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

Councillors In Attendance: -

Cllr. D Davies. Cllr. J Roberts

Cllr. G Faulkner Cllr. P Gronow

Cllr. Windsor Cllr. Jones

Mrs. L Turner (Clerk) Cllr. Haines

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

N/A

1. **Declaration of Interest.**

* Cllr Faulkner & 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 Tondu Football Club.
* Cllr. Haines on all matters relating to the upcoming ward changes

1. **Police Matters**

​No police presence

1. **Minutes/Maters arising from January’s meeting:**

* Watercourse - Ongoing
* Trees on the main road – Ongoing
* New Defib – Clerk LT to order Defib signs to display in the phone box.
* Repair to the steps and kissing gate – Ongoing.
* Overgrowth on the main pathway to Tondu – Ongoing
* Crossing - Ongoing.

1. **Matters Discussed :-**

Football Field (CAT) – It was unanimously agreed that LLCC will move forward with the CAT for the football field. Clerk LT to obtain a copy of the lease.  Cllr. Faulkner will contact Louise Connolly of BCBC to arrange a meeting to discuss the CAT.

LLCC wishes to keep the playing field within Coytrahen for the residents to enjoy.

Watercourse - Cllr. Faulkner, Cllr. Davies and Cllr. Gronow met with Mr. Robert Chumley, a tree surgeon and ground maintenance contractor. Upon his inspection and recommendation of the trees being unsafe, a decision was made by LLCC to temporarily close the Watercourse. Cllr. Haines to notify BCBC of its closure as a duty of care to the public.

Cllr. Faulkner advised of a possible grant available from T&C for works. However, the closing date would be the 28th of February. Thus, not allowing sufficient time to seek quotations and further recommendations on works.

Cllr. Faulkner also advised on the possibility of applying for funding from BAVO regarding the wooden bridge, enabling it to be more accessible and disabled friendly.

It was agreed that LLCC would contact BCBC to advise that we wish to relinquish the lease of the watercourse due to being unable to maintain the costly upkeep of the trees.

Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Haines met with BCBC leader Cllr, John Spanswick on site to discuss the hazardous trees. Cllr. Spanswick later replied that upon inspection the trees were not within the parameters of being unsafe and no work would be authorised. Following this, the Chair advised that an urgent meeting should be held with Cllr. Spanswick.  Cllr. Haines to organise.

Cllr. Jones believed a previous survey was completed on the trees - Clerk LT to review the archive files.

Prior to the Watercourse lease Cllr. Jones advised that a management plan was agreed between BCBC and LLCC. However, BCBC was unable to locate this plan, LLCC also has not got a copy of the plan. Cllr. Haines will contact Louise Connolly (CAT) to inquire and request a copy. Clerk LT to review the archived files to see if they can be located.

The Chair Cllr, Morgan referred to the report by W Hopkins Joseph, B.S.c (Chartered Surveyor) of Watts and Morgan reporting on his opinion that the tree obligation is upon BCBC and not LLCC

Community Maintenance - Cllr. Davies advised that he would be shortly cementing the memorial benches and requiring some materials.  It was agreed to reimburse the cost of the materials.

The pavement/pathway from the community centre leading up to the Nicholls Arms is overgrown and requires attention. Cllr. Haines will make a referral to BCBC

Despite all the referrals made to BCBC regarding the pathways and pavements not being cut back. It was agreed to contact Nathan Thomas Landscaping to obtain quotes for this work. Cllr. Windsor will meet with Nathan to discuss our requirements with the aim that LLCC will fund the work.

Council Merger - All councillors were disappointed with the merger ward decision. It was felt that LLCC should merge with the upper valley and not move down to the Newcastle Higher ward. Chair Cllr. Morgan wishes to discuss the possibility of a potential voluntary merger with LMCC

Last Energy - It was agreed that Clerk LT would contact Last Energy to arrange a public meeting for the community to ask questions and obtain a clearer understanding of the project and its impacts. Once a date is arranged and leaflets printed Cllr. Windsor and Cllr. Gronow offered to distribute them.

During the public consultation, Last Energy stated they intended to clear the current site regardless of their application outcome. Chair Cllr. Morgan will inquire if planning permission has been given. Also, if a risk assessment analysis of the materials on site has been done.

1. **Planning Matters**

No planning matters received

1. **Correspondence**

Mr Davies – Re: Condition of the road from the community centre to the Nicholls Arms.

Mr Adams – Re: Removal of personal details from minutes

1. **Members Report**

Cllr. Morgan

wanted to report on the unsightly bike/skate ramp that had been built on the greenery behind the Nicholls Arms. Children are ruining the greenery and the daffodil bulbs planted by LLCC. Cllr. Haines will report this to BCBC Highways with the view to having the ramp removed.

Cllr. Morgan suggested that LLCC investigate the monkey puzzle tree at the former St Thomas the Apostle Church, Coytrahen to inquire on the possibility of having a preservation order made on the tree. Cllr. Haines will make inquiries.

Reported on the trees that were cut down on the main road only to be left on the banking.  This is a potential hazard should they roll onto the main road.  Cllr. Haines believed the work was carried out by the estate owners and not BCBC. He will inquire and report back at our next meeting.

Cllr. Faulkner

Noted that the LLCC insurance policy needs to be updated to remove the broken Christmas star.

Cllr. Faulkner also provided quotations to purchase lights rather than hire.  This will be reviewed later.

Cllr. Windsor

The overgrown brambles on the main road to Tondu narrow the path, making it difficult for pushchairs and mobility aids to pass. With the high volume of traffic, this is a public hazard - N Thomas to quote for this work.

He also raised his concerns regarding the pathway from the community centre to the Nicholls Arms - N Thomas to quote for this work.

Raised concerns about a car in the layby by Box Cottages that primarily overlaps onto the main road, causing issues for passing cars. Other Cllr also agreed this is dangerous. Unfortunately, LLCC are unable to assist with this matter.

High-volume traffic and speeding on the main road continue to be a major problem. This will be reported to the safety camera unit to request a mobile camera unit.

Cllr. Gronow

Reported the dog waste bin on Heol Treharne has gone missing. Clerk LT to cost for a replacement bin

Cllr. Davies

Has concerns about the tree at the bottom of the community centre. Cllr. Davies will obtain quotes to have the tree cut down.

Conserns with the sinkhole at the community centre grounds, Cllr. Haines has reported and awaiting on the outcome.

Advised he will be installing the remembrance bench on Friday.

Cllr. Jones

Reported that BCBC was the lowest council in Wales to have raised its council tax by 4.5%.

Wishes to obtain an analysis of road users from the camera safety partnership and assessments undertaken by BCBC.- Cllr. Haines will try to obtain this information.

Cllr. Roberts

Noted Pyle Garden Centre's receipts were not included in our accounts - Clerk LT to update the accounts.

Continues to have concerns about the parking coming into Coytrahen and the possibility of accidents.

Cllr. Haines

Was requested to obtain a report on all 106 money and how it was spent.

Shared that he has tried to negotiate a new lease by moving the boundaries and not to incorporate the trees within the boundaries. He continues to liaise on this matter.

Will continue to chase BCBC on all reports submitted that have not been actioned.

Reported the public consultation with Last Energy went well, and the centre was full.  He also supports the idea of having a community meeting and is also happy to distribute leaflets.

Continues to work on funding for Coytrahen to have its own crossing.

Cllr Haines and Cllr Jones will shortly be undertaking risk assessments on the routes to schools should the school transport stop.

Continues to liaise with residents on all matters raised.

​Cllr. Haines will hold his next surgery on Saturday the 1st of March from 10.00-11.00am at the community centre.

1. **Finance**

Letter signed by Cllr. Faulkner & Cllr. Gronow giving the clerk authorisation to order statements and a new cheque book.

1. **Public Participation**

1 resident was in attendance

1. **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.

1. **Items for March meeting:**

* Football Field/CAT/Toilet area
* Watercourse.
* Last Energy Public Meeting – Outcome
* Council Merger
* Community Repairs

1. **Date of Next meeting**

Wednesday the 26th of March 2025 at 7pm

Signed (Chair) Date:

Chair Comments: