's speed indicator device. The location of the speed indicator device, close to the 20mph limit would appear to confuse motorists.

Gareth Hayton reported an incident where he had been overtaken by a vehicle in the 20mph section through the village. Several Councillors had experienced similar experiences.

PCSO Rachel Williams advised she would endeavour to request speed checks in the village of Penycae.

The Council had previously agreed to relocate the SID from Penycae. The matter will be considered under item 7 on the agenda.

4. Finance

- a) Income/Expenditure –** The income expenditure report to August had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report highlighting the second precept payment had been received. The report was approved.
- b) Budget Update –** The budget update to August had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The report was approved.
- c) September Payment Register –** The September payment register was approved. The Council also agreed to include the expenses claim, of £19.50,

from the Chairman, for electronic components purchased to repair the audio points on the Llech trail.

d) To confirm delegated actions August payments – The August payments had been made as approved in minute reference 4d on 17/7/25. The Council by GCRE was progressing.

e) 2026/2027 Budget discussions – The budget forecast had been circulated. The Clerk highlighted the key elements for discussion. The budget will be developed over the next 3 months for confirmation at the January meeting. Members were asked to review the budget lines and make recommendations at the next meeting.

5. Planning – No matters received. The Chairman advised the NRW application for a new access road to the east of Coelbren would divert heavy timber transporters away from the village.

6. Footpath/Playgrounds

a) Footpaths – The site meeting proposed at the June meeting had now been held on 12th August. The Chairman and Clerk had met Matthew Thomas at Coelbren and Caehopkin. An update had been circulated to the Council on the outcome of the site meetings and actions required.

The Council approved the expenditure of £400 to cut back the tree on the FP behind the Welfare Hall Coelbren and to repair the surface of the FP.

All work required on the Black path at Caehopkin was completed by the local highways depot together with the repair of the boundary fence for the landowner.

FP Moriah to Dark Arch Coelbren – The Council approved the expenditure of £400.00 to cut back an overgrown tree obstructing the FP and work to repair a section of the FP surface.

Mynydd y Drym Rights of Way – Sandra Barnes had replied to the Council to advise the scheme to reopen the rights of way by GCRE was progressing. When a plan is received from GCRE it will be shared with the Council.

b) Playgrounds – Councillor Gareth Hayton submitted a report from his recent inspection of the Council's playgrounds. There were no issues to raise. Gareth Hayton will circulate a copy of the report to the Council.

The Clerk advised he had applied for a grant from Powys County Council to replace the component on the single point basket swing at Penycae playground.

Chairman's Report – The Chairman presented the report already circulated to the Council. He invited the Council to approve recommendation (a) in the report to strengthen the Council's playground inspection criteria to improve the Council's knowledge of inspections and the equipment contained in each playground. The Council approved the recommendation for the Chairman, Councillor Gareth Hayton and the Clerk to undertake future playground inspections.

Caehopkin Playground Trees – Susan Pyart advised, the Council needed to inspect white poplar trees, close to the playground boundary, which may be diseased. The trees could lie within the boundary of the playground. The Council agreed to undertake a step-by-step approach to determine the condition of the trees, whether the trees are within the playground boundary. Marjorie Joplin offered the services of her son who could advise the Council on the condition of the trees. The Council accepted the offer. A site meeting will be convened when the Clerk returns from leave.

- 7. Relocation of Speed Indicator Device** – The Chairman presented the report. The report submitted followed a site meeting at Penycae, attended by the Chairman, Clerk with staff from the local highways depot and Matthew Thomas. The site meeting considered whether Matthew Thomas would consider taking responsibility to relocate the SID for the Council, as the highway depot did not always have the resources available. The Council approved the recommendation in the report and agreed that Matthew Thomas should undertake future transfers of the SID, to other locations, in the Community, as and when required.

Following the correspondence under item 3 the Council further agreed to arrange the transfer of the SID from Penycae to Craig y Nos as had been previously intended.

- 8. Interpretive Panel** – The Chairman advised he had recently visited Mumbles and noted several panels displayed to commemorate the history of the old Swansea to Mumbles railway. The panels used were much smaller and compact. The Clerk had circulated a picture to the Council of a similar interpretive panel on the site of the former canal at Ystradgynlais.

The Clerk introduced correspondence from the Penycae Action Team expressing an interest to locate an interpretive panel at Penycae. PAT had already consulted both the BBNP and Powys CC planning authorities. The Council agreed the Clerk will make enquiries to try and determine the suppliers of interpretive panels and an estimate of costs.

In addition, the Clerk will contact PAT to determine what progress had been made on content, sourcing a supplier and location and advise the Council was seeking further information before making a decision.

9. Correspondence

- a) Refuse Collection Penwyllt** – Waste Awareness at Powys CC have advised any missed collections should be reported online to Missed Bin Collections – Powys County Council. David Thomas advised if the on-line service is used it will receive immediate attention. Marjorie Jopling advised there had not been any further missed collections, however, on occasions there are late collections.

- b) OVW/SLCC Event** – The Council agreed the Clerk proceed and register three delegates for the event on 12/11/25, namely, the Chairman, Gareth Hayton and the Clerk

- c) **Bus Shelter Coelbren** – Powys CC have provided further information that a Green Roof Shelter is proposed to replace the existing bus shelter near the former Coelbren School. The shelter will include a bench.
 - d) **Cross Border Health Funding** – The Council noted correspondence from Llandrindod Town Council on Cross Border Health funding.
 - e) **Henrhyd Waterfall Car Park** – The National Trust have responded to the Council to advise regular litter picking is being undertaken at the Henrhyd Falls car park.
- 10. County Council update** – David Thomas provided the following update.
- Post 16 Education** – He wanted to follow up on the Council's response on Post 16 education in the County. Post 16 education was funded from the WG and not from the Powys education budget. The funding from the WG was based on pupil numbers going into post 16 education in the County. The numbers in Powys were low. In order to try and provide an effective post 16 system offering a wide subject choice, the County had commenced on a series of consultations on the options available to provide an effective Post 16 system. One of the options was to investigate setting up a 6th Form College to provide a wide-ranging Post 16 subject choice for pupils in Powys. A second phase of engagement will be launched. It is vitally important to engage with as many people as possible. He concluded by advising that any changes will not be implemented until 2030.
- County Council Budget Forecast** – David Thomas provided a brief update on the Powys CC budget at the end of the first quarter.
- 11. Councillor Training** – The Clerk advised, he had registered the Council's interest in the Code of Conduct training offered by Powys County Council. He had not received a reply to the Council's expression of interest and no response to a subsequent follow up. The Clerk will provide copy of the e mails to David Thomas to seek a response.
- 12. Councillor Remuneration Section 147** – The Clerk advised that some responses remained outstanding.
- Chairman's Allowance** – The Council approved the payment of the Chairman's allowance of £500.00 under section 147. The payment will be processed through the Council payroll in October.
- 13. Councillor Vacancy** – A notice of co-option had been published. No expressions of interest had been received by the 17th September. A further notice of co-option will be published.
- 14. Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting on 17 July, 2025 were signed as a true record.
- 15. Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 16. Member issues**
- a) **Christmas Lights** – In response to Gareth Hayton, the Chairman advised that the provision of Christmas lights in each village had been explored previously. The costs quoted to design and make the displays in addition to

hanging the lights was very costly. It would have required a major increase in the Council budget and in turn would impact the Council tax burden for residents. In addition, when the Council met with a contractor on-site, they advised the wooden lamp posts currently in use would be unsuitable.

- b) Dog Fouling Cycle Path 43** – Gareth Hayton raised an issue of dog fouling on cycle path 43. The Council will refer to the local highways depot.
- c) Local Bus Services** – The Chairman provided an update on the new bus timetables that became effective on 1/9/25. While he was grateful, services into Coelbren had been maintained he was disappointed that suggestions he had made to the consultation for improved connections to the T6 had not been considered. He asked if any further minor adjustments may be possible.
- d) Ynyswen Shop Closure** – It was noted the village shop at Ynyswen was closing. It was hoped that new tenants can be found.
- e) Ancient Briton Award** – The Council recorded congratulations to the Ancient Briton on winning a Best Eating in Wales Award.

17. Date of next meeting – Thursday 16th October, 2025.