

CWMDU AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMDU A'R CYLCH

<http://cwmducouncil.org>, cwmducouncil@hotmail.com

The following are the minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Community Council, held on 4th September 2025 7pm at Bwlch Village Hall.

Attendance: Cllr M Pearce (Chair), Cllr J Williams (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Jones, Cllr H Jackson, Cllr S Clay, Cllr W Forster, Cllr M Calvin

County Councillor C Masefield, County Councillor S Cox | Clerk Kay Bailey

Public Participation: None

40/25	Apologies for absence that have been approved: Cllr P Silk	1 min
41/25	Members' declarations of Interest: None	1 min
42/25	<p>Minutes to approve from the previous meetings of the Full Council and any matters arising: Annual Meeting of the 22nd May 2025 and Ordinary meeting of the 3rd July 2025 Proposed: Cllr H Jackson Seconded: Cllr W Forster Resolved: that the minutes are a true and accurate record</p> <p>Matter Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cwmdu & District Community Council - Statement regarding Crickhowell 6th form Responses from David Chadwick, Jane Dodds, Transforming Education - noted. The Clerk confirmed that Powys has stated that they will start their stakeholder consultation in October.Powys - Tree inspection (email) - noted	5 min
43/25	<p>Outside body reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hinterland Group - Email: Proposal for joint action on Shared Community Issues/Concerns (Association of Community Councils) - Talybont on Usk Community Council Chair and Vice Chair. - Noted. Item: Discussion on the creation of an Association of Usk Valley Community Councils <p>The Chair gave an introduction to the email with context relating to the ongoing discussions in relation to the efficacy of Town and Community Councils and Cllr J Jones gave a summary of the email that had been sent from the Chair and Vice-Chair at Talybont-on-Usk Community Council. He stated that Community Council's voices are not heard, they are unable to represent their communities effectively, this can especially be seen in planning application issues.</p> <p>The email summarises the proposed formal association's focus on issues that affect all member councils. The Chair stated that it makes sense for Council's to group together for certain items and felt that they would have more success lobbying together. Cllr Jones stated that there was support for these kinds of associations from those he had spoken to in Powys, One Voice Wales and amongst other Community Councils.</p>	24 min

	<p>Other Councillor's asked questions in relation to who would be the secretary and what would happen if the Council disagreed with the association's position. Cllr J Jones stated that reporting back from the association's meetings would be important for sharing information. The Chair suggested that the administration of the association would probably be shared between the member council's Clerks.</p> <p>Motion: for this Council to be included in the meetings with CEO, Powys Health Board CEO and Director of Planning, BBNPA & the Police and Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr H Jackson Seconded: Cllr M Calvin Resolved: for the Council to be included in the meetings with the above public officials.</p> <p>Motion: to delegate authority for Cllr M Pearse, Cllr John Jones, and the Clerk to engage in discussion with the Association to help inform the creation of governing documents alongside the group's secretary and executive, and any associated costs incurred at the Clerk's hourly rate for any extra administration duties.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr M Calvin Seconded: Cllr W Forster Resolved: that Cllr M Pearse, John Jones and the Clerk will engage in discussion with the association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five Councils - Item: The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange a date and location for the next 5 Council's meeting. ● Community Transport Group - Councillor M Calvin confirmed that the project is continuing with an electric car scheme being created and the partnership with Crickhowell Dial a Ride is ongoing with a trial bus route being worked on. County Councillor C Masefield will be attending the public meetings with LGV to continue public engagement. ● LGV Five Councils Energy Group - Councillor M Calvin reminded Councillors that LGV will be holding public meetings in relation to the scheme, he stated that the leaflet and meetings are to discuss a micro scheme, he will be attending the local meeting. The feasibility report had not been made public as yet. ● Bwlch Church - Cllr J Williams confirmed that a business plan had been sent to the church, but they have not proceeded any further at this time. <p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Various correspondence was forwarded within the delegated period of August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30th July - Usk Valley Team Chase - 26th April 2026 - clerk to respond with thanks and to request that they make sure all relevant parties have been informed. 	
44/25	<p>Standing Item: County Councillors Report (for information only)</p> <p>Summer report from County Councillor S Cox was sent to all in Aug 25</p> <p>County Councillor C Masefield gave an update of current work which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The community bus - NHS dentist in Crickhowell's closure. They will be going out to tender for a new contract, hopeful to have the mobile dentist attend Crickhowell in the interim. - The £5,000 grant has been split between various community groups including Crickhowell community fridge and CVB (Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau's wellbeing group) - The support for the retention of the 6th form in Crickhowell is continuing 	15 min

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be resurfacing work undertaken in Crickhowell, but there is not a date as yet. - A parking review is being undertaken. <p>Cllr H Jackson queried the ongoing issues with speeding in the area, Cllr S Cox confirmed that no roads in the ward will increase their speeds after the 20mph review, and that she will inform Councillor's as soon as she receives the Trunk Road's report so that the Council can make a plan in relation to lobbying for lower speeds on the A479.</p> <p>The current speedwatch groups were also discussed, with the County Councillor stating that training of new volunteers is currently on hold.</p>	
45/25	<p>Standing Item: Place Plan/Community Plan</p> <p>Invite has been sent to BBNPA - awaiting new contact</p> <p>Playing Field - update from Cllr W Forster Moveable goalposts - Cllr W Froster to allow himself and the Clerk to investigate grants into new goalposts for the field and bring their report to the Council. This was agreed.</p>	10 min
46/25	<p>Standing item Fedw/Vedw Wood Charity (Clerk):</p> <p>The chair gave an overview of the position of CSEG, the email summarising had also been sent to Councillors which confirmed that they are not able to continue with the contract with Cwmdu Council. There is a residual amount in the bank account that will need redistribution amongst relevant local good causes.</p> <p>The draft lease from the Black Mountains College was reviewed and the Clerk was requested to add in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That pathways be kept clear - That part of the woods be left to rewild - That reviews will be undertaken and communicated to the Council <p>Motion: to review the report and the contract with CSEG/Black Mountain (Cllr M Pearse, Cllr P Silk, Cllr W Forster) Proposed: Cllr J Williams Seconded: Cllr W Forster Resolved: for the Clerk to update the lease and circulate for approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Previous trustees contacted ● Responses updated on the website - there are three outstanding ● Clerk is now a Super User ● Annual return at £0 completed <p>The governance document of the Charity was discussed briefly, there was a suggestion of new trustees being brought onto the board to allow the Charity to become more active. The money that could potentially be available would require specific projects/costs, it was also questioned if the Council should manage the woods themselves and the Charity to be dissolved.</p> <p>The Charity will discuss the above issues in conjunction with the Council.</p>	24 min

47/25	<p>Standing Item Planning applications:</p> <p>25/23997/FUL - Proposal: “Proposed replacement agricultural building for the dry storage of machinery and hay.” Address: The Rock, Bwlch, Brecon Powys LD3 7HX There was no comment on this application.</p> <p>25/23685/FUL - Proposal: “Change of use of existing Chapel into Holiday Let and installation of foul drainage system and construction of drainage mound.” Address: Penuel Chapel , Cwm-Du, Crickhowell NP8 1RT - RE-REGISTERED ENFORCEMENT - draft response circulated - it was resolved to send this response.</p> <p>24/23015/FUL - Proposal: Installation of a free standing Monobloc Air Source Heat Pump together with internal works Address: 2 East View, Pen Cerrig, Darren Road - DECISION REFUSED Noted</p> <p>24/23218/LBC - Proposal: “Installation of Flood Protection to all areas on ingress/egress in line with JBAs Flood Risk Report recommendations, as part of Powys County Council Flood Alleviation Scheme. This will alter the property by installing demountable flood barriers to each doorway and window below the 600H flood threshold. Barrier side posts would be fixed to external walls at doorways, the boards only in place when in use. Cover plates would be provided to cover the side posts when not in use.” Address: Heoldraw Farm House , Tretower, Crickhowell NP8 1RF - WITHDRAWN Noted</p> <p>Non Statutory application: 25/23692/AG - Cllr M Calvin to update the Council on this agricultural application. This application has now changed to a PAR - 25/23692/PAR</p> <p>There were no new updates other than the question posed by the Council had not been answered.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <p><i>Cllr J Johns to update the Council on a recent meeting with County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe (Deputy Chair BBNPA) - this item was deferred from the previous meeting</i> Cllr J Jones updated the Council on his meeting with the Chair of the BBNPA, which was productive. He believed that this new Chairship would allow for the relationship between Town and Community Councils and the planning authority to be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nant Helyg - currently no further action taken after the previous meeting. ● Tretower Court and Castle - CADW - no further action taken after the previous meeting. ● Glanpant Farm - Enforcement has been chased as we are now outside of the 84 day period. <p>Cllr J Jones spoke about the questions raised in the enforcement letter from the BBNPA, a formal response from an outside planning expert is expected to be sent to the Clerk shortly and it would</p>	24 min
-------	--	--------

	be preferable to wait for this and respond to the queries using the comprehensive report. He also queried with County Councillor S Cox if the highways authority should be involved due to the use of the road by unsuitable vehicles.	
48/25	<p>Standing Item: Finance Report (Responsible Finance Officer):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: Reconciliation to be accepted by full council (July) - Aug ● Motion: To note payments already made and payments due covering July/Aug via ONLINE PAYMENTS: <p>Statement of Accounts report - Six month report (Clerk/RFO)</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr M Calvin Seconded: Cllr J Williams Resolved: to accept the reconciliation and noted the payments made in delegated powers</p> <p>Invoices/up-coming payments:</p> <p>Bank Report & Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online bank access/banking matters (JW/RFO) ● Audit has been sent via Object Connect ● NALC increase to scale points received and backpay included in July's payslip ● Pension - declaration completed ● Standing Order for Clerk's wages has been created ● Direct Debit for HMRC has been created ● Direct Debit for ICO (Information Commissioner) has been created <p>Noted with thanks</p>	10 min
49/25	<p>Standing Item: Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tremynfa Road Bench - Zurich Insurance payout received - arrangements for payment and delivery being completed. (Clerk/Cllr H Jackson) ● Hedge - requested a quote from the contractor to cut the hedge next to the old Cwmdu School Car Park 	5 min
50/25	<p>Standing Item: Speeding & other Village Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● U0503 verge Cwmdu - response from Powys Estates received <p>Cllr M Pearce confirmed that Powys County Council have stated that the land is not registered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Speed gun/speedwatch/speeding issues <p>Claire Hall & Chloe are arranging more training if there are interested individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Greenman <p>Feedback from the recent Greenman Festival, including procedures for the bridge closure</p> <p>Cllr J Williams stated that he had not received any specific feedback on the password process but had noted that the signage seemed to have been better this year. Cllr H Jackson confirmed that he had been given feedback that the operatives had not been briefed. It was also noted that the operatives did not seem to have been there at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flooding Storm Bert - report back from Cllr M Calvin in relation to NRW meeting & responses from Glanusk/Powys in relation to the culverts (if available) <p>Powys contacted about culverts - they have replied with a work ticket to wash out the culvert.</p>	15 min

	<p>Glanusk has responded with maps - being looked at by Clerk/Cllr M Calvin. Cllr M Calvin confirmed that the work being undertaken to clear the river was being undertaken by the landowner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a public footpath that crosses the a479 about 200 yards from the junction with the a40 at Nant y Ffyn - <i>update from WG (Cllr M Calvin)</i> <p>The Welsh Trunk Road Agency had responded to the request in a positive way (circulated) and that a crossing will be installed once funds allow.</p>	
51/25	<p>Standing Item: Governance</p> <p>One Voice Wales - governance toolkit - Clerk & Cllr J Williams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Plan - no further updates Section 6 report from the working group <p>Motion: to accept the draft Section 6 report (if completed) The draft report will be discussed in the October meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media and Website - update from the Clerk. <p>The Clerk confirmed that the website is on track to be live at the end of October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report <p>Motion: to accept the annual report Proposed: Cllr W Forster Seconded: Cllr J Williams Resolved: that the annual report draft be accepted.</p> <p>With thanks to Cllr P Silk for his assistance.</p> <p>Casual Vacancy Notice and Co-option: no applications received at the publication of this agenda</p>	10 min
52/25	<p>Date of next committee meeting 2nd October 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the budget season begins - noted 	1 min