

In line with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 these minutes are duly published as draft and will be formally agreed at the next meeting of Council.

## Cyngor Cymuned Cwmllynfell Community Council



26 Ffordd Yr Hebog, Parc Derwen, Coity, Bridgend, CF35 6DH

· 07714 788429

E.bost/E.mail: cwmllynfellcc@gmail.com

<http://www.cwmllynfell.cc>

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### Minutes of the General Meeting of Cwmllynfell Community Council held virtually on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 6.30pm.

Cllr H Jones (Chairman)  
Cllr M Scarll (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr C James  
Cllr H Williams

Under Section 48 of the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 - To receive representation from Members of the public on items pertaining to the agenda

*The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow for a Member of the public to address the Council. The Speaker spoke of the Work of Cwmllynfell Hall and explained to the council how it operates and the high costs of running it and how the hall are seriously underfunded and asked Members to consider this when they set their pre-cept and budget this evening. Following the address, the Chairman thanked the speaker for their contributions and noted the excellent work of the hall and the support they had shown the Community during recent events.*

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Martin Evans  
Cllr Delyth Thomas

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting

#### 4. Financial Matters

The Clerk presented the payments and advised that subject to the other items on the agenda subsequent, those payments would also be made in the December payments

##### a. Payment of Accounts and Bank reconciliation November & December 2024

#### Payment of Accounts November 2024

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Sarah Daniel	Salary	889.81
HMRC	Income Tax	170.89
NEST	Pension	71.30
O2	Mobile Phone	14.35
Etsy	Stickers for selection boxes	46.55
Sarah Daniel	Selection Boxes	TBC

### Bank Reconciliation

Opening Balance 30 September = £77,329.85  
 Payments made October = £5,229.05  
 Payments received = 0  
 Closing balance 31 October 2024 = 72,100.80

### Payment of Accounts December 2024

Sarah Daniel	Salary	684.89
HMRC	Income Tax	170.89
NEST	Pension	59.81
O2	Mobile Phone	14.35
Quids Inn	Christmas Trees x2	1200.00
Wrenvale	Cut back of overhanging trees in Cemetery	180.00
C Phillips	Cemetery Honorarium	265.00
Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall	Grant for Blinds	606.00
Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall	Warm Hub Emergency Funding Support	1255.00
Cwmllynfell RFC Juniors	Selection Boxes	100.00

### Bank reconciliation

Opening Balance 31 October 2024 = 72,100.80  
 Payments made November = 1,313.65  
 Payments received = 200.00  
 Closing Balance = 70,987.15

**RESOLVED:** To accept the payment of accounts and bank reconciliation for November and December 2024

b. **Donation Request – Urdd Eisteddfod 2025**

The Clerk advised of a letter that had been received requesting a donation from the organisers of the Urdd Eisteddfod 2025 which was coming to Margam Park in the Summer of 2025. She advised that they need to raise over £300,000 to fund the event and were therefore seeking the support of all Community Councils. The letter detailed that a donation of £175 would fund a trophy for the event.

The Borough Member commented that this is also something that could be raised with YGG School to see if we could work together to support the event and advised that she would take this back to the next governors meeting.

Following consideration of the request it was **RESOLVED:** To make a donation of £175 towards the Eisteddfod 2025

c. **Grant Application**

The Clerk advised that an application had been received from Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall seeking a grant for the purchase of new blinds to the sum of £606. She advised that three quotes are not required for this application as the individual items are not over the £500 threshold.

She advised that it was her recommendation to approve the grant due to the following:

- In line with the grant policy
- Budget available
- Supporting accounts / bank statements supplied
- First application to the fund this financial year
- Application received in time before the grant window closed.

The Clerk further advised Members that if the grant is approved, the remaining grant budget will be £1355 with the grant applications now being closed for this financial year and re-opening in May 2025

Members agreed that as the grant was in line with the policy they agreed to award it.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the application

d. **Emergency funding request following Storm Darragh**

The Clerk advised that in addition to the request received from the Hall, the Chair and Vice Chair had received emergency support request from Cwmllynfell RFC following damage sustained to the club following Storm Darragh. They had also sought support to pay for selection boxes for the juniors for their Christmas Party. The Chairman requested that this be considered as **Urgent Business**. Members agreed to the request.

The clerk advised of communications received from Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall seeking support

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following on from the effects of Storm Darragh that hit the village. She advised that the hall had extended their opening hours and volunteers available to support residents who were unable to access electricity at home. Members of the public sought refuge at the hall during the time their power was out to use it to get hot drinks, hot meals, stay warm, fill water bottles for the evening and as a hub to work using power and internet whilst their power was off.

The Clerk explained that the Hall had reached out seeking whatever financial support the Community Council were able to offer as due to the support they had provided to residents it has meant their electricity bill *so far* for the month of December was currently standing at just over £1000. The Clerk further advised that there was £1355 left in the grant pot which could now not be applied for, which Members could utilise should they wish to support.

The Chair and Vice Chair then advised that following on from the Council surgery held the previous evening that they had received a request for support from Cwmllynfell RFC as they had suffered approximately £7,000 worth of damage to fencing following the storm which was not covered by their insurance. The work needs to be undertaken as soon as possible as until the repairs are undertaken the Junior are unable to play. The Vice Chair advised that the club were in the process of seeking quotes and were awaiting a third quote. Members discussed both requests and agreed that both the hall and the club needed the Community Council support at this time. Members wished to thank the Hall for their support and dedication they showed to their community by offering the hall as a warm hub for residents to attend as needed. They also commented that it was important that the rugby club is back to its full use as soon as possible so the children were able to continue with their games and training there.

The clerk suggested to avoid a delay in making a payment to the rugby club and potentially having to wait until the new year for the Community Council to meet and agree an amount she suggested Members consider awarding them emergency funds "up to" a certain amount to cover the costs of the damages.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To award the Hall the sum of £ 1255 toward the cost of utilities
2. Award the Cwmllynfell RFC Juniors £100 towards the cost of selection boxes
3. Award Cwmllynfell RFC **up to** the sum of £7,000 in emergency support and to pay the amount once the third quote had been received.

e. **Budget and Pre-cept Setting 2025-26**

The Clerk presented the budget proposals for the 25-26 budget in categories and advised where proposed savings can be identified and where increases will be necessary.

She referred Members to Table 1 of the report (below) which sets out the proposed budget totalling 49.8K, with the current pre-cept set at £48,000.

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	2024-25	Proposed 25-26
General Administration	6,546	5,971
Payroll & Expenses	11,732	12,032
Cemetery	4,265	4,265
Parks and Open Spaces	15,935	16,570
Grants General / Section 137	11,100	11,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,578</b>	<b>49,838</b>

Members considered that they raised the pre-cept in the previous year and the Community Council also had a healthy reserve. They were mindful that residents were feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis and did not want to place further financial burden on them at this time.

The Borough Member questioned if the proposed amount to the Community Hall was enough following on from the surgery held the previous evening and the public speakers comments at the beginning of the meeting where it was explained to Members by a representative of the hall how much it costs to run the hall and how over the last few years, funding from the Borough and Community Council had been significantly reduced.

Members considered that if they were to give a higher amount to the hall and not increase the pre-cept, the money would need to be found from elsewhere in the budget and considered if the £3000 allocated to flowers was necessary. One Member commented that she had received positive feedback from residents on the flowers and was something that they like to see. Members also considered the high costs of the Christmas lighting and trees each year but considered if this was to be reduced in any way residents would be disappointed.

The Vice Chair suggested that how the Community Council spends public money could be discussed at a future surgery – and ask residents where they would like to see their money spent and feedback to a future meeting. The Clerk advised that whilst Members had to determine their pre-cept level at the meeting, they could re-visit the budget at various points throughout the financial year, should they wish to reallocate funding.

**RESOLVED:** To not increase the pre-cept at for the 25-26 financial year and set at £48,000

## 5. Planning Matters

None received

## 6. Reports

## 7.

### a. Correspondence – YGG Cwmllynfell

The clerk advised that she had received an email from the Head of YGG Cwmllynfell to thank

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the Community Council for their donation of selection boxes for the children.

**b. Rushlands / Rhiwfawr Maintenance**

The Clerk advised that she had received communications from a resident in Rhiwfawr where trees that the responsibility of the Community Council are and fencing at the back of the property near the Rushlands were rotten and needed to be looked at. She advised that the Vice Chair had undertaken a site visit of the area and confirmed that it was Community Council responsibility and was seeking quotes for the work to be undertaken. He agreed to report back at a future meeting.

**c. Member Vacancies – Co-option**

The Clerk advised that three expressions of interest had been received for the Community Councillor roles in Cwmllynfell. She advised that the positions were eligible for co-option as they had been vacant since the 2022 election, with one being more recent in March 2024 following the resignation of Councillor D Watkins.

She advised that Erica Thomas Howells, Eleri Davies and Mr Christopher Lewis had put their names forward to be considered. She advised Members that as there were 3 vacancies and 3 expressions of interest, her recommendation was to accept all 3 as Members of the Council.

Members agreed with the recommendation and the Chairman thanked them for their interest and looked forward to working with them for the benefit of the Community.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the 3 applicants and for the Clerk to arrange for them to sign their declaration of Acceptance forms.

**d. Notice of Member Vacancies**

The Clerk advised that there are a further two vacancies for Cwmllynfell following the resignation of Councillor H Lewis and L Salmon. She advised that as they were newly available positions they will be advertised for 14 days (7<sup>th</sup> January) to give an opportunity for the public to call for an election. If no election is called then the vacancies will be eligible for co-option in the usual way.

**e. Member Surgery Update**

The Vice Chair updated Members on the Community surgery that took place the previous day that he had organised and held in Cwmllynfell Hall. The surgery was also attended by the Chairman and the Borough Councillor

He advised that the surgery provided an opportunity to advise the public of what the Community Council does and demonstrated openness and transparency. The Christmas parade, Christmas lighting, budget, communication, budget allocation, Cemetery, Grass Cutting, flowers were amongst some of the topics discussed. The Vice Chair commented that he thought residents found the session useful and has suggested that these are held more regularly as a way of feeding back to the public on the work of the Community Council and so they can have open discussions with a representative of the Council. He added that residents did consider that Christmas discussions should take place much earlier in the year to ensure everything is organised and in place and they also considered how the Community Council engages with young people in the Community.

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He advised that going forward he will look to convene the surgeries following the Community council meetings as a way to feedback to residents on the work of the council and that all members are welcome to attend to meet with their residents.

f. **Borough Member Report**

The Borough Member advised of the following updates:

- A meeting had been held with Highways regarding projects for the next financial year
- Parking issues at the Social Club and CKs had been raised but no resolution as yet.
- Speeding in Graig Twrch has been raised so a speed survey is being looked at.
- Harris Road resurfacing was discussed but as the road is unadopted the Council will not repair.

The Chairman asked if at the next meeting the Borough Member could raise that there are some large pot holes on the road on the way up to Rhiwfawr.

**8. Date and Time of next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 6.30PM - Virtual

**9. Urgent Business**

Please advise Chair and clerk of urgent business 24 hours prior to the meeting