

## CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER ~ GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 7.00pm at Gelligaer Community Council Office in a MULTI-LOCATIONAL format in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

### PRESENT

#### Councillors:

R Bevan, G Bruford, R Callison\*, D Cushing, W Matthews, C Moss (Vice Chair), T Parry, J Pritchard and A Wood.

**Clerk:** C Mortimer

**In Attendance:** PSCO V Williams and PCSO Coel and Eco Officer Mr Andrew King.

\* denotes remote attendance

*Vice Chair Cllr Catrin Moss welcomed everyone to the meeting.*

*The agenda sequence was adjusted to prioritise the most important business, ensuring it was discussed and resolved first in case of battery loss and losing remotely attending members.*

**150. Apologies** – apologies were received from Cllr Martyn James due to illness, Cllr M McCarthy due to bereavement and Chair Cllr Haydn Pritchard due to other commitments. Cllr A Angel was in a planning committee meeting.

#### 151. Declarations of Interest

Councillors and Officers were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

There were no declarations of interest.

*PCSO's Williams and Cole were invited to speak on the next item.*

#### 152. Police Update for St Cattwg, Hengoed and Ystrad Mynach Wards

Reports **Appendices 1 & 2** were presented by the officers and noted.

Due to lack of resources all wards were amalgamated into the one report. Reports in the new year will be more ward specific to provide members with a more accurate picture.

*Both Police Officers were thanked for their attendance and update.*

*They subsequently left the meeting.*

#### 153. Minutes

**Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024** as an accurate record.

**154. Matters Arising** – there were no matters arising.

#### 155. Finance to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

##### (i) Balance of Funds

Balance of Funds document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

##### (ii) Reconciliation

Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

##### (ii) Bank Statements

Bank statement no 114 was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

**156. Model Financial Regulation 2024 – One Voice Wales (deferred from last meeting).**

Revised Model Financial Regulations were received and adopted. Items in bold were statutory regulations. Members noted that other items within the document were tailored/edited by the Clerk/RFO to meet the needs of our council.

**157. Motion – Crown Estate**

*Members were asked to support the campaign to transfer the management and the assets of the Crown Estate in Wales to the Welsh people. YesCymru strongly believes that profit from the Crown Estate should be directed into a Welsh Sovereign Wealth Fund and used to benefit and support the needs of the communities of Wales.*

*We call upon the Welsh Government to involve all stakeholders to build a coalition of voices, by discussion around this issue, as a matter of urgency. This would be to persuade Westminster, as was done for Scotland in 2016, to transfer the Crown Estate to Wales.*

*It is estimated that the Estate owns 65% of the nation's foreshore and riverbeds, and more than 50,000 acres of land. The value of Crown Estate holdings in Wales has risen from £96m in 2020 to over £853m in 2023.*

*A YouGov poll taken in spring 2023 showed that 75% of Welsh voters were in favour of Wales taking control of the management and assets of the Welsh Crown Estate rather than it remaining in the hands of the UK Treasury.*

*Investing the profits from our natural resources into a Sovereign Wealth Fund for public benefit is widely perceived as an important step towards addressing the needs of the people of Wales.*

*Wales owning and benefitting from the Crown Estate is seen as a way of addressing poverty in Welsh communities and as a way of building agency and resilience.*

*Our local authority as others are under huge financial pressure and historically under-funded, and placing the Crown Estate in Welsh hands is one significant step in addressing the decades of unfairness and lack of investment in Welsh communities. Many local authorities in Wales also pay the Crown Estate an annual lease to access coastal areas.*

*YesCymru and Many of our Senedd Members have been at the forefront of this campaign since 2022 and raised awareness about the total financial injustice of the current situation. It can no longer prevail. Swansea City, Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, and Gwynedd County Councils have announced that they support the campaign of placing the management of the Crown Estate and its assets in the hands of the Welsh Government.*

*Please lend Our authority's name to this campaign, as it could change the lives and fabric of all our communities for the better.*

*The nation of Wales should be in total control of its own assets so that they profit and benefit our communities and country.*

**RESOLVED:** *Council unanimously agreed to support the campaign to transfer the management and the assets of the Crown Estate in Wales to the Welsh people and requested that the Clerk to write to both the Welsh and UK Government and to make a public statement calling for this as a matter of urgency.*

**158. Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25**

**Kings Hill Allotment Association Financial Assistance Application No. 25**

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to grant the sum of £350 to Kings Hill Allotment Association.

**159. Public Participation** – there were no members of the public present.

**160. Retired Chair's Annual Report** – deferred.

**161. Chair's Announcements** – the Chair was absent, therefore there were no announcements.

**162. Business deferred from Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meetings:**

**A. Minor Authority Representatives on Schools Board of Governors:**

- Ystrad Mynach Primary School – vacancy exists – deferred until January 2025 (Andrew James who transferred to a minor authority rep has stepped down)
- Greenhill Primary School – Cllr Haydn Pritchard to confirm his LA or Minor Authority position.

**B. CCBC Community Centre Management – further information required.**

- Gelligaer Community Centre
- Penybryn Village Hall

**Members were to contact Kevin Lodge for further advice/information.**

*Eco Officer Mt Andrew King was invited to speak with members on the next item.*

**163. Eco Officer Update**

- (i) Eco Officer Monthly Report for November – was received and noted.
- (ii) Project Proposal 13 – Purchase and install 6qty Prunus Royal Burgundy Trees on land to the east of Penybryn Village Hall

**RESOLVED:** Council agreed to proposal 13 at a cost of £672.77 and requested that Andrew ask the community to get involved too. It was also noted that the trees were great tree pollinators with early spring flowers.

- (iii) Mr Andrew King invited members to provide areas for wildflower planting, the following were suggested:

- Dilwyn Avenue
- Rolls Avenue
- Cefn Road.

*Members thanked Mr Andrew King for his update and for his work throughout the year. Mr Andrew King remained in the meeting.*

**164. Projects 2024/25**

- (i) Project Summary 2024/25 – was deferred.
- (ii) Festive Fayre Feedback – was deferred.
  - To receive email from CCBC's Events Team
- (iii) Community Champion Presentation Awards 2025– to receive quotes from three local venues.
- (iv) Council Office Parking – it was noted that we were awaiting quotes for fold down bollards to be installed o/s the office due to the ongoing issues.
- (v) Christmas tree lights – Siloh Centre.

**RESOLVED:** Council ratified additional spend on electrical work.

Discussions in relation to a living tree to be planted at Siloh, if the Centre's committee are in agreement or lighting the tree outside on the square, near the noticeboard, was deferred until ward members for Ystrad Mynach were present.

**165. Biodiversity Report - deferred**

**166. Decarbonisation/Green Projects – we continue to await to hear from P Rossiter. It was suggested that Heather Richardson be contacted.**

**167. Dust Monitor – verbal update. Deferred.**

**168. Training for 2024/25**

- (i) Training dates were received and noted.
- (ii) Updated training plan was received and noted.

**169. Planning Applications**

Case Ref: 24/0872/HH

Convert loft including dormers to the front and rear

49 Pantycelyn Street Ystrad Mynach UPRN 000043019565

Case Officer: Luke Buffery Telephone/Ffon: 01443 864709 E Mail/E Bost: [planning@caerphilly.gov.u](mailto:planning@caerphilly.gov.u)

**RESOLVED:** Objection on the following grounds:

1. Impact on the Street Scene - The proposed development, particularly the addition of two new dormers, will significantly alter the character of the street scene. The scale, design and materials of these dormers are not in keeping with the architectural style of the surrounding properties, which will result in a visually incongruous addition to our area.

2. Lack of additional parking - The proposal does not include provisions for additional off-street parking to accommodate increased occupancy resulting from the new dormers. This will exacerbate the already high demand for on-street parking in our area, leading to potential highway safety hazards and inconvenience for current residents.

**170. Next meeting Date: Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm**

*Vice Chair Cllr Catrin Moss thanked members for their attendance in person and remotely and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.*

**Meeting closed at 8.20pm**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair      Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.