



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe
G Langdon
L Lewis
L Richards
A Williams
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)

Apologies: Councillors Y Walton-Davies, A Hughes, L
Jeffreys, D Wingar

No Apologies: Councillor S Charles

Members of the Public: None

Minute 137/23-24:

The Chair welcomed Councillor Gareth Langdon to the meeting as he had not been present for his first meeting in February.

138/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters 143/23-24 152/23-24	All relevant Coety Primary School	Member Chair of Governors	No/No No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters 141/23-24	All relevant Litchard Primary School	Member Governor	No/No No/No

139/23-24 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the 8th February 2024 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.

140/23-24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 123/23-24 Matters Arising from the January 2024 Meeting

Coity Noticeboard: No response from Highways but CADW do not have an issue with the noticeboard being mounted on the Castle Wall. The Clerk will submit this on an application for advert consent for other noticeboards in the wards.

Litchard Park Play Area Damaged Equipment: Following the submission of an insurance claim the insurance company has agreed to cover the cost of the replacement equipment and installation costs minus the excess fee.

Minute 131/23-24 Clerk's Report

Black Path Recreation Area - still no response from the corporate landlord.

Wildflower Seed Planting Black Path - still no response from BCBC and we only have a window of opportunity to the end of March to clear the area and sow the seeds.

Electricity Licence Coity Castle - following last month's meeting the Clerk had received a response from Coity Village Association saying that a site meeting had taken place and they will get back to me with the outcome.

Side Gate into the Castle - the PCSO has been on leave and so no further update was available.

Minute 134/23-24 Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that she'd submitted the Paths to Wellbeing project for a One Voice Wales Environment Award. Councillor Martin Williams will represent CHCC at the Conference and Awards event. The Clerk had received confirmation that the project has been recognised and has won an award.-

Resolved: All the information was noted. Good news.

Note: Councillor M Williams did not take part in the item on School Holiday 2024 Provision.

141/23-24 SCHOOL HOLIDAY 2024 PROVISION

The Clerk had provided details of different holiday activity offers and these were considered.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to book Youthworks to provide two sessions a week for 3 weeks and Forces Fitness to provide a session with two instructors for a day in the other 3 weeks of the school summer holidays. In addition, £2,000 would be set aside for Litchard Primary School. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

142/23-24 WALES IN BLOOM

Councillor Lisa Lewis suggested entering Coity Higher Community Council wards into this competition and explained the process and the different categories. The entry could include the floral displays, tree planting, allotments, woods etc. The entry deadline is the end of March.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to enter the competition, Councillor Lewis will forward the necessary information and documents to the Clerk to submit.

143/23-24 COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Following last month's council meeting and the agreement that Councillor J Williams would be the community representative governor for Coety Primary School, Councillor Williams is now unable to take on the role which recreates a vacancy. Councillor G Langdon said he was happy to take on the role.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Councillor G Langdon would take on the role of Community Governor at Coety Primary School. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

144/23-24 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION COITY WARD/REPLACEMENT BANK SIGNATORY/IES

Councillor Alison Hughes had submitted her resignation from the Community Council. On acceptance of the resignation a replacement signatory would be needed and Councillor Hughes removed as a signatory.

Resolved: The full council accepted Councillor Hughes' resignation and the Clerk was asked to inform BCBC and start the vacancy process. A proposal was made and seconded that Councillors J Williams and G Langdon would be added as a replacement and an additional signatory. The Asst. Clerk had prepared the paperwork in advance and both signed the paperwork. Councillor A Hughes was absent from the meeting so the necessary paperwork to remove her as a signatory will be arranged in due course.

145/23-24 DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS

Following BCBC's removal of dog waste bag dispensers in the borough, replacements for Heol y Groes roundabout, Joslin Terrace and Coity Castle were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed not to replace the removed dog bag dispensers, but to keep the ones Coity Higher CC have already installed.

146/23-24 COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The resignations of Councillors D Brown and A Hughes had created vacancies within some of the council's committees. A list had been provided by the Clerk.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Councillor J Williams would fill the vacancy on the Allotment Appeals Committee, Councillor L Lewis would fill the

vacancy on the Community Access Plan working group and Councillor G Langdon would fill the vacancy on the Staff and Disciplinary Committees.

147/23-24 REVIEW DRAFT OF JOINT CORRESPONDENCE WITH CW COMMONERS

A copy of a proposed letter written by Coity Wallia Commoners had been received for approval to be sent out directly from the Community Council to residents. The method of distribution had not been discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to send out the letter on Coity Higher Headed Paper but in the name of the Community Council and the Commoners, with some minor tweaks to the draft.

148/23-24 DEFERRED FINANCIAL REQUESTS 23/24

The Clerk had distributed a paper containing details of 9 deferred financial requests received in 2023/24 and all were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to donate £170 each to Bridgend Carers Centre and the Wales Air Ambulance.

149/23-24 GREEN SPACES PARK DERWEN

Councillors had met at Parc Derwen to view the green spaces available for asset transfer to the Community Council.

The following were suggested: L14, L4, L6C, L15, L1, L6A, LEAP 3 L3, NEAP 2, L18, NEAP 1, LEAP 1 L10A, LEAP 2 (park only)

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to contact Persimmon and Express and Interest for the suggested land and the accompanying commuted sums.

150/23-24 CAT DRAFT PLAN AND BUDGET

Business Project Manager, Ryan Jones, had provided members with a copy of a 5 year plan and budget. The CAT working group had asked Councillors M Williams and D Wingar to suggest any amendments and/or additions. These were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the small changes, approve the budget and plan and respond to Ryan Jones.

151/23-24 COMMUNITY AWARD FOR 2023

Following a request for nominees in both categories - under 18 and over 18, the Clerk had distributed a list and these were discussed.

Resolved: The winners were agreed as Ella Raturoko in the under 18 category and Coity Chiefs Girls Football Club in the over 18 category. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements and invite both winners to the April 2024 meeting for a presentation

152/23-24 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1.Payment of Cheques

Authority was requested for the payments of all the invoices listed on the expenditure sheet and on the additional sheet as agreed for inclusion by the Chair.

2.Budget Monitoring, Accounts & Budgets

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

3.Audit 2022/2023

The conclusion of audit has still not been received. One query had been raised in regard to the publication of a notice of late submission which had been carried out and published on the council's website and in the noticeboards.

4.Plaque Engraving

A request had been received for the Community Council to cover the cost (approx. £18) for Coety Primary School to have the school's community shield engraved.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for February 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted. All information was noted. It was unanimously agreed to cover the cost of Coety Primary School's shield engraving.

153/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: the CAT working group had held a meeting with REACH and it was confirmed that further funding would be given to the tender for the architect for Coity Higher Community Centre as the previous amount had not encouraged any submissions. A re-

tendering process has since been put in place and closes on 15th March. Councillor M Williams has been suggested as the councillor to be involved in the evaluation and the Clerk will observe to understand the process.

CAT GREAT WESTERN AVENUE, LITCHARD FIELDS AND THE COMMUNITY CENTRE:

following the last CAT working group meeting the Clerk had been asked to progress the CAT freehold. Following correspondence on the matter with the CAT Officer a 35 year lease was mentioned, which is for the CAT Steering Group to agree. A meeting of the Chief Executive and the Leader will be held in early April to discuss this matter with the 3 borough members and the Clerk.

Project Updates

Black Path: as raised in Matters Arising, the Clerk is still waiting on a response from the Corporate Landlord.

Footpath Coity Play Area: following a discussion with a play area contractor it was highlighted that a footpath could not be installed in the play area as it would not allow enough space around the individual pieces of equipment and would therefore not meet current H&S standards. The Clerk had held a site meeting with the footpath contractor and the play area contractor to mark out the distances and consider both projects; the outcome was that a footpath could not be installed whether the all weather ground cover is installed or not.

Footpath Coity Castle/Church: CADW have granted a licence for the work to go ahead and the Rights of Way Manager has also approved the work. It will be carried out in term time to allow access during the school holidays to Coity recreational field. The next steps are to obtain permission for the ramp and access via the field. It was noted that the handrail to the steps from Heol yr Ysgol has been painted.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: The Clerk has completed and submitted the lease application and V2C has confirmed that it cannot foresee and issues with granting it, but it still has to be signed off. They will then get their solicitors to draw up the lease agreement.

Other Matters

Joslin Play Area: a complaint regarding the cleanliness of the all weather surface has been received along with comments regarding the overhanging shrubs to the play area and sides of the parking area. The Clerk had arranged for the shrubs to be cut back and the area power washed. A water bowser had been purchased as it was cheaper than renting one and it could be used to power wash the other play areas once the weather breaks. Whilst the work was being carried out another resident approached the contractor to ask that a second hedge be cut back to the side of the play area and the ivy removed from an adjoining wall. The Clerk asked for authority to carry out the requested work and to power wash the other play areas in the spring?

Allotment Gardens: Most of the tenancies have now been returned and payments made. Some plots have been returned and the Clerk has planned to meet with those at the top of the waiting list to let the plots. In addition when the water was switched back on the pipes sprang some leaks and these have now been fixed.

Defibrillator Oakwood View: The Clerk had attended a site visit with a responder to look at a suitable location for a solar powered cabinet, subject to REMUS' agreement for the location.

Aluminium Lighting Columns: The Clerk had highlighted an issue in regard to future replacement aluminium columns and how they will affect Christmas lighting motifs and floral baskets in future, to the borough members. She read out the response to a referral on the matter.

Glamorgan History Walks: author and tv history expert Graham Loveluck-Edwards has included a walk in Coity in his summer schedule of walks, which will take place on 15th June and meets at Coity Castle. The cost is £10 per person and participants need to book. The Clerk will include it on the council's website and send the information through to members to share on their social media pages.

Flower Planters: the Clerk has asked the gardener to plant red, white and blue flowers in the planters for the D-Day 80th Anniversary this year. The flower baskets will remain multi-coloured.

Annual Leave: the Clerk informed members of her approved annual leave in July.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk were noted. Councillor M Williams was agreed as the nominated councillor to be involved in the evaluation process. It was agreed that if the footpath to Coity Castle play area does not meet H&S standards for play areas it cannot go ahead and the council thanked the footpath contractor for being so understanding. Authority was given for the spring play area power washing and the Joslin play area/green space foliage cut back. Councillor Amanda Williams would raise the usage limitation issues with the replacement aluminium lighting columns.

154/22-23 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillors Amanda and Martin Williams had hosted Bridgend Twin Town French visitors and had attended several lovely events.

Resolved: This was noted.

155/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Martin Williams: Coity Festivals have won a BCBC Mayor's Citizenship Award. Lots of complaints had been received about the late refuse collections, the BCBC budget rise was noted and there had been a leak outside Coity Higher Community Centre which is being dealt with.

Councillor Amanda Williams: has been dealing with issues regarding the Brynteg school bus pick ups and delays in getting children to school on time, flooding in Parc Derwen at the back of the school and at the bottom of the sports pitches which Persimmon have agreed to look at. Parking in Parc Derwen continues to be an issue and in some places the refuse lorries can't get through to collect the refuse. Residents are being asked to report any parking issues via 101. The 30 mph speed awareness sign is still not working despite reporting the issue and the plans for Pugh's on Parc Derwen and the Trem y Castell progress have been delayed. Concerns regarding streetlighting at Gerddi'r Castell and missing sections of pavement have been reported, there's been problems with trees falling from the prison grounds onto Heol Spencer and the landowners have now instructed a tree surgeon. The Police and Crime Commissioner elections are in May, Litchard Mission is not being used as a polling station and there are no suitable premises in Pendre. The revised LDP has been approved.

Councillor Alan Wathan: Most of the issues dealt with in the month have been highlighted by other borough members, but he'd like to praise Persimmon for the repairs they made to a pothole near the roundabout/pedestrian crossing.

Resolved: All information was noted. Congratulations to Coity Festivals.

156/23-24 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was noted. With the permission of the Chair some additional correspondence received since the papers were distributed to Members were included.

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the following:

- One Voice Wales - Nominations for the King's New Year Honours 2025
- BCBC - acknowledgement of CHCC's T&CC grant funding applications
- Litchard Mission - defibrillator installation and registration
- Councillor D Unwin - Rights of Way Forum 2 suggestions requesting support
- Noah's Ark, Eisteddfod RCT, Urdd Gobaith Cymru x 2 - Financial Requests
- Audit Wales - apology for mistake in correspondence following an audit reminder
- Ogmore Valley CC - request regarding creating a Community Impact Report ref. Mynydd y Ger Windfarm plans
- Morgannwg Endeavour Trust - meeting ref. dialysis unit
- U3A - enquiry ref. keyholder for Coity Higher Community Centre
- Resident - enquiry rf. Mobile coffee vehicle

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The Clerk had included the defibrillator on the council's website and asked a responder to check it's registered, had responded to Councillor Unwin's letter, the U3A and resident enquiry. The action of the Clerk was approved and authorised.

Note: Councillor Alan Wathan did not take part in this item which was chaired by Councillor Martin Williams.

157/23-24 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

With the permission of the Chair an additional planning request received since the papers were distributed to Members were included.

3 planning applications had been received, along with 6 decisions and 1 appeal had been received, along with 6 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

Resolved: No observations were made on the planning applications. The outcome of the appeal was noted.

158/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Community Award 2023 Presentation

Resolved: It was agreed to keep the agenda open to include urgent items that may arise during the month as the agenda is already quite full.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th April 2024 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.