CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A’R CYLCH

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**Minutes of a Council meeting held at Bwlch Village Hall on Thursday 1st December 2022**

**Present**

**Chairman:** John Williams (JDW)

**Councillors:** Les Doggett (LD), Hank Jackson (RDHJ), Martin Pearse (MJP), William Forster (WADF), Selena Clay (SC), David Meyer (DM), John Jones (JJ)

**In Attendance**: County Councillors Sian Cox (CSC) and Matt Beecham (MB), Sue Dale (Clerk), Janice Block (Rev Price Memorial)

# Apologies: PS, KL, S-JB.

# Declarations of Interest

# Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 3rdNovember 2022 have been circulated.

Approved, proposed: DM. Seconded: MP

# Matters Arising (for information only)

Police, no response as yet.

# Powys County Council Matters.

See items14 and 24.

# Correspondence

Councillors are notified of email from external bodies, they are listed here:

* S137 limitations for the new financial year – will be £10188.18.
* Town and Community Councils digital research, a clerk’s survey. The results are for Welsh Government and will hopefully lead to more technical help for Community Councils.
* H&S training arranged for 23/11. See item 19.
* SLCC advisory service, Well-being for Future Generations Act, not useful for paying surveyors.
* Emergency response plan for Community Councils – 6.30pm Talyllyn Hall 24/1/2023. May be of particular interest to Councillors whose wards have the potential to flood.

# Financials – bank reconciliation, budget report, annual return 2020-21 and cheques for approval.

Bank reconciliation and budget report indicates that the Community Council will likely balance the budget at the end of the year. Some adjustments in January may be necessary to achieve that result.

* Sue Dale, Clerks salary Nov 22 £433.94
* Sue Dale reimbursement for wreaths £34.00
* Sue Dale reimbursement for unused wreaths £40.00 (to be saved for next year)
* Sue Dale reimbursement for land registry info£12.00
* Powys County Council, election costs £797.69
* Llangors Community Council £32.00

Cheques were approved.

# An estimate of the costs of cleaning and maintaining the War Memorial has been acquired.

Project to be considered at the precept meeting (5th January 2023). Is there any chance that the War Memorial could be moved to the little triangle of land owned by the Community Council. Clerk to ask CADW. In the interim are there any actions that could be taken to protect the War Memorial from traffic splashes, such as splash guards? Clerk to ask CADW.

# Grass cutting contract 2023-2035 tenders for selection.

One tender has been received and was approved.

# Ann Williams Almshouses Accounts have been circulated, for approval.

What is the role of the Community Council? Council makes nominations for some Trustees, but why does it need to approve the accounts? It is time to have a conversation with the Charity. SD.

# A councillor has looked into a variety of audio/visual equipment that could enable good communications with those seeking to attend meetings via zoom (£80-£130). To be discussed and action agreed.

Council needs to invest in equipment and make other adjustments so that the zoom participants feel part of the meeting. Putting the tables into a horseshoe shape with the camera and screen in the open end of the arrangement may help. Item adjourned until January 2023.

# Cwmdu Village Hall wi-fi connectivity may be attainable if the community council can help with the infrastructure costs (which might be 1000). This would then mean that all 3 halls in the ward could be used for Community Council meetings (and much else besides).

Beacons Telecom, BT and Countryside Connections all service the area. JJ offered to talk BT about the difficulties in obtaining broadband for Cwmdu Hall. Cwmdu councillors will talk to the village hall committee about the situation. Item adjourned until January 2023.

#  Can the Community Council help residents in Cwmdu prove the damage the traffic does to their homes.

This would seem to be a householder issue, but residents are to be able to use MP’s letter to the Trunk Road Agency as a template. Residents can contact the Clerk on cwmducouncil@hotmail.com.

#  An email concerning Glanpant Farm to go to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, for approval.

The letter was approved, proposed RDHJ and seconded LD.

There is no decision yet, but it is said to be imminent. CSC reported that the second tranche of toxicity test results are not available yet.

# Update on Gilestone Farm, Talybont.

Welsh Government met with Talybont Community Council, local residents and activists. The minutes of the meeting appear to be incomplete. WG would not restrict the proposed events to 3 per year and of between 1000 and 3000 persons. It seems there is to be a micro-brewery, restaurant and bakery on site.

There has apparently been a poll of the residents to document their views.

WG will make a deliberation before Christmas.

An alternative use of the site has been proposed – an agricultural college.

Protest may affect the decision!

It is said that there will be consultation in the Usk valley, but when?

The Community Council resolves to write to Welsh Government, the MP and MS and affected Councils, such as Llangynidr requesting consultation before determination. JW & SD.

# Representation at 5 Councils’ liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner, no dates yet.

To be confirmed after the dates are known.

# Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – forming a sub group to adopt these documents.

An initial meeting has been set for 5th January 6pm in Bwlch village hall. Clerk to circulate the two documents.

#  Clerks have a new pay scale, the relevant scale point is from £10.63 to £11.63/hour.

Approved proposed DM, seconded JW.

# Update on a Health and Safety training course attended on 23/11/2022.

Templates are available for a H&S policy which would need annual certification. Playgrounds require this certification. Clerk has recently checked that the playground certification process is in hand at PCC. An H&S sub-group will be set up.

All assets should be listed in the asset register and associated risks documented in the risk assessment.

# Fedw wood land issues.

Some 10 acres of deciduous woodland open to the public. Managed by CSEG. Councillors wish to promote the activities of the group as they look after the wood for the community. MP to speak to the Treasurer. The management plan to be circulated by the Clerk.

# Reverend Price memorial appeal for support.

Janice Block was invited to address the meeting. She asked that the Community Council support the restoration of his memorial. The sum of £182 is needed to complete the fund, they have already raised £1974. The memorial attracts tourists to the area. The sum was approved, proposed by WF and seconded by MP.

A second request was made on behalf of the Eisteddfod of £200 which was approved by Council, proposed by MP and seconded by RDHJ. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

# Scoping of a project to improve car parking facilities for Bwlch Village Hall.

Adjourn to next meeting.

# The Post Office in Bwlch appears to be closing, is there a role for the Community Council.

The Community Council’s role is to keep the Post Office open if at all possible as the service is very good for the community. Bwlch Councillors will stay informed.

#  Highways issues (for information only).

Difficulties in disabled pavement access in Bwlch village are being investigated by CSC

# Any Other Business (for information only)

The Gliffaes is no longer a hotel – it is a private residence.

Highways letter about the 20 mph limit.

Fedw insurance.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Thursday 5th January 2023 is the date of the next meeting at Bwlch Village Hall.