

## CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Susan Pyart, Gareth Hayton, Sandra Howard, Arlene Jones.

**In Attendance;** PCSO's Nicole Watkins and Rachel Williams

**Observers;** None

The Chairman welcomed members to the April meeting. It is the first meeting of the 2026/2027 financial year. The low turnout is due mainly to lambing by local farmers. He referenced the forthcoming elections to the Senedd on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The result of the election will be known by the next meeting of the Council.

1. **To approve Apologies for absence** – Apologies for absence were approved from Councillors Alun Thomas, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton, Geoff Woods, Gail Hopkins-Williams.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted.
3. **Police Matters** – The Police updated the Council on matters raised. Efforts were continuing to resolve traffic congestion on Heol Eglwys, Coelbren. All vehicles should be parked on one side of Heol Eglwys. The Roads Policing Unit was visiting the wider area on a weekly basis. Speed checks are being conducted on the A4067 and A4221. To date there was no evidence of speeding traffic on the A4221. Investigations were continuing of a burnt-out car near Nantfyfedwen. A drone was now being deployed when scrambler motorbike activity was detected, accessing the cycle path and Drym mountain area. The Chairman thanked PCSO's Nicole Watkins and Rachel Williams for the update.
4. **Finance**
  - a) **Income/Expenditure FY End March 2026** – The income/expenditure report for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report and year end balance. The bank reconciliation attached indicated the balance carried forward to the 2026/27 financial year. The balance carried forward was lower than the previous year. The Council approved the report.
  - b) **Budget FY End Report** – The year end budget report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the budget report.
  - c) **2025/2026 VAT Reclaim** – The VAT reclaim was submitted at the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The total VAT reclaimed is £1600.90. HMRC will transfer the VAT reclaimed into the Council bank account in April/May. The Council approved the report.
  - d) **To approve the April Payment Register** – The April payment register had been circulated. The Clerk highlighted the small increase in staffing costs, HMRC deductions and the Employer's National Insurance.

- e) **To review the Council's Bank Mandate** – The Chairman advised the resignation of Councillor Huw Williams will require the Council to update the bank mandate. The Council discussed the position. Councillor Gareth Hayton was proposed and seconded. Councillor Hayton accepted the nomination. The Council approved that Councillor Hayton be placed on the bank mandate.
- f) **Defibrillator Caehopkin** – Councillor Susan Pyart advised, engineers had been unable to repair the problems with the defibrillator at Caehopkin. Several sets of batteries had been tried. Each set resulting in a failure to rectify the fault. The unit could be returned to the USA, however, advice provided by the engineer, suggested clearly that purchasing a new unit would be the more cost-effective option for the Council.
- The Council was asked to consider purchasing a new defibrillator. The Council had obtained a quotation from Defib Supplies for a replacement defibrillator. The quote for a like for like replacement of the ZOLL/AED fully automatic defibrillator is £899.00 plus vat. The Council approved the expenditure of £899.00 plus VAT from the Street Furniture budget. The Council further approved the payment of the Pro-forma invoice when it is received. The April payment register will be updated.
5. **Planning** – No matters received.
- Cae Glas** – The BBNP has advised the revised notice dated the 16<sup>th</sup> March, near the site, was due to the delayed site visit by the case officer. The period for comments had been duly revised from the 16<sup>th</sup> March.
6. **Footpath/Playgrounds**
- a) **Footpaths** – The FP inspection team had held discussions with Matthew Thomas on the footpath and playground maintenance work in 2026/2027. Matthew Thomas indicated he would not be increasing costs despite the pressure on fuel prices due to problems in the Middle East.
- Nantfyedwen Bridge** – The Council had referred the broken panel on the bridge deck to the right of way officer at Powys CC. Arrangements will be made for the Footpath volunteer group to make the repair. The Council had highlighted the problem on its Facebook page to make walkers aware.
- b) **Penycae Playground Entrance Gate** – Following complaints on the condition of the ground at the entrance to the park an inspection was undertaken by the Playground Inspection Team. A decision was taken to lay stone dust at the entrance to provide a solid base to allow pushchairs to access the playground. Matthew Thomas was engaged to supply and lay the stone dust at the agreed cost of £200.00. The Council approved the urgent action taken. To date the leak has not been repaired, however, it appeared the stop tap on the supply has been turned off. The Council is not responsible for the leak as it does not have any water supply requirements.
- c) **General Playground Maintenance** – Mowing of the Council playgrounds has commenced.

- d) General Equipment Maintenance** – A quote for replacement components, recommended by RoSPA inspections, has been received from GB Sport and Leisure. The supplier has been recommended to the Council, by Powys County Council. The items include stainless steel countersunk screws and shackles and replacement flat swing seats. The total cost quoted is £263.72 plus vat. The Council approved the expenditure from the Playground maintenance budget. The Council further approved payment of the invoice when it is received.
- 7. Interpretive Panel Update** – The Chairman referred to the two mock ups of the proposed Panel recently circulated to the Council. The mock-ups had been provided by Anglezarke Dixon. He advised the group at Coelbren had met earlier in the week to compare notes and progress on material to be included in the panel. A further meeting with Anglezarke Dixon will be arranged in Coelbren in late May or early June when the working group is available. The Clerk will prepare the application for planning permission.
- 8. Correspondence**
- a) One Voice Wales Civility and Respect Pledge** – The Council considered the correspondence from the Chief Executive of OVW and the attached declaration questionnaire for completion. The Council discussed the declaration questionnaire and duly completed the responses. The Clerk and Chairman signed the declaration. The declaration will be returned to OVW and circulated to the members of the Council.
- b) New Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)** – OVW has advised it has updated the templates and resources in-line with the new documents issued by the WG and the new Section 7 Species and Habitat lists.
- c) Resignation of Councillor** – Councillor Marjorie Jopling has written to tender her resignation from the Council due to family commitments. The Council reluctantly accepted the resignation. The Clerk will contact Electoral Services at Powys CC to commence the process to fill the vacancy.
- d) Request for Donation** – A request for a donation was received from The Kids Cancer Charity. The request was made under the heading Community Council Appeal 2026 and referred to Tawe Uchaf. The Council considered the request and how charity appeals were originating and targeting specific sectors. The Council agreed to advise the The Kids Cancer Chairity on the Council's policy on donations and to re-apply in December 2026.
- e) Councillor Training** – Councillor Sandra Howard had successfully enrolled on a free training course with OVW. Councillors were asked to consider training needs to join an OVW module. The Clerk will determine if a further free training place is available.
- 9. County Council update** – Due to apologies from County Councillor David Thomas there was no County Council update.
- 10. To approve and publish the Annual Report 2025/2026** – The Council approved the annual report for the 2025/2026 financial year. The report will be

published on the Council website, and a Facebook message will direct residents to the Council website..

**11. Councillor Vacancies** – No expressions of interest for the vacancy in the Ynyswen/Penycae Ward.

The notice of casual vacancy for the Caehopkin Ward will be published in early May.

**12. Minutes** – The minutes of the previous meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March were approved and signed as a true record.

**13. Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.

**14. Member Issues**

a) **Litter at Henrhyd Waterfall** – The Chairman had contacted the National Trust and raised the issue of excessive littering at Henrhyd Waterfall. The NT had advised that regular litter inspections and clean up were taking place. The NT was considering appropriate signage for the area to remind visitors to keep the area clear of litter.

b) **Traffic Congestion Caehopkin** – Delivery vans to Cefnmeusydd were creating traffic problems at Morgan Street. Councillor Susan Pyart will visit to review the issues and discuss if a resolution is possible by delivery vehicles entering the property and turning in the space available.

**15. Date of Council AGM and May Meeting** – The Council agreed the AGM will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2026. The May meeting of the Council will follow the AGM. The Chairman advised several documents will be circulated that require approval at the AGM