Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th of November 2024

at Coytrahen Community Centre

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

Mrs. L Turner (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr. M Jones

1. Declaration of Interest.

* Cllr Faulkner & Cllr. Roberts on all matters relating to the Coytrahen Community Association.
* Cllr. Gronow & Cllr. Windsor on all matters relating to the potential collaboration with Tondu Football Club.

1. Police Matters

The local PCSO were invited to the meeting. Unfortunately, there was no police presence.

Cllr. Davies said that a black BMW had been seen around Coytrahen, causing concern for residents. He called the police as 2 men were seen in his garden. They ran off when they saw his son.

Fuel has also been siphoned from the Network Rail work vans.

Due to the very low police presence at our meetings, Cllr. Haines will reach out to the PCSO's to remind them of the dates and times of our meetings.

1. Minutes/Maters arising from November meeting:

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1. Cllr. Haines is still awaiting on information regarding the risk assessment for the wooden bridge.
2. Inquiries are being made regarding the possibility of making the entrance to the Watercourse more accessible for wheelchairs. Cllr. Haines will be supporting us by identifying possible funding and grants available.
3. Potential collaboration with Tondu FC. – No progress to date. This will remain on the Agenda.
4. Christmas Tree – This will be discussed during the precept meeting and other activities we help fund throughout the year.
5. Matters Discussed
6. Community residents have stressed their disappointment with the council's decision not to have Christmas Lights or a Christmas tree in the village this year.  – This will be discussed further during the precept meeting
7. MTT (Wind Farm) have requested to reschedule their presentation until January 2025. This was agreed. Clerk to re-arrange this.
8. BCBC Grant scheme. Cllr. Haines will investigate this further and discuss with BAVO the possibility of making an application to make the watercourse (Wooden steps) more accessible to disabled people.
9. The watercourse lease. The community Council has not received any further information to date. The lease is currently with the legal team.
10. Issues continue with the responsibility of the trees and the ash trees that are dying back and require a specialist tree surgeon to undertake the work.
11. Wooden Bridge, BCBC has allocated a team to assess the conditions.
12. Main road – The Chair has requested a solicitor to review the ownership of this land and the fields behind the swing park. We await the outcome.
13. Cllr. Faulkner is concerned about the condition of the trees on the main road and how some branches appear to be falling.  Cllr. Haines shared that this would be a costly job for BCBC as they would have to close the main road.  Cllr. Haines will report the trees to BCBC.
14. The chair asked Cllr. Haines If BCBC undertook a tree assessment this year, he will make inquiries.
15. Cllr. Faulkner suggested that community residents should be updated about the potential CAT with Tondu FC. This topic has gone quiet. The Chair advised the Clerk to email Tondu FC to inquire should they still wish to consider the potential collaboration when we are in the position of moving forward.
16. It was also agreed the CAT on the football field needs to be chased up with BCBC. It was discussed that it needs to remain as a football field by first, this will benefit the community and, secondly, should the CAT not happen, there is no certainty of what potentially could happen to the field. Cllr Haines will chase this up.
17. The councillors would like to thank Mavis for the remembrance Day service and Cllr Haines and Cllr Gronow for placing the wreath. The buffet went well. It was decided next year they will advertise the service in advance for more residents to attend.
18. Cllr. Gronow advised the plaque in the hall of the Community Centre should be moved to a more prominent place, enabling people to clearly read it.  This was agreed to be done the next time the Community Centre is decorated. Also, it was discussed to put some literature beneath the plaque to provide more information.
19. It was suggested if a bugler could be contacted to attend Remembrance Sunday, a telephone number would be provided to make inquiries.
20. Clerk Louise Turner advised that Tesco has kindly contributed £20 towards the cost of the Children’s Christmas Selection boxes.
21. It was agreed to gift the gardening machinery to Cllr. Davies to use in the Community garden and these will be returned to the Community Centre should Cllr. Davies no longer maintains the communal areas.
22. Planning Matters

WEAPA - Proposed Installation of medium voltage (MV) Substation and associated works at Bridgend Paper Mills off A4063 Llangynwyd CF34 9RS = Planning Application Number P/24/659/FUL – No objection raised.

1. Correspondence

None

1. Members Report

**Cllr. Windsor**

The land owner has agreed to maintain the trees following Cllr. Windsor’s concern on their safety.

He continues to maintains the hedge along the Water Bank. The work is now more manageable

Cllr. Haines will enquire with BCBC to ascertain who has responsibility for this. .

C**llr. Gronow**

Will arrange with Roger (British Heart Foundation) to instal the new defib within the telephone box.

He reported the steps near the kissing gate has crumbled due to the recent storm and needs to be fixed.

Cllr. Haines will report this to BCBC

**Cllr. Faulkner**

The pavements to Tondu need to be maintained ASAP. The trees are extremely hazardous. The recent Storm Burt has caused debris to blow onto pathways and roads resulting in vehicles having to mount the banking to pass. This is dangerous to all pedestrians and road users.

Cllr. Haines will report this to BCBC

Cllr. Faulkner has opted out of receiving her Councillors allowance for 2024.  She would like to keep her allowance in reserve to be used towards future projects of her choosing.

**Chair: Cllr. Morgan**

***Standing orders were suspended to allow the councillors to finish their report.***

Advised that a pumpkin was placed at the bottom of her driveway.  It was said that people reported this as being a “marker’ showing that the property is a potential target.

Also, acknowledge that the Tyres in the Layby are on private land and BCBC will not remove them.  They continue to be an eyesore and potentially the start of a dumping ground for others.

2 Trees have fallen on the main road following the storm. Cllr. Morgan advised that a tree survey must be completed. Cllr. Haines will report to BCBC

**Cllr. Davies**

Reported issues with parking on the estate and how it’s now become a safety hazard with work vans parking on the hill making it difficult for people to pass and cars to see when entering and leaving the junction.

**Cllr. Roberts.**

Continues to raise her concern regarding the need for the crossing on the main road.

Cllr. Haines continues to advocate this for us

Concerns are also raised regarding the reduction of school buses next year and the potential dangers this will pose.

**Cllr. Jones**

Gave his apologies with no issues to be raised.

1. Cllr. Haines

Reported that BCBC Highways had advised him the pothole on the main street adjacent to the Nicholls Arms public house was the responsibility of the pub owners and not Highways.  He will continue to advocate and forward the land registry details to highways, clearly marking the boundaries.

Cllr. Haines continues to await reports from BCBC on reported matters. He will continue to chase these up for a response.

He continues to liaise with the legal department regarding the watercourse.

1. Finance

Clerk continues to have problems with HSBC.

During today's meeting, a letter was signed authorising myself to request statements on both accounts to bring our cashbook to date.  These statements were also needed for Natwest to open our new account. Clerk to visit the branch to obtain these statements.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. Any Other Business

Meeting arranged for Tuesday the 3rd of December at 6.00pm in the Community Centre to discuss the precept in preparation for submission in January 2025

1. Items for Januarys meeting:

* Precept 2025/2026
* Christmas Tree/Lights
* Potential Collaboration with Tondu FC
* Banking Update
* Watercourse.
* MTT – Wind Farm

1. Date of Next meeting

Wednesday the 28th of January 2025 at 7pm

Signed (Chair) Date:

Chair Comments: