**CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council meeting on Thursday 20th February 2020**

**Present –** Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman), Alun Thomas, Clare Parker, Huw Williams, Susan Pyart, Ann Watkins, Selwyn Fyfield, County Councillor David Thomas

**In attendance –** PCSO Nicole Watkins

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Arlene Jones, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Auriol Graham
2. **Declaration of Interest –** None submitted.
3. **Police Matters –** **Speeding A4067** - PCSO Nicole Watkins advised the Council of the proposed action plan following a site meeting between Sergeant Matt Thomas of the Roads Police Unit and Jo Lancey of Powys County Council. Speed strips will be laid at various points on the A4067 and the results will be analysed. The Council made it clear that the Police should also consider on site speed checks by the Roads Police Unit and prosecution of speeding motorists.

Councillor Selwyn Fyfield presented a petition from the residents of Penycae requesting action on speeding through the village. He also commented that the Community speed watch group were receiving abuse from passing motorists and the group was becoming disillusioned.

**Children’s Home Banwen –** The home was currently closed due to flooding. The residents had been temporarily relocated. One resident had been permanently relocated.

**Rogue Trader –** The Chairman reported that a rogue trader offering gardening services was operating in the area. Details were passed to the Police.

1. **Finance**
2. **Income/Expenditure –** The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised activity. The Q3 vat refund had been received. The Council approved the report.
3. **Budget Report –** The report had been circulated. The Clerk summarised the report. The Council approved the report.
4. **To authorise payments –** The Council approved the following payments;

Zoll Medical Uk Ltd £960.00 Defibrillator Country Park

Wales Audit Office £227.75 External Audit Fee 2019/20

Powys County Council £216.00 RoSPA inspection three playgrounds

1. **Payroll –** The Council approved the February payroll.

Clerk’s February salary £510.00

HMRC salary deduction £127.50

1. **Planning – Pre Planning Consultation**

**Proposed Earthworks on Land at Nant Helen Surface Mine –** The Council agreed to convene a special meeting on 12th March 2020 to discuss the pre planning consultation. The Clerk was asked to try and arrange attendance of project engineers from Arup to the Special meeting.

1. **Footpaths/Playgrounds –**

**Footpaths –** The Clerk had again discussed funding for repairs on the Bog Path with Stephan Butcher. No funding was available. PCC have acknowledged the Council expression of interest in the proposed PCC strategy to prepare a lottery application to fund FP repairs. A member of staff from Countryside Services will meet the Council to discuss the work required to prevent flooding on the Bog Path..

**Playgrounds** – The Clerk advised an application had been submitted to the National Lottery Fund to finance a replacement slide at Cefnbyrle. The National Lottery Awards had acknowledged the application.

Due to the persistent heavy rainfall it had not been possible to undertake playground inspections.

Councillor Selwyn Fyfield advised the spinner bearing on the activity centre at Penycae had released following greasing. The spinner was moving freely again.

In response to a question on tendering by Councillor Alun Thomas, the Clerk advised following the transfer of playgrounds and land, the Council required a contractor who had the range of skills and equipment required including a licence to work at the side of a highway; playground safety; equipment for working at height to trim broken branches and providing the required supporting evidence such as risk assessments and method statements and comprehensive insurance cover.

**Painting Play Equipment –** The Council agreed the Clerk could hold further discussion with the local leader of the Probation Service on painting the goalposts and swing frame at Caehopkin Playpark. The Clerk will report back to the Council.

1. **Correspondence**
2. **Casual Vacancy Coelbren Ward –** Electoral Services at PCC have advised no expressions of interest have been received. The Council could proceed to advertise the Notice of Co-option. The notice was published on 20th February 2020.
3. **Wales Audit Office Consultation –** The Clerk has responded to the consultation on future audit arrangements for Community Councils in Wales.
4. **Pension Regulator –** The Clerk has completed the re-declaration of compliance and re-enrolment with the Pension Regulator under the Pensions Act 2008.
5. **Waterfall Country Project –** The Council agreed to meet Dr Liz Bickerton to consider ideas to set up a community based organisation for the area to enable residents and their representatives to have a voice on future plans and lead initiatives. The Council agreed the meeting should be convened beyond the 20th March as a Special Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of the Council were already scheduled in March.
6. **The Local Electricity Bill –** The Council had reviewed the information on The Local Electricity Bill. The Council agreed to support the Bill.
7. **Wales Air Ambulance –** In response to a request the Council agreed to advise the Wales Air Ambulance of the Council policy on donations and invite it to re-apply for a donation later in the year.
8. **Thank You Letters –** The Council had received many letters and e mails thanking the Council for donations made to local organisations.
9. **Asset Register Update –** The report had been circulated. The updated register included the removed see-saw at Caehopkin and replaced with the new Rota Bounce.

In response to a question from Councillor Alun Thomas, the Clerk advised the boundary hedge was included in the asset register and insurance schedule to highlight the replacement value if the hedge is damaged or destroyed. The Council approved the updated Asset register.

1. **Community Defibrillators –** The defibrillator for the Country Park has been delivered and was being handed over on Friday 21st February 2020. Councillors were invited to attend the Country Park for the handover. The Council agreed to remove the item from future agendas. Councillor Selwyn Fyfield advised that two defibrillator awareness evenings would be held on 4th March and 15th March at Penycae Inn and extended an invitation to Councillors who wanted to attend.
2. **County Council Report –** County Councillor David Thomas reported as follows;

**Christmas Waste Collections –** The failure to complete recycling collections over Christmas holidays had been reviewed. Discussions are being held with a view to resolving problems for future bank holiday collections.

**Timber Lorry Movements –** Complaints are being received regarding movements of timber transporters in and out of Coelbren. The County Council could not prevent transport movements. Allegations of speeding lorries was a Police matter and should be reported to the Police.

**Landslip Dol Henrhyd –** The work was being put out to contractors.

**County Council Budget –** A full meeting of the County Council on 28th February will consider the proposed budget for 2020/2021. The budget simulation exercise set for ratepayer response only received 600 ratepayer responses 0.05% of the population in the County. Powys had received an additional £9.5m in support grant, an increase of 5.4%. Part of the increase was committed for teacher pay and pensions. Overall the 4 year revenue forecast identified an overall reduction of 2% per annum in the budget and expenditure. The proposed Council Tax increase for 2020/2021 is 5%. The proposed revenue budget of £297.6m would not sustain services and further cuts in services would be required in areas such as education and libraries, together with possible reduction in winter treatment on primary routes.

1. **Minutes –** The minutes of the previous meeting on 16th January 2020 were signed as a true record.
2. **Matters Arising –** No matters arising.
3. **Any Urgent Business –** No matters raised.
4. **Date of Next Meeting –** The Council agreed to convene a **Special Meeting on Thursday 12th** **March 2020** to discuss a pre application consultation for earthworks at Nant Helen.

**The next ordinary meeting will be Thursday 19th March 2020.**