

## CYNGOR CYMUNED Tawe Uchaf COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

**Present** – Councillors Stephen Davies, Susan Pyart, Geoff Woods, Ann Watkins via ZOOM, Sandra Clayton via ZOOM, Gail Hopkins Williams via ZOOM, Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Gareth Hayton, County Councillor David Thomas

**In attendance** – PCSO Nicole Watkins Ystradgynlais Police

**Observers** - None

Prior to the meeting the Council observed a moments silence in remembrance of Mrs June Valerie Davies, the Chairman's late mother and Mrs Phylis Phillips of Coelbren a former long serving Community Councillor for the Coelbren Ward.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked the Council for the messages of support during his recent bereavement. He continued wishing a happy new year to Councillors. The January agenda contained important financial matters requiring discussion and decisions.

- 1. Apologies for absence** were approved from Councillor Alun Thomas.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None declared.
- 3. Police Matters** – PCSO Nicole Watkins advised the Roads Policing Division will be increasing their presence in the area. The unit will be allocated specific targets, which will be determined locally. Patrols around Coelbren and the A4221 continued, however, a suggestion was received from a member of the public, to consider changing the times of visits to early morning and evening. A community event was held at the Ynyswen Coffee shop. Speeding traffic through the village was a serious concern raised. Several issues had occurred at Hafan y Coed requiring Police attendance. The Fire Service had also been involved and had served a prohibition order on the property.

The Council raised concerns on the use of motorbikes on the cycle path and concerns on the Cefnbyrle Road Junction off the A4221. PCSO Nicole Watkins advised the Police are aware of the motorbike issue and continue to monitor. A drone can be deployed as and when required. The Clerk will progress a response from Jo Lancey on a signage survey of the A4221. The Chairman thanked PCSO Nicole Watkins for attending.

- 4. Finance**
  - a) Income/Expenditure Report December 2025** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised income received and delegated payments in December. The Council approved the report.
  - b) Budget Update December 2025** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
  - c) Confirm delegated actions in December 2025** – The Council confirmed the delegated actions approved, to make payments in December. (see item 4c of minutes on 27/11/25).

- d) **To approve the January Payment register** – The January payment register was approved.
- e) **Caehopkin Trees – Report on Tenders** – The report had been circulated. Estimates had been received from two Companies. A further two Companies did not respond. The Chairman and Clerk advised the report was prepared using the details and responses requested in the tender request form issued. The Council considered the report and the recommendations contained. The Council approved the selection of Ein Cwmni Coed to undertake the work based on the lowest cost and the detailed responses received to information requested. The Council approved that the Playground Inspection Team and local members at Caehopkin meet Ein Cwmni Coed to discuss the project and any matters arising. An update will be provided to the Council at the next meeting. The Council approved to add the expenditure into the draft budget for 2026/2027.

**5. To confirm and approve the Council budget for 2026/2027** – The draft budget had been circulated. The Council made final amendments to include information from approvals taken at item (e) above. The Council budget for 2026/2027 was approved.

A question was raised whether the Council should consider inviting tenders for Footpath and Playground maintenance. The Clerk advised the Council if alternative contractors were available, they could be invited to provide estimates for the work. The Council would need to undertake an evaluation on the background and competence of each Company and communicate the obligations required by the Council in terms of sustainability, service level and quality of work.

**6. To approve the Precept request for 2026/2027** – The Council considered the amended draft budget and the year-end expenditure projections provided by the Clerk. The Council agreed to increase the precept. The Council approved to request a precept of £38,000 for the 2026/2027 financial year. The Clerk will make the request to PCC.

**7. To consider requests for donations** – The Council considered the requests received. The Council approved the following donations (See appendix) The Council excluded Caehopkin Pine Scouts as organisational changes had occurred. However, if a written request was received, the Council will consider the request at its next meeting.

**8. Planning 25/24258/Ful Pantyffynon Penycae** – The Council considered the proposal. The Council agreed to raise the following concerns.

1. The access to this site from the A4067 is totally unsuitable in terms of road safety. The access is off a long sharp bend on the A4067. Traffic visibility using the bend is not good. Access from the site is off this long bend on the A4067, requiring a sharp left turn from a northerly direction, or crossing traffic on a blind bend from the south.
2. The access from the A4067, to the site, is also a public right of way, the use of the right of way must not be prejudiced.

3. The biodiversity around the site must be respected and protected.
4. The Council shares concerns expressed by comments made by NRW
5. The Council has not been made aware of any planning consents on works undertaken at this site.

**9. Footpath and Playgrounds –** The FP and Playground maintenance had been completed. The Chairman reported the work on the Moriah to Dark Arch FP was completed this week. The work was approved by the Council in September 2025; however, the work had been delayed by persistent bad weather.

Playground inspections remained outstanding due to persistent inclement weather conditions. The playground team will attempt to undertake inspections during January.

**10. Correspondence**

- a) Cross Border Health Care –** Llandrindod Town Council has written to request the Council's support regarding cross border health funding for Powys residents and healthcare. The Council agreed to support in principle and to request details how the proposed meetings will be held. The Clerk will respond to the Town Council.
- b) Section 137 Expenditure Limit 2026/2027 –** The WG has notified the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 by Town and Community Councils in 2026/2027 will be £11.60.
- c) Pensions Regulator –** The Regulator has written requesting the Council to complete its legal duty required for re-enrolment. Re-enrolment is required every three years.
- d) Speed Indicator Device –** FTS Fewzed has informed the Council that TWM Traffic Control Systems has ceased trading. TWM Systems supplied the speed indicator device owned by the Council. FTS Fewzed had recently acquired the assets of TWM including spares and the name. FTS Fewzed contacted the Council to establish the make and model of the SID to determine if any software upgrades would be required. The Clerk had provided the make and model of the SID and been informed the Council's SID did not have a SIM card and therefore no action was required. In the event of any issues the Council should contact FTS Fewzed.
- e) Buckingham Palace Garden Parties –** OVW has invited Town and Community Councils for nomination of key individuals to enter a selection draw to attend one of the King's garden parties. No nominations were forthcoming.

**11. County Council update –** County Councillor David Thomas provided the following update.

**Christmas Recycling Collections –** The Community had suffered serious delays of recycling collections over Christmas including the wider Ystradgynlais area. The delays had caused unacceptable problems for ratepayers. The problems caused were due to operational issues at PCC.

**Council Budget** – A draft budget will be presented to Cabinet next week for consideration. It will then require further scrutiny before consideration by the full County Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Despite an increase of 4.2% in the revenue support grant there remained a shortfall in the budget. Cost reductions were having to be considered, and the hope is much of the required savings will be achieved by redesigning services associated with the Sustainable Powys project. It was likely the predicted Council Tax increase will be 4.9%.

**12. Councillor Vacancy Ynyswen/Penycae Ward** – No expressions of interest have been received. Facebook messages were continuing to try and generate interest.

**13. Minutes of Meeting 27/11/25** – The minutes of the previous meeting on 27/11/25 were approved and signed as a true record.

**14. Matters Arising** – The Clerk advised the matter of selecting a possible supplier for the interpretive panel is deferred to the February meeting. In addition, discussion on a Biodiversity Action Plan will be deferred to the March meeting.

**15. Member Issues**

- a) **Gates on Cycle Path** – In response to a question the Clerk advised no response had been received from either the Active Travel Manager or representatives of the GCRE.
- b) **Bus Timetables** – The Chairman will follow up on suggestions made to PCC to alter the times of one of the number 62 services to include Cefnbyrle.

**16. Date of Next Meeting** – THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026.

## APPENDIX

### DONATIONS TO ORGANISATIONS 2025/2026

### APPENDIX To Minutes

ORGANISATION	DONATION 2025/2026	SECTION 137
Callwen Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Abercrave Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Coelbren Church Cemetery Fund	£400	
Nantyffin Chapel Graveyard Fund	£400	
Tynycoed Chapel Graveyard Fund	£400	
Ysgol y Cribarth	£400	
Coelbren Miners Memorial Hall		£2100
First Caehopkin Pine Scouts		
Coelbren OAP	£300	
Abercrave RFC		£200
Penycae Action Team		£300
Ynyswen Action Group		£300
Ystradgynlais Community Car		£250
Wales Air Ambulance	£250	
South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue		£200

