

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



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### Minutes of the General Meeting of Cwmllynfell Community Council held virtually on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 6.30pm.

**Cllr H Jones (Chairman)**  
**Cllr M Scarll (Vice Chairman)**  
**Cllr M Evans**  
**Cllr C James**  
**Cllr D Thomas**  
**Cllr H Williams**  
**Cllr E Davies**  
**Cllr C Lewis**  
**Cllr E Thomas Howells**

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed the three new Co-Opted Members Cllr E Davies, Cllr C Lewis and Cllr E Thomas Howells to the Council. No apologies for absence were received

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the code of conduct the following declarations were made:

Councillor E Davies declared a personal interest in item 4c in that she is a volunteer at Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall. She advised Members that since taking her role up with the Community Council she had resigned as a Member of the Hall Committee and was no longer a Non-Executive Director for them.

Councillor E Thomas Howells declared a prejudicial interest in item 4c in that she is a Committee Member / Non- Exec Director of the Hall and advised she would leave the meeting whilst discussion takes place regarding funding for the hall. Councillor E Thomas Howells also declared a prejudicial interest in item 6d as the applicant is her mother. Councillor Thomas Howells left the meeting when discussing the halls allocated budge during item 4c and also for the consideration of item 6d.

#### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2024

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 4. Financial Matters

##### a. Payment of Accounts January & February 2025

access to the meeting can be obtained from the Clerk.

**Members: Cllr H Jones, Cllr M Scarll, Cllr M Evans, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C James, Cllr H Williams, Cllr E Davies, Cllr E Thomas Howells, Cllr C Lewis**

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**January 2025**

Sarah Daniel	Salary	684.89
HMRC	Income Tax	170.89
NEST	Pension	59.81
O2	Mobile Phone	14.35
Wrenvale	Quarterly Contractual agreement (INV1350)	1987.50
Wrenvale	Cut back and dispose of overhanging Trees – Cwm Cemetery (INV1324)	240.00
Wrenvale	Removal of Cemetery Rubbish (INV1322)	96.00

**February 2025**

Sarah Daniel	Salary	684.89
HMRC	Income Tax	170.89
NEST	Pension	59.81
O2	Mobile Phone	14.35
Centregreat	Installation of Lights	3432.00

**RESOLVED:** To approve the payments

b. **2024-25 Quarter 3 (September to 31 December 2024) Accounts position**

The Clerk presented the budget position to Members for approval. She highlighted the following:

Grant Budget is overspent this year – this is due to the emergency funding that was awarded to Cwmllynfell RFC for the fencing damage caused during the storms before Christmas 2024.

Parks and Open Spaces Budget is currently overspent – this is due to investment agreed for Rhiwfawr which was for the refurbishment of the BMX Track and the ongoing repair to the fence around the field and Rushlands area.

Income from the Cemetery so far has been £2824, whilst expenditure is £3536

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Q3 accounts as an accurate position of the Council finances to 31 December 2024

c. **Review of Budget 2025-26**

The Clerk presented the current allocated budget for review by Members and went through each section line by line, noting that Members had asked for this to be brought back to Council for review to identify if there were any savings that could be made and to review the budget allocated to Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall

Members discussed the removal of bins in the cemetery and noted the increase in flytipping since they were removed. The Clerk advised that the bins were not removed due to costs, but due to the management of new requirements of separating waste where trade waste

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**Members: Cllr H Jones, Cllr M Scarll, Cllr M Evans, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C James, Cllr H Williams, Cllr E Davies, Cllr E Thomas Howells, Cllr C Lewis**

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bins are in place. She advised that she could seek quotes for smaller bins to be installed but if trade waste bins were to be reinstated Members would need to consider how this is managed as the Council will be imposed fines where waste is contaminated

Members discussed the allocation of funding for seasonal planting and the Vice Chairman advised that he had sought quotes for equipment, compost and bulbs to be able to hold a Community Gardening day. He advised that he could source what was needed to refill the large pots and barrier baskets for £500, which was a saving of approximately £1700 and an opportunity to bring the community together for a day.

Members also considered the high costs of the Christmas decorations each year, largely in part which is costs for purchasing trees each year which was £1200 for two for 2024 and the costs of using Centregreat to install the lights each time. Members considered whether providing an LED for Cwmllynfell and placing outside the hall would be a more cost effective option. The Chairman raised concerns that the current Christmas decorations could be better and considered that this is an area the Community Council should be investing in. He also asked if an overhead decoration that the Council had previously used could be used again. The Clerk advised that unfortunately, due to health and safety regulations this was not possible as electrification of new posts would be needed which was out of reach of Council finances. Members considered that with collaboration with Neuadd Cwmllynfell this is an area that could be invested in whilst achieving long term savings.

In discussing the budget allocated to Community Halls, a Member advised that Neuadd Cwmllynfell were finding it difficult to manage their finances on the current allocation that they receive from the Community Council. This is due to increased running costs and also huge cuts in funding from the Local Authority and from the Community Council. The model of them applying for grants was also difficult as they need income for running costs, rather than applying for project- based work. A Member proposed a sum of £10,000 in support for the Community Hall, an increase of £5,500 in line with how they were previously funded by the Community Council. The clerk advised if the proposal was agreed by Members, this would be managed through reallocating savings achieved from seasonal planting, any potential Christmas savings and from the Council reserves. In response to a query from Members the clerk clarified that the Community grant policy was separate to the funding of the Community Halls and under this proposal, they would not be excluded from applying for grants. The Vice Chairman reassured that he had also spoken with Rhiwfawr Hall and they were satisfied with their current level of funding of £2,000 a year and were not seeking an increase.

Following further discussion and consideration of the above a vote was taken on the level of funding for Neuadd Cwmllynfell and it was unanimously agreed to increase their annual funding to £10,000

**RESOLVED:**

- To increase Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall annual funding to £10,000 from April 2025.
- To explore the option and costs of reinstating a bin at the cemetery.
- Members and Clerk to seek quotes for alternative Christmas decorations options to determine if a saving can be achieved.
- To reduce the Seasonal Planting budget to fund a Community Planting day
- To bring back the budget proposals to the next meeting for further review and discussion.

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**Members: Cllr H Jones, Cllr M Scarll, Cllr M Evans, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C James, Cllr H Williams, Cllr E Davies, Cllr E Thomas Howells, Cllr C Lewis**

## 5. Planning Matters

P2025/0084

Site Location:

Car Park, Land At The Junction Of Gwilym Road And Is Y Bryniau  
Cwmllynfell  
SA9 2GN

Members noted that the application had previously received approval and this was an extension of time for the development.

## 6. Reports

### a. Community Surgery Update

The Vice Chairman provided an update on the most recent Community surgery which was well attended. He advised that the idea of a Community planting day was well received the Community were keen to be involved.

He advised that the next surgery will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March at Neuadd Cwmllynfell at 7PM in which he would invite the local PCSO to attend.

### b. Christmas 2025 preparations

The Vice Chairman advised that preparations were already underway to ensure that a Christmas parade will be held in 2025 and ideas can also be discussed in the next surgery, A Member also advised that they had also spoken with the youth club who were keen to see its return and be involved in the preparations. The Clerk advised that she will speak to the special events team in NPT to ensure formalities are in place. She advised that public liability will need to be in place for external volunteers in which Members were supportive of funding to ensure the event could go ahead.

As discussed in the previous budget item, quotes will also be sought for more cost- effective options for Christmas lighting and trees but it was noted that it would be difficult to implement changes in Rhiwfawr due to the wooden posts. If the tree were to be relocated in Rhiwfawr it would likely need to be placed off the main road and therefore out of sight for many so it was not considered this would be favourable in Rhiwfawr.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to obtain options and quotes for alternative decorations and report back at a future meeting.

### c. Community Planting Project

The clerk advised that she had applied for a grant for up to £1500 towards the purchasing of equipment, bulbs and compost to hold a Community Gardening Day. She advised that it would take up to 8 weeks for the grant to be considered so the budget will be reviewed assuming that we do not get the grant and this can be reviewed if it is approved.

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**Members: Cllr H Jones, Cllr M Scarll, Cllr M Evans, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C James, Cllr H Williams, Cllr E Davies, Cllr E Thomas Howells, Cllr C Lewis**

d. **Notice of Vacancy & Member appointment**

The Clerk advised that an expression of interest had been received to join the Community Council as a Co-opted Member from Susan Howells. The Clerk reminded Members that there were currently two vacancies for Cwmllynfell ward and in accepting this application, one would remain.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the application and for the clerk to arrange for the relevant paperwork to be signed for the new Member

e. **Youth Council – Letter**

The Clerk advised of a letter that had been received from the Youth Council and she had made some suggestions for Members to consider on the letter. She asked how members wished to proceed.

The Chairman agreed with the contents of the letter and stated that it was great to see the youth Council engaging with the Community Council.

Members requested that the clerk seek quotes to replace the bins in the park as they were open and when the weather was bad, the rubbish would blow out on to the floor.

Members also requested the clerk seek quotes to repair / replace the safety surfacing around the zip wire.

With regards to a request for a higher fence to be installed at the basket ball court, the clerk advised that due to health and safety measures this would not be possible as what is currently in situ is carefully designed to meet strict health and safety measures and the height is calculated based on risk of falling and safety surfacing matched to the requirements. She advised that she could explore the option of safety netting instead. Members were agreeable to this.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to seek quotes for resurfacing repairs, new bins and safety netting for the playground

f. **Dog Fouling**

The Chairman advised that he had received reports of repeat occurrences of dog fouling along the cycle track. The Clerk advised that she had also received an email from a Member of the public on the same issue. Members discussed that the issue is long standing and considered that in all cases, Members should encourage residents to keep reporting the issue to NPTCBC, as the more the issue is reported, the more chance there is that officers will be deployed to monitor the situation and use enforcement to issue penalties. Members agreed they would share the "[Report it](#)" link on socials as much as possible.

g. **Borough Member Report**

Cllr Cathy James advised of her resignation as Borough Councillor and gave an update of business before her resignation

She advised the Council that she had recently attended a governors termly meeting at YGG Cwmllynfell and was pleased to report that they were one of just two primary schools in the

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area who had managed to get their attendance figures up to pre-covid levels.

Members were also advised that the NPTCBC Cabinet had met to discuss proposals to increase Council tax by 7%. She advised that Council were meeting the following week to finalise proposals.

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

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 6.30PM - Virtually

**8. Urgent Business**

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

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**Members: Cllr H Jones, Cllr M Scarll, Cllr M Evans, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C James, Cllr H Williams, Cllr E Davies, Cllr E Thomas Howells, Cllr C Lewis**