Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th of January 2025

at Coytrahen Community Centre

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and chaired by Councillor Judith Morgan

Councillors In Attendance: -

Cllr. D Davies. Cllr. J Roberts

Cllr. G Faulkner Cllr. P Gronow

Cllr. Windsor Cllr. Jones

Mrs. L Turner (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declaration of Interest.

* Cllr Faulkner & Cllr. Roberts on all matters relating to the Coytrahen Community Association.
* Cllr. Gronow & Cllr. Windsor on all matters relating to the potential collaboration with Tondu Football Club.
* Cllr. Haines on all matters relating to the upcoming ward changes

1. Police Matters

​There was no police presence at our January meeting.  Cllr. Haines will try and make contact with the local PCSO to invite them to future meetings.

1. Minutes/Maters arising from November meeting:

* Watercourse - Cllr. Faulkner advised that BAVO would be unable to assist us with a grant due to the uncertainty of the lease.  Cllr. Haines contacted the cabinet, who made a referral regarding the trees. Upon these inspections, they reported that the trees were within the safety index.
* Trees on the main road - Cllr. Haines wrote to the landowners advising them about their responsibility to maintain them.  The trees have since been cut down. However, the tree stumps have been left on the banking. Again, should these fall onto the main road, this potentially could cause an accident. Cllr. Haines will contact the landowners again to advise them of this.
* New Defib - This is now installed in the old telephone box. Cllr. Gronow suggested that we purchase signage to notify the public of its location. - This will be discussed further in our upcoming finance meeting.  The clerk will ask the CCA if they could put in their next community letter the opportunity of free training and to email the clerk for further details.
* Repair to the steps and kissing gate - This work has not been completed Cllr. Gronow will meet with Cllr. Haines to show the damage Cllr. Haines will then report this to BCBC.
* ​Cllr. Gronow reported repairs were needed on Pathway 16.He confirmed this work has been completed.
* Concerns were raised regarding the ongoing issues on the main pathway to Tondu with the overgrowth. Cllr. Morgan suggested that a Scarab would be a solution to overcome this problem.  Cllr. Haines will make inquiries.
* Crossing - Cllr. Haines continues to advocate for the need for a crossing on the Main Road.  He is awaiting drawings and estimated costings from BCBC to forward to WEAPA to potentially help support this.

1. **Matters Discussed :-**

Precept - This has been submitted to BCBC and acknowledged. The precept will increase by  30% for 2025/26.

Last Energy - They have booked the Community Centre for February 17th to host a public consultation event. Last Energy will be distributing leaflets to the residents advising them of this event. Cllr. Haines previously attended a public consultation in Pencoed and advised this presentation would be more beneficial to the Coytrahen residents rather than just a display board. Clerk to contact Last Energy to inquire about the method of delivery of the presentation.

Cllr. Jones suggested that we hold a public meeting following this consultation to allow the residents to ask direct questions or raise any concerns they may have directly to Last Energy. Clerk to liaise with Last Energy to arrange this.

Unanimous concerns were raised that within a 3 mile radius of Coytrahen there is a potential risk of development of a windfarm, hydrogen plant, a nuclear site, and a paper mill expansion.  The community need to be informed of this possibility and to attend all meetings to have their voice heard.

WEAPA held an information event on the 18th of December for the community residents to gather more information on their planning permission for an expansion and new machine. WEAPA advised this event went well. They also advised that they would be more than happy to work with the community and hold additional information events.

The options' event did not go ahead. This was a major disappointment to the Community Council and residents. The event was cancelled by the PCSO due to having no budget to fund the room hire. Cllr. Jones will speak to the police and crime commissioner regarding this matter and how unacceptable it was to cancel this imperative event due to room hire costs. It was also noted that all residents pay for the police and crime commissioner for South Wales via their council tax and this will be increasing in 2025/26.

Tondu FC have advised they are currently pursuing a school partnership project which would prove a more suitable option.

Cllr. Haines will contact BCBC to inquire about the progress made with the CAT and the potential exclusion of the trees.

Community council ward changes. The councillors unanimously objected to the potential proposed amalgamation. Feeling that Coytrahen will be lost with little representation of only 2 councillors advocating for the community should the ward change and become Newcastle Higher.

Cllr. Jones advised that we should respond to BCBC at our earliest convenience objecting to the current proposal ward change being in its consultation period.

Cllr. Morgan will contact Llangynwyd Higher to inquire if they would consider a voluntary merger.  In doing this, Llangynwyd will retain its name.  This will be put on the agenda for discussion at February's Council Meeting.

1. Planning Matters

P/24/702/FUL – Llynfi View, Cildaudy Road – 1st Floor Balcony -- No objections raised

1. Correspondence

Mrs Thorne – Church View – Coytrahen (In attendance)

Mr Lewis – Main Road – Coytrahen (In attendance)

Mr James – Cildaudy Road – Email advising that Octobers minutes had not been uploaded

Mrs Turner – Nicholls Arms (In attendance)

1. Members Report

**Cllr Windsor**

Inquired if the star was removed from our insurance policy, Cllr Morgan asked to place this onto the agenda for our upcoming finance meeting.

**Cllr. Gronow**

Reported the fallen trees in the river to National Resources. He was later advised these trees cannot be removed, being part of the animal habitat.

Cllr Gronow and Cllr Roberts asked if the account for Pyle Garden Centre could be reinstated to purchase flowers for the planter.  This was agreed.

**Cllr. Faulkner**

Sadly, she shared the news that the husband of Mavis, who held the service for Memorial Day', had passed away. Cllr. Faulkner will send a condolence card on behalf of the community council.

The community centre will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The community association asked if the community council would like to work jointly in celebrating this.  This will be added to our finance meeting agenda for discussion.

The community association has recently paid a bill of £300 for the outside lights at the community centre. Cllr. Haines will inquire about this cost, as the lights are on council land the responsibility of the cost should fall upon them.

Unfortunately, due to the severe weather and electricity cuts, the OAP lunch was cancelled until January.

Coytrahen does Christmas was also cancelled and re-scheduled. However, there was less response due to the weather.  Several Christmas selection boxes were left over which the association have been selling. They will be reimbursing us for the cost of the sold ones.

**Cllr. Davies**

Has the remembrance bench ready to be fitted.  He has requested to purchase some cement to fix it to the ground. This was approved.

**Cllr. Roberts.**

Was happy the Pyle Garden Centre account has been reinstated.

She also inquired that as Cllr. Davies was gifted the garden machinery, who would now be responsible for the petrol cost. Cllr. Morgan advised that he would be reimbursed for the fuel.

Reported the pothole outside the community centre needs to be repaired.  Cllr. Haines will report this to BCBC.

**Cllr. Jones**

Stresses the need for the community to hold a meeting following the public consultation from Last Energy. He also raised concern about all other potential planning applications may be put forward for approval and the detrimental impact it will pose upon our community.

Raised concerns regarding the potential community ward changes and emphasised the urgency to object to BCBC and to potentially put an alternative suggestion forward.

**Cllr. Haines**

Cllr. Haines has declared a prejudicial interest in all matters relating to the upcoming Ward changes. All future discussions relating to this matter Cllr. Haines will leave the room and return once discussions have ended.

1. Finance

Clerk continues to have problems with HSBC.

Letter signed by Cllr. Faulkner & Cllr. Gronow giving the clerk authorisation to collect the ordered bank statements from the branch

1. Public Participation

MTT (Wind Farm) attended January's meeting. They gave a brief overview of the potential project, but unfortunately were unable to show the slides.  These will be forwarded to us and uploaded to the council web page for the community to review.  The councillors raised their concerns about having several potential projects and the impact this will pose upon the community and residents.

Mr. Lewis - (Main Road, Coytrahen) attended January's meeting. Mr. Lewis was concerned about the fast cars and the need for a crossing on the main road. He was also disappointed with the option event not going ahead.  Cllr. Haines identified the need for a crossing and advise he is currently working with BCBC on this matter.  Cllr. Jones advised that he would be making contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise awareness of the cancelation of the option event.

Mrs. Thorne - (Church View) attended January’s meeting having been disappointed the village had no Christmas Lights this year.  Prior to January's meeting, the clerk responded to Mrs Thorne's email advising that it was down to the increased costs and affordability. Provisions have now been made in this upcoming precept for the Christmas Lights and Christmas Tree for 2025.

Mrs. Turner (Nicholls Arms) wanted to record that she is having issues with BCBC regarding the pothole on the pavement adjacent to the Nicholls. Cllr. Haines is assisting Mrs. Turner on this matter.  To date, BCBC have advised they are not responsible for the pavement and will not repair it.  Mrs. Turner has provided her land registry deeds identifying the outline of her property showing the pothole is not within her boundary. Cllr. Haines will make further contact with BCB

1. Any Other Business

Finance meeting arranged for the 24th of February at 6.30pm

1. Items for February meeting:

* Crossing - Update
* Outcome Finance Meeting
* Watercourse.
* CAT
* Insurance Review
* Last Energy Public Meeting

1. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday the 26th of February 2025 at 7pm

Signed (Chair) Date:

Chair Comments: