

CYNGOR CYMUNED
YNYSYBWL & COED-Y-CWM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT YNYSYBWL COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025 @ 18:45PM
CLERK ANNEMARIE BEVAN EDWARDS

PRESENT: Councillors Messrs E. Wigfall, B. Williams, C. Evans, and Mrs C. Banwell, Mrs B. Leach

1. TO RECEIVE DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Messrs C. Binks, R. Davies, G. Haines and Mrs A. Ellis, Mrs P. Evans, Mrs T. Watkins

3. PUBLIC BREAK

The meeting commenced with a presentation from two employees of Castell Group Building Company, Llyr Morris and Dyfan Williams and one employee of Hafod, Chris Monk. The presentation outlined the current proposal submitted to RCT to build social houses on a site at Heol Ffordd-y-Beddol in Coed-y-Cwm. The group presented the proposal in the hope that the community council would provide feedback and any insight they may have with regard to the proposal. The group informed council that following a Freedom on Information request they submitted they have been informed that there are currently 500 individuals on the waiting list for social housing in the area with average waiting time for allocation of housing being 500 days. The group stated that the Castell Group Building Company are looking to provide 20 units of affordable housing on this site. These are rental properties, prioritised by need and there is no shared ownership properties proposed. The Castell Group informed council that the construction of these houses will require the building company undertake local improvements in the form of targeted employment or environmental improvements (although, they do not know what form these will be at present). The proposal is currently with the Local Authority and other authorities e.g. Welsh Water who are reviewing items such as the building of a pumping station.

Several issues were highlighted by community councillors, Cllr Leach asked if priority would be given to local residents, but was told this would not be the case. Cllr B. Williams cited concern that no effort had been made by the company to undertake local engagement initiatives and that residents in the area who are aware of the proposal are concerned about items such as the on-road parking and water drainage issues. The Castell Group representatives stated that each unit had dedicated off road parking and that the building specs were in line with Welsh Government standards – which are very high. There followed a discussion between Cllr Williams and the group about a dog walking path in the area and Cllr Williams was reassured by the group that would remain – but it was possible it would be improved as one of the local initiatives. Cllr Wigfall questioned the group about the company referencing the proposal as being sited in Glyncoch and highlighted that this was misrepresentation. The group stated that this was an error and would be changed.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr B. Williams and **SECONDED** by Cllr E. Wigfall and **RESOLVED** by Council that the company should communicate with the Clerk to the council to organise a public meeting for local residents of Coed-y-Cwm and the Castell Group Company.

4. POLICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER REPORT

There was no report from the Environmental Officer.

The Chair presented the report from the PCSO – no actions.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS ON THE 2nd and 12TH DECEMBER 2024 AS AN ACCURATE RECORD

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr E. Wigfall and **SECONDED** by Cllr C. Banwell to approve the minutes from the 2nd and 12th of December 2024, this was approved by council.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

With regard to matters arising from the minutes, Cllr C. Evans informed council that he was very concerned about inappropriate conduct displayed by one of the council members at the meeting on the 12th December 2024 which resulted in the meeting having to be suspended for a period of time. Cllr C Evans stated that he wanted it minuted that it is necessary to invoke Standing Orders with regard to the conduct of councillors at council meetings as he did not want to witness this behaviour again. The Chair informed Cllr C Evans that this issue was to be addressed under another item on the agenda, but stated that his concerns had been noted and would be addressed.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1 Cllr E. Wigfall reviewed the roles of the Chair and the Clerk as prescribed by One Voice Wales and the SLCC (see appendix 1) There was a brief discussion about the role of the Clerk and the Chair informed the council that contrary to current opinion of some council members, the Clerk to the council is allowed to speak at council meetings and the role allows the Clerk to steer the meetings with regard to legislative requirements and project management issues.

7.2 Cllr E. Wigfall followed up the point raised by Cllr C. Evans in item 6, and stated that council members had a duty to ensure they behaved in line with the expectations of councillors in the Code of Conduct. This training, he said is provided for councillors by OVW. It was confirmed that the Clerk has been in touch with OVW to see if this training can be provided at one of the council meetings to the all council members. Cllr E. Wigfall informed council that there is a training budget allowance and all councillors are able to access these funds for training. If councillors feel there is training, they would like to access to please contact the Clerk. The Clerk will continue to share the information from OVW with regard to training opportunities. It was agreed that the Clerk should forward to Code of Conduct to Councillors.

7.3 Cllr E. Wigfall explained to council OVW has undertaken a review of the digital facilities being used by community councils in Wales. YCC CC have relatively good digital facilities but they are in need of further development. The council is required to provide multi-location meetings, and to record and stream council meetings and this requires purchasing the necessary audio/visual equipment. Cllr Wigfall also asked if council would consider purchasing a tablet for use by council members to borrow in order to join meetings on line if needed. It was also noted that the ability to record meetings facilitates the moderation of the behaviour of council members at meetings. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr E Wigfall and **SECONDED** by Cllr Leach that the Clerk research costings for this equipment and it is presented to council in February.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

8.1 The Clerk made a presentation to council (see appendix 2) updating members on the Discretionary Expenditure processes for community councils in Wales. Following on from the

presentation there was a discussion about the processes applications for grant funding and how these to be updated.

During the presentation on Discretionary Expenditure the Clerk talked about the option for General Power of Competence (GPoC) as an option for discretionary expenditure, but explained that currently the council does not meet the criteria for this option. One of the criteria is the requirement for the Clerk to have a recognised qualification, the Clerk informed council that she is currently enrolled on the CiCLA course and asked council to approve allowing the Clerk to undertake the education and training during working hours. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Wigfall and **SECONDED** Cllr C Evans that the Clerk be allowed to allocate some of her working hours to study.

The issue of GPoC compliance will be added to the agenda in February.

The Clerk again informed council that the forms for grant applications and the application process needs to be reviewed in keeping with the updated information. It was noted that there is a meeting of the P+R committee in January 2025 and this item will be added to the agenda in February.

8.2 The Clerk informed council that in light of the information in item 8.1 it was necessary to reformat the budget document for 2025/2026 previously presented to council and this would need to be reviewed and ratified by council in February's meeting. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr E Wigfall and **SECONDED** by Cllr Williams that the reformatted budget document be presented to council in February. Cllr C. Banwell pointed out that it is very beneficial for councillors to undertake the training on council finances offered by OVW.

8.3 The Clerk asked council to ratify securing Mr Steve Williams to provide internal auditor services for 2025/2026. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr E. Wigfall and **SECONDED** by Cllr C Banwell to invite Steve Williams to be the internal auditor for 2025/2026.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no correspondence

10. TO CONSIDER TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The planning application submitted to create a track for vehicles to have access to the stables at Hendre Field was discussed. Comments have been sent by Cllr C. Banwell.

11. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

There was no Borough Councillors Report this month

12 TO ACCEPT ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR DECEMBER 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept as correct the accounts for December 2024.

13. TO CONSIDER ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE AGENDA BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Items 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 were not discussed because Cllr G Haines was detained in work

13.4 Cllr B. Leach fed back to council information on the developments for the refurbishment of the memorial at Lady Windsor Colliery. Council was informed that the presentation to be contained within the refurbished notice board was almost ready for review and it would be presented to council as soon as it was available. Cllr B Leach went on to inform council that she had spoken to Dewi Edwards of RCT and a list of the work required was read out to council. Cllr Leach explained that Dewi Edwards had requested a sum of £2000 to undertake the work. Cllr Wigfall asked if this included maintenance and was told it did not. Cllr C. Evans **PROPOSED** supporting this important project with £2000 and this was **SECONDED** by Cllr B Williams. It was **RESOLVED** that £2000 be provided for this work and the Clerk should contact Dewi Edwards at RCT to make enquiries about the ongoing maintenance of the site.

13.5 Cllr B Williams brought to the attention of council the fact that there were very few Christmas decorations in Coed-y-Cwm and the ones that were there were of very poor quality. Cllr Williams asked if this could be rectified for next Christmas.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk make the necessary investigations to improve the Christmas decorations in Coed-y-Cwm.

13.6 Cllr C. Banwell presented the item on behalf of Cllr P Evans who was absent from the meeting. The item was in regard to the Notice Board in the senior citizens complex in Ynysybwl. It was noted that not many of the residents attended for the Christmas dinners this year and Cllrs Evans and Banwell were told this is because the residents were not aware of the event. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Banwell and the Clerk would visit the residence to see if there is a notice board in place and report back to council.

14. COMMUNITY COUNCIL MAINTAINED DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Cllr Haines was not at the meeting to review this item.

15. MONTHLY FINANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW

The monthly financial documents were shared with council members via TEAMS and in hard copy and were approved by council and signed by the Chair.

16. NEXT MEETING

It was resolved that the next council meeting take place on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 18:45pm, in the Community Centre in Ynysybwl.