

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAW E UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 16th July, 2026

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. He referred to the long agenda. One item had been requested for discussion and was included in the agenda.

Present – Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Susan Pyart, Ann Watkins, Arlene Jones, Sandra Howard, Geoff Wood, Gareth Hayton (via ZOOM), Gail Hopkins-Williams (via ZOOM) County Councillor David Thomas

In attendance – PCSO Nicole Watkins

Observers - None

- 1. To approve apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were approved from Councillors Alun Thomas and Sandra Clayton.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None declared.
- 3. Police Matters** – PCSO Nicole Watkins gave a brief update. Speed checks on the A4067 and A4221, continued to be undertaken by the RPU. Drivers exceeding the speed limits are stopped by the roads policing unit and prosecutions will follow. In answer to a question, PCSO Nicole referred to the serious RTA at Craig y Nos and advised she could not make any comments as the incident remained under investigation. The Council commented it had raised the issue of speeding in the Community, specifically on the A4067 from Ynyswen to Craig y Nos and A4221 around the Cefnbyrle Road and cycle track entrance. The matters are raised consistently, and over many years. The recent incident highlighted the Council's serious concerns over speeding and the need for action to reduce speed and accidents.

The Council advised PCSO Nicole, it would seek a meeting with the Roads Policing Unit when the investigations into the road traffic accident have been completed.

Further matters raised were parking issues at Heol Eglwys, Coelbren, speeding through the village of Coelbren. A recent RTA at Cefnbyrle where a vehicle had collided with a parked vehicle. There are regular incidents of sheep on the road at Craig y Nos. PCSO Nicole advised the matters will be followed up. She would ask the rural crime team to follow up on the problem of sheep escaping and entering the A4067 at Craig y Nos.

PCSO Nicole respectfully asked the Council to contact the Police when an incident occurs. The incident can be followed up immediately as opposed to the matters being raised at the Council meeting when time had elapsed, and no factual information was provided in support.

Speed Indicator Device – The Clerk was asked to chase up the local highways depot to locate the missing ground locking key.

4. Finance

- a) Income Expenditure June 2026** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report covering the first quarter of the financial year. The Council approved the report.
- b) Budget Update June 2026** – The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the expenditures against budget for the first quarter. The Council approved the report.
- c) July Payment Register** – The July payment register was approved.
- d) To approve delegation of August Payments** – The Council approved the delegation of statutory payments in August if no Council meeting is held.
- e) Member Allowances 2026** – The Chairman advised the information had been circulated. He asked Councillors to complete and sign the forms and return to the Clerk.

5. Planning – No matters received.

- 6. Footpaths and Playgrounds** – The first round of footpath strimming had been completed. The Chairman reported he had replaced two audio boxes on the Llech trail.

Playgrounds – The team had undertaken inspections recently.

Cefnbyrle - Two new swing seats have been fitted at Cefnbyrle. The picnic table has been damaged by exposure to heat, possibly a foil barbecue tray. Efforts will be made to try and repair the surface.

Caehopkin – The area surrounding the felled trees was inspected. The vegetation was starting to grow back. One swing seat will need to be replaced at Caehopkin.

Penycae – The water leak had been repaired. There was a slight obstruction on the entrance gate. The team will level the ground to allow the gate to open and close freely. One swing seat will need to be replaced. The inspection included a report by PAT of possible rodent activity. The Chairman produced pictures taken at the inspection. The holes appeared consistent with stakes being driven into the ground as support for stalls. The Council asked the Clerk to report back to PAT.

- 7. Powys Teaching Health Board Proposals** – The Council referred to recent media articles and TV news coverage on proposals by the PTHB. The PTHB intend to launch a consultation across the health board area, where a proposal would seek to reduce the number of beds at Community Hospitals in Powys. Following a discussion, the Council agreed to write to the Chief Executive at PTHB to raise

its objections to any proposed bed reduction proposals at Ystradgynlais Community Hospital.

- 8. Agenda discussion Member Issues** – The Chairman advised he had discussed the item at the OVW regional meeting. Specifically, the need to recognise the raising of and discussion of urgent items at a meeting. The advice received had been clear. Items could be reported for information. However, the Council should not make binding decisions on other matters not included in the agenda. Decisions should only be taken on items within the agenda. Councillors could request an item be placed on the agenda for discussion, by informing the Chairman and Clerk before the agenda is issued.

The Council discussed the term to be used on the agenda. Many Councillors did not like Member issues. Following discussion, the Council agreed to use the term Councillor Matters on future agendas.

- 9. Interpretive Panel Update** – The Chairman advised the Planning application had been submitted to Powys CC planning. Work was in progress on the QR code and the webpage. Anglezarke Dixon has submitted dates for a follow up meeting in August. The group felt it could not commit to a meeting in August. The group will hold further discussion before committing a date for a meeting with Anglezarke Dixon.

- 10. DBCC Questionnaire** – The Chairman advised the on-line questionnaire from the Democracy Boundary Commission Cymru had been circulated. Members were urged to complete the survey if they could.

11. Correspondence

- a) Sustainable Powys Meetings** – PCC has circulated all T&CC's in Powys to advise the intention to suspend the 5 area hub meetings. The meetings did not deliver the outcomes hoped for. PCC will continue to consult C&TC in Powys and improve local engagement with County Councillors. The Chairman and Susan Pyart both commented that they had found some of the content very useful while some items were not so. The Council noted also the close working relationship it had with County Councillor David Thomas.

- 12. County Council Update** – The Chairman invited County Councillor David Thomas to provide an update.

The Council had recorded an underspend of 0.3% against budget in the 2025/2026 financial year. The savings achieved against budget and capital projects will be reprofiled into this financial year.

Powys CC is consulting residents on the payment of Council Tax on properties left empty over a long period. The Council has made determinations regarding the application of Council Tax premiums for long term empty properties. The premiums are set to encourage the occupation of properties and reduce the number of vacant homes within the County. The consultation is open for six weeks and will seek resident's opinions on the impact of empty properties on

local communities. Whether reducing long term empty properties should be a priority and views on potential changes to the premium including stepped increases.

GCRE – The Company is in discussion with the WG on a revised scheme for the project. The revised scheme will propose the construction of a data centre and energy park alongside the development of the railway centre of excellence. The proposed application will request it is classed as a Significant Infrastructure Project. The Company will be required to submit a revised planning application on the proposals to the WG. The WG will need to consult locally on the revised proposals. The WG will determine the application and not the local authority.

13. Councillor Training – The updated Training register had been circulated. Councillors had taken advantage of the free training places. O.VW was also offering digital training modules. The cost would be £44 per person. The Council approved requests by Gareth Hayton and Arlene Jones to attend the two digital training modules. The cost will be £88 each for the two modules.

14. Councillor Vacancies – No expressions of interest received. Electoral Services have advised no request for an election had been made for the second vacancy at the Ynyswen/Penycae Ward. The Council approved that a revised co-option notice is published for the Ynyswen/Penycae Ward.

15. Minutes – The minutes of the previous meeting on 18/06/26 were approved.

16. Matters Arising – County Council Reception – The Council approved the attendance of the Chairman and Gareth Hayton at a reception at the Royal Welsh Show hosted by the Chairman of Powys County Council. The Council approved the cost of travel and entry ticket to the showground.

17. Date of Next Meeting – The Chairman advised August is the recess month. The Council did not meet in August unless an important matter required a Special Meeting. The Council agreed it will not meet in August.

The Clerk will be on annual leave from the 19th September. The Chairman suggested the date of the September meeting is brought forward to the 10th September. The Council approved the change of date. The Clerk will request the date change with Coelbren Welfare Hall.