



## **COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM**

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: N Deere (zoom)  
Y Walton-Davies  
L Jeffreys  
G Langdon (zoom)  
L Lewis (zoom)  
L Richards  
P Robinson  
A Williams (zoom)  
J Williams  
M Williams  
D Wingar

Apologies: Councillor S Bletsoe

Public: None

**Minute 129/24-25**

**130/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

| Councillor              | Item                            | Minute                    | Interest                                 | Speak/Vote     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| Nathan Deere            | Bridgend Town Council<br>V2C    | All relevant<br>132/24-25 | Member<br>Employer                       | No/No<br>No/No |
| Lynda Jeffreys          | Parc Derwen                     | All relevant              | Resident                                 | No/No          |
| Yvonne<br>Walton-Davies | St Brides Minor CC              | 142/24-25                 | Member                                   | No/No          |
| Gareth<br>Langdon       | Parc Derwen                     | All relevant              | Resident                                 | No/No          |
| P Robinson              | Playscheme                      | 133/24-25                 | Friend of<br>Forces Fitness              | No/No          |
|                         | Parc Derwen                     | All relevant              | Resident                                 | No/No          |
|                         | Bridgend Town Council           | All relevant              | Member                                   | No/No          |
| Alan Wathan             | BCBC Matters                    | All relevant              | Member                                   | No/No          |
|                         | Parc Derwen                     | All relevant              | Resident                                 | No/No          |
|                         | Bridgend TC                     | All relevant              | Member                                   | No/No          |
| Amanda<br>Williams      | BCBC Matters                    | All relevant              | Member                                   | No/No          |
|                         | Coety Primary School            | All relevant              | Chair of<br>Governors                    | No/No          |
|                         | Brynteg School                  | All relevant              | Governor                                 | No/No          |
|                         | Proposals by M Williams         | All relevant              | Wife                                     | No/No          |
| John Williams           | Parc Derwen                     |                           | Resident                                 | No/No          |
| Martin<br>Williams      | BCBC Matters                    | All relevant              | Member                                   | No/No          |
|                         | Proposals by A Williams         | All relevant              | Husband                                  | No/No          |
|                         | St Brides Minor CC              | 142/24-25                 | Member                                   | No/No          |
|                         | Electoral Arrangement<br>Review | 134/24-25                 | Husband of<br>Working<br>Group<br>Member | No/No          |

**131/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Minutes of the January 2025 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.

NOTE: Councillor A Williams did not take part in the item on T&CC Fund Project Suggestions.

**132/24-25    MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

**Minute 118/24-25 Feedback by all on the Green Spaces Plan:** the Clerk had shared the plan with all councillors and had published the plan on the council's website.

**Minute 122/24-25 T&CC Fund Project Suggestions 25/26:** One quote had been received for the allotment roadway totalling £24,597. The Clerk was trying to obtain another but so far had not received any uptake. The Clerk had met with the Caretaker and Business Managers at Coity Primary School and now that they have plans for their project they have requested a stone/dust pathway to be included in the council's T&CC grant funding application. This was discussed and a proposal made to apply for the funding and decide whether the council can go ahead with the work once the outcome of the grant funding is known.

**Minute 125/24-25 Borough and Ward Reports:** Councillor A Williams confirmed that V2C had planted up the planter at Llys Gwyn and Councillor L Lewis confirmed that the fruit tree pruning of the community orchard in Pendre would be carried out in the next week or so.

**Minute 126/24-25 Correspondence:** The Chair and Clerk had attended a second Future of Local Service Delivery meeting at BCBC and the Chair gave some feedback. This was discussed it was noted that the council already provides additional service with its CATs, weed spraying, bin emptying, grass cutting, flower planting etc.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. A vote was taken on the proposal to apply for the T&CC funding for both allotment projects. Councillor L Jeffreys voted against eleven councillors voted for.

**133/24 -25    PLAYSCHEME 2025**

Details of the availability and costs from the current providers, Youthworks and Forces Fitness, had been included in the papers and these were discussed. In addition the Clerk informed members that Forces Fitness requested the use of a toilet. The Clerk had priced the cost and the average cost for a week is £36.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to use Youthworks and Forces Fitness services to provide the same service as 24/25: Youthworks 3 sessions one in each ward during the school summer holidays and Forces Fitness 3 sessions in Coity Recreational Field for 3 weeks in the school summer holidays. The sessions would be held every other week. The council will provide a Portaloo.

**134/24-25    ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENT REVIEW**

The relevant pages of the review had been copied for councillors and these were discussed. The effect on the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators representation of the merger of two of the councils to form one were raised; these concerns have been raised

with Democratic Services at BCBC.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to include this on the March 2025 agenda for further discussion

#### **135/24-25 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

A letter has been received from the Leader of BCBC following the recent Future of Local Service Delivery meeting asking for views on the future of the Town and Community Council Forum, specifically the timing, format and frequency of the meetings moving forward. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to feedback that the agenda should only have two items until they are resolved: The Future of Local Service Delivery and What the Forum should be going forward and that the meeting is open to the public. The Clerk was asked to seek advice on double taxation. The Clerk was also asked to write to the CEO at BCBC to request a copy of BCBC's T&CC Charter.

#### **136/24-25 PARC DERWEN UPDATE**

Councillor Amanda Williams said that none of the works discussed at the last meeting with Persimmon had been carried out except for the repair of one lighting column. Councillor Williams had chased an update on the drainage work and all other outstanding matters. Councillor Williams gave an update on Pugh's planning permission, issues with the grass on the playing fields, parking issues, pooling water issues, works to the 4G pitch. There was no update on the Fish & Chip shop.

Councillor L Jeffreys said that a resident had raised concerns regarding the removal of knotweed from the site and a discrepancy with the certificate shown.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. Councillor Williams would make enquiries about the knotweed removal and certificate.

#### **137/24-25 COST OF DOG WASTE BAGS**

A breakdown of the year-on-year cost of providing dog bags was discussed. The cost has soared despite a reduction in the number of bags purchased as it appears they are being used by some residents as a supply and not an emergency bag.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to stop supplying the bags once the current supply has run out, to put signage on bins reminding residents to pick up after their dogs and to include an item in the Spring newsletter letting people know.

## **138/24-25    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.

**Resolved:** Authority was given for the payments for January 2025 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved.

## **139/24-25    CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT UPDATES**

**CAT Update:** REACH had funded opening up works at the Community Centre which had been carried out the day before the meeting. Initial feedback is that it looks positive. The full report will be sent out to the Clerk this week who will forward it on to councillors.

Following a request to meet with BCBC in January a meeting is now planned for 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Project Updates:**

**Black Path Project:** There was no update on this project.

**Footpath Castle/Church:** The Clerk informed councillors that a request for a meeting with the landowner had been declined and he had confirmed that the council will not be given access over his land to enable the footpath work to be carried out. Alternatives have been looked at and the only alternative is via the churchyard which would slow up work and increase the cost to £18,790. The TPO request ends on 14/2/25 and the contractor has assured the Clerk that the work will be carried out as soon as permission is granted and then the contractor for the solar lights can go ahead.

**Llys Gwyn Play Area:** The Clerk had sought advice from Play Wales and this was relayed to councillors. V2C had asked to see the plan and spec and were happy.

### **Other Matters:**

**Lamp Light of Peace:** the Clerk informed councillors that because the lamps are round the engraved plaques have popped off and so an alternative needs to be found.

**Play Area Inspections:** Annual inspections have been carried out this week and whilst there is some low risk work including painting etc. there is nothing high risk or immediate. The Clerk requested permission to get the work carried out.

**Heol West Plas resident garden damage from allotment:** The Clerk gave an update on her findings.

**Meeting with REMUS:** Despite several requests to meet this has been difficult to arrange. The Clerk will persevere.

**Meeting with Taylor Wimpey:** As instructed the Clerk had written to request a meeting and they've been in touch.

**Allotment Gardens:** the overhanging brambles to the side of the roadway into the gardens has been cut back.

**Bus Stops:** The Clerk gave an update on the damaged bus stop roof at the top of Heol Spencer and some findings she'd made when looking into this matter. An inspection has been carried out by BCBC and the Clerk is awaiting a quote for the repair work.

**Grass Cutting 25/26 and Flower Planting 25/26:** were discussed.

**Resolved:** All information was approved and accepted. A contact for laser printing onto the Lamp Lights of Peace was suggested, Councillor A Williams agreed to speak to representatives of CADW and the Church to see if a way forward can be found to carry out the footpath work. It was agreed to cover the cost of tidying up the flower bed to a maximum of a morning's work and for the Clerk to get the work done on the play areas. The Clerk was asked to include Bus Stops on the March 2025 agenda and to speak to the previous Clerk about them. The new legislation for the procurement Act 2023 is due to come into force in February 2025. One Voice Wales' legal team have not yet issued advice notes regarding this new legislation and therefore it was felt that the council cannot test the market at this time and agreed to continue with their existing long term contractor for grass cutting and Flower Planting.

#### **140/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS**

**Councillor L Jeffreys:** had attended the area meeting for One Voice Wales where items included sustainable planning, CAT transfers particularly the money being offered by some local authorities for CATs on sports pavilions is particularly low.

**Councillors A Williams and D Wingar:** had represented the council at a recent Board of Conservators meeting.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

#### **141/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES**

**Councillor A Williams:** had given her updates in the Parc Derwen report.

**Councillors A Wathan and M Williams:** had nothing to add.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC about its concerns about the cutting down of trees at Rushfield Gardens.

### **142/24-25 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:

- CISS - financial request
- Coity Wallia Board of Conservators - funding request for 25/26 of £1,250.
- Resident - financial request for a dance group of 8 travelling to Spain to represent Wales. 2 live in Coity requesting £50 per dancer.
- St John's Ambulance - financial request
- National Allotment Society - Allotment Officers' Forum
- Litchard Football Club - interested in finding a permanent home for the club
- Last Energy - invitation to a consultation in Coytrahen 17/2/25 on the proposed energy plant at Llynfi
- Several Residents concerns on the Cenin proposals for Employment Hub, de-registration of land, Wind Farm, Solar Farm, Hybont etc.
- Welsh Government - Electoral Review Programme 2025 (closes 24/3/25)
- St Brides Minor CC - invitation to the Chair and Clerk to attend a meeting on 26/2/25

**Resolved:** The correspondence was noted. The financial requests were deferred to the March 2025 meeting. The request from the Board of Conservators was noted and would be discussed at the March 2025 meeting. The Chair and Clerk had accepted St Brides Minor CC's invitation and residents' concerns were noted. The financial requests and the correspondence from Litchard FC had been acknowledged by the Clerk.

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

### **143/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS**

4 planning applications had been received, along with 5 decisions and 1 appeal and 2 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

In addition, correspondence had been received from PEDW CAS-03468-K3B2J8 ref. Cefn Hirgoed & Hirwaun Common, Sarn, Bridgend.

The planning applications were discussed.

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

### **144/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE MARCH 2025 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Coity Wallia Board of Conservators Financial Request 25/26

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

- Electoral Arrangement Review
- Bus Stops
- Deferred Financial Requests 24/25

**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 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.