

Cyngor Cymuned Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 30 September 2024 at 19:30 in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall

1. Chair's Welcome

Present: Councillors Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Mererid Watson, Nia Richards, Nest Jenkins, Eryl Bray, Siôn Pennant, Bleddyn Huws, Rhian Evans, Elgan Evans and Enoc Jenkins

Taking minutes: Lynwen Rees Jones

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

County Cllr. Catrin Davies.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Mererid Watson declared an interest in the discussions in point **14 vi)**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 29 July 2024, were confirmed as correct.

Proposed: Nia Richards; Seconded: Siôn Pennant

5. Matters arising:

- i) Matters reported through Clic to the County Council: nothing to report
Cllr. Siôn Pennant noted that the condition of the road near the Church in Bont-goch had deteriorated. Photographic evidence had been supplied.
- ii) Bench adjacent to Coedmor and post in playground: nothing to report.
- iii) Update on SSE: Debt collecting company Advantis had referred the matter back to SSE, who had contacted a second company, Oriel. The Clerk had explained the situation to Oriel, who had put the matter on hold to investigate. It was proposed that a complaint be made to the Ombudsman. The Clerk to seek advice from One Voice Wales.
- iv) Members' Allowances: members who hadn't previously done so signed the appropriate form confirming that they did not wish to accept any allowances.

6. Section 6 – Biodiversity

Cllr. Eryl Bray gave the following report: Eryl and Nia had met Mark Roberts from CES in Cae Bach to discuss drainage. Large volumes of water flow into the playground from Allt-y-crib, and a hump beneath the small gate would divert this flow to the drain by the recycling bins. This should solve the problem, leaving only the rainwater that falls directly onto the playground. CES would produce a report, then a drainage plan would need to be developed and appropriate SUDS tests would need to be carried out before any work is done. A discussion had also been held with Linda Denton, who had noted that some trees in Allt-y-crib would be felled in the next three years, making the situation worse. NRW intended to carry out some work to change the path of the water to slow down the flow, which affects the whole village. It was suggested that willow could be planted in the corner of the football field to absorb some of the water, and it was noted that something similar could be done in Bont-goch playground; another possibility in Bont-goch would be to erect willow structures as playground equipment. Resolved: Report through Clic that the drain by the recycling bins needs clearing; ask Les Hopson & Sons to build a hump beneath the lower gate.

7. New Matters

- i) Grass-cutting contract:

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The Clerk had distributed the draft contract prior to the meeting. Following discussions, minor amendments were made before approving the new contract, which would be operational from 1 April 2025 for three years. Resolved: to publish the contract to invite tenders as soon as possible.

8. Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated all relevant electronic correspondence to the Councillors during the month. The following were noted in particular:

- i) Message from a Bont-goch resident noting that the speed limit through the village is 60mph and requesting that the Council considers lowering this limit. Resolved: to contact the Highways Department accordingly.
- ii) Invitation to a meeting between representatives of the County Council and Town and Community Councils in the Rheidol Centre, Aberystwyth on 26 November at 6.30 pm. Resolved: that the Chair and Clerk would attend.
- iii) Invitation to a meeting of the Leri Catchment Co-design Group on 25 October. Resolved: that Cllrs. Nia Richards and Eryl Bray would attend.

9. Financial Matters:

- i) Financial report: the Clerk had circulated details of the financial situation to Council prior to the meeting; the situation as at 30/09/2024 was as follows:

Current account	£7,815.03
Deposit account	£4,915.48
Tabernacle account	£4,541.73
Cae Bach account	£17,956.89
+ undeposited cash for the 200 Club	£390
+ float, cash:	£67.60

At the top of the meeting, a further £200 cash was passed on to the Clerk for the 200 Club.

- ii) Income:

Cae Bach fund, 200 Club	£2,060
Interest on Cae Bach account	£54.96
Interest on deposit account	£16.16
Interest on the Tabernacle account	£21.86

- iii) Invoices payable:

Councillors had approved a payment of £640 + VAT to CES during August, to carry out a survey of Cae Bach and prepare a drainage report.

- a. WAO, 2020-21 audit £230
- b. WAO, 2021-22 audit £285
- c. JHJ Fencing – cemetery railing £4,215 + TAW
+ erection of noticeboards

(It was noted that the figures on this invoice did not add up, and that the Clerk should contact JHJ for a correct invoice before any payment is made.)

- d. Nia Richards, Cwtsh Cynnes costs £15.65
- e. Ellen ap Gwynn, Cwtsh Cynnes costs £6.85
- f. Clerk, postage costs (audit) £9.95
- g. Clerk's salary, July-September £1,033.28
- h. Income tax on clerk's salary, payable to HMRC £258.40

Resolved: to approve the above payments.

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10. Playgrounds

- i) Cae Bach campaign: 206 tickets had been sold for the 200 Club, giving a total income of £2,060. Winners would be selected in the monthly Council meetings, with £800 being earmarked for the prizes for the year.
Cllrs. Ellen ap Gwynn, Nia Richards and Catrin Davies had met with Tom Cooper, Proludic, over Teams, who would prepare a final price for the work in order for the Lottery grant application to be prepared (up to £100k). The old equipment would be removed locally and sold for scrap. The intention was for works to begin in September 2025.
Arrangements were being made for the next event on 9 November, a *Shake your Booty* evening with Elan Elidyr, Siân Lawes and Rachel Hubbard.
- ii) Monthly reports:
 - Bont-goch: nothing new to report.
 - Cae Bach: during the summer, Cllr. Mererid Watson had taken litter from Cae Bach to the waste/recycling centre

11. The Cemetery

A meeting of the Cemetery Committee had been held on 19 September, where the following was discussed:

- i) Public footpath: Eifion Jones was in discussions with Welsh Water regarding underground pipes. This was delaying the laying of a permanent surface on the path. A new fence had been ordered to the north of the double gate. There was no budget for a fence on the southern side, a new double gate, or hedging plants. The possibility of a burial grounds grant for any further work was noted.
- ii) Other work: the new rails had been erected and were looking good. Cllrs. Enoc Jenkins and Elgan Evans were asked to level and re-seed the corner of row 27 by the path. Cllr. Nia Richards agreed to look into grants for a new hedge.
- iii) Fees: suggestions had been made with regard to simplifying the fees. The Clerk had distributed the amended version of the fees prior to the meeting. The amendments were approved unanimously.

12. Planning

No planning matters to discuss.

13. 200 Club draw

A random number generator app was used to choose the September winners, as follows:

- 1st – 81, Rhiannon Evans (£50)
- 2nd – 74, Ruth Jên (£20)
- 3rd – 69, Eiry and Hefin Davies (£10)

14. Any Other Business

- i) Many Bont-goch residents were unhappy with the situation regarding Smart Meters as they would either be at a financial loss or because the internet connection was insufficient. Cllr. Siôn Pennant was asked to send details to the Clerk to be forwarded to Ben Lake AM.
- ii) High water level at Bwlch Glas due to a blockage in the pipe across the road. To be reported through Clic.
- iii) The defibrillator by the Memorial Hall would be moved to the kiosk in Cwm Eleri – Mererid and Elgan to make arrangements.
- iv) Cllr. Elgan Evans queried whether planning permission was required to erect a pod, as one

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had been erected at a local property. It was noted that permission was required.

- v) All three defibrillators would need new pads very soon, and one battery was down to half power.
- vi) At a meeting of the Hall Committee in early summer, it had been agreed that the Hall's noticeboard should be removed due to its poor condition. Members of the Committee had also repaired and painted the Council's noticeboard and requested permission to use one side for Hall correspondence. This was approved unanimously on the understanding that the Council would have priority.
- vii) The Memorial Hall would be holding a centenary celebration on Sunday 6 October.
- viii) Potholes on the road from Braichgarw to Penfforddlas.
- ix) Potholes between the cattle grids in Cwm Ceulan (Carreg Cadwgan land).
- x) Vandalism was on the rise in Tal-y-bont, with fires being lit in Cae Bach and the public toilets, paper being set alight and thrown into residents' gardens, and cars being scratched and burned. Police had been informed and were investigating. Resolved: to contact and inform the PCSO.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 28 October 2024 at 7.30pm in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm