



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

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

Apologies: Councillors L Jeffreys & L Lewis

Public: None

There was a technical issue and though the councillors were online at the start of the meeting to take part via zoom, it was impossible to retain a connection.

Minute 165/4-25

166/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
Gareth Langdon	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Peter Robinson	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters Parc Derwen Bridgend TC	All relevant All relevant All relevant	Member Resident Member	No/No No/No No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Brynteg School Proposals by M Williams	All relevant All relevant incl. 182/24-25 All relevant All relevant	Member Chair of Governors Governor Wife	No/No No/No No/No No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters incl. Standards Committee Proposals by A Williams Sarn Library	All relevant All relevant All relevant 172/24-25	Member Husband Member St BMCC	No/No No/No No/No No/No

167/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the March 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.

168/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 149/24-25 Matters Arising from the January 2025 Ordinary Meeting

T&CC Fund: Council noted that its application was not successful. It was understood that there were ‘inconsistencies’ in the application. The Clerk had contacted the CAT Officer to ask what the inconsistencies were and received a response saying the official notifications will be sent out shortly and they will be in contact to discuss.

Cost of Dog Waste Bags: the Clerk had purchased stickers for the 9 bins in Parc Derwen and Councillor J Williams will apply them.

Minute 152/24-25 Feedback from Taylor Wimpey and REMUS Meetings

The two benches have been purchased and will be installed as soon as they are received. Councillor A Williams did not have an update on the request to change the swing at Oakwood View and the request for a bin near the play area at Oakwood View had received the response that there is no requirement for a bin in that location.

Minute 153/24-25 Bus Shelters

The Clerk had made further enquiries and had been told that there are no leases for the brick built shelters and that it is unlikely that the other type of shelters have leases as the agreement is between BCBC and the owners Clear Channel.

Minute 154/24-25 Electoral Arrangement Review

The council's feedback was submitted to BCBC and an acknowledgement received. The Clerk had been contacted by an adjoining council and updated councillors on the correspondence.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to conduct a land registry search to identify land ownership of the Coity bus shelter on Heol Spencer.

169/24 -25 HCRLAW - APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT WORKS ON COMMON LAND

A covering email, letter and notice had been included in the meeting papers. The deadline for comments is Friday 11th April 2025. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed to object to the application and reinstate the council's view that the wrong Act is being used for this application and that the 1976 Coity Wallia Act is the correct legislation not the Commons Act 2006

170/24-25 STANDARDS COMMITTEE - BEST PRACTICE

Included in the meeting papers was a list of what the Standards Committee look for as best practice when they sit in on T&CC meetings. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Standing Orders would be updated to include that councillors announce themselves at the start of each meeting so that they can be identified by any members of the public in attendance.

171/24-25 VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY 2025

The council has previously agreed to light the lamp lights of peace in each ward and to light a beacon in Coity Castle at 9.30 pm on 8th May 2025. In addition the gardeners will plant red, white and blue flowers in the planters and the church bells at St Mary's Coity will ring at 6.30 pm.

Councillors' Williams will present the two lamp lights of peace to the two primary schools to light.

The Clerk reminded members that there is a UK wide request to sing I Vow To The My Country as the lamps and beacons are lit and to encourage residents to eat Fish and Chips as a collective 'tribute' to the amazing and brave fishermen and farmers who kept the nation fed during this time.

The Clerk said that lighting the lamps and beacons will clash with the council's next meeting.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Annual Meeting will be held at the earlier time of 6.00 pm on 8th May and will be followed immediately by the Ordinary Meeting. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the electricity to be switched on in Coity Castle.

Note: Councillor M Williams left the room for the next item and declared an interest as members of St Brides Minor Community Council.

172/52-25 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SARN LIBRARY SERVICES 25/26

A letter had been received from St Brides Minor CC requesting a contribution towards the library services at Sarn as SBC CC. They are the only T&CC in the borough who contribute towards the library service and unfortunately had to cut its contribution to Awen Cultural Trust in 24/25 resulting in an immediate cut in library hours with the library closed on a Friday. They are seeing a contribution from the 4 surrounding minor authorities whose residents use the library. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to donate up to the value of 30 hours for 25/26 towards the cost. This would be confirmed by the number of hours the librarian spends providing services at Coety and Litchard Primary Schools.

173/24-25 SOUTH EAST WALES REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANS

Due to a technical error with the internet at the meeting location Councillor Y Walton-Davies was not in attendance to speak about this item.

Resolved: It was agreed that councillors would read the information sent out to them via email and email comments to the Clerk by 2nd May so that they could be collated and sent out with the May meeting papers for discussion at the May meeting.

174/24-25 IRPW ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A copy of the report had been sent out to councillors via email and a copy of the T&CC section had been included in the papers.

Resolved: There were no changes to the determinations and it was agreed that the council's Allowances Policy covers the requirements stated including how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves mid-year. It was noted that there is no longer a requirement to publish the names of councillors who take the allowances, only the total amount of each allowance paid.

175/24-25 SPEED LIMITS/CONCERNS LINK ROAD

Councillor A Williams raised her concerns that the speed sign coming into Coity at Heol Simonstone is not working.

Councillor Williams also informed members that there were concerns from residents about the safety of the crossing points at the top of Rotary Way near the TA Centre and further down at the Brackla roundabout. Both locations are well used by pedestrians. In addition Councillor Williams raised concerns that the bridge from Parc Derwen to Litchard Fields is too steep to allow wheelchair users to safely descend it.

Resolved: All concerns were noted. The Clerk would request a repair to the speed sign. Councillor M Williams will amend the Active Travel Plan to reflect the issues with the crossing points and the bridge issue.

176/24-25 PARC DERWEN UPDATE

Councillor A Williams reported that lighting column issues were on-going, no further landscaping had been carried out, 1 drain had been fixed and the planning applications were stuck in the system.

Resolved: The information was noted.

177/24-25 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 March 2025 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved.

178/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT UPDATES

CAT Update: The council's business manager has updated the plan and suggested further information which would add to the plan. The Clerk had provided him with the information and asked that the four councillors who have project management experience provide a short bio to include in the document.

Black Path Project: No further update.

Footpath Castle/Church: The Clerk and Councillor M Williams had held a site meeting with the contractor and gave an update. A new quote had been requested from the contractor and this had increase by £960. The solar lights for the path and play areas are due to be installed w/c 21st April 2025.

Community Shield Award 2024/25: A draft notice inviting nominations for the awards was included in the meeting papers.

Lamp Lights of Peace for Schools: Since agreeing to laser print the lamps the Clerk has not received responses to correspondence with the printer. As time is getting on the Clerk gave the lamps and the previously engraved tabs to Councillors' Williams.

Grass cutting: The Clerk informed council that she had engaged the services of Evans Garden Services to carry out the council's grass cutting until October 2025.

Footpath Maintenance: The Clerk informed council that she is still looking for a contractor to carry out the footpath maintenance up to October.

Allotment Gardens: All plots are filled and all money paid except for one plot. The Clerk explained that there appears to be confusion on the tenant's part about payment and had written to the tenant again.

Litter Bin Parc Derwen: The Clerk has purchased stickers to put on the bins in Parc Derwen reminding residents to pick up after their dogs. Following a request to Keep Wales Tidy to borrow a camera to install near the bin at the bottom of Parc Derwen to monitor fly tipping, unfortunately they are unable to loan a camera. The Clerk asked for guidance on whether to get the dog bag dispensers removed.

Reported this month: Fly tipping on Rotary Way and the replacement of an ugly lighting electrical box on Heol Castell Coity.

Resolved: All information was approved and accepted. The draft notice for the Community Shield Award 2024/25 was unanimously approved and the Clerk was asked to publish it on the council's noticeboards and on the website; councillors would be sent an electronic copy to enable them to share it on their social media pages and local hubs. The new quote for the footpath between the castle/church was accepted. The Clerks action in regarding to securing a last minute grass cutting contractor was unanimously approved and accepted. It was agreed that if the tenant doesn't pay the rent within the next two weeks the Chair will write to the tenant requesting payment. It was unanimously agreed to remove the dog waste bag dispensers.

179/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS

There were no members reports.

180/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor A Williams: passed on a request for a bin at Llys Gwyn and gave an update on some anti-social behaviour in the area. She also updated members on anti-social behaviour at Oakwood View and a link from the 4G pitch at Parc Derwen to the school, the commuted sum and the resurfacing and 12 months maintenance. Bins and recycling continue to be an issue at Parc Derwen and gave an update on matters at Parc Prison which affect staffing levels at BCBC.

Councillors A Wathan and M Williams: had nothing to add all had been covered in Councillor A Williams' report.

Resolved: The information was noted.

181/24-25 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:

- BCBC - Lease for land at Llys Gwyn, Pendre
- BCBC - T&CC Forum meeting planned for 28th April 2025 has been cancelled.
- Resident - bins footpath 17, photos of dog waste bags hanging on trees, request to post on Parc Derwen facebook pages ref. dog waste bags on footpath 17
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod - financial request
- Teenage Cancer Trust - financial request
- Dogs Trust - poster on noticeboards
- Coity Wallia Commoners - Cwmleri to Spencer Road footpath
- Maesteg Town Council - save the date for civic service on 20th July at 2.30 pm
- Resident - request ref. memorial bench in Litchard
- One Voice Wales - Motions for 2025 AGM (received by 20th June)
- Coity Chiefs - update on CAT Litchard Fields

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. It was unanimously agreed to accept the lease for the land at Llys Gwyn and the Chair was asked to sign the lease. As the lease states the land was formerly a play area the Clerk was asked to double check with the planning department that planning permission is necessary. The two financial requests were deferred to March 2026, the resident's concerns ref. Parc Derwen were noted. It was agreed to publish the Dogs Trust poster, the request for an update from Coity Wallia Commoners had been provided, the Motions for 2025 AGM would be included on the May agenda. The Clerk was asked to inform Coity

Chiefs that negotiations are on-going, that following a recent meeting the council is waiting on feedback from BCBC and that the business plan is being updated. The Clerk was asked to let the resident know that the council is currently drafting a policy for benches which will be included on the June 2025 agenda.

NOTE: Councillor Alan Wathan did not take part in this next item which was chaired by Councillor Martin Williams. Councillor A Williams did not take part in the next item and declared an interest as Chair of Governors at Coety Primary School.

182/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

3 planning applications had been received, along with 6 decisions and 0 appeals and 2 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales. The planning applications were discussed.

In addition 2 items of correspondence had been received regarding the enlargement of Coety Primary School.

Resolved: No objections were made to any of the planning applications. Councillors were asked to forward their views on P/25/137/BCB to the Clerk no later than 21st April 2025.

183/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2025 ORDINARY MEETING

- Spring Bulbs
- South East Wales Regional Transport Plan
- Motions for One Voice Wales AGM
- Draft Newsletter

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

The next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting to be held at the earlier time of 6.00 pm followed by the Ordinary meeting to be held immediately after the Annual Meeting on Thursday 8th May 2025 at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.