

Cyngor Cymuned Cwmllynfell Community Council



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Minutes of the General Meeting of Cwmllynfell Community Council held virtually on Thursday 27th November 2025 6.30pm

Minutes

Councillor M Scarll – Chairman
Councillor E Davies – Vice Chairperson
Councillor H Williams
Councillor C James
Councillor E Thomas Howells
Councillor S Howells
Councillor C Lewis
Councillor D Thomas
Councillor K Williams

1. Apologies for Absence

Members noted the resignation from Councillor Hugh Jones received today. The clerk advised that this leaves a vacancy for the village of Cwmllynfell which will be advertised through the usual channels

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Erica Thomas Howells declared a prejudicial interest in item 4b in that she is a committee member at Cwmllynfell Hall. Upon advice from the clerk Cllr Thomas Howells left the meeting during deliberations in relation to setting the budget for future funding to the hall

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2025

RESOLVED: the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd October 2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting

4. Financial Matters

- a. Payment of Accounts and Bank reconciliation – November 2025

Sarah Daniel	Salary	705.67
HMRC	Income Tax	176.36
NEST	Pension	61.72
O2	Mobile Phone	15.42
Mat Scarll	Additional Battery for Christmas lights	180.88
****	Public Liability Insurance	106.40

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.

Sarah Daniel	Selection boxes & sweets – Parade& School	305.35
First Rescue Training	Replacement Defib Batteries and Pads (x2)	418.78
Viking UK	Toner, Paper, High vis Vests	278.77
GS Electrical	Electrician for trees	250.00
Old School Nursery	Christmas Trees	640.00
Wrenvale	Quarterly Invoice	1987.50
Wrenvale	Watering hanging baskets	288.00
Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall	Emergency Grant Funding Support (agreed at 4b)	3000.00
Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall	Utility Support (agreed at 4b)	500.00
Neuadd Cwmllynfell Hall	Food Supplies for Santa Parade	200.00

b. Budget Discussion 26-27

Members undertook an initial budget discussion, focusing heavily on inflation, reserve levels, and the ongoing financial crisis facing the village hall.

Precept Considerations

Members discussed the desire to avoid steep future increases and agreed it was prudent to introduce a 2% precept increase for 2026–27, allowing gradual adjustment rather than a sudden rise in coming years. 2% increase equates to approximately £1,000 additional income and will be reviewed again next year.

Reserves and General Expenditure

The Council's reserves remain healthy. Inflationary pressures were recognised, but no exceptional upcoming costs were identified outside usual maintenance such as cemetery upkeep, grounds maintenance, and routine infrastructure. Members agreed to continue offsetting inflation through reserves where appropriate.

Cemetery Maintenance

Concerns were raised regarding inconsistency in grounds maintenance between the upper and lower ends of the cemetery. The Clerk will review with the contractor to determine whether maintenance schedules differ by section and whether additional cuts are required

Councillor Thomas Howells left the meeting at this juncture

Cwmllynfell Hall

Members heard of the serious financial difficulties facing Cwmllynfell Hall. Members noted the hall's electricity contract is locked at an extremely high rate of 57p/kWh until August 2026, creating unsustainable monthly bills averaging £900. If the Third Sector Grant is further delayed or not awarded, the hall risks becoming unsustainable, potentially losing staff, and operating only as a minimal caretaker building without services. Members voiced serious concern that losing the hall would significantly impact the entire community, including sports clubs, social groups, children's activities, and welfare services.

Members therefore **RESOLVED** to the following immediate actions:

1. Letter to NPT Councillors: A formal letter from the Community Council will be sent to raise urgent concerns regarding the delayed Third Sector Grant and the risk to the hall.
2. Extra short-term support in December 2025 - The Council approved an additional £3,000 payment in December (made up of the £2,000 Christmas budget saving and £1,000 remaining in the grant pot).
3. Grant for 2026–27 -The Council agreed in principle to:
 - 3a. Continue the £10,000 annual hall support; add as a **minimum** an inflationary uplift (approx. 3.6–4%) subject to final December budget confirmation.
 - 3b. Pay the grant as a lump sum in April to allow the hall better financial planning.
4. Electricity Bill Assistance (Short-Term): The Council agreed in principle to support the hall by covering the difference between the current inflated electricity rate and the market-normal rate (approx. 25p/kWh / £500 per month), until August 2026 when a new contract can be negotiated.
5. Contract Review: The Chair will review all service contracts, maintenance agreements, and operational costs to identify further savings and efficiencies.
6. Clerk to bring final budget proposals to the December meeting based on the discussions held this evening, noting that the hall is a top priority due to its central role in the community and the severity of the financial crisis it faces. Members also requested that a fund be established to support community events throughout the year.

5. Planning Matters

none

6. Reports

a. Christmas 2025

The new Christmas lighting setup is operating successfully and has generated significant savings, approximately £2,000 this year, with greater savings expected next year as battery and equipment costs will not recur as highly. These savings are reusable for community events throughout the year.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to allocate £200 to fund turkey rolls and mulled wine for purchase at the hall following the Santa Parade on 7 December.

b. Community Surgery

The recent surgery at the hall was lightly attended but provided useful community feedback. The Council will look to hold a larger consultation event early in the New Year to gather public views on upcoming plans and explain financial decisions, including the precept increase and hall support commitments.

7. Date and Time of next meeting – 18th December 2025

8. Urgent Business

The Chair advised that he will hold discussions with Rhiwfawr Hall Committee members in January with a view to re-establishing a functioning group or seeking new volunteers as it has faced some recent difficulties.