



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 13th JUNE 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe (zoom)

Y Walton-Davies (from 7.08 pm)

N Deere

L Jeffreys

G Langdon (zoom)

L Lewis (zoom)

L Richards (zoom)

A Williams (zoom)

J Williams

M Williams

D Wingar

Apologies: S Charles

Minute 14/24-25

The Chair, Councillor Alan Wathan, welcome Councillor Nathan Deere to his first Coity Higher Community Council meeting.

15/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Bridgend TC	All relevant None relevant	Member Member	No/No
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl.	Resident	No/No
Luke Richards	None relevant	-----	Ynysawdre CC	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters Parc Derwen	All relevant 18/24-25	Member Resident	No/No No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Proposals by M Williams Coity Festivals Correspondence	All relevant 10/24-25 & 24/24-25 All relevant 21/24-25 26/24-25	Member Chair of Governors Wife Committee Member Child in Bridgend Guides	No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl.	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters Litchard Primary School Proposals by A Williams St Brides Minor CC Coity Festivals Correspondence	All relevant None relevant All relevant 19/24-25 21/24-25 26/24-25	Member Governor Husband Member Committee Member Child in Bridgend	No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No

			Guides	
Yvonne Walton-Davies	St Brides Minor CC	19/24-25 & 24/24-25	Member	No/No

16/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2024 ANNUAL & ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the May 2024 Annual and 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.

17/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY 2024 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETING

Annual Meeting:

There were no Matters Arising from the Annual Meeting.

Ordinary Meeting:

Minute 4/24-25 Matters Arising from the April 2024 Ordinary Meeting

Electricity Licence Coity Castle: There had been no update from Coity Village Association on this matter. However an independent electrician, on behalf of the CHCC had examined the fault, though the electricity will not stay on long enough for it to be tested and informed CHCC that the fault is on the network side.

Side Gate Opening to Coity Castle: Councillor A Williams' meeting with the PCSOs had not yet taken place so no update was available.

School Holiday Provision: Forces Fitness bookings went live on Monday 10th June and had been shared with the two Primary School and put on CHCC's website. The Clerk informed Members that as soon as the bookings are full, the live link will no longer work.

Allotment Gardens: All plots are now let. The tenant with the poly tunnel sited off her pitch had already planted it up, therefore the Clerk had asked her to move it by 30th September.

Minute 8/24-25 Clerk's Report

Noticeboards: Following requesting that the determination on the advert consent is made within 8 week the Clerk had been informed that this is not possible and that it will be determined by 3rd July.

Pendre Fields Play Area: The vandalised sign has been replaced.

D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon and Lamp Light of Peace: The beacon was lit in Coity Castle, it was good to see people had attended the lighting. The 3 Lamps had been lit and were located on Coity Road in Pendre, at the Red Dragon in Litchard and in Coity. Councillors had walked the route between the 3 and ended at Coity Castle.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to contact Western Power to ask them to assess and repair the fault at Coity Castle. The action of the Clerk regarding the poly tunnel was accepted, but the tunnel must be moved onto the plot by 30th September at the very latest.

18/24-25 PARC DERWEN

Councillor A Williams gave a detailed update on grass cutting, landscaping, play areas, sports field. Councillor Williams said that she would request that the next scheduled meeting with Persimmon should be a walk around rather than a sit down meeting so that the Persimmon representatives can see how the development is being neglected.

Councillor Williams said she has all the contract documents to look through and said that she is happy with SW Sports Grounds as they are experts in their field and know exactly what they're doing in upgrading the pitches. One of the local football teams had told her that they were happy with the work being conducted.

Councillor A Wathan said the work that needs to be carried out is Persimmon's responsibility until adoption is requested and then BCBC get involved.

Councillor A Williams said she was upset by some of the negative comments made at this meeting and said that if any resident is unhappy, she is happy to meet with them to discuss matters further.

Councillor M Williams said he would propose a motion at BCBC regarding issues with the developers. He would hope that his motion could be put forward at the July meeting but the General Election may push that on to the September meeting.

Councillor L Jeffreys said that weeds are growing into paths, landscaping is not done and broken play equipment is chained up and not repaired.

Councillor Y Walton-Davies said that the situation is obviously causing great stress to some Councillors and said it is usual for residents to complain direct to the developer, surely it is not the council's responsibility. Councillor A Williams said she is bombarded with complaints as a Community Councillor and asked that Persimmon are invited to the 18th July meeting.

Resolved: To invite representatives of Persimmon to the 18th July 2024 meeting.

19/24-25 COITY WALLIA BOARD OF CONSERVATORS

Councillor A Williams had attended her first meeting of the Board of Conservators, where there appeared to be lots of confusion and she had concerns about their governance. A copy of a letter from Mr J Golunski to Mr D John had been given to her dated 21st January 2020 where an indication of the sum Coity Higher CC may pay towards the financial costs of the common was £500.

The Council's minutes did not state this. A request had been made to the Conservators via Mr D John to request the proportion of common land attached to Coity Higher so that Coity Higher CC could then decide on its contribution. That information had not been received.

It was noted that the 5th June Coity Wallia Board of Conservators meeting to which the Chairs and Clerks of the 4 minor authorities were to be invited was not received.

Resolved: After much discussion, the sum of £500 was agreed in principle, however Coity Wallia Board of Conservators would need to formally request that in writing so that the council had a paper trail for audit purposes.

20/24-25 ARCHITECTS UPDATE

Councillor A Wathan gave an update on a recent meeting with the architects to look at their first draft of a site plan. An amendment had been made at the meeting as there was no proposed office and an updated site plan had been received which had been included with the meeting papers.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to request that the upstairs balcony is lengthened to the end of the kitchen area and to ask what capacity the social areas are upstairs and downstairs. The Clerk was also asked to send a copy of the plan to the FAW to check that the shower/toilet areas meet the required standards

21/24-25 FINANCIAL REQUEST - COITY FESTIVALS

Coity Festivals have written to request a large builders' skip on Saturday 29th June to be placed at Coity Castle. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to provide a skip as requested.

22/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS including INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT/AUDIT STATEMENT 2023/24

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.Internal Audit Report/Audit Statement 2023/24

A copy of the Internal Audit Report and Audit Statement for the 2023/24 Audit had been included in the pack. The Asst. Clerk read through the Internal Audit Report and explained the points made.

4.Other Matters

It was noted that the precept had been received but had not been included in the budget monitoring sheet as the bank statement detailing the payment had not arrived before the sheet was prepared. It was also noted that the VAT reclaim for 23/24 had been submitted.

The Chair thanked the Clerk and Asst. Clerk for their work in preparing the audits.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for May 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved. Full Council unanimously accepted and approved the Internal Audit Report and Audit Statement and the Chair and Clerk signed the Audit Statement. The external audit will now be prepared and submitted.

23/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: An update on the architects' progress had been given in minute 20/24-25. Ryan Jones, the project's Business Manager had requested that the site plan is checked by the FAW to confirm compliance with their criteria for changing areas/showers/toilets/officials changing facilities.

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

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk had met with representatives of the interested football clubs and Ryan Jones to update them on progress with pitch design, CAT transfer and the Community Centre design. The information had been well received. All clubs had been asked to send a letter of intent to use the facilities to the Clerk by 27th June 2024.

Project Updates

Black Path: The Clerk is still waiting on BCBC to confirm the go ahead. Despite a few reminders nothing had been forthcoming.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: Following CHCC's unsuccessful T&CC grant funding application to BCBC, the Clerk had followed the CAT Officer's instructions and contacted the Parks/Green Spaces Officer to review the documentation and provide feedback to improve the re-submission of an application for the second round of funding. After some chasing the Clerk had received a response saying that he is 'not able to comment on the T&CC application as I am not familiar with these applications. It may be better to discuss why it was rejected with' other BCBC Officers.

Coity Castle Play Area: The work to lay all weather ground cover will be carried out in 3 to 4 weeks. As soon as a definite date is confirmed the Clerk will put up notices explaining its closure.

Other Matters

Allowance Forms: the Clerk reminded all Members that they must complete the opt-out form provided and return it to her asap.

Coity Castle Hedge: this is growing into the pavement and the Clerk had requested CADW cut it back.

Wales in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood: CHCC's assessment will take place on 10th July at 12.30. The Clerk is unable to attend so asked for a volunteer to meet with the assessor.

Allotment Gardens: The half plot 34 has now been cleared and returned to grass for additional car parking.

In addition the Clerk asked if a skip could be provided for the allotment to clear rubbish from the site.

Defibrillator Oakwood View: the responder is still on leave and therefore installation is delayed.

Office Equipment: the Clerk made a request to replace her 5 year old laptop as it is no longer supported by PC World and it is now incredibly slow, so slow that it can't be used to facilitate zoom meetings.

Annual Leave: the Clerk reminded members of her annual leave dates.

Resolved: All information was accepted. The Clerk was asked to write to the 3 BCBC Members to remind them of the detail of the Black Path request and they would take it from there. The Clerk was asked to obtain independent advice on the play area plans for Llys Gwyn to determine the issues and why it was likely to have been turned down. Councillor A Wathan would meet the Wales in Bloom assessor. It was agreed to provide a skip to clear rubbish from the allotment garden site. The Clerk was given authority to purchase a new laptop. The Clerk was also asked to obtain quotes for suitable equipment to facilitate future remote meetings

24/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor A Wathan: and the Clerk had attended a Chairs and Clerks meeting on 4th June at Sarn Centre; the meeting had been organised by St Brides Minor Community. Councillor Wathan reported that it had been well attended with representatives from 14 of the T&CCs, including two cabinet members. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of common concern and to explore ways that there can be more co-operation between councils to collaborate in any way, share resources, jointly procure, deal as one voice in matters relating to external organisations such as One Voice Wales, BCBC etc. Following a discussion on many topics, with many ideas suggested, it was agreed that there is an appetite to meet as a group on possibly a quarterly basis, possibly the week before T&CC Forum agendas are set and that the group writes to Mark Shepherd at BCBC to ask for a change in format to the T&CC Forum. A letter would be drafted by St Brides Minor CC and circulated to all T&CCs for approval.

Councillor Y Walton-Davies: had attended a Local Access Forum meeting and informed Members that more network surveys will be carried out and Ramblers Cymru would be invited to assist. Disabled access from one side of Coity Wallia Common was also discussed and how disabled people and horse riders get safely from one side of the road to the other.

Councillor Lisa Lewis: had visited Coety Primary School to assist with their allotment, a representative from Keep Wales Tidy is also involved.

Resolved: The information was noted.

25/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Amanda Williams: as well as the information given in minute 18/24-25 above, Councillor Williams said that it had been reported to her that the play area at Joslin had been locked, but on inspection it is one half of the double entrance gate that is locked, access is still available. Councillor Williams has also been involved in serious matters of the referral system and dealt with complaints about dog training and the accompanying noise in fields behind Heol West Plas.

Councillor M Williams and Councillor A Wathan: had nothing to add to Councillor Williams' update.

Resolved: All information was noted

26/24-25 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 - Recruitment and Retention of Clerks

- Resident - emails ref. Parc Derwen play areas and playing field
- FOI request - dog euthanasia statistics
- Resident - email ref seagulls in our community
- Resident - speed traffic on Heol West Plas
- One Voice Wales - Councillor Induction from a Clerk's Perspective
- BCBC - second phase of T&CC Fund roll out (deadline 31st August 2024)
- Councillor S Charles - resignation
- 4th Bridgend Guides - financial request

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The resident's emails ref Parc Derwen play areas and playing field were noted and an update given. There were no dog euthanasia statistics to provide for the FOI request. Councillor A Williams was dealing with the seagull correspondence, the Clerk was asked to contact Go Safe to request a mobile camera on Heol West Plas and Councillor Stuart Charles' resignation was accepted. The Clerk was asked to find out how many children of the Coity Higher wards attend the 4th Bridgend Guides, how much they are requesting and if they'd applied for funding from other organisations.

Note: Councillor Alan Wathan did not take part in this next item which was chaired by Councillor Martin Williams. Standing Orders were suspended at 9.00 pm

27/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

3 planning applications had been received, along with 2 decisions and 0 appeals and 4 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

In addition an application to deregister land at Hirgoed Common had been received and a letter, notice and map of the proposed area had been forwarded to all Members.

Resolved: No observations were made on the planning applications. The Clerk was asked to object to the deregister of land at Hirgoed Common as it will cause further chaos at Junction 36. It was also felt that the application is premature and pre-emptive and sets a dangerous precedent to carve off part of the common in the future.

28/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE JULY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Parc Derwen

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

The next ordinary meeting will be held a week later than usual in July, on Thursday 18th July 2024 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.