



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe
Y Walton-Davies (from 7.15 pm)
L Jeffreys
G Langdon (zoom)
L Lewis (zoom)
L Richards (zoom)
A Williams (zoom)
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)
D Wingar

Apologies: None
No Apologies: Councillor N Deere

Public: One

Minute 48/24-25**49/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

| Councillor | Item | Minute | Interest | Speak/Vote |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Steve Bletsoe | BCBC Bridgend TC | All relevant 55/24-25 | Member Member | No/No |
| Alan Wathan | BCBC Matters Parc Derwen | All relevant 53/24-25 | Member Resident | No/No No/No |
| Amanda Williams | BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Proposals by M Williams Planning Co-option Pendre Ward | All relevant 52/24-25 All relevant 62/24-25 56/24-25 | Member Chair of Governors Wife Resident Personal | No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No |
| John Williams | Parc Derwen | All relevant incl. 53/24-25 | Resident | No/No |
| Martin Williams | BCBC Matters Litchard Primary School Proposals by A Williams Planning St Brides Minor CC Co-option Pendre Ward | All relevant 52/24-25 All relevant 62/24-25 52/24-25 55/24-25 | Member Governor Husband Resident Member Personal | No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No No/No |
| Yvonne Walton-Davies | St Brides Minor CC | 55/24-25 | Member | No/No |
| David Wingar | Co-option Pendre Ward | 56/24-25 | Personal | No/No |
| Gareth | Co-option | 56/24-25 | Personal | No/No |

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|----------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Langdon | Pendre Ward | | | |
| Lynda Jeffreys | Parc Derwen | 53/24-25 | Resident | No/No |

50/24-25 PRESENTATION BY POWELL DOBSON ARCHITECTS

Two representatives of Powell Dobson presented the two option plans to full council and questions were asked and answered. It was agreed by all that an estimated cost for the project was needed asap.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the outline design option 2 plan and to send them to the FAW for confirmation that they meet their criteria for funding. It was agreed that a Councillor will attend every future meeting regarding this project.

51/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the July 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.

52/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 32/24-25 Matters Arising from the June 2024 Ordinary Meeting

Electricity Coity Castle: The condition report has been received and some work is needed, the Clerk had been informed that SSE are keen to upgrade the meter.

Side Gate Opening Coity Castle: The Clerk has informed CADW that SW Police do not have an objection to the side gate being opened and is waiting a reply.

CADW have been in touch regarding the removal of the heras fencing and are looking into the possibility of changing the tree growth alongside the footpath and replacing it with secure metal fencing which they hope will finish off the look of the proposed new pathway and be a better, safer walkway.

School Holiday Provision: The Clerk reported the attendance figures which had been a great success. A lot of positive feedback had been received.

Noticeboards: There had been an objection to one of the noticeboards and the Clerk has been in correspondence with Planning and has been promised a response by 16th September.

Minute 34/24-25 Llys Gwyn/Road Safety

The Clerk had written in support of the borough councillors' request for bollards at Llys Gwyn. Councillor A Williams reported that V2C are looking at placing planters there and the resident agrees.

Minute 37/24-25 Allowances Policy Update

The Clerk confirmed that the bullet point queried at the last meeting should remain in place.

Minute 28/24-25 T&CC Fund 2nd Round

The Clerk confirmed that a second application for funding for a play area at Llys Gwyn has been submitted to BCBC along with an application for solar lights for the footpath in Coity village and the 4 managed play areas. An acknowledgement of receipt has been received from BCBC.

Minute 39/24-25 VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025

The Clerk confirmed that the two additional lamps have been purchased and asked what inscription councillors wanted engraved on them? The Clerk had also investigated the poppy wreaths available and only red ones are available on the British Legion website, other colours are provided by sellers on Amazon and Etsy. This was discussed.

Minute 42/24-25 Member Reports

Referral Byeastwood: Councillor Y Walton-Davies had not yet taken photographs of the road condition to pass on to Councillor A Wathan to make a referral. Councillor A Williams said she would take the photos and make the referral.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for the suggested electrical work and it was agreed that the Chair would sign the license. It was agreed that only British Legion poppy wreaths would be purchased.

53/24-25 PARC DERWEN

Borough Councillors and Community Councillors had held meetings with Persimmon. Councillor A Williams gave an update on both including informing Members that the grass cutting schedule will stop at the end of September and the contractor will move on to hedge cutting and other landscaping work. Persimmon had apologized that not all work had been completed and that the R20 section of the development, which is at the bottom of the estate is commencing in October. Councillor A Williams updated Members on one of the shop agreements, the L15 area, the final house building, Pugh's unit, road markings, the issues Councillor L Jeffreys had raised, the sports pitches, the missing back plates, drainage, the knotweed programme and the landscaped areas outside the play areas.

Resolved: The information was noted.

54/24-25 CHRISTMAS 2024

The Clerk confirmed that all Christmas trees, lights, column motifs and solar trees have been ordered for switch on 1st December 2024. A form had been received from BCBC to seek permission for the use of the lighting columns which the Clerk will complete.

As requested, the Clerk had obtained quotes for the construction of a Christmas tree pit and the adaptation of the nearest lighting column along with the cost of a tree and lights at Heol y Groes of £2,320 and the provision of a 20ft tree into an existing pit at the Six Bells at a cost of £1,785.

Resolved: Following a discussion of the above the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements for both pits/trees.

55/24-25 REMOTE MEETING EQUIPMENT

The Clerk had taken advice on equipment used from the other clerks in the borough and the information had been circulated to councillors. Prices for the Owl equipment and accessories were considered and accepted.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to purchase the Owl equipment including accessories. The Clerk was asked to invite the other two councils she works for whether they'd like work in partnership with them to purchase the equipment and use it for their meetings.

56/24-25 CO-OPTION PENDRE WARD

One application had been received for the one vacancy in the Pendre Ward. The application had been sent out with the papers.

Resolved: The applicant, Lee Read, was co-opted to represent the Pendre Ward of Coity Higher Community Council.

57/24-25 TRAINING PLAN 2024/2025

A draft training plan had been included with the papers and training needs were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk would add the training for the newly co-opted councillor and publish.

58/24-25 RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE 2024/2025

As a measure of good practice, the risk assessment schedule was updated for 2024/2025 amendments made included the councillor allowances, training section, register of interests, consultations measures etc.

Resolved: The amended Risk Assessment Schedule was accepted.

59/24-25 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 Clerk ran through the budget monitoring sheet and answered any questions raised.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for July and August 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved.

60/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update

REACH: Item 3 on the agenda had covered this update.

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

Ryan Thomas and Gayle Penn have been invited to a meeting with the 3 borough councillors to discuss the way forward/next steps including the Parc Derwen pitches. As Councillor M Williams is unavailable to attend and Councillor A Wathan may need to leave early to attend a BCBC meeting other councillors were invited to attend.

Project Updates

Black Path: There had been no further update on permission to use this location for the project from BCBC. The Clerk asked if the new cabinet member had visited the area with Councillor A Williams on a walkabout? Councillor Williams said the walkabout had not yet taken place.

Coity Castle/Church Footpath: The Clerk confirmed that she had not received a response from the landowner to her first letter and had sent another on 9th August but to date no response had been received. The Clerk updated Members that the contractor is now not available until January but won't schedule the work until permission is received. The Clerk has sought permission from CADW for the footpath solar lighting and was awaiting confirmation. In addition, the Clerk informed Members that the trees in St Mary's Church are overhanging the path and will not help the solar

lighting. She had obtained a quote for the work of £675 and asked how the council wished to proceed?

Coity Castle Play Area: the work had been signed off but we are unable to claim reimbursement from BCBC for the match funding until we receive a bank statement showing the payment. As soon as it is received the Clerk will make the claim. The bin contractor has said that the door of the litter bin is not tight to the ground cover and needs to be elevated so as not to catch the cover and damage it.

Llys Gwyn: BCBC has agreed to lease the land for the project to CHCC under a 35 year lease at a peppercorn rent. The Clerk is waiting for the draft Heads of Terms.

Other Matters

Coity Castle Hedge: This has recently been trimmed though it is not a good job. CADW has reassured the Clerk that it will be cut again before the end of September.

Hanging Baskets: The Clerk has received a request from BCBC to cut back some of the trailing foliage in some of the baskets as it is overhanging the road signs. This was done immediately following the request and the Clerk has asked the contractor to cut them back regularly in 2025.

Speed Sign Heol Spencer: this has been altered to reflect the extended 20mph limit at the top of the road before the motorway overbridge.

Allotment Trees: The Clerk informed Members that there's a damaged tree which needs cut back and some other trees which need tidying up due to ash die back etc. A quote had been received for £325.

Defibrillators: The Clerk has been informed that the Wales Ambulance Service is no longer supplying replacement parts for the defibrillators. In addition, the person who agreed to manage the defibrillators is no longer able to carry out the work.

Damage: The Clerk informed Members that a swing at Pendre Fields play area had been broken and is now repaired. Also an anchor on a frame in Coity Castle play area had become loose and has now been repaired. Complaints have once again been received about the speed of the roundabout in Coity Castle play area, but this is how it is meant to be as it is a wheelchair accessible roundabout and it has a limiter on it.

Resolved: All information was accepted. Councillors G Langdon and L Richards agreed to attend the meeting with Ryan Thomas and Gayle Penn. The Clerk was asked to accept the quote for the tree cutback in the Church and obtain permission for the work to go ahead from the Diocese. Councillor M Williams agreed to ring the landowner to request written permission for access over his land to carry out the footpath work. The quote for the tree maintenance at the allotment was accepted and the Clerk was asked to make the arrangements. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the litter bin to be lifted off the ground cover to avoid damage. The news re Llys Gwyn lease was well received. The defibrillator information was noted, the Clerk was asked to investigate alternatives.

61/24-25 **MEMBER REPORTS**

There were no Members reports this month.

Resolved: The information was noted.

62/24-25 **BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES**

Councillor A Williams: it was noted that all dog training equipment had been removed from the field behind Heol West Plas in Coity. A speed scoping exercise has been arranged in Heol yr Ysgol and the junction onto Heol West Plas. Parc Prison has arranged the cutting back of trees on Heol y Cadno and the borough councillors are waiting on a date to meet with the Prison Governor.

Councillor A Wathan: gave an update on the top of footpath 17.

Councillor M Williams: informed Members that he'd submitted several referrals regarding the Heol Mair play area in Litchard and the weeds which are growing into neighbouring properties. He said the play area is due to be refurbished by BCBC in 2026.

Resolved: All information was noted

63/24-25 **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:

- Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru Guide to the 2026 Review
- Attendance by Councillors - 6 Month Rule
- Rights of Way ref cutting paths on the common
- Footpath 17 Temporary Footpath Order 2024
- Maesteg Town Council invite to Civic Service
- Splice Child and Family Project - financial request (Clerk has requested further information and completion of a financial assistance for but nothing received to date)
- Bridgend Male Choir - request to publish a concert poster
- Resident - request to add a further comment to the architect consultation sheet
- Ynni Cymru - Capital Grant Funding Programme - project must be completed by May 2025.

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. The rights of way work has been completed, the Chair is unable to accept the Civic Service invitation, the request from the resident had been carried out.

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

64/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

6 planning applications had been received, along with 4 decisions and 1 appeal and 3 items of correspondence from Planning Aid Wales.

Resolved: The applications, decisions and appeal were noted.

65/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Coity Wallia Board of Conservators incl. 2nd CC Representative
- Green Spaces

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 10th October 2024 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.