



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JULY 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe
Y Walton-Davies
N Deere
G Langdon
A Williams (zoom)
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)
D Wingar

Apologies: Councillors L Lewis and L Richards

No Apologies: Councillor L Jeffreys

Public: 1 Member of the Public

Minute 29/24-25

30/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Bridgend TC	All relevant None relevant	Member Member	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters Parc Derwen	All relevant 33/24-25	Member Resident	No/No No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Proposals by M Williams Planning Matters Arising	All relevant 39/24-25 & 40/24-25 All relevant P/24/303/FUL 32/24-25	Member Chair of Governors Wife Resident Child in Bridgend Guides	No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 33/24-25	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters Litchard Primary School Proposals by A Williams Planning Matters Arising St Brides Minor CC	All relevant 40/24-25 All relevant P/24/303/FUL 32/24-25 40/24-25	Member Governor Husband Resident Child in Bridgend Guides Member	No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No
Yvonne Walton-Davies	St Brides Minor CC	40/24-25	Member	No/No
Nathan Deere	Llys Gwyn	34/24-25	Employed by V2C	No/No

31/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the June 2024 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.

32/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 17 Matters Arising from the May Meetings

Minute 4 Matters Arising from April 2024:

Electricity Coity Castle: Coity Village Association arranged for the fault to be repaired and the supply and lighting is now back on.

Side Gate Opening to Coity Castle: Following Councillor A Williams' meeting with the PCSOs it has been confirmed that SW Police do not have any issues with the side gate being open.

School Holiday Provision: Youthworks have reported a lot of enquiries regarding the 3 days they are providing a play scheme in the school summer holidays. Forces Fitness who are also providing 3 days, have confirmed that there are 60 bookings for each day.

Minute 8 Clerk's Report:

Noticeboards: It's now 12 weeks since submitting to advert consent request and the Clerk has chased an update, though none has been received to date. The Clerk informed Members that the contractor had been in an accident.

Minute 23 Clerk's Report

Wales in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood - Councillor Wathan and Councillor Lewis had accompanied the assessor on a walkabout, which appeared to have gone well.

Defibrillator Oakwood View - still no update from the responder, who the Clerk is still chasing.

Office Equipment: the new laptop etc has been purchased. The Clerk is continuing to make enquiries regarding remote equipment for meetings.

Minute 26 Correspondence

The Clerk has twice chased the 4th **Bridgend Guides** for further information on their financial request, but has received no replies.

Go Safe: asked the Clerk to contact the PCSO to use a hand held camera to monitor speeds on Heol West Plas; this has been done.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor A Williams will seek certification from the electrician who checked the lights at Coity Castle that everything is now in order, prior to the Clerk agreeing the licence and the Chair signing. The Clerk was asked to request that CADW remove the heras fencing and re-open the side gate to

the Castle. The Clerk was asked to send a Get Well card to the contractor. It was agreed that no further consideration could be given to the financial request from 4th Bridgend Guides without the information requested. Councillor A Williams said that the PCSOs had invited the 3 borough members to go out with them and look at some of the speeding areas.

33/24-25 PARC DERWEN

The Clerk had invited representatives of Persimmon to the meeting, but their diaries had not been free to enable them to attend. They suggest that as an alternative that 4 or 5 individuals are nominated by the council to attend a meeting with them.

Councillor L Jeffreys had attended the Persimmon meeting as a resident, so had the feedback from that but was not present at the meeting to give the feedback. Councillor Jeffreys had taken Councillor A Williams' list of issues with her and said that the developers had been quite unpleasant. They had also said things had not been agreed, which had.

Councillor A Williams gave an update on the continuing landscaping issues, the improvements to the football pitch, fencing repairs, the lack of preparation by Persimmon for handover and residents writing to the developer but not getting a response. Councillor J Williams said a lighting column that he had reported in April 2023 to Persimmon as a safety issue was still as it was in 2023. It was suggested that the minutes of the Parc Derwen meetings are shared online, that a future newsletter dedicates a full page just to Parc Derwen and that CHCC acts separately to the meetings that the 3 borough members currently have with Persimmon and take up Persimmon's suggestion of meeting with 4 or 5 people, with those people representing Coity Higher CC not BCBC.

Resolved: The 3 suggestions were unanimously agreed. The representatives of Coity Higher CC who will attend the Persimmon meeting will be Councillors J Williams, L Jeffreys, G Langdon, A Williams and M Williams. The later as community councillors separate to the meeting they have as borough councillors.

Note: Councillor N Deere declared an interest and did not take part in the next item.

34/24-25 LLYS GWYN/ROAD SAFETY

Councillor A Williams updated members on a recent accident where a car went into a resident's living room and a wall was taken out on another property. Councillor A Williams informed members that SW Police will do a scoping exercise and that she had asked BCBC to put bollards outside the house in Llys Gwyn as they have them on the property opposite. Councillor M Williams has made a BCBC referral to this effect.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to request bollards outside the house.

35/24-25 CHRISTMAS 2024

The Christmas tree, lights, column motif, solar trees were discussed for Christmas 2024.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to arrange the usual trees, lights, solar trees and column motifs for Coity, Litchard and Pendre. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a quote for the construction of a pit off the roundabout at the entrance to Heol y Groes and supply of tree and lights and the provision of a tree outside the Six Bells in Coity. If it is not possible to place a tree at Heol y Groes, the Clerk was asked to look at another location.

36/24-25 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

A draft Annual Report for 23/24 had been prepared by the Clerk and included in the meeting papers. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the Report and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's website.

37/24-25 ALLOWANCES POLICY UPDATE

The Clerk had updated the Allowances Policy and a copy had been included in the meeting papers. The amendments were discussed.

Resolved: The amendments were approved, subject to the Clerk checking if the Civic Head of Council bullet point was appropriate.

38/24-25 T&CC Fund - 2nd ROUND

The deadline for applications for the second round is 31st August 2024. Suggestions were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to re-submit an application for match funding for the Llys Gwyn play area following a review of the original plans and to submit an application for solar lighting for the Coity footpath and one in each play area.

39/24-25 VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY 2025

The use of the Lamp Lights of Peace were discussed for VE Day 80th Anniversary in May 2025. Councillor A Williams wished to support a verbal suggestion that Councillor L Richards had made to her to donate a lamp to Coety and Litchard Primary School and to

have an inscription put on them. This was discussed. It was also suggested that the part animals played in the war is marked.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to purchase two additional Lamp Lights of Peace and to get them inscribed before donating to the schools. It was agreed to investigate the part animals played at a future meeting and to be mindful that remembrance wreaths in other colours can be controversial. It was noted that the Pageantmaster is likely to give further information on marking this anniversary in due course.

40/24-25 ALLOTMENT RENT 25/26

This is usually recommended by the Finance Committee in September but as it takes so long for some of the tenants to return their tenancies, the Clerk asked for it to be reviewed early so that letter and tenancies could be sent out earlier than usual. The current costs, past years' increases and the current economic climate were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to raise the rent for 25/26 by £1 an increase for a full plot to £45

41/24-25 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 Clerk ran through the budget monitoring sheet and answered any questions raised.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for June 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved.

42/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: The Clerk updated members on recent correspondence between the architects, REACH and CHCC regarding Cymru Football Foundation funding, the changing facilities, the floorplan and next steps.

CAT GREAT WESTERN AVENUE, LITCHARD FIELDS AND THE COMMUNITY CENTRE: 6 letters of intent had been received from the local football clubs to use the new facilities following CAT.

Project Updates

Black Path: Councillor M Williams had received a reply to his BCBC referral on this matter. It is now in the hands of the property department at BCBC.

Coity Castle/Church Footpath: A letter has been sent to the land owner requesting permission for access via his field for the work to be carried out in October. No reply has been received to date.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: the company who carry out CHCC's play area inspections have considered BCBC's comments to the unsuccessful T&CC funding application and advise the following:

- The unit to be installed has no ground level play features so isn't a truly inclusive unit as it should have features at ground level too.
- The springer doesn't have a backrest so has limited support and would not usually be classed as inclusive.
- They suggest removing the fencing element and putting gates on the gaps in the wall to allow more free circulations pace, but this is not possible due to a ground level window being adjacent.
- They also advise against wooden equipment.

Coity Castle Play Area: the new ground cover work is due to be completed this week. There has been some extra costs of £2,300 involved, due to unforeseen double grass matting having to be removed and disposed of.

Other Matters

Coity Castle Hedge: this has been cut back, although the tops of the hedge are still very long.

Annual Leave: the Clerk reminded members of her annual leave dates in August/September.

Resolved: All information was accepted. The Clerk was asked to write to Zak Shell and cc cabinet member Paul Davies to ask BCBC to reconfirm timescales to progress the CAT transfer. The Vice-Chair, Councillor M Williams, was asked to visit the play area to sign off the work on behalf of the council. In addition, a representative of the contracted company will inspect the work and give a written report to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to write to the land owner again regarding access for the work in October if no reply is received in the next few weeks. The unforeseen extra cost was disappointing, but accepted. The Clerk was asked to re-submit the Llys Gwyn T&CC Fund application with amended elements and to say we've sought external advice and have adapted the plan as requested.

43/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor G Landon: had attended a recent Coety Primary School Governors meeting where children from various groups had prepared and made presentations on school life. He said the presentations had all been excellent and equal to professional presentations he'd attended.

Councillor A Wathan: had attended Litchard Primary School to present the Community Award winner, with his award and vouchers. Ezra Davies, 7, had raised £700+ for Diabetes UK by swimming a total of 11 miles.

Councillor Y Walton-Davies: raised complaints from residents about the state of the road near Byeastwood Farm where the surface is eroding. Councillor Walton-Davies also said that residents are not happy that a field on Heol Las is being turned into a builders yard with shipping containers placed in the field.

Resolved: The information was noted. Councillor Wathan said he'd submit a BCBC referral regarding the road surface erosion and asked Councillor Walton-Davies to forward photos of the road to him. It was noted that no planning applications had been sent to CHCC for shipping containers in Coity.

44/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Amanda Williams: gave updates on many issues including resident complaints about the prison dogs barking and disrupting residents at Parc Derwen. A new BCBC cabinet member will visit the ward soon and Councillor Williams has been supporting the lady from Llys Gwyn as detailed in minute 34/24-25 above. It was noted that a child had been injured climbing into a house in Pendre, which had not been boarded up following a house fire some time ago, that Councillor Williams is still pursuing progress on a play area for Trem y Castell and drainage issues in Parc Derwen are on-going.

Councillor M Williams and Councillor A Wathan: said there is lots of disquiet across the wards on the condition of the borough. Councillor Wathan informed members that from 8th August 2024 the free parking in the Rhiw multi-storey will be from 4pm.

Resolved: All information was noted

45/24-25 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:

- Theory v Practice of being a local Councillor - Research Study
- New Consultation - Draft Priorities for Culture 2024-2030
- BCBC - Notice of Vacancy Pendre Ward

- Planning Applicant - correspondence ref CHCC's response, but the application has since been withdrawn.
- Nursing Home Abuse Centre - request to share information on CHCC's website
- Coity Wallia Commoners - request for information
- Maesteg Town Council - save the date for the Chair to attend the Civic Service on 22/9/24
- Age Cymru - request to share Listen and Connect service for isolated older people
- Welsh Blood Service - request to share information on blood collection in the area
- PEDW - acknowledgement of objection to de-register land at Cefn Hirgoed
- Member of the Public - request for land ownership information around Parc Prison
- Welsh Government - request for business information in the area
- Member of the Public - application for co-option

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to decline the request from the Nursing Home Abuse Centre as this was not based in Wales, the request from Coity Wallia Commoners was following a comment made by a resident not in an official capacity and the Clerk was asked to respond, the Age Cymru and Welsh Blood Service information had been shared with Councillors and the enquiry about land ownership had been answered by the Clerk.

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

46/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

4 planning applications had been received, along with 5 decisions and 0 appeals and 4 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales. It was noted that application P/24/303/FUL has now been withdrawn.

Correspondence on an application to deregister land at Hirgoed Common had been received.

In addition, in regard to application P/24/404/FUL the Clerk was asked to write to Planning at BCBC to express CHCC's concern that many retrospective applications are granted consent and to ask for reassurance that any future applications of similar requests will be treated equally.

Resolved: No objections were made on the planning applications. However CHCC has concerns that due regard is not being given to the Coity Wallia Act 1976 and the Clerk was asked to write to seek assurances that it is being handled correctly as the 1976 Act shouldn't be overlooked with an application under the 2006 Act. The Clerk was asked to write to Planning at BCBC to seek reassurance that retrospective applications are treated the same as any future applications of similar requests. It

was agreed to object to the de-registration of land at Cefn Hirgoed as junction 36 does not have the capacity for more traffic.

47/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Powell Dobson Architects Presentation - Coity Higher Community Centre
- Parc Derwen
- Christmas 2024
- Remote Meeting Equipment

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 on Thursday 12th September 2024 at the earlier time of 6.30 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm.