

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of public meeting held with Welsh Water officials
on Monday 27 February at 7 o'clock in the Memorial Hall, Talybont

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chairman extended a welcome to everyone and thanked County Councillor Catrin M.S.Davies, for organizing the meeting.

Catrin Davies introduced Mr Richard Davies, Sewerage Manager for Welsh Water, who had come to discuss the sewerage system in Tal-y-bont. She noted that a remote meeting had been held in December to pass on messages from the community, but that a lot had arisen since then, and so it was decided that a face-to-face meeting would be more beneficial.

2. PowerPoint presentation by Welsh Water official

Richard Davies thanked everyone for the invitation, and noted that he had served the area for a number of years.

He broadly explained the sewerage system, with the aid of slides, and went on to state the following:

- He is aware of the problem of flooding in the village, but those problems are not always related to the sewerage system;
- The system serves around 600 households from the top of the village down to the bottom, and was built in around 1971. The system was designed to take dirty water from homes only, but rain and runoff from the land also enters, overloading the system;
- There are two overflow pipes located at the bottom of the village to alleviate any flooding. The first has been there since the beginning. Due to the risk to the lower part of the catchment area, a second, unlicensed, overflow pipe was installed in the 1990s. The process of removing or capping this would take several years. Welsh Water is currently awaiting a licence. In the meantime, the unlicensed pipe is being monitored to see how often it releases sewage into the river – very rarely, apparently;
- No concentrated sewerage enters the river as a rule, only diluted sewerage;
- The pumping station at the bottom of the village generally works well – except in exceptional weather – and screens are in place to prevent any solid matter from entering the river when the system overflows. Arrangements are in place to mitigate the problem in these cases;
- The pipes were cleaned following the 2012 floods. The station is now pumping at full capacity.

He noted that significant investment will be needed to improve the system, and that there is a limited amount of money available. Meanwhile, a system is in place to trigger an alarm when the sewerage level rises too much, so engineers will be able to mitigate the problem before customers are affected. However, flooding in homes is a priority, and one-way valves have been installed in many properties to prevent back-flow. He noted that an engineer would attend immediately to deal with any back-flow in toilets or showers, etc.

He explained that there is a five-year funding cycle in place, and that Welsh Water keeps track of this, updating it as necessary.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

3. Questions from the public

RD was asked about the following:

Q1: Is there a limit to the amount of sewerage that can be released into the river?

A1: No, only how often this can be done. According to the data, this does not happen very often at all. The intention is to use only one of the two pipes in the future. After April, another one-way valve will be installed in the pipe. The current priority is to keep track of cracks in the *rising main* – this needs to be monitored in order to give early warning before customers are aware of any problem. Parts of this pipe will eventually be replaced.

He noted that the main risk is concentrated sewerage flowing into the river. He showed pictures of the types of things that can block pipes and cause them to overflow, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that only three things are put down toilets, the 3Ps – pee, poo, and paper!

He provided a 24-hour telephone number for sewerage-related emergencies only – 0800 085 3968.

Q2: Where is Welsh Water at in the five-year investment cycle, what is Talybont's position in it, and how can we get to the top of the list?

A2: It has currently reached year 4. There is no investment plan for upgrading the Talybont system at present. If each individual case is reported, this will help build a case; Welsh Water will then be able to consider this and decide whether the village should be included in the next cycle.

Q3: Would it help if the Council prepared a case?

A3: Possibly, but Welsh Water will look at everything that happens and ensure investment for priority areas, i.e. flooding/back-flow in homes.

Q4: If it is rainwater going into the system that is causing the problem, why is that happening, and could it not be diverted? More and more rainwater has been entering the system recently.

A4: Things are not that simple. It is not clear where this water is entering the system, and also, where else should it be sent? The pumping station was designed to deal with sewerage only, and is successful in that respect. According to the data, all cases of flooding last year were related to rainwater, not sewerage, although there was a very small outflow from the unlicensed pipe into the river.

Q5: Part of the problem is the capacity of Talybont sewerage works. Why is dirty water discharged into the river at Borth at high tide?

A5: Everything going into the Talybont works is regularly released into the river after being treated. What happens in Borth is a separate matter.

Q6: Are you happy with the amount of sewerage going into the river?

A6: No – but the level is too high everywhere. The old licensed overflow pipe prevents flooding in homes. The unlicensed pipe does not leak as much as people think – capping it would cause more problems. Arrangements are in place to mitigate the problem of flooding in homes, and Welsh Water will eventually tackle the illegal pipe.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Q7: To what extent is investment being prioritised to address environmental issues? The water that is released in Borth is definitely very dirty at times, especially when the place is very busy or during wet weather. How does Welsh Water go about securing more money?

A7: Regulators determine how much Welsh Water can charge customers to increase the funding available. The government does not cover any costs.

Q8: A resident of James Street – the lane is not owned by the Council; is it only what is inside the fence that is owned by Welsh Water?

A8: The bridge is ours.

Q9: The *rising main* is an old asbestos pipe that blows regularly. Would it be best to renew this as soon as possible? It would be more cost-effective than repairing it constantly.

A9: This is outside the five-year cycle, but Welsh Water is currently looking at the problem.

A member of the public noted that some contractors leave a mess behind and that the local residents have to clear it up.

It was also noted that the small bridge had been erected in the 1960s when the works were first built in the field.

Q10: Everything is pumped up to the works from the village – nothing goes in directly. What does this mean for new developments until the investment is made?

A10: If there were to be a new development, a betterment deal would be implemented to actively prevent any runoff or rainwater from entering the system. There are no large flows entering, just numerous little problems sending water into the system.

Q11: Is there a public list available indicating where Talybont is on in the five year cycle? How can we get onto the programme?

A11: There is no public list available. Talybont is not part of the programme at present. Any plans must be approved by Ofwat, so a case for investment needs to be made by reporting all relevant local issues.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming, and the meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on
Monday 27 February 2023, following the public meeting, in the Memorial Hall, Talybont.

Present: Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn (Chairman), Rhian Evans (Vice Chair), Catrin Davies (County Councillor), Bleddyn Huws, Enoc Jenkins, Nest Jenkins, Siôn Pennant, Nia Richards and Mererid Watson.

Clerk: Lynwen Jones

1) Chair's Welcome

The Chairman extended a welcome to everyone and welcomed the new Clerk to her first meeting of the full Council.

2) Apologies

Eryl Bray, Elgan Evans

3) Declaration of Personal Interest

None declared

4) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30 January 2023

Proposed: Nest Jenkins Seconded: Catrin Davies
The minutes were confirmed as correct.

5) Matters arising:

a) Matters reported via Clic to Ceredigion County Council

It is likely that nothing will happen regarding the road signs between Brynhyfryd and Bwlchgarreg

According to the record on Clic, the issue of the grating near Maesdog is active

5iii. The new website

An email had been received stating which policies are important. No information regarding the Welsh language. Catrin Davies noted that there is a need to question the fact that there are no Welsh policies available – one council had been reprimanded for not having Welsh policies. It was noted that Welsh policies were available on some websites – Nia Richards noted that it would be possible to revise the procurement policy. All councillors with any relevant information were asked to assist with this.

5v. Sewerage pollution

This had been discussed at the public meeting.

5vi. Notice boards for Talybont and Bontgoch

Mererid Watson stated that she was expecting a call the following day with regard to this. It was noted that there was no need to delay the order as there was money in the account to enable payment in the current financial year if necessary.

Latest price from KBS Depot: £962 before VAT

PG – Mererid to proceed with the order.

5viii. a) Coed Cwmere

No update

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Six. One Voice of Wales Toolkit

No update

6i. One Voice Wales

i) **Section 6 Report – Biodiversity:** Nia Richards had prepared the relevant draft plan, which was ready to be sent to Rachel Carter. She noted that this would be a live document, i.e. it would be possible to update it regularly, and that it would be ready in about a fortnight. She also noted that the Council has authority to influence individuals to take care of the land. Siôn Pennant noted that the Council has the right to make relevant suggestions in the case of any planning applications. Nia would send everyone a link to a video about the national forest.

ii) **Warm Welcome Areas:** The session had been moved from Wednesday to Tuesday morning this week, and had been very successful. About 15 people of all ages had attended. Nia Richards asked whether it would be possible to ask the local PCSO to drop by and give a presentation there sometime. **Action** – *The Clerk to ask the Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn, who the local PCSO is and also who the new local policeman is.*

8 Pharmacy Sign: Nothing to report so far. The sign is still left on overnight, giving the false impression that the pharmacy is open. It is a very bright, flashing light, which disturbs residents living opposite. It had been rumoured that the pharmacy was for sale, and a Councillor asked whether it would be possible for the community to buy it. The Chairman noted that this would not be possible – the situation is different from a normal shop. **Action** – *The Clerk to ask Gary to turn off the light when the pharmacy is closed.*

10i. Lights at Tanffordd: No update

10ii. Lights between the Black Lion and Brynhyfryd: It was noted that there were no lights further up the road either, all the way to Cytringan. **PG** – *Catrin Davies to pursue this.*

10iii. Carreg Cadwgan salt bin: No update

10iv. Potholes near Cerrig Mawr: The case had been closed on Clic, but nothing has happened

10v. Grating near Glanrafon: No update

6) New issues

i) Confirmation of the minutes of the Cemetery Sub-Committee

The minutes were confirmed as correct.

ii) Matters arising

Rhian Evans had been given a list of the graves that had been pre-purchased under the former clerk.

The Chairman explained that it would be necessary to walk through the cemetery to compile an accurate record of the graves. It was agreed that a working group should be formed to do this – namely the sub-committee and Rhian.

PG – *Everyone was in agreement that the Clerk should contact Mr Terry Williams regarding the necessary work in the cemetery.*

The Council looked through the proposed new cemetery fees – everyone was in agreement.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

It was noted that it was possible to claim an annual grant for carrying out work in the cemetery.

7) Correspondence

The Clerk had forwarded all correspondence to the Councillors, as follows:

7.1 One Voice Wales

7.1.1 A survey of Councillors' training needs

The Chair and Nia Richards had completed training on the Code of Conduct

Action – the Clerk to send a note asking what training the Councilors need.

7.1.2 Cyber awareness training

7.1.3 Toolkit and Finance and Governance for community and town councils

7.1.4 Section 6 Report (Environment Act) – form and guidelines

This had been discussed under Point 5 above

7.1.5 Details of remote training for Councillors

7.1.6 Membership form 2023-24

It was agreed that the Council should join again this year. **PG** – the Clerk to pursue this and pay the relevant fee

7.1.7 Request for members for the Cynnal y Cardi Local Economic Regeneration Partnership.

Anyone who is interested was encouraged to join. Grants from Europe are still available until the end of the year, and the Partnership will also be responsible for assessing Arfor grant applications. It was noted that the Hall had already received two grants through this.

7.1.8 News Bulletin

7.1.9 Press release from Wales Air Ambulance stating that Welshpool and Dinas Dinlle stations are to remain operational.

7.1.10 A new financial management system

This is in English only, but includes a system for maintaining cemeteries – further research would be needed before deciding whether it would be worth purchasing.

7.1.11 Vacancies

7.1.12 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Correspondence had been received from nine of the Councilors stating that they would not accept the payment in question

7.2 Pugh Computers offering support for hybrid meetings, etc

No assistance was required at this time

7.3 Playground Information Booklet – forwarded by CD

7.4 Golwg – information regarding the development of BroAber360

7.5 Letter from Lee Waters regarding road safety through Talybont. A 20 mph limit will come into force in September 2023.

Siôn Pennant noted that there was no speed limit through Bont-goch. Catrin Davies suggested that individuals should write to her about this.

7.6 Ceredigion technical services – change of speed limit through Talybont to 20 mph

7.7 Hywel Dda Health Board – Public consultation on the location of a new hospital – more relevant to the south of the county; Bronglais will remain as it is for now

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

8) Planning

The minutes of the sub-committee were confirmed as correct.

It was noted that the sub-committee had supported the two applications that had been received. Catrin Davies asked if the impact of new homes on the sewerage system should be considered, and it was noted that this was already happening. It was stated that NRW can object to applications that affect rivers. CD had met someone from Barcud Social Housing to see what land was owned by whom on the Maes y Deri Estate. She had understood that there was permission to build six more houses at the back of Maes y Deri, but Barcud was unaware of this.

9) Financial matters

- i) After transferring £5,000 from the savings account to the current account, the situation was as follows:

Current account: £5,450.39

Deposit account: £4,764.82

The Chairman noted that £12,908.35 had gone out of the account this year which should have gone out in 2021-22

She also noted that there was some extra money available as a result of an overpayment made to HMRC

- ii) Bank mandate: The Chairman's name was now on the mandate.

It was agreed to add the Clerk's name as main contact for all bank correspondence.

Action – The Vice-chairman to pursue this

- iii) Payments:

Ellen ap Gwynn – postage: £5.44

Ellen ap Gwynn – goods for Cwtsh Cynnes: £14.40

Lynwen Jones, Clerk – filing cabinet, suspension files, printing paper, ink: £181.91

It was resolved to pay the above amounts. **Action** – the Clerk to make the payments

- iv) VAT: The Chairman had sent the relevant information in order to claim a refund

There is no need to register as the Council has no right to charge VAT.

- v) The Cemetery:

A grant of £561.55 had been received for the fencing work done to expand the Cemetery.

Via James Memorials: £30 in respect of Mrs Eluned Evans; £90 in respect of Mr David W. Evans

10) Cae Bach and Bontgoch Play Park

- i) Report on Bontgoch Play Park by Siôn Pennant – the equipment is fine but the surface is covered with molehills. The gate does not close properly, so he suggested buying a spring so that the gate self-closes. **Action** – Siôn Pennant to buy a new spring

Report on Cae Bach by Nia Richards – one loose hand grip on the climbing unit; rust visible in places on the climbing frame.

Nia Richards noted that a group of mothers had contacted her about the condition of the ground in the park. Kath Botting had suggested that grass could be laid on the ground, but it was noted that this would be inappropriate as it would become muddy in wet weather. Water still flows into the park, and the problem needs to be solved.

Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

It was suggested that a working group be formed to tackle this, to include some of the councillors and members of the community. It will be necessary to seek advice from an expert regarding what could be done in terms of drainage. It would also be necessary to draw up a business plan in order to be able to apply for a grant for any work.

Nia Richards to ask Sutcliffe Play to send catalogues.

Enoc Jenkins and Mererid Watson agreed to be part of a working group led by Nia Richards, who would also ask Kath Botting, Ffion Southgate and Holly Aubrey to be members.

March Rota: Cae Bach – Catrin Davies; Bontgoch – Siôn Pennant

County Council Information Booklet – Catrin Davies noted that a business plan would need to be drawn up in order to apply to the County Council for funding. She suggested that an application could also be made to Cronfa Leri.

11) AoB

- i) Nest Jenkins thanked the Chairman for all her work in keeping the Council's affairs in order during the period when no Clerk was employed. The other Council members supported this.
- ii) Nest Jenkins asked if it would be possible to update the Councillors' contact details. It was noted that the Clerk has a current list.
- iii) The Clerk was asked to bring the Council's keys to the next meeting in order to label them correctly.
- iv) Enoc Jenkins noted that there were potholes in the road behind y Felin and that there was also a very deep pothole in front of Nantgaredig opposite the telegraph pole.

Action – *Catrin Davies to contact the relevant department*

The meeting closed at 22:30

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 19:30 on Monday 27 March 2023 in Talybont Memorial Hall.