



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 9th MAY 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe

Y Walton-Davies (from 6.37 pm)

L Jeffreys (zoom)

G Langdon

L Lewis

L Richards

A Williams

J Williams

M Williams

D Wingar

Minute 1/24-25

2/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Bridgend Town Councillor and friend of one of the candidates	No/Yes
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 10/24-25	Resident	No/No
Luke Richards	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Friend of one of the candidates	No/Yes
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Bridgend Town Councillor and friend of one of the candidates	No/Yes
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No No/No
	Coety Primary School Proposals by M Williams	10/24-25 All relevant	Chair of Governors Wife	No/No
	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Member of Llais with one candidate	No/Yes
	Finance & Accounts	7/24-25	Mileage claim Cllr. M Williams	No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 10/24-25	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters	All relevant	Member	No/No
	Litchard Primary School Proposals by A Williams	None All relevant	Governor Husband	No/No No/No
	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Know both candidates	No/Yes
	Finance & Accounts	7/24-25	Mileage claim	No/No
David Wingar	Co-option Coity	5/24-25	Knows one of the candidates	No/Yes

3/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the April 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.

4/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 163/23-24 Matters Arising from the March 2024 Ordinary Meeting

Electricity Licence Coity Castle - no further update from Coity Village Association

Side Gate Opening to Coity Castle - PCSOs taking advice from officers

School Holiday Provision - Forces Fitness have agreed to manage the bookings

Allotment Gardens - the Clerk gave an update on the plot letting. In addition she said she'd been trying to contact the tenant of plot 34a as she has not returned her tenancy or fee and is not working the plot and informed members that one of the new tenants has used an area of grass along the hedgerow to place a polytunnel though this area of land does not form part of the plot. It was noted that the rules for poly tunnels is for them to be placed at the rear of the plot.

Minute 169/23-24 Member Reports

Further to Councillor M Williams report last month on the Innovation Awards, the Clerk had requested copies of the presentations made at the event and had received them but will need to request them again as they won't open.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to chase up an update on the Electricity supply at the castle and to give the Clerk authority to contact a local electrician for advice. The Clerk was asked to write to the tenant who has put a poly tunnel to the side of their plot to ask them to move it onto the rear of the plot as per the rules. It was also unanimously agreed that plot 34a would be returned to being a car parking area.

5/24-25 CO-OPTION COITY WARD

Two applications had been received and a vote was taken on candidate 1 and candidate 2. Candidate 1 received 6 votes from Councillors S Bletsoe, G Langdon, L Richards, A Wathan, A Williams and J Williams and Candidate 2 received 5 votes from Councillors Y Walton-Davies, L Jeffreys, L Lewis, M Williams and D Wingar.

Resolved: It was noted that both were extremely strong applications. Candidate 1 was the successful applicant.

6/24-25 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor M Williams reported that the Finance Committee met on 1st May and unanimously make the following recommendations to full council:

- To note that to date no request for funding in writing has been received from Coity Wallia Conservators.
- That the Precept money and Rights of Way reclaim money has been received.
- That there were no current risks to the 2024/25 budget.
- To make the following changes to the budget to enable projects to go ahead:
 - Community Projects budget line changed to Coity Castle Play Area and increased from £13,00 to £16,861.
 - Benches budget line changed to Defibrillator and Noticeboards and reduced from £5,500 to £2,500
 - Playpark Refurbishment budget line changed to Llys Gwyn and increased from £9,000 to £25,435. This would result in a shortfall of £4,310, but a further application will be made to the next T&CC funding for match funding.
 - The changes result in a General Reserve Year End decrease from £27,296.79 to £10,000.
- To recommend to full council that the successful contractor for the Coity Castle play area is Redlynch

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept all the Finance Committee recommendations.

7/24-25 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.Rights of Way Agency Agreement Reclaim for 203/24

The Clerk/RFO confirmed Coity Higher CC's claim for £1,469 for footpath maintenance has been received.

4.Precept 2024/25

The precept money for 2024/25 has been received.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for April 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved. The income was noted.

8/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: Ryan Jones confirmed the funding available to us and this was passed on to REACH/Architects so that they know the maximum cost to incorporate into their design. The Clerk reported that the architects visited the centre today to carry out a survey and said they'd have a draft available to share with the working group in a few weeks, before feeding back to full council and carrying out a public consultation. They had also requested a red line plan of the site, which REACH has now provided.

CAT GREAT WESTERN AVENUE, LITCHARD FIELDS AND THE COMMUNITY CENTRE:

There has been no further feedback from BCBC on the freehold transfer.

Councillors A Wathan and M Williams asked members for their agreement to call a meeting with the local clubs to inform them of our plans before the information goes public.

Project Updates

Footpath Coity Play Area: Work was due to commence on 29th April 2024 with an agreement in principle from the farmer to have access over his land to carry out the work. He said there may be a cost involved. Unfortunately the work has been unable to go ahead as the farmer has had an opportunity to rent out the land so it has not been possible for us to use it. It is rented out until October.

Black Path: The Clerk had chased up a response to a licence to carry out the work to an create a recreational area on land adjacent to the Black Path from BCBC. The officer said he'd have to speak to another officer and get back to her, but no response has been received to date.

Llys Gwyn Play Area: The Clerk has now received confirmation that Coity Higher's application for T&CC grant funding for this project has been declined. There will be an

opportunity to apply again in June for a second round of funding. In the meantime, V2C who were transferring the land to CHCC, have discovered that they do not own that piece of land as it was not transferred to them with the rest of the estate. An application for a CAT transfer would need to be completed. The CAT Officer suggested that the Clerk contacts BCBC Officer, Phil Beaman, to review the application submitted and provide feedback. The Clerk had done this and had been asked what timescale we are working to for a response as the demands on their service exceed their ability to respond without programming their work. The Clerk had asked how quickly the advice could be provided but had not received a response.

Coity Castle Play Area: The Clerk would contact Redlynch to arrange the work now that full council had approved them as the contractor for the all weather ground cover.

Other Matters

Noticeboards: Advert consent has been sent out to stakeholders.

Play Area Management Signs: The one at Great Western Avenue has been destroyed and litter strewn around the play area, which Councillor M Williams has cleared.

D-Day Anniversary Lanterns and Beacon: The lanterns have been received and the Clerk asked what the councillors' plans for them were and this was discussed. 3 areas were identified - outside the Red Dragon pub, next to the flower planter on Coity Road and at Coity Castle.

Resolved: All information was accepted. The Clerk was asked to chase up a response regarding the freehold, permission for the Black Path recreational area and feedback on the T&CC application and to copy in the borough councillors to the correspondence. The Clerk was also asked to arrange a meeting with the football clubs. The information regarding the Coity footpath was noted and the Clerk was asked to write to the farmer to request permission for October. Replacement management signs would need to be ordered, 1 for GWA and a spare and it was agreed that the Clerk would send out the information regarding the lanterns to members for further arrangements for the D-Day anniversary and to write to the Red Dragon to ask permission. The Clerk was given authority to submit a CAT Expression of Interest for the land at Llys Gwyn.

9/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS

Councillor Y Walton-Davies said that the Chairs and Clerks of the 4 minor authorities will be invited to a meeting on 5th June to discuss contributions to the conservators.

Councillor L Jeffreys said that residents have raised concerns over dog noise near the One Stop shop on the industrial estate and two fires in the woods on footpath 17.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk gave her apologies that she is unable to attend a Conservators meeting on 5th June.

10/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Amanda Williams gave an update on the play area at Trem y Castell, planned activities for dog training classes off the roundabout at Heol Simonston, an update of the extension for Coety Primary School, a request made to Taylor Wimpey for grit bins, a further two deaths at Parc Prison, a meeting with the policy where parking issues were raised. Residents need to report parking issues to the police. Updates on the 4G pitch and issues regarding parking when dropping off children to play, permission for cameras on the 4G pitch and the woods on footpath 17. Other matters of concern are the state of the Parc Derwen estate following recent rainfall, the lack of tree planting, the lack of grass cutting and maintenance, the 28 Welsh Water drains that are damaged and the lack of play area maintenance. It was also noted that there is a plan in place for Sports Wales to update the pitch, the delay on Pugh's Garden Village was explained, ripped bin bags are being monitored and Welsh Water issues at Pwll Evan Ddu were noted.

Councillor M Williams and Councillor A Wathan had nothing to add to Councillor Amanda Williams' feedback except to say that a response to the referral made regarding the drainage issues off Litchard Fields onto Heol West Plas, Litchard will be chased up.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was unanimously agreed to include a Parc Derwen update on future agendas and to write to invite Persimmon to attend the council meetings.

11/24-25 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:

- New Contract of Employment for Clerks
- Free Places on OVW Training Courses
- Confirmation and Rejection letter from BCBC for T&CC grant funding
- Thank you from Bridgend Carers Centre for a donation
- Thank you from Coity First Brownies for a donation
- BCBC - proposed changes to the council's home to school/college transport provision which closes on 3rd July 2024
- Vacancy at DAC for a Treasurer to the Board which closes on 14th June 2024

Resolved: The correspondence was noted.

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

12/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

2 planning applications had been received, a TPO and Advert Consent, along with 2 decisions and 0 appeals and 2 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

Resolved: No observations were made on the planning applications.

13/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Parc Derwen

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

The next ordinary meeting will be the be held on Thursday 13th June 2024 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.