

**Minutes of the Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council Annual General Meeting  
held on Monday 19 May 2025 at 7.00pm  
in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall**

**1. Chair's Welcome**

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

The Chair welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting and sent a heartfelt congratulations to Cllr Mererid Watson on the recent birth of a daughter, wishing the family all the best.

**2. Apologies**

Cllrs. Mererid Watson and Eryl Bray

**3. Minutes of the Previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 20 May 2024, were unanimously confirmed as being a correct record – proposed: Cllr Nest Jenkins; seconded: Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn – and were duly signed. It was noted that the minutes of the AGM should be confirmed during the June meeting in future.

**4. Annual Reports**

i) Chair's Report – the Chair presented her report as follows:

*2024-25 has been a busy year as various plans come to fruition.*

*Following the Boundaries Commission's survey of the number and sizes of Community Councils in Wales, it was a relief to understand that Ceulanamaesmawr would keep its current boundary from 2027 on, albeit with 7 councillors instead of the current 11. A further response was sent requesting a reconsideration of the number of Councillors.*

*Audit Wales carried out a full audit of the Council's 2023-24 financial situation, which was found to be acceptable. All annual audits from 2020-21 have now been completed following delays from the auditing body. Council agreed to set the 2025-2026 Budget, with a recommendation to raise a precept of £17,000 to ensure that work in the community could progress. Section 137 grants worth £4,000 were agreed upon for organizations in the community and for HAHAV, Wales Air Ambulance and Urdd Gobaith Cymru.*

*Two proposals were passed by Council during the year, namely:*

- i) That the Council supports the County Council's efforts to lobby Welsh Government to ensure fair funding for each County Council.*
- ii) That the Council supports a call for the Westminster Government to transfer responsibility for the Crown's Estate in Wales to Welsh Government.*

*A Policies Subcommittee was established to review all the policies the Council is required to implement.*

*In accordance with the Training Policy, a training session was held on the Code of Conduct.*

*The Cae Bach Subcommittee has been working hard once again during the year holding various events to raise funds for the renovation work. The fund has now reached circa £27,000. CES of Dolgellau was contracted to prepare a survey of the site's drainage needs and to advise on the required improvement works. We are extremely grateful for the tireless support given by the community as we continue with the fundraising campaign. Thank you in particular to Cronfa Eleri, Unigryw, Ani-bendod and many other local companies for providing raffle prizes and for their kind sponsorship during the year.*

*Significant work was done in the Cemetery over winter. Railings have been erected along the southern edge and along the road down the middle, which has been resurfaced. Thank you to J.H. Jones, Bont-goch and Hopson & Sons for their work. Thank you to Cllrs Enoc Jenkins and Elgan Evans for tidying the edges. The cemetery fees were simplified and clarified.*

*Thanks to the guidance of Eifion Jones on behalf of the County Council, a grant had been given to buy land and create a new footpath from Maes y Deri, through the cemetery and out onto the road below Erglodd in order to ensure a safe route between both communities. A formal opening ceremony will be held soon.*

*A contract for Grass and Hedge Cutting for the next 3 years was put out to tender, and was secured by Robert Griffiths.*

*Many matters relating to the condition of the roads in the community were discussed and regularly reported to County Council via Clic. Some repair work has been carried out, but this was insufficient in the Council's opinion. The road through the Ceulan Valley and over to Nant y Moch is being damaged by competitors and followers of the Ceredigion Rally and requires repairing.*

*The signs on the road in front of the pubs have been repainted, and a sign has been erected indicating the correct way to turn on exiting. NO DOGS signs have been placed on the Green.*

*Many still worry about the speed of traffic, especially on entering the village from the north and south. We are in regular contact with the Highways Agency and Welsh Government regarding this matter. We also support the Bont-goch residents with their request to lower the speed limit through the village, and a new salt bin has been obtained for the village.*

*Two online meetings were held with County Council officers to discuss:*

- i) Ending the lease on the Playing Field at Maes y Deri. Although the Community Council declared its wish to continue with the lease, no decision has been made yet.*
- ii) Ending the lease on the public toilets, with the Community Council being asked to pay the annual cost of over £5,000. County Council was reminded that the toilets belong to Ceulanamaesmawr and are on lease to County Council for 99 years, and that there is no break clause in the lease. However, a bill for £5,000 has been received to keep them open. We will continue with the discussions.*

*County Council held a consultation on the flood prevention work in the village. There was disappointment on understanding that a needs assessment had only been carried out on the Ceulan. A further meeting with Rhodri Llwyd and Annett Bikett from County Council will be arranged for further discussions.*

*For the first time, a white poppy wreath was laid alongside the usual red wreaths during the Memorial Service, with Cllr Nest Jenkins taking part and Cllr Nia Richards accompanying.*

*A beautiful Christmas tree was erected on the Green, but the adverse weather meant that it was not possible to hold the lighting ceremony.*

*Cllr Rhian Evans represented the Council at the Community Carol Service.*

*The Tuesday morning Cwtsh Cynnes meetings held in the lower Memorial Hall are going from strength to strength. A good crew of up to 25 villagers come together to socialize every week. Nic Pryer from County Council called in on a visit, and was very pleased with the response of those present that morning. Holding a Christmas Dinner has now become a regular event. A further grant of £1,000 was received to cover costs for the year. Thank you to the dedicated crew prepared to help.*

*At the end of a busy year, I would like to thank our Clerk, Lynwen Jones, for her good work, and you my fellow councillors for your willing support and your work for the community that means so much to us all.*

*Ellen ap Gwynn – Chair2024-25*

*Cllr Catrin Davies seconded the sentiments and thanked everyone who had committed to helping in the Cwtsh Cynnes every week.*

- ii) Section 6 Report – Cllr Nia Richards presented her report as follows:*

## **Environment Act (Wales) 2016**

### **Section 6 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty**

#### **Report to Ceulanamaesmawr Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2025**

CAM has appointed two individuals as lead councillors for matters relating to Section 6 of the Environment Act 2016. Our Biodiversity Action Plan is updated and presented to One Voice Wales annually.

- Section 6 is an agenda item at every meeting, and the effect on matters pertaining to Section 6 are considered with regard to every request for planning permission received.
  - When setting the budget at the start of the year, it was agreed once again this year to sponsor a class in the Tal-y-bont Show for the Best Garden for Wildlife, giving a prize of £20. Once again, those requesting financial aid in the annual grants round were asked whether the money would benefit biodiversity or the wider environment. Tal-y-bont Floodies noted that any financial aid would be used to buy large-scale maps to help develop the Flood Management Plan, and were awarded £100.
  - Our policy for the upkeep of the cemetery and playing fields was amended in line with Section 6 requirements two years ago. This spring, the cemetery has seen an increase in the number of species and wildflower cover. The new maintenance contract prepared for tender during the year now contains cutting/mowing dates and guidance to ensure conformity with Section 6.
  - This year, the main focus of both lead councillors has been flood management and water-related matters. They have attended numerous meetings and group sessions, including the Leri Catchment Co-design Group, which has been working with local landowners and agencies to try to reduce flood risks by noting possible appropriate measures in a wider scheme. They also attended a site meeting with local specialists in natural flood management and NRW on future measures to manage and slow the flow of rainwater from Allt-y-crib into the village.
  - The leads have also been part of a group carrying out water quality tests on the water in the Leri. The project ended during the year, but the results have shown low pollution from Braichgarw down to Felin Ganol, and a healthy population of indicator insect species that signify clean water. Fish-eating birds have also been seen on one section of the river, indicating the presence of fish. The general health of the River Leri is very encouraging.
- iii) One Voice Wales: Cllr Rhian Evans confirmed that she had attended OVW meetings during the year but that representation had been sparse at those meetings. It was also noted that the minutes of all meetings had been circulated to the members during the year.
- iv) The Cylch Meithrin: Cllr Elgan Evans reported that the Cylch Meithrin was going from strength to strength, and that both morning and afternoon sessions were currently being held, which was an excellent sign for the future of the school.

## **5. Financial Report**

The Clerk reported the Council's financial situation at the end of the 2024-25 financial year as follows:

|                                |                   |                        |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Opening balance on 01/04/2024  | £21,740.70        | Plus £76.62 petty cash |
| Total income for the year      | £36,629.00        |                        |
| Total expenditure for the year | [£34,063.52]      |                        |
| Closing balance at 31/03/2025  | <b>£24,306.18</b> | Plus £53.07 petty cash |

The situation as at 31/03/2025 was as follows:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Current account    | £139.91           |
| Deposit account    | £46.28            |
| Cae Bach account   | £19,535.81        |
| Tabernacle account | £4,584.18         |
|                    | <b>£24,306.18</b> |

At 31/03/2025, £710.96 was available for the Cwtsh Cynnes/Warm Spaces fund and £4,000 was on loan to the Council from the Cae Bach fund. It was noted that the cashflow situation had improved since the end of the financial year as the first tranche of the precept had been received, and that over £6,000 would be claimed from County Council in October for work done in the cemetery.

## 6. Election of new Chair

Proceedings were transferred to the Clerk, who asked for any nominations for the post of Chair. Cllr Rhian Evans noted that she was not currently in a position to undertake the role of Chair; and Cllr Elgan Evans proposed that the current Chair, Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, remain in the role for another year. This was seconded by Cllr Enoc Jenkins and accepted by the Chair. The motion was carried unanimously. Proceedings were transferred back to the Chair.

## 7. Election of new Vice-chair

Cllr Enoc Jenkins was nominated for the position of Vice-chair by Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, which was seconded by Cllr Rhian Evans. The nomination was accepted and the motion was carried unanimously.

## 8. Selection of subcommittee members and representatives

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

- i. **Finance Committee:** Cllrs. Rhian Evans, Nest Jenkins and Enoc Jenkins
- ii. **Cemetery Committee:** Cllrs. Nia Richards, Bleddyn Huws, Nest Jenkins and Elgan Evans
- iii. **Planning Committee:** all Councillors except the County Councillor
- iv. **Playground Committee:** Cllrs. Nia Richards, Catrin Davies, Mererid Watson and Eryl Bray.  
Resolved: to co-opt the following members again: Holly Aubrey, Kath Botting, Lynn Ebenezer, Ffion Davies. Resolved also: to authorise this Committee to make resolutions and carry out financial transactions relevant to the Cae Bach project.
- v. **Policies Committee:** It was proposed that membership of this Committee should be open to all Councillors
- vi. **Representative for the Cylch Meithrin:** Cllr. Elgan Evans
- vii. **Representative for One Voice Wales:** Cllr. Rhian Evans
- viii. **Financial Officer:** The Clerk
- ix. **Internal Accountant:** Cllr. Nia Richards
- x. **Internal Auditor:** Mr Bryn Smith had agreed to be nominated and it was resolved to offer him the role once again.
- xi. **Councillors with responsibility for Environmental Matters and Biodiversity (Section 6):** Cllrs Nia Richards and Eryl Bray

## 9. Approval of the Asset Register

Resolved: to approve the Asset Register for the current year.

## 10. Approval and Adoption of Policies and Regulations

The Policies Committee had reviewed and amended the Council's policies and regulations in a meeting held on 12 May 2025. The following amended documents were presented to the Council for approval:

- i. Equal Opportunities Policy
- ii. Freedom of Information Policy

- iii. Training and Development Policy
- iv. Data and Information Protection Policy
- v. Business Risk Assessment
- vi. Standing Orders
- vii. Financial Regulations

Resolved: to approve and adopt all the above documents.

#### **11. Schedule of meetings for the coming year**

2025: 30 June; 28 July; 29 September; 27 October; 24 November

2026: 26 January; 23 February; 30 March; 27 April

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 18 May 2026 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.