

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the meeting with members of the Talybont Local Flood Group held on Monday 26 June 2023 at 7 pm in Talybont Memorial Hall

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed Linda Denton and Mick Fothergill from the Talybont Local Flood Group and thanked them for agreeing to talk to the Council.

2. PowerPoint by the Flood Group

Linda and Mick thanked the Council for the invitation, and went on to give a PowerPoint presentation on the interactive screen regarding the establishment of the Group and the work that it carries out. The following was noted:

- The Group was established in 2012 the floods at the lower end of the village.
- 35 homes are currently at risk of being affected by floods, and each one has been given a flood gate to protect the property. There is an early warning system.
- A hydrological survey of the area has been carried out and a community flood plan has been prepared, which is currently being updated. The original plan was to organise holding pools on the Ceulan and Leri rivers, but this plan failed as an insufficient number of properties were affected.
- Subsequently, WG funding has been received, and Capita was commissioned to engage with the community in early 2023 – this has not happened yet. As a result, the Group developed its own resilience plan, and Linda has been making contacts with relevant bodies, e.g. NRW, The Woodland Trust, etc.
- A desktop survey was undertaken to show how sub-basins along both rivers contribute to the flooding, with the intention of using the data to help with future flood management. However, the report needs to be verified using real-life data. In light of the speed of the floods in 2012, rather than collecting daily data, hourly data needs to be collected.
- A grant of £2,000 has been awarded by Cronfa Leri to buy six data loggers, which will be placed in plastic tubes in the river beds, at strategic locations along both rivers – Professor Paul Brewer from Aberystwyth University will be advising on this. The data loggers will log any differences before and after carrying out any interventions.
- The Group has planted over 20,000 trees in strategic locations during the last two years, and intends to plant a further 50,000, with the University planting a further 58,000.
- To mitigate the effects of flooding, the intention is to: i) increase filtration by restoring peat uplands; ii) storing water in off-line retention pools; and iii) slowing water flow by restoring intercepting structures, e.g. bunds. Most of the data will come from the Met Office, but there are local residents who also collect meteorological data.
- There was an increase of 16% in the sewage discharged into the Leri between 2021 and 2022. This, along with local agricultural activity, is increasing the phosphate levels in the water.
- Water quality is currently good, and the Group carry out regular tests on temperature, conductivity, phosphates, nitrates, pH and the invertebrates present in order to monitor this.
- Grant application made to Blue Spaces, Fairbairn Foundation – a possible £60k
- Future activity: killing bracken; stand at the Tal-y-bont Show; community event on the riverbank in August; tour of the sewage works; a practice of the Emergency Flood Plan; develop a newsletter; work with the Rivers Trust.

It was noted that the Council and the Flood Group need to work closely together in future. Mick Fothergill promised to send regular reports to the Council.

The Chair thanked both for the presentation, and the meeting closed at 7:50pm

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Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 26 June 2023 at 8 pm in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Rhian Evans (Vice-chair), Nest Jenkins, Siôn Pennant, Nia Richards, Eryl Bray, a Mererid Watson.

Clerk: Lynwen Jones

1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Bleddyn Huws, Enoc Jenkins, Elgan Evans. Catrin Davies (County Councillor) had noted that she would be later.

3. Declaration of Interest

No one had any interest to declare.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 22 May 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as correct with the following correction –
Rhian Evans was present at the meeting.

Proposed: Eryl Bray; Seconded: Nest Jenkins

5. Matters arising:

- i) Matters reported via Clic to the County Council: this was delayed until later when Catrin Davies would be present.
- ii) New noticeboards: a quote of £450 from Terry Williams. Resolved to offer the work to John Henry Jones who had given a quote of o £120 + VAT
Action – the clerk to act accordingly
- iii) Work in the cemetery: John Henry Jones had quoted £3,456 to put up a wooden rail and £4,854 for a metal rail. It was agreed that metal would be best. As Terry Williams had still not submitted a quote, it was resolved that the work should be offered to John Henry Jones. It was noted that a grant was available for any work done in the cemetery.
Action – the clerk to act accordingly
- iv) Borders Commission: the Clerk had drafted a letter to the Commissioner, Frank Cuthbert, and would send it once the final figures re: the electorate.
- v) Standing Orders: the Chair and Clerk had looked through the example standing orders and revised them accordingly, and the Clerk had distributed them to the Councillors ahead of the meeting. Minor changes were made and the Standing Orders were accepted unanimously
- vi) The Chair and Vice-chair signed declarations of acceptance of office, which was witnessed and signed by the Clerc.

County Councillor Catrin Davies arrived at 8:45pm

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6. Section 6 – Biodiversity

Nia Richards, Eryl Bray and Catrin Davies had met with Siân Stacey, Councillor in charge of Biodiversity with Llangynfelyn Community Council, to discuss sharing resources, ideas, contacts and good practice.

Eryl Bray had attended a WG training course through the Green Network – two half-day sessions – noting that it was very interesting.

Nia Richards and Eryl Bray were unanimously elected as the Council's representatives for the Flood Group.

7. New matters

i) Cemetery Committee Meeting, 14 June 2023:

The minutes were read and Nia Richards noted that she had contacted James Memorials as agreed, and had been told that there might also be another company digging graves in Tal-y-cemetery. This would need to be investigated. James Memorials had received a copy of the reserved graves from the former Clerk about two years previously. On being asked how they knew where to open a new grave, they stated that there was either a plaque to note the spot, or the family would let them know. It was confirmed that the ground in the last three plots at the north end of the rows in the new part of the cemetery was only deep enough for single graves.

James Memorials had promised to pass on the paperwork for all activities in the cemetery since 2014, and Nia noted that the details would have to be cross-referenced many times with information in the cemetery itself.

The next step would be to prepare a register of reserved graves.

Nia had asked the plumber for an invoice for the work done on the tap.

ii) List of Council Assets: This had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was updated as follows:

- Delete: banner; cemetery noticeboard; 4 bus shelters; Bont-goch noticeboard.
- Add: 5 defibrillators (donations); 2 new noticeboards; picnic benches in Cae Bach (x2) and Bont-goch (x1) (donations). The exact number of benches will have to be checked and included on the list.

For insurance purposes, it was noted that assets should not be depreciated, i.e. the value should be recorded as the purchase price, and that a value of £1 should be given to any donated assets.

Action – the Clerk to update the List of Assets, and add the picnic benches to the playing field check lists

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had forwarded all relevant electronic correspondence to the Councillors during the month. Particular attention was given to the correspondence below:

One Voice Wales:

- Information about free garden packs
- Update to the Infrastructure Bill (Wales) 2023

Ceredigion County Council

Housing Strategy 2023 – reminder re. the consultation. The County Council had transferred responsibility for community homes to Barcud and Wales and the West, but it was still required to ensure that a housing strategy was in place. Community housing grants are given to Housing Associations by WG via the County Council, who oversee where houses are built, etc, and who

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must invest the rest of the money themselves. The Councillors to respond individually if they so wish.

9. Planning

No applications received.

10. Financial matters:

i) The Council's financial position

Current account: £6,809.62

Deposit account: £4,794.36

Tabernacl account: £4,420.30

The Clerc had claimed a Vat return of £1,257.50 (not £1,351.13 as recorded in the last meeting). Money not received yet.

ii) Income: £170 via James Memorials re burial of Mrs May Royle

iii) Invoices payable:

Nia Richards, Cwtsh Cynnes (March-June 2023) – £39.78

Ellen ap Gwynn, ink & Cwtsh Cynnes – £25.84

Clerk's salary (April-June 2023) – £950.28

Income tax on Clerk's salary – £237.40

Resolved to pay the above costs. Proposed: Catrin Davies; Seconded: Eryl Bray

It was noted that Marc Richards had been a great help to the Clerk with solving matters re HMRC and ensuring that the accounts were correct. He had also noted that the Council must register for a Pension plan even though the Clerk may not wish to join. Passed unanimously. Proposed: Catrin Davies; Seconded: Eryl Bray.

iv) Online banking: the Chair proposed that the Council should start banking online, noting that a letter would need to be drafted to the bank on order to move on. Unanimously supported.

11. The Playgrounds

i) Eryl Bray noted that parents had been complaining about the state of the ground in Cae Bach, which was very uneven in places. The hope was to deal with this during the renovation work.

Nothing to note in Bont-goch

ii) July rota – Siôn Pennant and Nia Richards

iii) Cae Bach renovation: Nia Richards had received correspondence from Ffion Davies, Kathryn Botting, Holly Aubrey and Lynn Ebenezer regarding the state of the ground in Cae Bach. They wished to know whether they could arrange for it to be dug up and levelled. It was noted that the tarmac would need to be left as a foundation for the new flooring. Many fundraising ideas had been suggested, including *Just Giving*. It would not be possible for the Council to open a *Just Giving* account, but individuals were welcome to raise fund in this way and contribute it to the renovation work fund. Eryl Bray proposed nad Rhian Evans seconded that the four individuals above should be co-opted onto the Palyground Committee. Unanimously agreed.

Action – *Nia Richards to invite Ffion Davies, Kathryn Botting, Holly Aubrey and Lynn Ebenezer to be co-opted members of the Playground Committee and the Clerk to call a meeting.*

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5. i) Catrin Davies reported on this matter before moving on to AOB.

- Lamp-post in Cae Bach had been fixed;
- Road by Nantgaredig had been assessed and was now in the system;
- Road between the Black Lion and the Ffald removed from the system as County Council can't see anything wrong;
- Parts of the road between Salon Leri and Penfforddlas had been fixed;
- Some work had been completed by Bont-goch church;
- No-one was sure whether work had been done opposite Cerrig Mawr;
- New salt bin – matter being assessed;
- Work had been done on the road in Cwm Ceulan;
- Cattle grids had been cleaned.

12. Any Other Business

- Eryl Bray noted that the bridge crossing the river at Braichgarw was in a poor state.
- Nia Richards noted that the grass behind 11-14 Maes-y-deri had been cut for many years, and that people would come to take photos and leave without doing anything. The local residents had started cutting the grass themselves. This could have health and safety implications. The Chair was of the opinion that the land belongs to the Couty Council rather, than Barcud.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 July 2023.

The meeting closed at 10:10pm