**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th of September 2024**

**at Coytrahen Community Centre**

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and chaired by LLCC newly elected Councillor Judith Morgan -

Councillors In Attendance: -

Cllr. D Davies. Cllr. J Windsor

Cllr. G Faulkner Cllr. P Gronow

Clerk L Turner Cllr. M Jones (arrived at 8.00pm)

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. G Haines, Cllr. J Roberts.

1. **Declaration of Interest.**

* Cllr Faulkner & Cllr. Roberts on all matters relating to the Coytrahen Community Association.
* Committee Members 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 Tondu Football Club.

1. **Police Matters**

* There was no police attendance during this meeting. However, PCSO Lauren Thomas is organising to hire the Community Centre hall in October to undertake an “Options” event. Where they will be monitoring the speed on the main road and will stop all speeding card and offer them the opportunity to attend the “Options” event.
* It was agreed the hire fee for the hall will be invoiced to the appropriate bodies within SWP at £12ph.

1. **Minutes/Matters Arising from August’s Council Meeting.**

The minutes for August’s meeting were reviewed and agreed by all present councillors.

* The new Defibrillator has been delivered and is awaiting installation.
* The current defib at the Community Centre requires new batteries.  It was agreed unanimously to purchase these asap, Clerk to order,
* Watercourse withdrawal - No further updates were available from BCBC.
* The Watercourse wooden bridge continues to be a safety hazard. Cllr. Jones, and Cllr. Haines will request BCBC to undertake a risk assessment

1. **Matters to be discussed in September’s meeting**

* Cllr. Gronow, will price up commemorative items to celebrate the 80th Anniversary.
* Internal Audit – Quotation for 2024/25.
* Bus Shelter Clearing – Clerk to arrange
* Pathways – Clerk to arrange
* Watercourse- Update (ongoing)
* Potential Collaboration - Update (ongoing)
* Risk Assessment on the Wooden Bridge – Update (ongoing)
* Crossing on the main road – Update (ongoing)

1. **Correspondence.**

Email from Lesley MTT (wind farm) accepting our invitation to attend our October meeting.

1. **Planning Matters**

* BCBC have now updated their system and all planning applications are being sent to LT (Clerk)
* A new planning application consultation P/24/406/FUL was submitted by WEPA UK ltd proposing a new plant unit to include two new boilers – adjacent to the new unit, a new 30m tall stack to be built at the paper mills. There was no objection from the councillors.

1. **Members Reports**

* Cllr. Davies met with N Thomas Landscaping to discuss the pathway work and what needed to be cleared.  N Thomas has started the work and it remains unfinished. Clerk to inquire about the completion date.
* JPE Cleaning Services has cleared 3 of the 5 bus shelters. Due to confusion with the quotation.  JPE cleaning has quoted an additional £180 to clear the remaining 2 bus shelters.
* The daffodils were collected from Bakers at the cost of £235.20. This will be reviewed next year, being a large cost from our precept. Cllr. Gronow advised he knows someone that will be happy to plant them. He will inquire about the cost. It was also noted that the bulbs will need to be planted on Ffordd-Y-Gyfraith
* he “footpath” sign has now been replaced.
* The 2 Children's Crossing signs are now visible following the hedge cutting by BCBC.
* The refuge bin at the swing park is now replaced.
* The remembrance service will be held on the 10th of November at 2.00pm at the Philip Squire Community Centre.  Cllr. Jones kindly offered to purchase a poppy wreath on behalf of Coytrahen.
* Cllr. Morgan would like to donate a bench in remembrance of her grandparents for the garden.
* A resident has kindly offered to fund and undertake temporary remedial work to the wooden bridge, making it safer whilst the risk assessment is being arranged.
* Royal Mail responded to our initial complaint regarding the mail. They advised they are currently reviewing the complaint.
* Cllr. Windsor maintains a riverbank hedge roughly 39mts in length (Pathway 16). It was discussed should Cllr. Windsor will be unable to maintain this in the future. Whose responsibility would it be. Clerk to inquire with Cllr. Haines.
* It was agreed that Llangynwyd Lower Community Council will now use a logo for correspondence etc. That is the logo as shown upon entering Coytrahen.
* Upon reviewing the standing orders, Cllr. Morgan stated the community meetings should be held for no longer than 2 hours.
* Mr M Thomas has completed the Internal Audit on behalf of LLCC. It was agreed to seek quotations for future audits due to his increased fees,
* Cllr. Morgan advised that, as per the standing orders, there would be no need for Cllr. Windsor, Cllr Gronow and Cllr. Jones to leave the room whilst general conversations are held about the potential CAT with Tondu United. They are able to remain, however, with no vote or contribution being made.
* Watercourse update - Mr W. Hopkin Joseph, B.Sc (Est Man), MRICS of Watts & Morgan advised upon visiting the site and reviewing the lease his findings are that the Landlord – BCBC are responsible for the tree maintenance.  He will now provide a written report detailing this to be forwarded to our Chair, in preparation to present to BCBC.
* Cllr. Jones has agreed to organise a meeting with the appropriate bodies to discuss and review the lease and report.
* t was also agreed that a replacement bridge will eventually be needed. The replacement bridge should be of low-cost maintenance.
* It was agreed to look into the free orchard package to obtain further information and to make an application if it's suitable.
* Moving forward, all financial contributions LLCC makes to other organisations will need to be closely monitored due to small precepts and the ongoing financial commitments.
* LLCC received a quotation of £1,620.00 for the village Christmas lights. Upon discussion of last year's experience of the lights not working properly, it was put to the vote should we fund them this year. Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Windsor. Cllr Davies & Cllr. Gronow felt this was a large expense of our precept and voted not to have them this year. Cllr. Faulkner objected and was disappointed with this decision.
* The Christmas tree will be discussed in our next meeting.
* Cllr. Jones advised that BCBC will have a help desk within Civic offices to help residents of BCBC with benefits and financial advice.
* Cllr. Morgan will contact WEPA requesting they speak to their logistics companies reminding them the road is 20 mph.
* The Community Association has asked for a contribution of £100.00 to help towards the cost of the children’s Halloween party. It was agreed that we would fund it this year.  However, moving forward, all contributions will need to be reviewed due to our small precept.
* Concerns were raised by Cllr. Roberts regarding the school buses and the transport stopping.  All Cllr. raised concerns for the children walking to and from school for their welfare and safety.  This is an educational/transport issue, and they will need to be contacted.
* Cllr. Haines has arranged for speed strings to be placed on the main road to monitor the speed of vehicles for review.
* Coytrahen residents are disappointed that the closure of the main road will close for 7 weeks without prior notification.  Upon contacting BCBC, they advised the work would take 7 weeks. BCBC will contact Network Rail to inquire as to why the residents were not informed.
* BCBC have not cut the hedges from Box Cottages to Pwllau Cottages. Clerk to advise Cllr. Haines to inquire with BCBC
* Cllr. Faulkner advised that the association needed their electrical boards updated. This will cause issues. Thus, 2 of the lights in the car park area are the responsibility of LLCC.  Whilst these are not working, the top of the pathway is not covered. Clerk to check with Cllr. Haines whether BCBC should be responsible for the cost.
* Louise Connolly (BCBC CAT) will be contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss the potential collaboration with Tondu FC. Cllr. Haines & Cllr. Jones will facilitate this date to be agreed.

1. **Cllr Gary Haines**

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* Cllr. Haines gave his apologies for today's meeting. However, he provided an updated report on matters arising.
* Cllr Haines continues to advocate the need for the crossing on the main road.
* He is still awaiting a response on the bin with free poo bags.
* Cllr. Haines advised that all concerns regarding speeding cars are being reported to the Gosafe Camera Partnership at gosafe.org or the local PCSO.
* Matters that are still awaiting replies. Cllr. Haines continues to chase them.
* Cllr. Haines continues to provide updates as and when he receives them.

Cllr. Haines will continue to liaise with the Clerk on matters arising from the community/residents and provide updates when available.

Meeting ended 21.15pm

Minutes agreed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chair Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_