

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 29 January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall

1. Chair's Welcome

Present: Councillors Mererid Watson, Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Bleddyn Huws, Nest Jenkins, Eryl Bray, Enoc Jenkins, Siôn Pennant, Elgan Evans, Catrin Davies (County Councillor), Nia Richards, Rhian Evans (Vice-chair, late).

Taking minutes: Lynwen Jones

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and thanked the vice-chair for chairing the November meeting.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Declaration of Interest

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

9. Planning application: Enoc Jenkins

10.v) Grants:

Siôn Pennant – YFC;

Rhian Evans – YFC, *Papur Pawb*, After School Club, Breakfast Club;

Nia Richards – Football Club, Flood Group;

Elgan Evans – Cylch Meithrin, Tal-y-Bont Show;

Enoc Jenkins – Tal-y-Bont Show;

Catrin Davies – *Papur Pawb*, Memorial Hall, After School Club, Breakfast Club, Flood Group;

Bleddyn Huws – *Papur Pawb*, Memorial Hall;

Mererid Watson – Memorial Hall;

Eryl Bray – Flood Group.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27 November 2023

Minutes of the previous meeting confirmed as correct with the following amendments:

5 iv) Amend ... *the minutes of the 2022 meetings were available to read ... the minutes of the 2022 meetings were available in Welsh, but some of the English minutes were still missing.*

Proposed: Catrin Davies; Seconded: Nia Richards

5. Matters arising:

i) Matters reported to the County Council via Clic:

a. Catrin Davies had resubmitted the matter of the light adjacent to Cytringan

b. Salt bin: Siôn Pennant had forwarded details of the location for a new bin. The Clerk to remind the County Council that Catrin Davies had made enquiries regarding a new bin.

ii) Noticeboards: the new noticeboard and the map board had been fixed to the wall of the public toilets. It was noted that members of the Flood Group were grateful for permission to store sandbags at the foot of the wall, and that they intended to buy an appropriate container.

iii) Website: no invoices for maintenance work had been received in the current year. The Head of the primary school had requested that a link to the school be placed on the Council website. It was noted that the link was already to be found under 'Facilities'.

iv) Christmas tree lights: the ceremony had gone well. The Chair thanked Dafydd Jenkins for

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erecting the tree. Following a request from the National Grid, the Clerk had forwarded the details of all the Christmas lights.

- v) Banking: the Clerk's name had been added to the mandate and she could now set up an online account.
- vi) Burial ground grant: it was noted that the grant form discussed in the last meeting was for 2022-23, and that no costs had been incurred in that year. Therefore, no grant application would be made. The 2023-24 expenditure (erecting new handrails) would be claimed in 2024-25.
- vii) Builders' rubble near Fron-las Quarrey: Nest Jenkins noted that the rubble pile was very high. It is possible that the tipper is the landowner. Catrin Davies to make enquiries with regard to Environmental Health.

6. Section 6 – Biodiversity

Nia Richards had attended a meeting with members of Tal-y-bont Flood Group, who had been successful in securing a year's finance from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to produce and implement a local flood management plan. The project is part of a wider plan led by the Tir Canol consortium of local environmental groups under the heading "floods cause less damage to people and wildlife". Regarding the CYNNAL project, this will involve working with local landowners, farmers and the community to implement mitigation measures to slow the flow of stormwater down the Leri and Ceulan valleys. One of the aims is to protect 35 homes in Tal-y-bont considered to be at risk of flooding. Tir Canol officer, Heledd Wyn, had visited Cwm Ceulan with Nia Richards and Mick Fothergill to assess the situation. Although the grant has been allocated, the work will have to be done and invoices submitted before the money is distributed. The group was keen to work with the Council.

7. New Matters

- i) Cwm Eleri kiosk: a discussion was held regarding whether or not the telephone was connected, with differing opinions. The County Council had launched a consultation on removing the telephone in the light of information from BT noting that only one call had been made in the previous 12 months and that the mobile phone signal in the area was now sufficient. Elgan Evans proposed that the Community Council adopt the kiosk to house a defibrillator. It was queried whether the Council could afford to buy another defibrillator; Mererid Watson proposed relocating one of the three in Tal-y-bont to the kiosk. Catrin Davies proposed keeping the defib. adjacent to the Memorial Hall and the one at the southern end of Tal-y-bont, and that the one at Pen-lôn would be the one to relocate. If this were done, the public and the emergency services would need to be informed.
P.G. – the Clerk to communicate this to Nia Jones, County Council
- ii) First Aid Course: Eryl Bray noted that a paramedic had moved to the village and had offered to hold a course on using the defibrillators. This would be open to all. Catrin Davies note that Llangynfelyn Council was also interested in holding a course. It was proposed that a course be arranged and that members of Llangynfelyn Council be invited to join. Mererid Watson noted that Ceredigion Community learning was offering First Aid courses for a small fee. She also noted that there was a video on the British Heart Foundation website giving instructions on the use of defibrillators.
Nia Richards proposed creating a WhatsApp group of all the first responders in the locality. It was also proposed that a list of first responders could be displayed in the noticeboards, and that a request be placed on Clonc asking for names and permission.

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The Community Council would pay for the use of the Memorial Hall to hold any such course.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated all relevant electronic correspondence to the Councillors during the month. The following correspondence was particularly noted:

One Voice Waled

- i) Request for examples of biodiversity action
- ii) Ceredigion Area Committee Meeting: Rhian Evans had attended.
- iii) Consultation on Wales Air Ambulance regarding the proposed closure of the Welshpool base. The Clerk to send a letter opposing the proposal, noting that the service had been used on numerous occasions recently.
- iv) Free IT training dates.

Other

- v) Letter of complaint from a local resident regarding vehicles speeding through Tal-y-bont. Catrin Davies had asked for the Go Safe van to visit the village and had made enquiries regarding the 40mph zone to the south. It was noted that the 20mph sign to the north was no longer flashing and that vehicles were driving at speed from that direction. Nia Richards noted that a survey had been carried out between Rhiwlan and Penrhiw, and proposed the Council request the data. Resolved: to send a letter to request the data.

9. Planning

Request A230920, Tanrallt – change of use of field to erect two holiday cabins.

There were no objections. Proposed: to approve the request.

Proposed: Nia Richards; Seconded: Elgan Evans

10. Financial matters:

- i) Financial report: the clerk had circulated the Council's financial position as at 04/02/2023 prior to the meeting, as follows:
 - Current account: £13,639.16
 - Deposit account: £ 4,844.22
 - Tabernacle account: £ 4,474.81
 - Cae Bach Fund: £ 2,776.32 (in the current account + £104.50 cash)Resolved: to open a separate deposit account for the Cae Bach Fund.
Proposed: Enoc Jenkins; Seconded: Eryl Bray
- ii) External Auditor's Opinion:

It was noted that the Auditor's opinion documents on the Council's financial accounts for 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, received in early November 2023, and for 2021-22 a 2022-23, received in late November 2023, had each been on public display for the required period of three weeks. The Auditor's notes on the 2022-23 accounts were discussed and noted. It was also noted that the Council would be subject to a full Audit this year.
- iii) Income:

James Memorials, inscription	£80.00
Cwtsh Cynnes Grant	£900.00
- iv) Invoices payable:

a. County Council, playing field rent	£10.00
b. Nia Richards, Cwtsh Cynnes costs	£12.34
c. Ellen ap Gwynn, Cwtsh Cynnes costs	£21.07

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- d. Memorial Hall, room rent + broadband Sept.-Dec. £510.00

The broadband was costing approximately £52 a month; therefore, it was proposed that a cheaper contract be sought. Resolved: to ask the Memorial Hall to transfer the broadband account to the Council, as the paying body. The Council would then be able to reclaim any VAT paid.

- e. Welsh Water (direct debit) £12.66

- f. SSE: Christmas lights £73.30

The Council had not erected a tree in Bont-goch in 2022 as per the invoice; the Clerk had therefore queried the invoice and was awaiting a reply.

It was resolved unanimously to pay the above except the SSE invoice.

- v) 2023-24 grant allocations:

A meeting of the Finance Committee had been held on 15 January 2024 to discuss the 2023-24 grant applications. The Tal-y-bont Youth Football Club application had not been received until after the meeting; no decision had been made regarding the Flood Group; and a recommendation of £200 for the Air Ambulance was made even though no application had been received to date. The recommendations were put to the Council. The Youth Football Club application was discussed, and it was resolved to give £500. Following a discussion on the work of the Flood Group, Ellen ap Gwynn proposed a sum of £150, and Siôn Pennant proposed and Mererid Watson seconded a sum of £200. It was unanimously resolved that a total of £5,400 be given, consisting of £4,000 under Section 137(4)a and £1,400 to the Memorial Hall and Show, as follows:

Local Organisation	Committee recommendation	Council decision
Tal-y-bont Young Farmers Club	£200.00	£200.00
Tal-y-bont Youth Club	£200.00	£200.00
Tal-y-bont Youth Football Club		£500.00
Tal-y-bont Football Club	£500.00	£500.00
Tal-y-bont Cylch Meithrin	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
<i>Papur Pawb</i>	£400.00	£400.00
Tregerddan Home	£300.00	£300.00
Tal-y-bont After School Club	£200.00	£200.00
Tal-y-bont Breakfast Club	£200.00	£200.00
Tal-y-bont Flood Group		£200.00
Tal-y-bont Agricultural Society (Show)	£400.00	£400.00
Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Total	£4,400.00	£5,100.00

County and National Organisations	Committee recommendation	Council decision
Blood Bikes Wales, Aberystwyth	£100.00	£100.00
The Urdd Opportunity for All Fund	£100.00	£100.00
Kids Cancer Charity	£100.00	£100.00
Total	£300.00	£300.00

The Clerk to place a notice in *Papur Pawb* and the noticeboards.

- vi) Setting the precept: it was agreed to keep the precept at £16,000 for 2024-25. Bledwyn Huws noted that consideration should be given to the increase in Council Tax.

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vii) 2024-25 budget:

The Clerk had circulated the draft budget in advance. Catrin Davies noted that the County Council was considering transferring responsibility for public toilets and grass cutting along verges to the Community Councils. The Clerk was asked to contact HMRC with regard to the overpayment of £972, and also check why the 2022-23 precept was only £15,830 rather than the £16,000 requested. Following discussions, it was resolved to approve the budget recommended for 2024-25 and keep the precept at £16,000.

11. Playgrounds

i) Cae Bach fundraising campaign:

A grant of £5,000 had successfully been obtained from Cronfa Leri, and applications had also been made to the Round Table, Rotary Club, Lunch Club and CKs. An evening with Aber Opera had been arranged for 7pm in the Memorial Hall on 16 February, and a clothes sale would be held in the Memorial Hall in late March (possibly 23rd). A request was made for donations of good quality clothes.

ii) Monthly reports:

There was nothing to report on either playground.

February inspections – Nest Jenkins and Siôn Pennant.

12. Any Other Business

Elgan Evans noted the following:

- i) that there was water flowing across the road level with Bwlch-glas works in Cwm Tŷ Nant and that there was a risk that the road surface would be washed away. He also noted that there was water flowing along the road adjacent to Cerrig Mawr, Cwm Eleri.
- ii) that the overgrown trees/hedge bordering Y Winllan (Maesnewydd property) and Wern-deg had not been cut and that they were obstructing tall vehicles. The Clerk noted that she had contacted the relevant individuals when the matter had been raised in late summer. It was resolved to contact the landowners again asking them to cut the hedge and noting that the County Council would have to be contacted if this was not carried out.
- iii) that a pothole had reopened in the road adjacent to Cerrig Mawr.

Mererid Watson noted the following:

- iv) that she was looking for a cheaper broadband contract for the Memorial Hall.
- v) that the defibrillators would soon need new batteries. It was unanimously resolved to allow the purchase of new batteries when the time came.
- vi) that the Council was required to adopt a data protection policy in line with the GDPR. It was proposed that the Clerk request a draft policy from One Voice Wales, or from other local councils.
- vii) that she would be giving training on the use of the interactive whiteboard in the lower Hall at 6pm on 12 February. All were welcome to attend the session.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26 February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m.

Signature: _____

Date: _____