



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe (zoom)
Y Walton-Davies
L Jeffreys (zoom)
G Langdon (zoom)
L Lewis
A Williams (zoom)
J Williams
M Williams

Apologies: Councillors N Deere, L Richards and D Wingar

Public: None

Minute 114/24-25

115/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Bridgend TC	All relevant All relevant incl. 121/24- 25	Member Member Co-option	No/No No/No No/No
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Yvonne Walton-Davies	St Brides Minor CC	126/24-25	Member	No/No
Gareth Langdon	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters Parc Derwen Bridgend TC	All relevant All relevant 121/24-25	Member Resident Co-option	No/No No/No No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Brynteg School Proposals by M Williams Coity Festivals	All relevant All relevant All relevant 107/24-25 All relevant	Member Chair of Governors Governor Wife Member	No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters Proposals by A Williams St Brides Minor CC Coity Festivals	All relevant All relevant 126/24-25 All relevant	Member Husband Member Member	No/No No/No No/No No/No

116/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2024 PRECEPT MEETING

The Minutes of the December 2025 Precept 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.

117/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2025 PRECEPT MEETING

Resolved: All resolutions actioned, no updates apart from CAT and projects which will be covered in the Clerks' report.

118/24 -25 FEEDBACK BY ALL ON THE GREEN SPACES PLAN

The Green Spaces Plan document had been included with the meeting papers for all to consider. This was discussed and 1 amendment noted.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed that Councillor M Williams would update the plan and send a copy to Persimmon and the Clerk would upload the updated plan to the council's website.

119/24-25 SUGGESTIONS FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER

This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to write a draft and include the following:

- A public consultation on local events and a request for volunteers to run such events
- CAT transfer of Pendre Fields, Litchard Fields and Coity Higher Community Centre
- Promotion of Coity Wallia Common
- Green Spaces Plan - consult and put a link into the web page.

Resolved: The above suggestions were unanimously agreed.

120/24-25 MAYOR'S CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The details of the award had been included in the meeting papers. This was discussed. The deadline for entries is 17th January 2025.

Resolved: It was agreed that nominations would be submitted by individual councillors not as a council nomination.

121/24-25 CO-OPTION PENDRE WARD

One application had been received.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Peter Robinson.

122/24-25 T&CC FUND PROJECT SUGGESTIONS 25/26

Details of the fund had been circulated to Members with their meeting papers and ideas were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to submit an application for the remainder of the allotment garden roadway, other facilities for the allotment and the Coety Primary School allotment into one application. The Clerk would speak to Clive Paynter to discuss the Coety Primary School aspect and obtain quotes for the other works.

123/24-25 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 Asst. Clerk ran through the budget monitoring sheet and answered any questions raised.

3.Dog Waste Bags

The cost of dog waste bags was mentioned and a request was made for this to be included on the February agenda.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for December 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved. The cost of dog bags will be added to the February agenda.

124/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT UPDATES

CAT Update:

The Clerk informed Members that the New Business Plan (dated January 2025) is being discussed at the CAT Steering Group meeting the w/c 13th January.

The Clerk had written to Mark Shephard, Councillor J Spanswick and Janine Nightingale to invite them to meet to discuss the council's plans and is awaiting replies.

Project Updates:

Black Path Project: A disappointing response had been received to the Black Path Project proposals and a copy had been circulated to Members.

Footpath Castle/Church: The tree maintenance contractor has had to apply for permission to carry out work to the trees as they are in a conservation area. The Clerk has chased this up via email and phone but has not received a response. There is no evidence of an application on BCBC's planning portal. This in turn is delaying the installation of the solar lighting columns as the trees need to be cut back before they are installed. In addition, a third letter to the landowner requesting access to carry out the footpath work at the end of March has not received a reply.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: The Clerk is waiting to receive the Heads of Terms for the Chair to sign. The Clerk had taken advice on whether planning permission was needed as the height of the play equipment is 3m, a meter below the 4m required for planning permission, but the advice from BCBC was that as the area is not currently a play area

and has not been in CHCC's control or specifically used by CHCC previously planning permission is required.

The Clerk also informed Members that the cost of the equipment has risen 2.5% since the quote was obtained and has risen from £27,335 to £27,999 an increase of £664.

Other Matters:

Defibrillators: Councillors Deere and Richards have now taken over responsibility for the defibrillators and registered on The Circuit. Councillor Deere has set up a safety culture audit to aid their work.

Conservators: Following feedback to the December 2024 meeting, the Clerk has received an email of apology for the missed request for further information. In regard to the amount requested, the email says that proportion of the common cannot be used for financing and that the Board are not in a position to turn down any funds so whatever the council can contribute would be appreciated.

Allotment: A resident whose back garden wall forms part of the boundary of the allotment has been in touch with the Clerk regarding some damage caused to the plants on her back garden wall and the removal of coping stones. This has caused some distress and the Clerk will try and get to the bottom of how this happened.

Christmas: It was noted that there had been many issues this year with Christmas trees leaning and lighting column motifs not working; all caused by the storms and high winds experienced in recent weeks. In addition Councillor Jeffreys had raised concerns with the Clerk regarding the motif lighting in Parc Derwen being more one side of the bottom spine road than the other. The Clerk explained the reasons as not all lighting columns are suitable for use.

Resolved: All information was approved and accepted. Councillor A Williams agreed to raise the Black Path project with the Corporate Director of Communities. The Clerk was asked to continue to chase the tree contractor and it was agreed that the Chair and Clerk would request to meet with the land owner to obtain permission to use his land to access the footpath. The Clerk was asked to check ref. planning permission with Play Wales. The increase in cost was noted and accepted. It was agreed that the council would cover the cost of the gardener's fees for a morning to put right the damage caused to a resident's garden if no clarity could be found by further investigation by the Clerk.

125/24-25 BOROUGH AND WARD REPORTS

Councillor A Williams gave an update on the following at Parc Derwen:

- Street lights that are not working
- An update on Inscape's landscaping work
- The Pugh's project
- Hedge replacement and tree cut back

In addition Councillor Williams gave an update on:

- Parking issues near Litchard Primary School with residents being verbally abused and causing extreme upset and difficulties for emergency vehicles.
- Coety Primary School extension and plans to link the 4G to the school
- Ice issues on Litchard Fields paths
- Pot holes and ice near the junction to Hendre Lanes
- Tree maintenance to the trees within the boundary of the old Park Hospital grounds
- Keys for bollard barriers
- An update on the chip shop and issues regarding the location of the extractor
- Planter Llys Gwyn not being filled with plants and now being used as a place for litter.

Councillor M Williams asked for any tree maintenance reports for the Pendre area to be passed on to him as he was already dealing with some issues.

Councillor L Lewis offered to prune the fruit trees at Litchard Park play area (Tanyrallt).

Resolved: The information was noted. Councillor A Williams will discuss the planter planting with V2C. Councillor Lewis' offer was accepted.

126/24-25 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 National Awards event being held on 30th April 2025.
Nominations to be received by 28/2/25
- Confirmation of receipt of precept request for £122,792 for 25/26
- Ronald McDonald House - financial request
- Invite to Chair and Clerk to attend the next Future of Local Service Delivery meeting on 21/1/25 at BCBC
- Entries for Wales in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood closes 31/3/25
- St Brides Minor letter asking for a donation towards the Sarn Library Service to enable them to open 5 days a week.

- **Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to defer the Ronald McDonald House financial request and the St Brides Minor request to the March 2025 meeting. The Chair and Clerk will attend the Future of Local Service Delivery meeting on 21/1/25.**

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

127/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

10 planning applications had been received, along with 6 decisions and 0 appeals and 3 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

The planning applications were discussed.

Resolved: No objections were made to any of the planning applications.

128/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- The cost of dog waste bags

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

The next meeting will be an ordinary meeting to be held on Thursday 13th February 2025 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.