



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11th APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: Y Walton-Davies
G Langdon (zoom)
L Jeffreys (zoom)
L Lewis (zoom)
A Williams
M Williams
D Wingar (zoom)

Apologies: Councillors S Bletsoe, S Charles, L Richards and J Williams

Members of the Public: 9

Minute 159/23-24:

160/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant	Resident	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters 167/23-24	All relevant Coety Primary School	Member Chair of Governors	No/No No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters 163/23-24	All relevant Litchard Primary School	Member Governor	No/No No/No

161/23-24 TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY AWARD 2023 WINNERS

The Chair welcomed both category winners to the meeting. The winner of the Under 18 Category Ella Ratuco who was nominated for her fund raising work to help children worse off than her and in the Over 18 Category four representatives of Coity Chiefs Girls Football Club - Ben Jackson, Leeann Bekker, Shaun Horrex and Katrina Wheeler. All winners were presented with an engraved shield and a small gift.

Resolved: The Chair thanked all the winners for their amazing contribution and work within the Coity Higher community.

162/23-24 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the March 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.

163/23-24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 131/23-24 Clerk's Report

Black Path Project - the Clerk informed Members that at a recent meeting at BCBC had asked the Operations Manager for Communities if he could look into the delay on permission for a licence to enable this project.

Electricity Licence Coity Castle - the Clerk has been informed by Coity Village Association that the lights will be checked in the next couple of weeks.

Side Gate Into the Castle - Councillor A Williams will raise this at her next meeting with the PCSOs.

Minute 141/23-24 School Holiday Provision

The Clerk confirmed that both Forces Fitness and Youthworks have been booked for sessions in the school summer holidays. They will hold sessions every other week; Forces Fitness sessions will be held at Coity Field and Youthworks will use Great Western Avenue, Litchard Fields and Coity Field.

Minute 142/23-24 Wales in Bloom

Following receipt of the forms the Chair and Clerk had agreed that it was too late to enter this competition as it would be rushed. A full entry will be made in 2025 and this year the Clerk had submitted an entry for It's Your Neighbourhood which is non competitive but is a gateway into future entries.

Minute 144/23-24 Councillor Vacancy

A Notice of Vacancy has now been published for the vacancy left by Councillor Alison Hughes' resignation. The closing date for receipt of requests for an election is 4.00 pm on 23/4/24.

Minute 147/23-24 Review of Draft of Joint Correspondence with Coity Wallia Commoners

Following the last meeting the Clerk had submitted the changes to PCSO Michelle Rees and asked about printing and delivery to residents. This was discussed.

Minute 149/23-24 Green Spaces Parc Derwen

The Clerk had submitted the council's Expression of Interest in the list of land and the commuted sums agreed at the March meeting and received confirmation of the email from Ryan Greaney saying the content will be reviewed and considered in due course.

Minute 152/23-24 Clerk's Report including Project and CAT Updates

Joslin Play Area: the all weather surface at Joslin play area has been cleaned and the shrubs and ivy have been cut back to the parking area and the adjoining house's wall.

Allotment Gardens: most plots have been filled, there are only two half plots left and approximately 15 on the waiting list.

Aluminium Lighting Columns: the Clerk asked if either of the Borough Members had an update on this and the Clerk is getting mixed messages on what, if anything, can be placed on a column.

Resolved: All the information and action of the Clerk was agreed. Councillors A Williams, M Williams and A Wathan would arrange the printing and delivery of the information to the residents of Parc Derwen.

164/23-24 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Details of the Armed Forces Covenant had been sent out to Members with the meeting papers. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to sign the Covenant to demonstrate the council's support for the Armed Forces Community and for the principles of the Covenant.

165/23-24 SPRING BULB ORDER

The council has had a spring bulb planting scheme and each year purchases daffodil bulbs to plant in the community. The Clerk asked if Members wanted to continue with the scheme this year and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to not order any bulb this year and to consider sowing wildflower seeds instead. It was agreed to consider planting wildflower seeds instead and reconsider purchasing daffodil bulbs in 2025.

166/23-24 NEW CONSULTATION: SENEDD CYMRU (ELECTORAL CANDIDATE LISTS) BILL

An item of correspondence on a new consultation: Senedd Cymru (Electoral Candidate Lists) Bill had been sent out to all Members for consideration and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would submit feedback from Members on behalf of the council by the due date of 12th April 2024. The Clerk was asked to strongly oppose to the introduction of the closed list system which it considered to be profoundly undemocratic; it breaks the link between the electorate and those that represent them. It also puts too much power in the hands of political parties which further undermines the democratic process. The council also objects to the gender balance proposals. Candidates should be elected on their own strengths not because of gender.

167/23-24 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.Audit 2022/2023

Included in the papers was the conclusion of audit for 2022/23, which the Clerk/RFO was pleased to report was unqualified with no matters raised. The Clerk/RFO would now prepare the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and publish it on the council's website and noticeboards. No fee would be charged for copies of the audit documents.

4.Replacement Cheque

The cheque paid to Coety Primary School for room hire had been returned as it should have been made payable to BCBC. Authority was sought to replace the cheque.

5.Rights of Way Agency Agreement Claim 2022/2023

The Clerk/RFO confirmed that a claim for £1,469 had been made for footpath maintenance in 2022/23.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for March 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet and the Conclusion of Audit for 2022/23 was accepted. Authority was given for a replacement cheque to be written for room hire at Coety Primary School and the submission of a Rights of Way Claim was noted. The Chair thanked the Clerk/RFO and Asst. Clerk for their work on the audit.

168/23-24 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: Councillor M Williams had been involved in the REACH tender process for the architects for Coity Higher Community Centre. The Clerk had also attended to observe the process. In addition, Councillors A Wathan and A Williams and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the architects' team to view the Centre and explain the vision.

CAT GREAT WESTERN AVENUE, LITCHARD FIELDS AND THE COMMUNITY CENTRE: Councillors A Wathan, A Williams and the Clerk had attended a meeting at BCBC to discuss the freehold for the Centre and the two playing fields. It had been a positive meeting and they saw no issue with offering a freehold subject to consultation with the corporate landlord and the fields being put into trust or something similar to secure for future generations.

Project Updates

Footpath Coity Play Area: the work is due to commence on w/c 29th April however there are some matters to clear up beforehand. The ramp from the Church needs permissions which are complex and the Clerk is waiting for the Diocese to get back to her. The constant wet weather is causing issues with traversing the field to gain access.

The contractor has offered to put down sheet at an additional cost of approximately £1,071 plus vat. This was discussed.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: It was hoped that the lease would be signed off by today's meeting, but that has not been the case. It appears that our application for funding for this project will be turned down due to it not being DDA compliant which is puzzling as all equipment included is categorized as 'inclusive for all'.

Other Matters

Allotment Gardens: a new tenant has requested to erect a 8ft x 12ft polycarbonate greenhouse on the site and at the front of the plot. This is much bigger than allowed for sheds and polytunnels (6ft x 4ft) and all sheds and polytunnels must be at the rear of the plots.

Noticeboards: the advert consent has been made for the 4 noticeboards for Gerddi'r Castell, Joslin Terrace, Oakwood View and the repositioning of the one in Coity Village.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk were noted. It was unanimously agreed that the polycarbonate greenhouse must be sited at the rear of the plot and no bigger than 6ft x 4ft). It was also unanimously agreed that the contractor should be asked to carry out the work when the ground is drier.

169/23-24 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor M Williams had attended the One Voice Wales National Awards event and ceremony and was pleased to report that the council had won a Highly Commended ward in the Environment Project category against some tough competition. He had been asked to give a presentation on the entry which was the Ramblers Cymru project Paths to Wellbeing. In addition, the council was presented with a Highly Commended award for 2021 in the Devolution of Assets category for its asset transfer of play areas and refurbishment schedule and a Commended for its website. These had not been awarded or presented in 2021 due to the covid pandemic.

Councillor Y Walton-Davies had attended a Board of Conservators meeting for another council, but as Coity Higher's representative had not been present at the Conservators meeting, gave an update.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was thanked for her work on the Paths to Wellbeing project and Councillor Williams was thanked for the presentation. The Clerk was asked to request a copy of the presentations made at the ceremony to share with councillors.

170/23-24 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Martin Williams: informed Members that lay members of the Standards Committee at BCBC will be sitting in on councils to watch how the council and the Clerks work.

Councillor Amanda Williams: informed Members that she is continuing to chase the Trem y Castell play area and that Pugh's are still waiting to move forward with the Parc Derwen project. In addition that the architects are now working on the extension for Coety Primary School and that there have been missed collections by the new waste contractors, Plan B. Councillor Williams said she's asked for a briefing on the recent deaths at Parc Prison and said the PCSOs would be communicating with residents regarding drug packages being found in the local area.

Councillor Alan Wathan: all matters had been covered in the above information.

Resolved: All information was noted.

171/23-24 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 - area meeting 22nd April 2024
- One Voice Wales - free portrait of the King (applied for)
- British Youth Council - message regarding its closure
- BCBC - Adoption Notice Bridgend LDP 2018 - 2033
- Councillor D Unwin - update on the two Rights of Way Forum requests.4
- Wales Air Ambulance - thank you for the recent donation
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru - financial Request
- 1st Coity Brownies - financial Request for an overnight trip in May 2024
- One Voice Wales - larger council's meeting 17th April 2024
- Maesteg Town Council - Invitation to the Chair and Guest to the Mayor of Maesteg's Fund Spring Dinner Dance
- Kids Cancer Charity - financial request
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod - financial request

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. All financial requests will be deferred to March 2025 except for the 1st Coity Brownies request which is for a trip in May 2024. This was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to donate £240. It was noted that the Chair is unable to attend the Mayor of Maesteg's Spring Dinner Dance and asked the Clerk to give his apologies. Councillor M Williams will attend the OVW larger councils' meeting.

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

172/23-24 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

2 planning applications had been received, along with 1 decision and 0 appeal and 1 item of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

Resolved: No observations were made on the planning applications.

173/23-24 ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

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 9th May 2024 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom, but prior to that the Annual Meeting will be held at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.