COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM AT LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillor A Wathan (Chair)

Councillors: S Bletsoe (zoom)
Y Walton-Davies
L Jeffreys
G Langdon (zoom)
L Lewis (part of the meeting)
A Williams (zoom)
J Williams
M Williams (zoom)
D Wingar

Apologies: Councillor L Richards
No Apologies: Councillor N Deere

Public: None

Minute 80/24-25

81/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Minute	Interest	Speak/Vote
Steve Bletsoe	BCBC Bridgend TC	All relevant All relevant	Member Member	No/No No/No
Yvonne Walton-Davies	St Brides Minor CC	81 & 98/24-25	Member	No/No
Alan Wathan	BCBC Matters Parc Derwen	All relevant All relevant inl. 84 & 86/24-25	Member Resident	No/No No/No
Lynda Jeffreys	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 84 & 86/24-25	Resident	No/No
Amanda Williams	BCBC Matters Coety Primary School Proposals by M Williams	All relevant 89/24-25 All relevant	Member Chair of Governors Wife	No/No No/No No/No
John Williams	Parc Derwen	All relevant incl. 84 |& 86/24-25	Resident	No/No
Martin Williams	BCBC Matters Proposals by A Williams St Brides Minor CC	All relevant All relevant 81 & 98/24-25	Member Husband Member	No/No No/No No/No

82/24-25 TO RATIFY THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the October 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.

83/24-25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 69/24-25 Matters Arising from the September 2024 Ordinary Meeting

Electricity Supply Coity Castle: the Clerk confirmed that the licence had been signed and the electricity at the castle is now under licence to the council.

Noticeboards: The Clerk confirmed that advert consent has been granted and the 4 are being installed in the next few days.

Llys Gwyn: It was noted that V2C have installed a large wooden planter next to 1 Llys Gwyn, Pendre.

Christmas 2024: Permission has been granted for the construction of a Christmas tree pit and conversion of a lighting column at Litchard and the work has been completed and the tree installed. It has been agreed with Centre Great to switch on the lights in Coity a day early for them to be lit for Santa's visit to the Six Bells the following day.

Remote Meeting Equipment: The Clerk explained an issue with the delivery of the equipment and had now purchased the equipment from an alternative company at a saving of £119.07, which has been reimbursed by the Clerk to the Council. In addition both St Brides Minor CC and the Garw Valley CC have agreed to share the cost of the equipment to share its use.

Co-option Pendre: The successful co-optee had not been able to sign his Declaration of Office due to a change in circumstances since applying, so a new Notice of Vacancy will be published.

Minute 71/24-25 Coity Wallia Board of Conservators including 2nd Community Council Representative

The Clerk had contacted the nominated solicitor to seek advice and ask for fee costs, but they were not able to undertake the work as they have a conflict of interest in that they represent the landlord. St Brides Minor CC had been approached and had agreed to share the cost of the fees for the work to be carried out. The Clerk had notified the Board that a second representative has been agreed and to date had not received a response.

Note: Councillor A Wathan did not take part in the discussion on minute 78/24-25 and left the room at 7.10 pm. Councillor M Williams chaired this section of the meeting. Councillor Wathan returned as Chair for minute 84/24-25

Minute 78/24-25 Development Control and Planning Matters

The Clerk has approached a solicitor to give advice on planning application P/24/547/FUL and future HMO applications. The Clerk has received a quote of £2,000 for the cost of the work to provide a written summary but not attendance at the planning meeting.

It was suggested that Planning Aid Wales may offer such a service.

Resolved: All information was accepted and approved. The Clerk was asked to check what services were offered by Planning Aid Wales and if they do not offer the required service to employ the services of the solicitor at a cost of £2,000.

84/24-25 PARC DERWEN UPDATE

A written update had been forwarded to Members in the month. Issues continue with street lighting, Inscape work, a bus stop on Heol Stradling with students standing in

amongst rubbish, chaotic scenes with lorries waiting to come onto the site and knotweed issues.

Resolved: The information was noted. Councillor A Williams will raise the knotweed issue with a BCBC Planning Officer.

85/24-25 RESPONSE TO THE FUTURE OF LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2024

A letter from Mark Shephard, CEO at BCBC, notes from the meeting and the slides of the presentation had been received from BCBC and circulated to Members.

The Chair and Clerk had attended the meeting where a presentation had been given by Mark Shephard, CEO and a discussion had taken place with Members of the Cabinet with the Leader chairing. Chairs and Clerks will be invited to a follow up meeting on 21st January 2025 and a request had been made for attendees to return to their councils to discuss if/what they would like to work in partnership on to aid future discussion.

Resolved: Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Chair and Clerk will attend the next meeting on the 21st January and feedback further following that meeting when further information might be available.

86/24-25 GREEN SPACES PLAN

A document on a Green Spaces Strategy had been circulated and this was considered and discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed that this item would be included on the January 2025 agenda when Members would give feedback on the document. It was also agreed that Councillor M Williams would take ownership of the document and retain and update it going forward. It was unanimously approved as a working document. It was also agreed that the Parc Derwen information would be extracted by Councillor M Williams and forwarded to Persimmon.

87/24-25 GERDDI'R CHASTELL

Councillor A Williams highlighted some matters regarding the Gerddi'r Castell area ie no grit bins, issues with the pavement at Wyndham Close, dead trees and hedging along the back of the site etc.

Resolved: It was agreed to write to the management at Taylor Wimpey to request a meeting with full council.

88/24-25 FFORDD CADFAN/OAKWOOD VIEW

Councillor A Williams raised the fact that residents at Oakwood View are being charged a management fee at this development and this was discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed to ask the REMUS representative to meet with full council.

89/24-25 COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Councillor Langdon has been unable to attend recent meetings of Coety Primary School Governors as the council representative and said he wished to resign. Councillor A Williams said that she would be happy to be the council's representative and if agreed she would resign from her community representative role to enable a member of the community to take up that position.

Resolved: Councillor Langdon and Councillor Williams' suggestions were agreed. The Clerk would make the necessary changes with the Clerk to the Governors.

90/24-25 BLACK PATH PROJECT

Councillor Wathan had raised the lack of response to the council's plans for the black path project at the Chairs and Clerks meeting. Councillors Melanie Evans and Eugiene Capaross had asked that the correspondence sent to BCBC on the matter be forwarded to them so that they could investigate the reasons for the lack of response. This had been sent on 28th October 2024 and both had acknowledged receipt.

Resolved: No further correspondence had been received from BCBC on this matter. The Clerk was asked to write to the CEO at BCBC and copy in the Leader and both cabinet members to ask for a response.

91/24-25 ONE VOICE WALES LARGER COUNCILS MEETING FEEDBACK

Councillor M Williams had attended this meeting and gave feedback on some of the items discussed including warm hubs and asset transfers. It was stated that the gold standard for an asset transfer is a freehold or a long lease. Only three Bridgend County T&CCs were represented at the meeting.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed that other T&CCs from the borough should be encouraged to attend to enable a greater voice for the borough.

92/24-25 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Councillor A Williams said there have been comments on social media regarding community events and she was bringing it to council for discussion.

Resolved: Following a discussion, it was agreed to publish a newsletter in the new year and consult with the public on what they want to see their money spent on, ask for suggestions and ask if they would be willing to pay more precept to have

community events. The newsletter would be included on the January 2025 agenda.

93/24-25 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT PRECEPT BUDGET 2025/26

Some items were suggested.

Resolved: Members were asked to contact the Clerk within the next week if they wished to add a project for consideration into the 25/26 precept budget.

94/24-25 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.

3.Section 137 Expenditure

The Asst. Clerk/FO informed Members that the details of the appropriate sum under section 137 (4) (a) of the local Government Act 1972 – expenditure limit for 2025/26 had been received. The appropriate sum for 25/26 increases from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

4.Cheque Payment

An uncashed cheque for trophy engraving had been found by a Member which is now passed the deadline date for presenting to the bank.

Resolved: Authority was given for the payments for October 2024 and the budget monitoring sheet was accepted and approved. The information and explanation on Section 137 Expenditure was accepted. It was agreed that the Member would return the cheque and another would be issued.

95/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING PROJECT AND CAT UPDATES

CAT Update:

REACH/ARCHITECTS: phases 1 &2 have now been completed via the REACH funding. A fee proposal for phases 3-6 has been received from the architects. The Clerk gave an update on what the fees include.

CAT GWA AND LITCHARD FIELDS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE: The Clerk had not received any feedback on the request for a Freehold following submission of the business and design plans.

Project Updates:

Black Path Project: this had been dealt with as a separate agenda item

Footpath Castle/Church: permission has been sought from the Church for permission to cut back the overhanging trees from the churchyard. Good news that the council has been successful in its T&CC Fund application for match funding for the solar lights for the path and for the 4 managed play areas. Work on the trees will need to be carried out, followed by the installation of the solar lights and then the path refurbishment. The work for the footpath refurbishment is earmarked for the end of Marh 2025.

Llys Gwyn Play Area Lease: further good news is that the council was also successful in obtaining match funding for this project via the T&CC Fund. Heads of Terms for the lease have been chased up and the next step is to apply for planning permission.

Other Matters:

Defibrillators: the Clerk now has the information needed to pass on to Councillors Deere and Richards to take responsibility for the defibrillators.

Tree Maintenance Allotment Garden: this is due to take place on 18th November 2024.

Correspondence from Parc Derwen Resident: the Clerk read out correspondence from a resident at Parc Derwen regarding landscaping issues.

Resolved: All information was approved and accepted. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to chase up a response to the plans and to invite the CEO, Leader and Janine Nightingale to the Community Centre to meet with full council to show them the plans. Councillor A Williams would respond to the Parc Derwen resident.

96/24-25 MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Member Reports this month.

Resolved: The information was noted.

97/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor A Williams: gave an updated on 2 recent accidents on Litchard Hill, traffic issues with children crossing a 50 mph road, a meeting regarding difficulties with getting into town, donations to Gillead Chapel.

Councillor S Bletsoe: said it was great following concerns raised by him some time ago regarding children walking from Wildmill to Litchard Primary School to see that an advert has been published for a traffic control person.

Councillors A Wathan and M Williams reiterated the issues raised above.

Resolved: All information was noted. Councillor A Williams will send some information to the Clerk to distribute to Members.

98/24-25 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:

- One Voice Wales – new consultation: Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill
- One Voice Wales – reminder joint OVW/SLCC Conference 20/11/24
- One Voice Wales - New Model Financial Regulations 2024
- BCBC – T&CC Forum meeting postponed
- BCBC – T&CC Fund 25/26 letter received
- National Grid – information request on unmetered supply for Christmas lights
- SLCC/NALC – pay agreement for 24/25 backdated to 1/4/24
- Eisteddfod yr Urdd – financial request
- BCBC – Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025 – closes 17th January 2025
- St John's Ambulance Cymru – financial request

Resolved: The correspondence was noted. Councillor M Williams will attend the OVW/SLCC Conference and represent St Brides Minor CC and the two councils will share the cost. The new Model Financial Regulations will be included on the next Finance Committee agenda. The Clerk will provide the National Grid with the requested information. The pay agreement for 24/25 was accepted and the salaries will be increased and backdated to 1st April 2024 in line with the contract of employment. Both financial requests will be deferred to March 2025 and the Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025 will be included on the January 2025 agenda.

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

99/24-25 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING MATTERS

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

Information on a planning appeal for P/23/489/OUT had been received and circulated to members.

Resolved: There were no comments or observations on the planning items.

100/24-25 URGENT ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 PRECEPT MEETING

This is a Precept Meeting.

Items for the January 2025 meeting:

- Green Spaces Plan Feedback by All
- Early 2025 Newsletter Ideas
- Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025

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

The next meeting will be a precept meeting to be held on Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7.00 pm at Litchard Primary School and via Zoom.

The meeting closed 8.51 pm.