

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held

on Monday 27 March 2023 in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Catrin Davies (County Councillor), Siôn Pennant, Nia Richards, Mererid Watson, Eryl Bray

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting noting that use would be made of the new interactive screen that had been set up in the hall. Mererid Watson set about setting up a Teams account ready to use in hybrid meetings.

2. Apologies:

Bleddyn Huws, Nest Jenkins, Elgan Evans, Enoc Jenkins, Rhian Evans (Vice-chair)

3. Declaration of Interest

Mererid Watson – correspondence regarding the Welsh Ploughing Championship

Eryl Bray – correspondence from Tal-y-bont Community Flood Group

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Meeting, held on 27 February 2023

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Proposed: Nia Richards; Seconded: Catrin Davies

5. Matters arising:

a) Issues reported via Clic to the County Council

- i) Poles opposite Cerrig Mawr – these had been replaced according to the County Council, but Catrin Davies had visited the site and noted that they had not been erected in the right place – instead being higher up the road. The County Council had promised to return to rectify this.
- ii) More information had been received regarding the grating near Maesdogon.
- iii) Lamppost near Cytringan – a promise had been made that this would be fixed over the summer
- iv) Lights between the Black Lion and Brynhyfryd – the Community Council would have to pay for new lighting, but County Council would be prepared to do the maintenance work
- v) Grating near Glanrafon – no update
- vi) Salt bin – no update

b) The new website: the minute would need to be uploaded to the website as soon as possible; Siôn Pennant had not yet been able to access it.

c) Tal-y-bont and Bont-goch notice boards – Mererid Watson had ordered two notice boards, and payment would need to be made within 30 days of delivery. It was agreed that they should be delivered to the Memorial Hall and stored there until they are installed.

Action – request permission to store them in the Hall; the Clerk to ask John Dewi if he could install them

d) PCSO/Community Policeman – the Clerk had enquired about this, but had not yet received a response

e) Pharmacy sign – the Clerk had sent a message to Gary Jones but had not received a response. The clerk to drop by and ask the person in charge to switch off the sign when closing for the day.

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

- f) Lights at Tanffordd – the situation had not changed. Catrin Davies had made enquiries but had not received a response.
- g) Work in the cemetery – the Clerk was waiting for a response from Terry Williams.
- h) Potholes at the Mill – no update

6. New matters

Section 6 Report – Biodiversity

Nia Richards had prepared a draft report, which had been distributed to the Councilors prior to the meeting. It was noted that it would be necessary to report regularly on what was being done regarding biodiversity, and that it would be essential for the Council to work with other organisations to help them fulfil their objectives. Nia suggested that the following could be done:

- Set up a column in *Papur Pawb* to report on matters relating to Section 6.
- Register ancient and notable trees in the parish. The process would include nominating a tree so that an officer could come out to make measurements, etc., before including it on an interactive map. Nia was keen to nominate 'Irma's tree', which is the large oak next to Cae Bach and the Maes-y-Deri estate.

Action – Nia Richards and Eryl Bray to start the process and ask for nominations

- Create new categories at the Tal-y-bont Show, e.g. the best flower garden; the best vegetable garden; the most wildlife-friendly garden

Action – contact Mair Nutting to discuss this

- Work with the school, e.g. Nature Celebration Day
- Draw up a map of the Leri River and note the names of surrounding pools and fields. It was noted that old tithe maps would be useful in this regard, and the councillors looked at some of these on the interactive screen.

Nia was expecting to hear from Rachel Green with regard to wildflowers in the form of plug plants to be planted along the edges on the way into the village. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to organize a group of residents to tidy up and plant in order to beautify the area. Everyone agreed that the draft document should be accepted and Catrin Davies thanked Nia for preparing the document.

7. Correspondence

The Clerk had forwarded all electronic correspondence to the Councillors.

One Voice Wales:

- Information about the Heritage Lottery Fund
- Online event: Planning Support
- Leaflet about the *Energy Champion Service*
- Consultation regarding new registration rules for bird/poultry owners
- Defibrillator Census – Mererid Watson had already completed and returned the form.
- Changes to Wales' Planning Policy
- Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Bill
- Article on *Open Spaces And Paths: A New Guide To Protection* – this could be of interest in relation to Section 6
- Request for community mentors
- Article on *Tools for Self-reliance Wales*
- Details of the funeral of Cllr. Ben Davies
- Written statement: digital health of community and town councils
- Dates of training sessions for March and April

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Catrin Davies noted that Sgubor y Coed and Llangynfelyn Councils had organized basic training for new Councillors and had extended an invitation to Ceulanamaesmawr Councillors. Eryl Bray, Mererid Watson and Nia Richards noted that they would be interested, and Catrin Davies promised to inform them of it the date. The Community Council would reimburse any costs.

Other correspondence

- Welsh Air Ambulance – letter thanking for the subsidy
- Elan City offering electronic speed signs
- Tal-y-bont YFC – letter thanking for the subsidy
- NHS Wales – list of consultation dates. 21 April at Y Morlan, Aberystwyth. Catrin Davies encouraged everyone to try to attend in order to ensure that the voice of the residents of the north of the county is heard. Eryl Bray said she would try to attend.
- Ceredigion Council – dementia engagement event. Mererid Watson had been on an immersion course on dementia, which she had found extremely interesting. Eryl Bray noted that she was interested in this.
- Margaret Jones – request for money to support the Welsh Ploughing Championship, which will be held on 9 September. This was discussed under point 9 below.
- Catalogues from Sutcliffe Play and Adventure Playground Wales
- GovNewsDirect – event information ‘The Evolution of Innovation’ (28 March)
- Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership – crime and disorder in the county
- RPM Bike trials – offer of entertainment
- Cylch Meithrin Tal-y-bont – letter of thanks for the subsidy
- Royal British Legion – last chance to plant a tree for the jubilee
- Noticeboards online – one on offer for £400 (This message had arrived after the notice boards had been ordered)
- Ceredigion County Council – changes to rubbish collection dates over Easter
- Ceredigion County Council – Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework (Richard Penn report), deadline 23/06/23
- A letter from Tal-y-bont Local Flood Group requesting financial assistance. This was discussed under point 9 below.

8. Planning

There were no planning matters.

9. Financial matters:

- i) The Council's financial position
Current account: £5,174.04
Deposit account: £4,764.82
Tabernacle account: £4,410.01
- ii) Update the name of the main bank contact – although the Clerk has received correspondence from the bank via the previous clerk, she had not received any statements. Must contact the bank again regarding this.
- iii) Payments
Clerk's Salary: February and March 2023 – £633.42
Nia Richards: coffee morning costs – £4.74
Catrin Davies: coffee morning coffee – £8.10
Iolo ap Gwynn: printing costs – £46.72
It was resolved that the above costs be paid.

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

- iv) Request for a grave plot: an order and payment of £135.00 had received for a double grave plot in Tal-y-bont Cemetery
- v) Tal-y-bont Local Flood Group:

A letter had been received from the above requesting money to pay for a sampling kit to test the water in the Leri and Ceulan rivers due to the release of sewage and its effects. Eryl Bray declared an interest. **Cost of whole kit – £156.89**

It was explained that the river would be sampled once a week in three locations in order to keep track of the water quality. It was noted that the application supports the Objective 6.

The Chairman noted that there was less money in the grant budget for 2023-24 than last year, but that there was still enough reserve available. Siôn Pennant proposed payment of the full cost, with a suggestion that the group requests financial aid annually to cover other costs. This was seconded by Catrin Davies. It was resolved that financial assistance should be given to pay the costs in full
- vi) Welsh Ploughing Championship. Mererid Watson declared an interest. Following a long discussion, **it was resolved to leave this on the table until nearer the time.**

10. Cae Bach and Bont-goch Play Parks

i) Cae Bach

A site meeting had been held at 9am on Friday 24 March between Gareth and David Stevenson from Adventure Playground Wales, Catrin Davies, Nia Richards, Mererid Watson and the Clerk, to discuss the possibilities. The following had been discussed:

- Coloured chips set in resin could be poured over the surface; it would be possible to use the current tarmac and flooring as a base in order to create as little work as possible. The new floor would then be graded towards the grass, the existing edging would be removed, and the grass folded over the edge of the new surface avoiding a tripping hazard. Black chips would cost around £40 per square metre, and colored chips would cost around £20 per square meter more. It would also be possible to lay a bicoloured floor, to include 75% black and 25% colour.
- The council would have to be consulted regarding the rainwater that flows into and gathers at the lowest point of the site; possibly creating an obstruction to divert the flow. French drains could be installed on the ground, i.e. a trench approximately 500-600 mm deep filled with stones, and a permeable floor laid over this – holes would be drilled through the tarmac for the water to escape. Mererid noted that the council would like to use local contractors to do this work, where possible.
- It would be necessary to draw up an initial plan to include everything – floor, equipment, etc.– for costing purposes and in order to plan for the future. It would not be cheap, and a large sum of money will need to be raised. The work would have to be done piecemeal over many years.
- In terms of what we would like to include, and where, it was suggested that a zip wire be built along the bottom by the Minffordd/Maesmawr fence (approx. £13k), and a place to shelter from the sun/rain in the form of a sail set on three poles.
- It was noted that the hedge would need to be pruned back to the fence, and that it would be necessary to keep both entrances for safety reasons.
- Schedule – the ground would need to be prepared first of all; 3 or 4 pieces of equipment would be installed to begin with, building on this as money is raised.

Action – Ask Dafydd Williams to cutback the hedge

It was agreed that the first step would be to draw up a blueprint. Nia Richards noted that four members of community had already agreed to be part of the working group – as

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

discussed in the last meeting. Everyone was given the opportunity to look at a report drawn up in September 2020 by Nia Richards and Alexis Flores-Williams following a meeting with local residents, noting what children wanted to see in the playing field. Siôn Pennant noted that a meeting had been held in Bont-goch Church before the opening of the playing field there, to ask the local children to vote for the equipment they would like to see. A councillor asked whether the equipment would have to be bought from a large company, or would it be possible to ask local craftsmen to build it; it was noted that health and safety issues would have to be taken into account in that regard.

ii) Monthly reports

Cae Bach – nothing new was noted

Bont-goch – Siôn Pennant had bought a spring for the gate but it was still not closing properly every time – this would have to be addressed; there were more molehills all over

iii) April Rota – Ellen ap Gwynn and Siôn Pennant

11. AoB

- i) Catrin Davies noted that the Tal-y-bont Flood Group wanted to consider the possibility of planting trees on Braichgarw in an attempt to prevent so much water from rushing down. It was noted that this was not a new concept, and that hundreds of trees had been planted there years ago. This would not affect the hydroelectric system upriver. It was suggested that a meeting should be held with members of the group to discuss this. Nia noted that protected habitats must be protected, and that maybe it would be possible to look at the habitats that are already there and try to improve them, e.g. by installing owl boxes, etc. Item for the next agenda – re-forming a decent footpath in Braichgarw.

Action – *arrange a meeting with members of the Flood Group in April. Eryl Bray to contact Mick Fothergill and Linda Denton.*

- ii) It was noted that Welsh Government money had been spent to draw up a report to be published in April/May
- iii) Catrin suggested that a project could be organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Cae Bach, e.g. recording people's memories of the playing field. The Chairman suggested contacting Gwyn Jenkins.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 24 April. It will be necessary to arrange a meeting with the Flood Group at 7 o'clock, before the Council meeting.

It will also be necessary to organize a meeting of the Cae Bach working group.

Everyone was reminded that the Annual Meeting would be held on 22 May at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall. This would need to be advertised in *Papur Pawb* and on the website at least one month in advance.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm