



## COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: Y Walton-Davies (from 6.06 pm)  
L Jeffreys  
L Lewis (zoom) from 6.50 pm  
L Richards  
A Williams (zoom) from 6.17 pm  
J Williams  
M Williams  
D Wingar

Apologies: Cllr S Bletsoe

No Apologies: Cllrs S Charles and Alison Hughes

**Minute 90/23-24:**

**91/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Speak/Vote</b>
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 93/23-24	Resident	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters incl. Planning	All relevant	Member	No/No No/No
	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 93/23-24	Resident	
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant Incl. Coety Primary School	Member Chair of Governors	No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl.	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No

**92/23-24 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> November 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.

**93/23-24 URGENT MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES**

**Minute 80/23-24 Matters Arising from the October Minutes**

**Christmas 2023** - the work needed to obtain permission from BCBC for the construction of a Christmas tree pit on Coity Road (Pendre ward) was noted. The tree has been well received.

**Coity Castle Electricity License** - following the last meeting the Clerk has requested a site meeting with representatives of CADW, but has not received acknowledgement of the request or a response. However, the council's request for certification of the flood lights has received a response suggesting the council asks Coity Village Association for this document. The Village Association's secretary has asked the Clerk for an update on the license.

**Coity Noticeboard** - following contact from Councillor Wingar to the resident, permission to move the council's noticeboard from the front of the old Post Office to the side has been declined. A new location was discussed and two were suggested, on the Six Bells or opposite on the perimeter wall of the castle.

**Footpath Leaflet Re-print** - these have now been completed and the Clerk has a supply.

**Bin for Parc Derwen** - the bin is due to be delivered in the next week and will be installed asap.

### **Minute 32/23-24 Suggestions for the Precept Budget 2024/2025**

The quote for a Fitness Trail for Pendre Fields replicating the one at Cae'r Eglwys, Coity has been received of £22,265.

**Resolved:** All the information was noted. The Clerk would seek permission and the necessary planning permission to install a noticeboard on one of the two suggested locations.

### **94/23-24 TO SET A PRECEPT BUDGET FOR 2024/2025**

The Clerk had provided a copy of the net base figure for Band D properties, a budget monitoring sheet showing the forecast for the year and a draft precept budget for 2024/25. The budget is recommended to full council by the Finance Committee following a meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and this was discussed in detail. It was noted that the Finance Committee was not unanimous in its decision to recommend the budget and Councillor M Williams gave the reasons.

A vote was taken on whether to accept the proposed budget.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to accept the precept budget and request a precept of £120,969, a precept increase of £0.99/3.6%.

### **95/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

#### **1.Payment of Cheques**

Authority was requested for the payments of all the invoices listed on the expenditure sheet.

#### **2.Budget Monitoring, Accounts & Budgets**

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

**Resolved:** Authority was given for the payments for November 2023 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted.

## **96/23-24 URGENT CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES**

### **CAT Update**

**Additional Funding:** REACH have confirmed that the feasibility study was submitted last Friday and the grant approval panel will be assessing the applications on 21<sup>st</sup> December. REACH are also pulling together other documents needed, assuming the funding is approved, so that they can push ahead as soon as possible in the New Year. The Clerk has invited Business Manager, Ryan Jones, to attend a meeting and he's accepted the invite to attend the February meeting.

**Pitch Design:** The work has been delayed 3 weeks due to illness; the designer has informed the Clerk that a specification document will be received by the end of the week.

### **Project Update**

**Paths to Wellbeing:** another bench has been installed, this time on Footpath 52.

**3 Projects:** Another contractor has been on site to look at the two footpath projects in Coity; this will be the third quote.

### **Other Matters**

**Daffodil Planting:** The Clerk had been unable to get a response from Taylor Wimpey to the request to plant spring bulbs at Trem y Castell, so an alternative site outside Coity Castle play area had been used.

**Noticeboard/Bench at Gerddi'r Castell:** The Clerk is still waiting for a response from Taylor Wimpey to its request to place a noticeboard and bench at Gerddi'r Castell.

**V2C/Llys Gwyn:** The Clerk had met with representatives of V2C to discuss planting and new benches for Llys Gwyn, Pendre. The meeting had been successful and an email had already been received by Councillor Lisa Lewis regarding planting. V2C are obtaining quotes for replacement benches and have agreed to install them and that the Community Council can put signs on them to inform residents that they had been match funded.

**Website:** The requested additional tabs to tidy up the website should be in place in the New Year.

**Bin Pendre:** It was noted that the Community Council's bin next to its bench in Pendre has been removed and replaced.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk were noted. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to ask for the return of the removed bin.

**97/22-23     URGENT ITEMS MEMBER REPORTS**

Councillor Yvonne Walton-Davies informed Members that the Quiet Lanes Scheme is making some headway and is being discussed at the Local Access Forum.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**98/23-24     URGENT BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES**

Councillor Alan Wathan had no urgent updates.

Councillor Martin Williams had no urgent updates, but informed Members that there is no news on BCBC's budget, but that a consultation is probable in the New Year.

Councillor Amanda Williams said budget meetings are on-going and that there is a cut in Active Travel funding for the next year. There had been no Persimmon meeting this month; it was noted that the lights on the bridge from Parc Derwen to Litchard Fields were not working.

**Resolved:** All information was noted.

**99/23-24     URGENT CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence was noted.

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the following:

- One Voice Wales - Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill - consultation closes 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- One Voice Wales - vacancies for 4 Welsh Government roles
- IRPW - Draft Annual Report
- BCBC - Coychurch Crematorium Christmas Service - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00 pm
- BCBC - Co-option notice Litchard Ward
- BCBC - complaint re damage to equipment Litchard Park
- Welsh Government - Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2024/2025

**Resolved:** The correspondence was noted. The Clerk had sought a price for the purchase and installation of a piece of equipment, which has been vandalised in Litchard Park, the cost is £2,124. The Clerk was given authority to order the replacement part and the Asst. Clerk was asked to check whether the council's insurance covers the cost of the item.

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

**100/23-24 URGENT PLANNING**

2 applications had been received, 7 decisions and 2 appeals and these were discussed.

**Resolved:** A vote was taken on planning appeal P/22/23/Ful and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write and object to the appeal, because access to the site is too narrow and that CHCC agree with BCBC's objections.

**101/23-24 URGENT ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

**Resolved:** It was agreed to keep the agenda open to include urgent items that may arise during the month, though this meeting is a precept setting meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm.