



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 13th JULY 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe (zoom from 7 to 7.50 pm)
Y Walton-Davies
L Jeffreys
L Lewis
L Richards
A Williams (zoom from 8.10 pm)
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)

Apologies: Cllrs S Charles & D Wingar

No Apologies: Cllrs D Brown & A Hughes

Minute 34/23-24:

35/23-24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
Yvonne Walton-Davies	Library Services	42/23-24	Member of St Brides Minor Community Council	Yes/No
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 42 & 43/23-24	Resident	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters incl. Planning	All relevant	Member	No/No No/No
	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 42 & 43/23-24	Resident	
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant Incl. 44/23-24 Coety Primary School	Member Chair of Governors	No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 42 & 43/23-24	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
	Library Services	42/23-24	Member of St Brides Minor Community Council	No/No No/No

36/23-24 **TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE 8th JUNE 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Minutes of the 8th June 2023 Ordinary Meeting were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes were accepted and approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

37/23-24 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 8th JUNE 2023 MINUTES**

Minute 22/23-24 Matters Arising from the 11th May 2023 Minutes

T&CC Fund Application: BCBC has now written to the Community Council to confirm that its three grant funding applications were unsuccessful.

Heol Spencer: An update was given on the meeting. It was disappointing, but on a positive note a follow-up meeting would take place soon. It was felt that we are going around in circles.

Coity Wallia Conservators: Councillor M Williams had written to the Leader to raise the question of funding. Councillor Lisa Lewis will attend a Coity Wallia Conservators meeting on 19th July where funding will be discussed to ensure representation at the meeting as there is a prior meeting on the same date for Borough Members which may not finish in time for a 7.00 pm meeting of the Conservators.

Crossing Aid Litchard Primary School: The Clerk asked for the outcome of the discussion at BTC's meeting on this item. Councillor S Bletsoe said that BTC had agreed to support this Council's letter to BCBC on the matter.

Quiet Lanes: There was no update.

Minute 27/23-24 Finance & Accounts

The Clerk confirmed that she'd ordered the skip for Coity Festivals and the Council will be invoiced direct.

Resolved: All the information was noted. A meeting of the Finance Committee will be arranged to discuss the budget and to see if any of the unsuccessful grant funding projects could be financed. Councillor S Bletsoe will provide the Clerk with information to include in the Crossing Aid letter and Councillor L Jeffreys will raise Quiet Lanes at the OVW area committee meeting on 24th July 2023.

38/23-24 GREEN SPACES PARC DERWEN

A map of Parc Derwen had been distributed with the papers and the green spaces highlighted. These included sports pitches, four play areas, a wedge of green land and the woods at footpath seventeen. A discussion on the possibility of asset transferring these spaces direct from Persimmon followed. It was agreed that there is a reluctance to adopt the woods following recent anti-social behaviour in that area and that a full inspection of the playing fields will take place to ensure the fields are up to standard. Persimmon will cover the cost.

Resolved: The group of Councillors who meet with Persimmon, were given authority to confirm the areas of interest to Persimmon and request confirmation of the commuted sums and legal costs.

39/23-24 LLYS GWYN

Correspondence from V2C and some photos have been distributed with the meeting papers. V2C are requesting the Community Council's thoughts on the points they raise in their summary of a recent meeting between V2C and CHCC. These were discussed.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed that the summary of the meeting was accurate and CHCC would agree in principle to match fund the

replacement benches subject to cost and putting signs on the benches saying that they were match funded by CHCC.

40/23-24 CHRISTMAS 2023

The Clerk asked Members if they would be happy to replicate last year's Christmas display or if there was anything that needed to be added or changed and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would arrange the same displays as last year but to obtain a price for constructing a tree pit near Llys Gwyn

41/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING THE INTERNAL AUDIT AND AUDIT STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

1.Payment of Cheques

Authority was requested for the payments of all the invoices listed on the expenditure sheet and the three, with the Chair's agreement, included on the additional sheet received after the distribution of the papers.

2.Budget Monitoring, Accounts & Budgets

The Asst. Clerk ran through the budget monitoring sheet and answered any questions raised.

3.Audit Statement for the Audit for the Year ending 31st March 2023

The Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2023 had been distributed with the meeting papers. The Asst. Clerk ran through the statement and the internal auditor's report and answered any questions raised. The internal audit report had not raised any issues. The balance carried forward for the year is £74,551.

Resolved: The Audit Statement and the Internal Auditor's Report was unanimously accepted, approved and authorised. The RFO and Chair signed the audit statement.

42/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT UPDATES

CAT Updates:

The 3 pitch surveys have been carried out in both Pendre and Litchard Fields. The Clerk would circulate the report when it's received.

The Clerk had approached 3 architects for quotes but they need further information before quoting and the Clerk would need a further brief.

Project Updates:

Ramblers Cymru:

The project has now finished, the information board has been installed on Heol West Plas and the Clerk had purchased leaflet holders and would approach the six outlets to ask if they can be left on their counters.

Permission to install the second bench on the Black Path is still being sought from BCBC and the Clerk now has a telephone number for the Dunraven Estates contact to ask for permission for the one on Heol Hopcyn John. There are still two kissing gates to be installed and the Clerk will liaise with Rights of Way at BCBC regarding these.

Play Areas:

There has been further vandalism in Litchard Park, to a bench slate which has now been repaired. In addition a double mattress which appeared in the park has been removed.

Black Path Project:

No further update as still waiting for BCBC's permission for the bench and foliage clearing/seed sewing. As reported in Matters Arising there is no grant funding for the project in this area.

Defibrillator Oakwood View:

The Clerk has been unable to progress this matter due to the unavailability of the responder.

Other Matters:

Coity Castle:

CADW has now agreed to grant CHCC the electricity licence and the Clerk will liaise.

Summer Activity Scheme:

The Clerk had approached BCBC to enquire if a scheme is being run this year and the response was that they are only planning to operate at their core leisure sites due to the ongoing challenges of recruiting staff for such short periods...

Following that response and the constraints of time, the Clerk had approached Forces Fitness to see if they could provide a scheme, but they do not have any Summer of Fun funding this year.

School Community Awards Scheme:

Both schools have agreed to participate again this year, their presentations are on 19th and 21st July.

Annual Leave: The Clerk informed Members of her annual leave dates during late August and early September.

Resolved: It was agreed that the CAT group would meet over the summer to discuss a brief and report back to the September meeting for full council approval, the Finance Committee would look at the Black Path project funding and that Councillor M Williams would present the School Community Award at Coety Primary on 21st July and Councillor Y Walton-Davies would present at Litchard Primary on 19th July.

42/22-23 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor Yvonne Walton-Davies raised a question regarding contributions to library services at Sarn Library.

Resolved: Councillor M Williams declared an interest and didn't take part in this item.

43/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

- Councillor A Wathan gave an update on the meeting with Persimmon regarding Parc Derwen and a walk about with Councillor A Williams which highlighted 48 lighting columns not working.

Councillor L Jeffreys said that residents of Parc Derwen feel the development is deteriorating. Councillor J Williams felt areas were improving but some of the trees need re-staking.

Councillor Wathan informed Members about the BT/Openreach large columns being erected on Heol y Groes, Litchard. Residents were not happy and the contractors have stopped work whilst the residents' complaints are resolved. He also informed Members about an unoccupied house in Greenwood Close which is rat infested. He said referrals have been made.

- Councillor M Williams said he'd received lots of contact and made many referrals in response this month. He provided the question he'd made to Cabinet regarding Coity Wallia Conservators.
- Councillor A Williams updates had been covered in Councillor Wathan's update ref. Parc Derwen. Councillor Williams requested that the PCSO is invited to the September meeting in light of recent anti-social behaviour in Parc Derwen.

Resolved: All information was noted.

44/23-24 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was noted. With the consent of the Chair some additional correspondence received after the meeting papers were distributed was included.

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the following:

- OVW - Procurement Bill Secondary Legislation: Consultation Launch Part One

- OVW - Consultation on extending the term of office for the Older People's Commissioner for Wales from 4 to 7 years
- BCBC - Electoral Arrangement Review
- SW Police - request to use community facilities
- Resident - correspondent regarding footpath 17 and grass cutting debris not being cleaned up off the roads in Parc Derwen
- Coety Primary School - request to use community facilities
- South Wales Fire Service - Have your Say 2023 survey
- Resident - request regarding footpath leaflet

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to include the BCBC Electoral Arrangement Review on the September agenda and for Councillors to give their comments on Phase 1 of the Review by 20th August so that they could be collated to enable discussion in September. The Clerk had responded to SW Police and Coety Primary School regarding the community facilities and had replied to the resident regarding the footpath leaflet and Persimmon and Rights of Way would respond to the resident about Parc Derwen matters as the Council was not the main addressee on the correspondence.

Note: Councillor Alan Wathan did not take part in the Planning item, this item was chaired by Vice-Chair Councillor Martin Williams.

45/23-24 PLANNING

With the consent of the Chair some additional planning information received after the meeting papers were distributed were included.

8 applications had been received, 5 decisions and 0 appeals and these were discussed. 5 items had been sent out by email from Planning Aid Wales and one on the additional sheet.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to support application P/23/351/FUL

46/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING

- Electoral Arrangement Review
- CAT Group Brief for CAT Transfer
- PCSO ref. Anti-Social Behaviour

It was agreed to include future Play Schemes on the October agenda.

Councillor Y Walton-Davies asked if Footpath 17 could be put on the agenda in light of the recent anti-social behaviour and to consider provision of facilities such as a pump park in the area.

Resolved: It was agreed to keep the agenda open to include urgent items that may arise during the month. Councillor Walton-Davies' request was not agreed as the issues referred to are police matters and not Rights of Way matters. Councillor A Williams would provide the Clerk with the PCSO's contact details.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.