

**Minutes of the Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council Annual General Meeting
Held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.00pm
in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall**

1. Chair's Welcome

Present: Cllrs. Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Nia Richards, Catrin Davies (County Cllr.), Mererid Watson, Nest Jenkins, Siôn Pennant Jones, Elgan Evans, Rhian Evans (late), Bleddyn Huws (late)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to pay her respects to former Councillor Gwilym Jenkins, who had sadly passed away recently. Mr Jenkins had been a very active member of the Community who contributed to all aspects of village life. He had been a Community Councillor for many years, and his loss will be felt by many. The meeting's condolences were sent to the whole family and a minute's silence was held in his memory.

2. Apologies

Cllrs. Eryl Bray and Enoc Jenkins

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous year's Annual General Meeting, held on 22 May 2023, were unanimously confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report to the meeting, as follows:

2023/24 has been a year of stabilizing the Council's activities after welcoming a new Member and appointing a new Clerk at the end of 2022/23.

Some Financial problems were successfully solved ensuring that Audit Wales were satisfied with the 2021/22 and 2022/23 reports. On-line banking was set up to facilitate the Clerk's work, and an appropriate business account was opened for the Cae Bach Fund. Mr Ieuan Morgan retired as the Council's Internal Auditor and was thanked for many years of service. Mr Bryn Smith was appointed as his successor.

The Standing Orders and the Asset Register were updated for the annual audit.

The campaign to renovate Cae Bach was restarted to note 50 years since its opening in 1973. A subcommittee was set up to lead the fundraising process and to oversee the work. Members of the Community were co-opted to assist, and I thank them for their willingness to help. A number of events were held throughout the year, starting with a Duck Race on the day of Tal-y-bont Show in August, to a Plant Sale in early May. So far £14,328.83 has been raised. We are very grateful to the local residents, to Cronfa Eleri and to the following businesses: Atebol, Y Lolfa, Mid Wales Scaffolding and Wainwrights for their generosity, and to the family of the late Mr Hywel Williams, Cynnull-mawr who contributed donations in his memory. Quotations have been received from four different companies and it appears that around £100k will be needed to complete the work. We are already in the process of preparing a bid for a National Lottery grant, and a consultation has been held with the community and the local schoolchildren regarding their wishes for the refurbished playground. A new drainage plan will be required before starting work on any new equipment. The Councillors have, in turn, been reporting monthly on the condition of the current equipment in Cae Bach and in Bont-goch playground.

The Cemetery subcommittee has also been busy. Work has finally started on a safe footpath between Tanrallt, through the Cemetery and out towards the road adjacent to Erglodd. This is a joint scheme between Ceulanamaesmawr and Llangynfelyn, and we are very grateful to Eifion Jones for securing the funds and for leading on this project on our behalf.

John Henry Jones has been tasked with fitting a new rail down the southern edge of the Cemetery and along the path down from the double gates. A new bench has been located half way down, and it was agreed to ask for quotes to resurface the path. Cllrs. Enoc Jenkins and Elgan Evans agreed to level the ground at the side of the path ready for the work. The Clerk and Cllr. Nia Richards have been cross-referencing grave numbers with the register of burials.

Two new noticeboards were erected, one at the bottom of the village, the other in Bont-goch.

Members of the Council joined the Memorial Service in the Memorial Hall and two wreaths were presented to the community.

A beautiful Christmas tree was once again erected on the 'Patshyn Glas', and a small ceremony was held giving everyone the opportunity to start the Festive celebrations.

Ownership of the telephone kiosk in Cwm Eleri was transferred to the Council with the intention of housing a defibrillator there. Cllr. Mererid Watson was responsible for the maintenance of the five current defibrillators in the community, including ensuring that the batteries are fully charged.

The condition of the County Council's roads in the area were regularly reported through Clic, and we welcome the work done by the Highways Agency to repair the wall on the A487 into the village from the south.

Section 137 grants worth £4,400 were distributed, along with further grants worth £1,000. It was agreed that the precept be set at £16,000 for the 2024/25 financial year. A VAT repayment was received from HMRC.

The popular Cwtsh Cynnes continued to be held on Tuesday mornings, and an additional grant of £900 was successfully secured to continue with the scheme, which is greatly appreciated by many in the community.

Also this year, a successful Christmas dinner was arranged.

We continued to comply with the requirements of the Environment Act throughout the year. This is a standing item on the agenda of our monthly meetings and is also considered when discussing planning applications. By now, our application form for financial aid for organisations and clubs includes a question on positive impacts on biodiversity.

In spring 2024, a list of steps taken under Section 6 was sent to One Voice Wales, which led to one of our projects being included in good practice guidance being prepared for community and town councils. Our article on Promoting Biodiversity appeared on the front page of Papur Pawb last summer, which led to good feedback and interesting discussions.

Cllrs. Nia Richards and Eryl Bray, responsible for biodiversity plans, discussed various matters with the public on the Nature stand in the Tal-y-bont Show last year, where we gave away hundreds of free packets of native wildflower seeds. We also sponsored the show's competition for the best garden for wildlife.

As well as the wider committee's assistance to the Floodies, the biodiversity officers have been offering practical help with the weekly testing of the river water.

Currently, we are working on a Plan to Promote Biodiversity for Cae Bach and hope to get practical help from the community and the children to ensure that it is educational and fun.

During the year, a consultation was held by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales threatening the future of the Community Council in its current form and size. A number of Council members sent responses noting their strong opposition to the Commission's recommendation to form one Community Council for the north of the county, with only 7 members. We can only hope that their opinions are given a fair hearing.

As I reach the end of my second year as Chair, I would like to thank the conscientious Clerk for making mine and the Council's work easier during the year. Thank you also to my co-Councillors for their work and continued support for all the Council's plans and for their service to the community.

Ellen ap Gwynn – Chair 2023-24

5. Financial Report

The Council's financial situation at year end, 31 March 2024, was as follows:

Current account: £13,885.74

Deposit account: £4,867.68

Tabernacle account: £4,496.45

There were unpresented cheques to the value of £1,509.17, along with £76.62 of petty cash used as a float during money-raising events for the Cae Bach Appeal.

Therefore, the balance carried forward to 2024-25 was £21,817.32.

6. Election of new Chair

Proceedings were transferred to the Clerk, who asked for any nominations for the post of Chair. Cllr.

Nia Richards proposed that the current Chair, Cllr. Ellen ap Gwynn, should continue in office for

another year. This was seconded by Cllr. Siôn Pennant. The Chair accepted, and the motion was carried unanimously. The Chair took charge of the meeting once again.

7. Election of new Vice-chair

Cllr. Nia Richards proposed that the current Vice-chair, Cllr. Rhian Evans, should continue in office for another year. This was seconded by Cllr. Catrin Davies. After offering to step down to give someone else the opportunity, Rhian accepted the nomination and the motion was carried unanimously.

8. Selection of subcommittee members and representatives

The Chair is a member of each subcommittee *Ex Officio*. The remaining members were agreed as follows:

- i. **Finance Committee:** Cllrs. Siôn Pennant, Nest Jenkins, Rhian Evans
- ii. **Cemetery Committee:** Cllrs. Nest Jenkins, Nia Richards, Enoc Jenkins, Rhian Evans
- iii. **Planning Committee:** all Community Councillors, not including the County Councillor
- iv. **Playground Committee:** Cllrs. Nia Richards, Catrin Davies, Mererid Watson, Eryl Bray, along with the co-opted members: Holly Aubrey, Kath Botting, Lynn Ebenezer, Ffion Davies
- v. **Representative for the Cylch Meithrin:** Cllr. Elgan Evans
- vi. **Representative for One Voice Wales:** Cllr. Rhian Evans

Cllr. Catrin Davies left the meeting at 7.20pm

- vii. **Financial Officer:** Clerk
- viii. **Internal Accountant:** Cllr. Nia Richards
- ix. **Internal Auditor:** Mr Bryn Smith was nominated for this post. It was resolved to contact Mr Smith to thank him for his work auditing the 2023-24 accounts and to offer him the post.
- x. **Policies Committee:**
It was proposed that this new Committee be set up to deal with the Council's policies and official document; the proposal was passed unanimously. It was resolved that membership of the Committee should include all Councillors.

9. Any Other Business

- i. It was proposed that Cllrs. Nia Richards and Eryl Bray should represent the Council once again on the Green Network for Community and Town Councils, run by One Voice Wales. Nia agreed to continue in post.
- ii. It was proposed that Cllrs. Mererid Watson and Siôn Pennant take responsibility for the defibrillators.

10. Date of Next Meeting

As the lower hall is not available on the third Monday of the month, it was queried whether it was required to hold the AGM a week early in the years when no election is held. Subject to the response to the inquiry, the next AGM will be held on 19 May 2025.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____