

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**Present:** Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Susan Pyart, Gareth Hayton, Geoff Wood, Arlene Jones (via ZOOM), Ann Watkins (via ZOOM) Sandra Clayton (via ZOOM) Gail Hopkins-Williams (via ZOOM) Jaimie Coyne

**Observers – None**

**In attendance –** PC Adam Jones (Roads Policing Unit) PCSO Sally Gibbins (Ystradgynlais Police)

The Chairman welcomed members to the September monthly meeting extending a warm welcome to Jaimie Coyne, PC Adam Jones and PCSO Sally Gibbins.

- 1. To approve apologies for absence –** Apologies were approved from Councillors Alun Thomas, Sandra Howard and County Councillor David Thomas.
- 2. Declarations of Interest –** None declared
- 3. Co-option of Community Councillor –** The Chairman advised an expression of interest had been received from Jaimie Coyne of Ynyswen. Jaimie Coyne made a brief presentation to the Council. Jaimie Coyne left the meeting. The Council approved the co-option of Jaimie Coyne to represent the Ynyswen/Penrycae Ward. Jaimie Coyne returned and joined the meeting. The acceptance of Office was duly signed.
- 4. Police Matters –** The Chairman and Clerk outlined the background for the request to meet with a roads policing officer. Namely, the Council's serious concerns of speeding traffic along the A4067 from Ynyswen to the Community Boundary near the Gwyn Arms. In addition, the number of serious road traffic accidents on the bends near Craig y Nos.  
The Council added its concern over speeding on the A4221 inter valley road. Three fatalities had been recorded on the A4221 over recent years.  
The Council requested that the roads policing unit undertake regular speed checks on the A4067 and A4221. PC Adam Jones advised that he would share the concerns expressed, by the Council, with colleagues in roads policing to set-up speed checks on the A4067 and A4221. PC Adam Jones asked the Council to respect that the resources of the roads police unit were stretched due to the large geographical area they covered.  
The Chairman thanked PC Adam Jones for the commitment to undertake speed checks on the A4067 and A4221  
The Police advised that an offroad bike had been stopped near Coelbren. The Police have seized the bike.
- 5. Finance**
  - a) Income/Expenditure Report –** The income expenditure report to 31<sup>st</sup> August had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The second precept

payment was received in August. Payments made during August are included in the expenditure section. The HMRC payments are now executed earlier to meet HMRC demand for payment by 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month. The Council approved the report.

- b) **Budget Update** – The budget update for August had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
- c) **September Payment Register** – The Council approved the September payment register. The Council approved that payments to HMRC must be paid before the 22<sup>nd</sup> of every month.
- d) **Confirmation of August Payments** – The Council approved and confirmed the delegated actions on making payments in August. (Minute 4d 16 July)
- e) **Member Allowances Returns** – Councillors were reminded to return the allowance forms.
- f) **Commence 2027/2028 Budget Discussion** – A draft budget had been circulated. The budget will be reviewed and discussed by the Council over the coming months. The Clerk summarised the draft budget section by section. Budget lines will be reviewed in line with the expenditures in the current year and previous year. Amendments will be made where required. There are additional items to be added, namely a new gate at Caehopkin Playground and continuation of the Interpretive Panel roll out for Penycae..  
A request was made to provide a new bench at Heol Eglwys Coelbren. The Councillors at Coelbren will investigate possible sites for a new bench. The sites proposed will need sign off by Powys Highways. The Clerk advised a new bench could be provided from the current year's budget.  
A suggestion to purchase an additional speed indicator device for Craig y Nos was considered. The Council will continue to ask Powys highways to provide a key to unlock the ground connectors, this will allow the current SID to be relocated as was the intention. An enquiry will be made for the cost of a new SID.

A further draft of the budget will be circulated at the next meeting.

- 6. **Wales Audit Report** – The report had not been received.
- 7. **Planning** – Certificate of Lawful use of Development – The BBNP has granted permission for a certificate of lawfulness in respect of land at Rhongyr Isaf Centre, Penycae.  
b) BBNP has granted permission for a single storey extension at 3 Ynyswen
- 8. **Footpath/Playgrounds Update** – The second cut of footpath maintenance has been completed. A third cut will be made later in the year.  
**Playgrounds** – A further inspection will be made before the next meeting. One swing seat will need to be changed at Penycae. The new gate at Caehopkin playground will be included in the 2027/2028 budget. The damaged picnic table at Cefnbyrle had been inspected. Attempted repairs had not been a success. The Council approved to investigate the replacement of panels for the tabletop.

- 9. Interpretive Panel** – Material content has been passed to Anglezarke Dixon. A draft of the panel will be produced for consideration by the Council. The URL to develop the QR code is now available and has been passed to Anglezarke Dixon. The Planning decision is expected in October.

**10. Correspondence**

- a) Tynycoed Chapel** – A request to the Council to help with the on-going maintenance of the Chapel graveyard. The Clerk had sought advice from OVW to establish what information was available that the Council might consider. The Chairman outlined some important matters that should be considered. The Council noted it is an unusual request. It was advised that a similar problem at another local chapel was in the process of resolution by the Baptist Union. The Council agreed that a small number of Councillors meet with the Deacons of Tynycoed for discussion and to fully understand the request. A further report will be made to the Council, following the meeting. The Chairman, Susan Pyart and Ann Watkins will represent the Council.
- b) Henrhyd Falls Litter** – The Council received a copy of an e mail to the National Trust and MP, sent by a resident of Coelbren. The letter complained of the on-going problems of littering at the Henrhyd Falls carpark. The Council had acknowledged receipt of the e mail and mentioned previous communications between the Chairman and the National Trust on the same issue. The Clerk will forward copies of the communication to Arlene Jones, who will contact the National Trust and keep the resident updated.
- c) Community Boundary Review** – OVW has written to all Town and Community Councils to advise the outcomes of recent discussions with the Cabinet Secretary over boundary review procedures. The discussion follows complaints from T&CC's in Ceredigion. OVW had requested a suspension of the current process as it appeared flawed. The Minister had advised the current arrangements were provided for in the making of the Order and represented the conclusion of the implementation process.
- d) Powys Teaching Health Board** – The PTHB has replied to the Council's letter. The PTHB advised that the matter was at an early stage and no decisions had been made by the Board. If a consultation is to follow with the public, partners and staff it is not expected until Spring 2027.
- e) Powys Teaching Health Board Pre Consultation Business Case** – The PTHB has provided advance notice that the pre consultation business case for the Better Together programme will be published this week for the Board meeting in public on 16<sup>th</sup> September.
- f) OVW/SLCC Conference** – The Council approved the attendance of the Chairman and Clerk at the OVW/SLCC conference. The cost is £75.00 plus vat per delegate.
- 11. County Council update** – No update provided.
- 12. Councillor Training** – The Clerk advised the Councillor Training plan document was being revised. The revised document will be circulated at the

**13. Councillor Vacancies** – Two vacancies still remain to be filled. The vacancies are at the Ynyswen/Penycae and Caehopkin Wards.

**14. Minutes** – The minutes of the Council meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and 13<sup>th</sup> August were approved and signed as a correct record

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

**16. Councillor Matters**

**Wild Fires across Wales** – The Council wanted to consider vulnerable areas in the Community in the event of wild fires. Geoff Wood advised that farmers are encouraged to burn mountain land in the spring. The burning of land in the spring brought its own risk if not enough resource was available to help with controlling the fires, to avoid the spread of fire beyond its intended boundary. If the weather predictions are for warm dry summers the risks of wild fires will increase further. The forestry to the east of the Community and mountain areas will be areas of high risk especially in areas of property density in village communities. The Council agreed to try and set-up a meeting with the fire brigade in Spring 2027 to receive help and advice in the event of wild fires.

**Brecon Beacons National Park** - Ann Watkins asked what regular contacts existed with the BBNP. The Clerk advised there is very little communication outside of planning consultation. The Council agreed to write to BBNP to explore closer working relationship to discuss local issues, as a large part of the Community was within the park boundary and in an area of natural beauty. There should be a closer relationship.

**17. Date of Next Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026**