

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd April 2025

at Coytrahen Community Centre

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

Councillors In Attendance: -

Cllr. D Davies.	Cllr. Jones
Cllr. G Faulkner	Cllr. Gronow
Cllr. Windsor	Cllr. Roberts
Mrs. L Turner (Clerk)	

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr. Haines. Cllr. Roberts

2. Declaration of Interest.

- Cllr Faulkner and Cllr. Roberts on all matters relating to the Coytrahen Community Association.
- Cllr. Jones, Councillor for Bridgend County Borough Councillor on all matters relating to Bridgend County Borough Council.
- Cllr. Jones, Cllr. Gronow & Cllr. Windsor on all matters relating to the potential collaboration with Tondy Football Club.

3. Police Matters

There were no police in attendance at April's meeting.

It was shared upon advising SWP of the Last Energy public meeting and potential issues with parking on the main road. SWP advised that future events will need to be risk-assessed. This will be reviewed further once LLCC holds another public event. Chair shared that, sadly, there was a suicide and reports of a dead horse due to neglect. Clerk to contact the PCSO and stress the importance of police attendance or to provide reports on events within the community. Clerk to ask Cllr Haines to also reach out to the local PCSO

4. Minutes/Matters arising from March meeting:

- Public Crossing (Ongoing)
- The replacement Dog waste Bin is on order and awaiting delivery, Cllr. Davies has volunteered to fit the bin.
- The Nicholls Arms have removed the wooden posts.
- Cllr. Gronow will be painting the 3 benches around the village. He received £53.00 of petty cash for materials.
- Cllr. Jones has arranged to meet with Mr Malcolm James regarding the poor workmanship of the tree cutting along the main road.
- Pothole on the street adjacent to the Nicholls Arms – Clerk reported to Highways on 27/3/25 Ref HW700194392 – Clerk to chase up referral
- The condition of the road from the Community Centre towards the Nicholls Arms – Clerk reported to Highways on 27/3/25 Ref HW700238911, HW700230458 – Clerk to chase up referral.
- Blocked drains around the village – Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress of this referral.

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- Removal of the skate ramp on the greenery behind the Nicholls Arms - Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress of this referral.
- Pothole at the bottom of Cildaudy Hill Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress of this referral.
- Sinkhole within the community centre Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress of this referral.
- Steps at the kissing gates Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress of this referral. The Councillors agreed that due to the dangerous condition of the steps, it is now a public safety hazard. LLCC will seek to obtain quotations for the repairs to the steps whilst this is in progress. The pathway will temporarily be closed. Cllr. Davies will arrange this.

5. Matters Discussed: -

Watercourse - Cllr. Faulkner, Cllr Gronow and Cllr Davies met with the arbitrary on site today. He will produce a report on a scoring system on the severity of the work. He will also quote for the work. Clerk to forward this report to Louise Connolly BCBC

The football field - Clerk has submitted the EOI. This will be discussed and decided upon by the next CAT steering group at the end of April. LLCC have requested to include the old allotment area within the CAT with the aim of making a community allotment should this be approved.

Public Meeting - Last Energy held a public meeting upon request of LLCC. A short presentation of the project was given and questions answered. Last energy advised, further public consultations will be held prior to submitting the planning application in January 2026.

Potential Council Ward Changes - This is still in the consultation process.

Preservation of the Monkey Puzzle Tree - Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress

Christmas decorations and Tree - LLCC agreed, due to the increased cost of Christmas lights, it would be more cost effective to purchase Christmas trees to plant in the village and re-decorate annually. – Clerk to make enquiries

Safety Camera Unit/Mobile Cameras - Clerk to check with Cllr Haines on the progress.

Information on the distribution of 106 money - Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines on the progress

Landscaping/community repairs - Clerk to inquire with BCBC and other community councils for a list of approved contractors.

Replacement defib pads for the community centre have been ordered. The defib will remain temporarily offline until they're replaced.- Clerk to monitor

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MTT (Wind Farm) residents have received literature on the project in preparation for the public consultation at the community centre on Wednesday 30th of April.

LLCC AGM The meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th of May at 7.00pm at the community centre.

Community Centres 50th Anniversary Fun Day Cllr. Faulkner, on behalf of the CCA, invited LLCC to participate in a joint venture to celebrate the community centres 50th anniversary by way of financial contribution as in previous years. She shared the itinerary and their costings.

This was met with mixed views and put to a vote. Cllr. Faulkner and Cllr. Roberts were excluded from the vote having declared an interest.

Cllr. Windsor wanted it noted that he disagreed with any contribution. He is of the opinion. The Fun Day does not benefit the whole community and the funds LLCC holds are best used to improve the community, such as repairs to the steps and other upcoming large expenditures for the football field and watercourse trees. He inquired with Cllr. Faulkner on the financial account of the CCA. Cllr. Faulkner was unable to provide this ad hock.

Cllr, Gronow wanted to wait until the arbitrary report and the cost of the works prior to deciding.

Cllr Davies was happy to contribute to the event.

Cllr. Jones expressed his concern about having a small precept and making the best use of public money. He shared currently there are unknown expenditures for LLCC with the upcoming CAT and Watercourse. Funds will need to be kept in the event we may need to match fund. Also, community maintenance work is becoming a necessity now again, with unknown costs. Cllr. Jones also requested to know the financial situation of the CCA.

Cllr. Faulkner wanted it noted of her extreme disappointment with LLCC. CCA holds this annual event to benefit and bring the community together. She also wanted it acknowledged this event is free for all to enjoy. She is saddened by the response of the councillor's and their lack of community support.

Cllr. Roberts was also disappointed with this response and felt let down, having previously been given the impression of LLCC support to then withdraw it.

Cllr. Gronow second by Cllr. Jones requested to defer the decision until May's meeting, allowing time for the arbitrary quotation and for Cllr. Faulkner to share the financial status of the CCA

The Chair agreed to defer and place it on the agenda for May.

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6. Planning Matters

Planning application received from Wepa Uk Ltd on the 10th of April 2025 for a proposed installation of new paper machine. Including construction of a new building and associated works Planning Ref P/25/172/FUL – LLCC raised no objections to this application

7. Correspondence

No correspondence

8. Finance

- The clerk advised LLCC will need to submit a full audit for 24/25.
- It was agreed to use the same Internal Auditor as per last year - Clerk to email to instruct.
- Cllr. Gronow received £53.00 petty cash to purchase materials for painting the benches.
- The clerk asked if LLCC could apply for a "paying in card". This allows payments to be deposited at the HSBC Branch. This was agreed, and the forms completed and signed by Cllr. Gronow and Cllr. Faulkner.
- The clerk inquired about a debit card for the bank account. It was decided that online payments were the best way forward. It was decided by all councillors to proceed to changing banks to Natwest.
- **Schedule of Payments.**
Mrs. L Tuner
Defib Store
CBT Accountants
Valindre Fundraising
Roadworks

9. Clerks Report

- The raffle held at the public meeting raised £52.00 a cheque will be sent to Valindre Cancer Care
- Reported a dog attack along the Llynfi River

10. Members Report

Cllr. Windsor Reported his concern about the unsafe steps at the kissing gate.

Cllr. Gronow Reported he will be painting the benches next month

Cllr. Morgan (Chair) Nothing to report

Cllr. Faulkner Reported the swing park is due to be upgraded

Cllr. Davies Nothing to report

Cllr. Roberts Would shortly be purchasing flowers for the village and wanted to further report the sinkhole.

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Cllr Jones Nothing to report

11. **Cllr. Haines** No Report

12. Public Participation

Resident Mrs. Smart attended this month's meeting, expressing her concern about the decision to stop school transport from September 2025. She has invested her time heavily in advocating for reinstatement. Some concerns she raised were that the risk assessments for school routes have not been updated since 2017. School transport to Welsh and Faith schools will remain in place despite the distance from the school. The main walkway to the schools is dangerous. There is no public crossing, a heavy volume of speeding traffic. Public transport is poor and unreliable and the cost impact of this could prove a problem for some families, to name but a few.

Cllr. Jones gave a brief overview of why BCBC had reached this decision. Currently, the spending on school transport is approx. £1m pm. This is not sustainable. All councils have a statutory responsibility for school transport. BCBC has always provided a service beyond this. BCBC has now made the decision to only offer the statutory responsibilities, resulting in the withdrawal of services.

The chair advised this would be an education matter. However, it was felt that the school walking routes are a potential risk, and we would be happy to write a letter in support of this.

It was suggested that Mrs. Smart writes a letter outlining her concerns and to bring it with her to our next meeting.

13. Any Other Business

MTT (Wind Farm) have booked the community centre on Wednesday the 30th of April to hold a public consultation on the project.

14. Items for March meeting:

- Football Field/CAT Update
- Watercourse report/Quotation
- Council Merger
- Community Repairs- Bench painting/Dog Waste Bin/overgrowth/potholes/sinkhole
- Christmas Tree
- Community Centres Fun Day Celebration
- 24/2025 Accounts
- Natwest Bank Account

15. Date of Next meeting

AGM - Wednesday the 28th of May 2025 at 7pm
Council Meeting Wednesday the 28th of May at 7.30

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Signed (Chair)

Date:

Chair Comments: