

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2026

Present: Councillors Stephen Davies, Susan Pyart, Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Gareth Hayton, Geoff Wood, Sandra Clayton, Ann Watkins, County Councillor David Thomas (over ZOOM).

Observers - None

The Chairman welcomed members to the May meeting of the Council. He thanked the Council for re-electing him as Chair of the Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** were approved from Councillor Alun Thomas
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted.
3. **Police Matters**

Speeding A4067 and A4221 – Several concerns were raised of speeding on the A4067 and A4221. The Council concern is the levels of speeding traffic has not reduced despite additional speed checks. The Council agreed to request the number of speeding prosecutions recorded on the A4221 and A4067.

Further concern was expressed at the apparent disregard of the 20mph speed limits by groups of cyclists. Cyclists were also attempting to undertake vehicles in 20mph zones in traffic tailbacks.

New Signage at Cefnbyrle – Jo Lancey of Powys CC had informed the Council that new road signs had been ordered for use near the cycle path on the A4221. The new signs are to warn motorists of cyclists crossing the A4221 and hopefully slow passing traffic. The Council welcomed the action taken.

4. **Finance Reports**

- a) **Income/Expenditure Report** – The April finance report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report highlighting the increased payroll cost, precept income and VAT reclaimed. The Council approved the report.
- b) **Budget Update** – The budget update was presented. The Council approved the report.
- c) **May Payment Register** – The May payment register had been circulated. The Council approved the inclusion of the invoice from the Internal Auditor. The Council approved the payments.
- d) **Bank Mandate** – The Clerk reported Barclay's have updated the changes to the Council's Bank mandate.
- e) **Internal Audit Report** – The report of the Internal Auditor had been circulated. The Chairman summarised the report. The Council approved the Internal Audit Report.
- f) **Annual Return** – The annual return was circulated. The Council approved the annual return. The annual return was signed by the Chairman.

- g) Wales Audit** – The Clerk advised the statutory public notices for the main audit would need to be published by the 16th June to allow a clear 20-day period for the exercise of electors rights commencing on 6th July.
- h) Microsoft 365 Subscription** – The Clerk advised a charge of £84.99 from Microsoft had appeared on his credit card statement. Following enquiries the charge is the annual renewal for Microsoft 365. The charge will be reclaimed with other Quarter 1 office costs at the end of June.
- 5. Planning – GCRE Update** – Susan Pyart provided an update issued by GCRE on a proposed revised scheme. The revised scheme will now include the construction of a data centre followed by the construction of the train testing facility. The revised project will remain dependent on securing financial guarantees. A revised planning application will need to be prepared and is likely to be determined by the Welsh Government.
- 6. Footpath/Playgrounds Update** – The wet weather was delaying the start of footpath maintenance. Work was expected to start in the next couple of weeks.
- Playgrounds** – The playgrounds had been mowed recently. Gareth Hayton updated the Council on problems encountered changing the shackles and seats on the swings. Alternative shackles will need to be sourced as the design was not consistent across the swings. In addition, the existing shackles were extremely difficult to release due to age and corrosion. It took an hour to change the shackles on one swing at Penycae. The seats will need a small modification to increase the diameter of four 6mm holes in each seat. The mating part on the existing seat fastener was an imperial size. When the modification to the seat is made the seats will be changed.
- The Council was made aware of impending work to repair the water leak near the entrance to the Penycae playpark. All excavation work at the entrance to the park will be reinstated. The playground inspection team will inspect the work and the repairs at the entrance to the playground. Any issues arising will be discussed with the person responsible for the water supply.
- 7. Interpretive Panel Update** – The Chairman advised the group work developing content for the panel was continuing. It was not possible to estimate a handover date due to the detail of work involved. The Planning Application was being prepared and the written permission from the hall trustees was required before the application is submitted. The Chairman will mark the maps required for the planning application.
- 8. Correspondence**
- a) Community Governor** – The Council nominated Councillor Geoff Wood to fill the Community Governor vacancy on Ysgol y Cribarth. The Clerk will communicate the Council's decision.
- b) Private Landlords** – County Councillor Jeremy Pugh had circulated a press update clear guidance on major housing changes.

c) Cinema Opportunities for Village Halls – The Council received information from Smoovie who provide cinema opportunities for village halls. The Council will respond that such provision was already provided at Coelbren Welfare Hall.

9. County Council update – County Councillor David Thomas provided a brief update. The Council cabinet had reviewed the net zero route map. The Council target for net zero by 2030 was considered too ambitious and would impact the Council's budget. Following discussion, the Council agreed to defer the net zero target date to 2035. The Council will probably achieve 40% of the net zero target by 2030.

The crises in the middle east will have significant impacts on budgets due to increasing inflationary pressures arising from increased fuel costs.

10. Councillor Training – The Clerk gave an update on the free training places available to the Council. Councillors volunteered for the free training courses as follows.

Local Government Finance Module 6 – Gareth Hayton and Sandra Howard

Health and Safety Module 7 – Gareth Hayton

Chairing Skills Module 10 – Stephen Davies

Biodiversity parts 1 and 2 Sandra Howard.

The Clerk will communicate to OVW.

11. Councillor Vacancies – The Clerk gave the following update.

Ynyswen/ Penycae Co-option – No expressions of interest received.

Caehopkin – The statutory Notice of Vacancy has been published.

Ynyswen/Penycae – Electoral Services have confirmed the Notice of Casual Vacancy for a second vacancy in the Ward can be published.

12. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

13. Matters Arising – Bridge at Nantfyedwen – The Chairman advised the repairs to the bridge deck have been completed.

14. Member Issues –

Bus Services – The Chairman presented an update on discussions with Powys CC on the Council's request for minor adjustments to the route of the 62 service. The request was for the re-route of the service into Cefnbyrle and to extend one afternoon service to the Abercrave Inn before becoming a school service. The matter was discussed with Chris Lloyd of PCC over a Teams meeting. Chris Lloyd was presented with all details provided to his predecessor. The Council has been promised a response in approximately eight weeks.

Geopark – Arlene Jones advised a meeting of the Forestfawr Management Group had been held. However, there was no update as the meeting had spent time discussing the constitution.

Gritting Services – The Chairman raised a query from a local resident on changes to local winter gritting services. Following initial confusion,

clarification was provided that the initial consultations had been undertaken in 2023 and in 2024. Any proposed changes were in place over the winter of 2025 and early 2026. The Chairman will deliver the explanation to the resident.

15. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 18th June, 2026