

**Minutes of the Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council Annual Meeting
held on Monday 18 May 2026 at 7.00pm
in Tal-y-bont Memorial Hall**

1. Chair's Welcome

Present: Cllrs Ellen ap Gwynn (Chair), Nia Richards, Siôn Pennant Jones, Bleddyn Huws, Catrin Davies (County Cllr), Enoc Jenkins (Vice-chair), Mererid Watson (remotely), Elgan Evans, Nest Jenkins and Rhian Evans

The Chair welcomed all to the Annual Meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr. Eryl Bray

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on 19 May 2025, had been confirmed during the June 2025 meeting.

4. Annual Reports

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

2024-25 has been a busy year once again.

A favourable report was received from the Internal Auditor, Mr Bryn Smith, on the 2024-25 financial reports, which was confirmed by Audit Wales. The 2026-27 budget was set, to include a precept of £20,000 for the year.

A new application form and guidance notes were produced for the community grants. Section 137 grants were awarded to the value of £4,100 to local organisations, HAHAV, Wales Air Ambulance and Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

Matters were regularly raised with the County Council regarding the condition of the roads. Some queries received responses; others are still outstanding.

On a hot day in June, along with Llangynfelyn Community Council, a ceremony was held with Tal-y-bont Community School pupils to open Llwybr Mai. The path had sparked a lot of discussion and organisation following a request by the late Councillor Mai Leeding for a safe route to connect the communities. The footpath was named in memory of Mai. We are indebted to Eifion Jones, the County Council Access Officer, for securing the grant to bring the work to fruition. The path is now very popular with the villagers.

Following significant unease in the community concerning the latest Flood Plan, we succeeded to arrange a meeting with Rhodri Llwyd, Corporate Director of Highways and Environmental Services, to discuss the matter further. Tal-y-bont is apparently only sixth on the County Council's list of plans subject to Welsh Government investment. We still await further news.

A meeting was held with representatives from Bute Energy, who has submitted a plan to erect a Wind Farm in the upper Ceulan Valley and towards Nant y Moch. Numerous matters causing concern to the Council were noted. During the year a Consultation Committee had been set up to discuss the establishment of a Community Fund linked with the plan. County Councillor Catrin M.S. Davies and Community Councillor Siôn Pennant had attended meetings on our behalf.

A Service Level Agreement was received from County Council for the maintenance of the public conveniences in the village. It was resolved not to sign the document and draw the Council's attention once again to the fact that the current Agreement between the councils is still in effect and does not contain a break clause.

Numerous events were held, including Bingo, Treasure Hunt and 200 Club, to add to the Cae Bach fund. A successful bid was made to the County Council fund and £12,742 was awarded to purchase some equipment in advance. A Play Charter was produced to be included in any bids. We are indebted once again to everyone who has contributed to and sponsored the events during the year. The most

significant step forward has been the submission of a bid to the National Lottery for £98,000, thanks to the diligent work of Cllr Catrin M.S. Davies.

Continuous inspections have been carried out of the current condition of Cae Bach and Bontgoch playgrounds. Some additional hedge-cutting and maintenance work were required in Bontgoch following the felling of a tree during a storm. The Council was grateful to Rachel for her work destroying the Japanese knotweed in the Cae Bach

The work done to improve the cemetery was appreciated by the community. We hope to continue with repair work to the fence once the grant for the work already carried out is received. It was agreed to raise and simplify the cemetery fees and to earmark an area as a Garden of Remembrance for memorial stones or the burial of ashes.

A request was received from the Calvinistic Methodists to assume responsibility for Nazareth Chapel Cemetery; the chapel having been sold as a residential house. This was agreed in principle, but the Council is not yet happy with the financial settlement offered to cover future maintenance costs.

We continue to maintain the defibrillators, and one of the three in Tal-y-bont has been relocated to the old telephone kiosk at Penpontbren Geifr.

Councillors Nest Jenkins and Nia Richards represented the Council at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

A beautiful Christmas tree was erected on the Patshyn Glas once again, thanks to Cllr Enoc Jenkins, and a crowd gathered to watch the lighting ceremony and to listen to carols sung by the schoolchildren, conducted by the Head.

Cllr Eryl Bray took part in the Community Carol Service.

The Cwtsh Cynnes (Warm Space) was held in the lower Hall again this year and has been a great success, as was the Christmas Lunch with 30 in attendance. A grant of £1,000 was awarded again this year towards the running costs. We are indebted to the volunteers who help every Tuesday.

Once again at the end of a busy year, I would like to thank the Clerk, Lynwen Jones, for her diligent work. Many thanks to you, my fellow councillors, for supporting me for another year and for the work that you do for the community that is so close to our hearts.

Ellen ap Gwynn – Chair 2025-26

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

In accordance with the requirements, Section 6 is an item on the agenda of every monthly council meeting, with the councillors appointed to lead on this area providing a brief update. In addition, Section 6 was considered for every planning application received during the year. Our Biodiversity Action Plan was published on our website in October and also sent to One Voice Wales following the annual meeting.

In the Budget discussions, it was again agreed to sponsor a class at the Talybont Show by awarding £20 to the Best Wildlife Garden section. All societies or clubs applying for a grant at the start of the year were asked to indicate whether the money would benefit the environment. Although no direct benefits had been included in any application, the Cae'r Odyn Galch Association is willing to cooperate with the council on ways to improve biodiversity around the football field site, and the Talybont Fishing Club protects the water quality of the lakes.

Several councillors spent a morning with the Tal-y-bont Flood Group clearing garden waste from the River Ceulan. Not only does such dumping increase the risk of flooding, it also spreads non-native species into the environment, and can have a negative impact on fish and wildlife.

A training day was attended on how to identify and register ancient and notable trees on the Trees of Wales database. The hope is to establish a joint project with Llangynfelyn Council to add local trees to the national record.

In the autumn, we were asked to provide an article for the 'Yn Naturiol' (Naturally) column of Papur Pawb. Here, we listed simple and practical suggestions for gardeners on how to help wildlife on our doorstep survive the winter, and very positive feedback was received.

The Cae Bach project has been at its peak throughout the year, and we have been developing a Biodiversity Improvement Plan with the aim of achieving a 10% increase in the diversity of flora and fauna species on the site. We have made inquiries about the availability of free resources such as native hedge packages and funding to purchase wooden planters. We have also been looking at ideas and good practices from other projects such as Greening Aber, and we will soon welcome individuals from a similar community project in Llanafan as well as a Bee specialist to Cae Bach to learn from their experiences and receive advice.

- iii) One Voice Wales: it was noted that it was no longer necessary to report on this matter, and it was resolved to omit this from next year's annual meeting.
- iv) The Cylch Meithrin: Cllr Elgan Evans reported that the Cylch now had a new leader. There were currently 19 places with 13 children attending. Sessions were held between 8.15am and 3.15pm Monday-Thursday, with the intention of holding sessions on Fridays as well. The Cylch intended to purchase new wooden equipment for the outdoor area and to improve lighting in the building itself.

5. Financial Report

The Clerk summarised the financial activities of 2025-26 fel as follows:

	Income/£	Expenditure/£	Balance/£
<i>Opening balance on 01.04.2025</i>			24,359.25
<i>General Council activities</i>	18,648.06		
		28,082.58	
<i>Cwtsh Cynnes</i>	1,733.56		
		1,242.53	
<i>Cae Bach</i>	23,874.21		
		18,351.38	
<i>Balance on 31.03.2026</i>	44,255.83	47,676.49	20,938.59

Bank reconcilliation

	31.03.2025	31.03.2026
<i>Current account</i>	£139.91	£583.38
<i>Deposit account</i>	£46.28	£8.67
<i>Cae Bach account</i>	£19,535.81	£15,630.86
<i>Tabernacle account</i>	£4,584.18	£4,654.99
<i>Petty cash</i>	£53.07	£60.69
	£24,359.25	£20,938.59

As at 31 March 2026, £10,000 was on loan in the Council's accounts from the Cae Bach Fund. Following a payment of £13,471.67 received on 29 April 2026, namely the first precept payment and the grant covering work carried out in the cemetery during 2024, this sum had been transferred back in full to the Cae Bach account.

Due to technical difficulties, Cllr Mererid Watson left the meeting at 7.30pm.

6. Election of new Chair

Cllr Enoc Jenkins agreed to step up to the role of Chair, and this was approved unanimously. Although the Chair of the Council usually chairs all sub-committees, Cllr Nia Richards proposed that Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn remain in the role of Chair for the Playground Committee as she has been involved with the Cae

Bach campaign from the start and is familiar with the work done so far, and as the campaign has now reached a critical step. Ellen agreed and unanimous approval was given.

7. Election of new Vice-chair

Cllr Siôn Pennant Jones was nominated for the role of Vice-chair by Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn and seconded by all. Siôn accepted the nomination and the proposal was passed 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 Ellen ap Gwynn
- 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. Ellen ap Gwynn, Nia Richards, Catrin Davies, Mererid Watson and Eryl Bray. Holly Aubrey, Kath Davies, and Lynn Ebenezer had agreed to remain members and were duly co-opted.
- v. **Policies Committee:** 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:** as the current internal auditor had stated his intention to retire, it was proposed to approach Mr Julian Thoms regarding the role for the 2026-27 audit.
- xi. **Councillors with responsibility for Environmental Matters and Biodiversity (Section 6):** Cllrs Nia Richards and Eryl Bray

9. Approval of the Asset Register

The Assets Register had been approved during the April meeting. It was resolved to add the Christmas lights to the register.

10. Approval and Adoption of Policies and Regulations

The following documents had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting:

- 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

2026: 29 June; 27 July; 28 September; 26 October; 30 November

2027: 25 January; 22 February; 26 April

As 29 March 2027 will be a Bank Holiday, it was resolved to hold the March meeting on the 22nd

12. 2027 Annual Meeting

The next annual meeting will be held on 24 May 2027, unless required to be held sooner due to the election.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.