



## COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe  
Y Walton-Davies  
L Jeffreys  
L Lewis  
L Richards  
A Williams (zoom)  
J Williams  
M Williams  
D Wingar

Apologies: Cllrs S Charles  
No Apologies: Cllrs D Brown & A Hughes

Public: 2 Members of the public were in attendance

**Minute 47/23-24:**

**48/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

| Councillor         | Item   | Minute  | Interest                     | Speak/Vote     |
|--------------------|--|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| Steve Bletsoe      | BCBC Matters<br>incl. Electoral<br>Arrangement<br>Review | All relevant  | Member                       | No/No          |
| Lynda Jeffreys     | Parc Derwen  | All relevant<br>incl. 49, 56,<br>60/23-24                   | Resident                     | No/No          |
| Alan Wathan        | BCBC Matters<br>incl. Planning<br><br>Parc Derwen        | All relevant<br><br>All relevant<br>incl.<br>49,56,60/23-24 | Member<br><br>Resident       | No/No<br>No/No |
| Amanda<br>Williams | BCBC Matters<br>incl. Electoral<br>Arrangement<br>Review | All relevant<br>Incl. 44/23-24<br>Coety Primary<br>School   | Member<br>Chair of Governors | No/No          |
| John Williams      | Parc Derwen  | All relevant<br>incl. 49,56,<br>60/23-24                    | Resident                     | No/No          |
| Martin<br>Williams | BCBC Matters   | All relevant  | Member                       | No/No          |

**49/23-24 TO RECEIVE SW POLICE REF. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

PC Alistair Phillips and PCSO Michelle Rees attended the meeting. Amongst other matters the monthly stats, Cuppa with a Copper, complaints regarding parking at Coety Primary School, whether PACT meetings could be held once a quarter in the evenings, the location of Bridgend Police Station as well as a discussion on anti-social behaviour in particular in the woods at Parc Derwen, which seem to have reduced since the signs were erected and the bridge was installed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Clerk would share the PC and PCSO's contact details with Members, that Councillor A Williams would send the PC the info on the parking issue at Coety Primary School and that attendance at this meeting would be on a quarterly basis.

**50/23-24 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 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.

**51/23-24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2023 MINUTES**

**Minute 37/23-24 Matters Arising from the June 2023 Meeting**

**T&CC Fund Application:** Following the council's unsuccessful applications to BCBC's grant funding, there is a possibility of additional capital funding for some of the projects and the Clerks have been asked to submit Expressions of Interest for their projects. The deadline was before this meeting, so the Clerk had submitted EOs for all 3 projects.

**Heol Spencer Pavement:** The 3 borough councillors and the Clerk attended a meeting with BCBC. The meeting and outcome were disappointing, Councillor M Williams gave an update.

**Quiet Lanes:** Councillor Jeffreys has submitted a request for this scheme to be put on a future OVW Area Meeting agenda. Further information has been requested by OVW, which has been provided.

**Crossing Aid Litchard School:** The Clerk has not yet submitted a letter as further information to enable a letter to be drafted has not been received from Councillor Bletsoe.

**Minute 38/23-24 Green Spaces Parc Derwen**

Councillor A Williams gave an update following a meeting with Persimmon.

**Minute 39/23-24 Llys Gwyn**

Following confirmation to V2C that this council agrees in principle to match fund the benches at Llys Gwyn subject to plaques being put on them to this effect and agreed to help with planting at the development, the Clerk has been asked for specific details of the benches etc.

**Minute 40/23-24 Christmas 2023**

The Clerk has met with a representative of Centre Great to look at the possibility of constructing a Christmas tree pit off Coity Road, Pendre and a location has been identified. The Finance Committee had discussed the cost and Councillor M Williams will discuss this in his Finance Committee Recommendations report.

### **Minute 42/23-24 Clerk's Report Including Project Updates**

**School Community Awards Scheme:** It's come to my attention that only some of the vouchers presented to Litchard Primary School were presented to the winning child, as the other non-council funded vouchers given to other children were of less value. The criteria of the scheme when this was set up was £50 to be given in £10 vouchers so that if more than one child won the award, the vouchers could be split, but if one child won it then it's £50 for that one child.

**Resolved:** All the information was noted and the Clerk's action regarding the EOIs was approved and accepted. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head at Litchard Primary School about the Community Award. It was unanimously agreed that the Christmas tree pit for Coity Road, Pendre should go ahead subject to the Finance Committee report later in the meeting. Councillor Bletsoe will provide the Clerk with further information regarding the crossing aid. It was noted that the 3 borough councillors had arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive of BCBC regarding the meeting ref. Heol Spencer Pavement. The 3 BCBC Councillors and the Clerk were thanked for all their hard work in regards to the Heol Spencer Pavement.

### **52/23-24 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

The Clerk had prepared a draft annual report which had been sent out to members prior to the meeting. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The report was unanimously approved and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

### **53/23-24 ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW**

The first part of this review being carried out by BCBC is to invite Councils to submit any proposals or changes they may have to assist BCBC in preparing draft reports. This may include boundary amendments, the merging of communities, the warding of communities, the renaming of communities or wards and the electoral arrangements within communities.

**Resolved:** Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed that as this council had already received a review of the number of councillors, the ward boundaries etc. that there is no need for any further change.

### **54/23-24 CAT GROUP BRIEF FOR CAT TRANSFER**

The CAT Working Group met along with Ryan Jones of the Coalfields Trust and Gayle Penn of the FAW and the Clerk and Councillor Wathan and M Williams gave updates.

The suggested brief proposed by the working group is:

To create a community hub on the same footprint as the existing community centre, that satisfied all FAW requirements for 3 pitches, plus maximises the rentable space for the community. It is expected to be a 2 storey building.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to accept the brief and the Clerk was asked to obtain 3 architect quotes and to obtain a quote from Oolong Sports regarding changing the pitches around etc.

## **55/23-24     FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING FINANCE COMMITTEE** **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 1.Payment of Cheques

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

### 2.Budget Monitoring, Accounts & Budgets

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

### 3.Finance Committee Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee:

#### **Review the Budget 2023/24:**

No matters to raise of concern with the budget.

Changes recommended to the budget lines to enable the 3 resolved projects if further funding isn't granted:

#### **Decrease:**

- Playpark refurbishment from £15,000 to £9,000 (amend line to state it's for the Coity Castle Play Area path)
- Members Allowances from £3,000 to £2,000
- Chair Allowance from £1,500 to nil
- Community Award from £250 to £100
- General Maintenance from £15,000 to £8,000
- Summer Activities from £6,000 to nil

#### **Increase:**

- Christmas Lighting from £12,000 to £14,750
- Black Path from £5,00 to £11,000
- Coity Field Path from £5,000 to £17,500

**Coity Wallia Conservators Funding:**

Defer a discussion to next Finance Committee meeting.

**Allotment Garden Rent Increase 2024/2025:**

Increase from £42 to £44 per year for a full plot.

**Resolved:** Authority was given for the payments for July and August and the budget monitoring sheets were accepted. All recommendations by the Finance Committee were unanimously accepted, the Asst. Clerk would update the budget sheet and the Clerk would prepare the allotment tenancies and inform tenants of the increase in 12 months' time.

**56/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES**

**CAT Updates:**

The CAT updates had been given as a separate item.

**Project Updates:**

**Ramblers Cymru Paths to Wellbeing Project:**

The 10 additional bird boxes that we were given will be installed in the woods at the top of footpath 17 in the next week.

Permission to install the two benches has still not been granted.

**Hendre:**

Following a meeting with Councillor A Williams and BCBC Officers, the residents of Hendre are now happy for the council to install a 3 tier planter, bin and bench as consulted on some time ago, and hope to have additional daffodil bulb planting this year.

**Play Areas:**

Quarterly inspections have been carried out with minor works needed and one panel to be replaced at Litchard Park.

**Black Path Project:**

No progress on this as still waiting for BCBC to reply.

**Defibrillator Oakwood View:**

No progress as the responder is unavailable at the moment.

**Other Matters:**

**Coity Castle:**

No news on the electricity licence yet.

**Allotment Gardens:**

BCBC have agreed to remove the fly tipped mattress.

**Overflowing Bins Parc Derwen:**

A few reports have been received regarding overflowing bins at Parc Derwen, it has been suggested that bins with lids should be purchased.

**Coity Village Noticeboard:**

The Clerk had been unable to contact the proprietor of the now closed Coity Post Office and has now put a note through their door regarding moving the noticeboard to the side of the property.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk were noted. The Clerk was given authority to make the necessary arrangements for the work at Hendre. The Clerk was given authority to carry out any works in the play areas including the replacement panel. The Clerk was asked to request that the bins are emptied 3 times a week at Parc Derwen.

**57/22-23 MEMBER REPORTS**

Councillor Jeffreys had attended a recent OVW area meeting where the agenda included sustainable development, the elections of Chair and Vice-Chair, the difficulty in recruiting and maintaining Clerks for T&CCs etc.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**58/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES**

Councillor A Williams gave updates on a meeting with Aldi Store representatives and gave information on where the planned store is to be located, the footpath in that area and said they are keen to work with communities and there is some community funding available. Councillor M Williams had also attended this meeting.

In addition both Councillor Williams' had accepted an invitation to Litchard Primary School's Summer Camp and gave feedback on that.

Councillor A Williams gave an update on the Parc Derwen bus service, a new route with some teething issues which should be reported, missed Kier collections following staffing issues; anything missed will be collected the next day. In addition she gave updates on the Gerddi/Trem y Castell open space with issues regarding a pond raised with BCBC, metal spikes sticking out of the ground which Taylor Wimpey have removed; a request has been made if CHCC could receive the funding and arrange the installation of the play area.

Amongst other issues discussed were the Hospital to Home Care and Repair scheme, the change in CIC to Llais, 20mph speed limits with some dangerous roads in the ward, Litchard Hill and Heol Spencer, remaining 30mph, the progress being made by Pugh's at Parc Derwen, children climbing in the castle, tree damage from the hospital into gardens at Llys Gwyn, hedges being cut but it was knotweed, Hendre lanes speed limits, Persimmon updates on lighting, drains, construction traffic, Sycamore Close issues with water etc.

Councillor Wathan had nothing to add to Councillor A Williams' detailed report.

Councillor M Williams had presented the Community Award at Coety Primary School. He'd made enquiries at BCBC as to when the Heol Mair play area will be refurbished and had been told approximately 2026. He'd attended an Extraordinary Meeting of the Communities Directorate regarding why some matters are not being dealt with; funding is being taken up by social services so community responses are poor.

In addition he'd made referrals with LINC and has been disappointed by how some organisations deal with tenants, he said he's happy to pick up any referrals community councillors may have with these matters. He'd made a referral regarding a crossing from Parc Derwen to McArthur Glen, a referral regarding livestock being killed on the common and what can be done and gave information on a residents' petition regarding road safety.

Councillor Bletsoe said that he'd attended a meeting where it had been mentioned that the bin bags being supplied to residents are not suitable as seagulls are able to get into them and they are ripping when lifted. He said the contract with Keir states that if a bag is ripped Kier to not have to pick it up, if it rips when the contractors pick it up they have facilities on the van to deal with that spillage.

It was noted that medical waste collection is intermittent; Councillor A Williams is already dealing with that issue.

**Resolved: All information was noted.**

## **59/23-24    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:

- Audit Wales consultation on fee scales 2024/25
- Numerous vacancies
- Notice of Temporary Order speed limits in the borough from BCBC
- Bridgend Carers Centre - financial request
- Cavendish Consulting - request to meet with the council regarding pre-planning for the new Aldi Store
- Resident enquires regarding cutting back hedges, overgrown bushes etc.
- Motions for OVW AGM 2023



- BCBC Expressions of Interest for possible grant funding.

**Resolved:** The correspondence was noted. The financial request from Bridgend Carers Centre was deferred to the March 2024 meeting, the request from Aldi to meet with the council was agreed for the October Ordinary Council meeting agenda, the resident enquiries had been dealt with by the Clerk and the Clerk's action in submitting the EOIs for possible grant funding was approved.

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

#### **60/23-24    PLANNING**

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

7 applications had been received, 10 decisions and 0 appeals and these were discussed. There was also an email from Planning Aid Wales on the additional sheet.

**Resolved:** There were no objections to any of the planning applications.

#### **61/23-24    ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

- To receive representatives of Aldi Stores
- School Holiday Play Scheme 2024
- Draft Training Plan 23/24

**Resolved:** It was agreed to keep the agenda open to include urgent items that may arise during the month.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Note: Councillor J Williams gave his apologies for the October 2023 meeting.