CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A’R CYLCH

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Boat House, Coed-yr-Ynys Road, Llangynidr, Powys. NP8 1NA

**Minutes of a Council meeting 6th April 2023**

**Present**

**Chairman:** John Williams (JW)

**Councillors:** Les Doggett (LD), Hank Jackson (RDHJ), Paul Silk (EPS), Martin Pearse (MP), William Forster (WF), David Meyer (DM), Selena Clay (SC) and John Jones (JJ).

**In Attendance**: County Councillor Sian Cox (CSC) and Sue Dale (Clerk).

# Apologies:

Kate Logan (KL)

CCllr S-J Beecham (S-JB) & CCllr M Beecham (MB)

# Declarations of Interest: None

# Public participation

None

# Minutes of the meetings 2nd March 2023. 2nd March 2023: Prop. MP, Sec. HJ. Approved.

# Matters Arising (information only) None

1. **Powys County Council matters.**

-The Winter Service Review, there is a proposed road re-categorisation across the county, residents need to respond on line.

- Business rates relief has increased to 75% (from 50%) for everyone already signed up. Up to £110,000, funded by the Welsh Government.

- Mid Wales Shared Prosperity Fund, there are a range of categories that might suit projects suggested by the Community Council.

- local What App groups may share information of interest with their correspondents from the Community Council and to the Community Council and CSC, MB and S-JB.

- in Bwlch Buffer zones will be needed around the new 20 mile an hour limit area. The buffer should be started at Glanpant Corner on the A40 coming from Brecon. CSC recommended making the road more part of the community. Speed bumps seem to cause speeding by some drivers. Speed watch is a good way to involve residents and can lead to speeders receiving a Police letter. The group would keep a spreadsheet of evidence to submit to the police and keep track of the problem. Speed watch team members have to wear hi-viz vests.

- MB and S-JB reported on proposals for flooding alleviation in Felindre and the speed limit through Bwlch. The Council expressed support for the proposals in relation to flooding. CSC will find out about the consultation and inform the Community Council.

1. **Planning Applications:** Glan Pant Fields – a complaint to be sent to the enforcement team at Brecon Beacons National Park. Prop: HJ Sec: DM. Councillors to collaborate on the text of the letter.

23/21387/FUL and23/21388 LBC. Cilfaenor, Cwmdu. Alterations to the interior and the exterior. Council raised no objections provided that all legal requirements are met.

1. **Correspondence** – Councillors are notified of incoming email from external bodies, some are listed here:

- 13/2 Quarterly meeting for Councillors and Clerks with Powys County Council on 27/4

- 25/3 Digital Health of Community and Town Councils a report

- 21/3 Powys well-being plan – a survey will be circulated.

- 14/3 Holding email from Truck Road Agency- monitor and circulate when delivered.

- 10/3 & 29/3Thanks for 20, zoom session on the introduction of the new speed limit 17/4/23, 7pm. Clerk to

circulate details.

1. **Financials**

Cheques for approval - Sue Dale, Clerks salary Mar 23 £465.20

The bank reconciliation balanced, the budget vs actuals reveal some spending over budget for specific reasons; the tomb of Rev Price refurbishment to encourage tourists etc and the need to support coronation celebrations. Overall spending was under budget,

The cheque for B Miles was withdrawn as she has declined to cash it.

1. **Update on Fedw Wood.**

MP requested access to the Fedw documents. The tree expert, who visits the wood weekly, will talk to MP. Governance issues with the Charity are not resolved. The Land Registry may hold relevant information, it has been requested but not delivered yet.

1. **Update on a Government meeting 17/3/2023 concerning the future of Gilestone Farm, Talybont.**

No direct information of this private business meeting is available apparently. It is said that the Minister will decide on the future of the site by Easter and furthermore that there will be consultation for the local Community Councils. It was suggested that music festivals should be excluded from the lease should it go ahead.Concerns were expressed abour traffic management and environmental matters.

Cwmdu and District Community Council have traffic management and environmental concerns.

1. **Nomination of 1 candidate for the Standards Community Sub-Committee.** EPS was nominated and

approved. Clerk to inform the sub-committee of his nomination.

1. **Improvements in access to council meetings are sought, a new approach to sound equipment is to be chosen and a change to “Teams” from “Zoom” considered.**

Microsoft Teams was chosen but the question of new sound equipment was adjourned for another day. SC suggested that an extension lead could be tried.

1. **To set up a small temporary committee to draft a Health and Safety policy, 3 councillors are needed.**

The first meeting will be at 6pm Thursday May 4th at Bwlch Village Hall. WF, MP and JW volunteered. Clerk to circulate some templates beforehand.

1. **The audit opinion on 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been issued.**

2020-21 and 2021-22 both recorded qualified opinions from the Auditor General. For 20-21 the qualifications were; no written contract and no evidence that the Council had operated PAYE. For 21-22 the single qualification was no evidence that the Council had operated PAYE. The opinions were approved.

1. **Arrangements to monitor and maintain the trees belonging to the Community Council.**

As an H&S issue, it could be covered by the H&S sub-committee.

1. **Update on the closure of Bwlch Post Office and possible substitute services.**

CSC has worked tirelessly on this matter. Alternative banking services may be available from the Credit Union, they provide banking services in rural communities. Also Bank Cymru may be able to help. JW thanked CSC.

1. **Dates for the proposed meeting with Crickhowell Town Council, Llangors, Llangynidr and Cwmdu & District.**

Wednesday the 17th May 7pm was proposed and will be circulated.

1. **Choice of methods for cleaning the war memorial.**

War Memorial Conservation Company has quoted £3594.00 for the work, a low pressure high temperature steam method. This method was approved by the War Memorial Trust and CADW when the last clean was carried out .

The second method would be to clean the war memorial using cold water and soft bristle brushes, Volunteers, probably many, would be needed.

Finally a Memorial Mason with a particular interest in war memorials is prepared to clean the memorial for expenses. He would use bleach and water.HJ to talk to the Memorial Mason.

The Community Council cannot clean the memorial until the 5years from the last clean is up – about September 2023. Another option called “soft washing” will be looked into in time for a decision in September.

1. **Does the council wish to support coronation celebrations in the area?**

The Council has supported the Halls already. CSC suggested that if a group wanted to close a road in order to accommodate a celebration Powys County Council are ready to consider it.

1. **Appropriate keeping for the mayoral chain is being sought, perhaps at Y Gaer, Brecon.**

The Gaer has said that it maybe willing to house the mayoral chain from 2025. The seeking of a valuation was approved.

1. **Litter pick and speed watch sessions to be planned.** Cwmdu has litter picking equipment stored ready for use. Speed watch equipment is available from the Police. Clerk to request.
2. **A Flood Risk Planning Event was held 29/3/23 by Planning Aid Wales WF to report.**

There are 24,000 flood prone properties in Wales and 48% of the population are concerned about flooding. NRW have issued new flood maps which are available to the public. Councillors were surprised that planning permission was still being given for buildings on flood plains. There is a flood warden scheme locally.

1. **5 Councils’ meeting at Llangattock Community Council report**   
   Policing: Police presence has reduced, for example there is only one PCSO at Crickhowell. Vale of Grwney CC were also concerned about the lack of police presence in their community. 5 Councils decided to write a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner.  
   Place Plan: Crickhowell Town Council are creating a place plan and feel that it would benefit from the input of the 5 Councils’. They want to hire someone to run the consultation for them, of the 5 interviewers one will be from the 5 Councils, volunteers are welcome to make themselves known to Crickhowell Town Council.
2. **Will Council consider funding two local defibrillators (New Inn & Cwmdu) as their keepers have not been found?**

Approved.

1. **The Penn Review on ethical standards in local authorities invites consultation.**EPS agreed to consider it.
2. **Any Other Business (for information only)**

Letter following-up on the 30 mile an hour restrictions needed for Cwmdu for the next meeting (MP).

HJ circulated a Personal / Prejudicial interest chart.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.11pm

Thursday 4th May 2023 is the date of the annual meeting at Bwlch Village Hall.