**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th October 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 M. Jones Cllr. Windsor

Clerk L Turner

**Amendments to Septembers minutes.**

* Cllr. Windsor was missed off as an attendee on 2 council meeting minutes. Cllr. Morgan advise she would make the necessary changes.
* LLCA - (Llangynwyd Lower Community Association) Should be replaced with CCA (Coytrahen Community Association)
* Cllr. Roberts requested the £100.00 towards the children’s Halloween party on behalf of being a cllr. This was not on behalf of the CCA.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Haines MTT (Wind Farm)

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**

The community residents were disappointed that the Options' event was cancelled due to the Police not being able to fund the £24.00 room hire. The PCSO advised that they have no budget to fund events like this.  It was put forward that a resident would be happy to fund the room hire. Upon reflection, the Cllrs. felt strongly that the Police Commission should cover the cost.  It was also noted that payments were deducted from residents' council tax towards the police commission. Clerk to inquire with Cllr Haines to write a letter to the police commission making them aware of this event.

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

1. **Finance**
2. It was unanimously agreed LLCC would change their banking facility from HSBC to Natwest due to the ongoing problems with HSBC. Clerk LT to make an application with Natwest to open a new account.
3. LT has not been in receipt of any statements since July 2024 to reconcile any bank accounts. Cllr. Faulkner will kindly attend the branch to obtain a copy of the statements being a signatory on the account.
4. The Community Council's finances were discussed and how we have overspent this year whilst going into our reserves. The reserves are allocated towards the CAT and Watercourse whilst awaiting the outcome of who has the responsibility of the extensive tree work and maintenance.
5. The precept for 2025/26 will have to be carefully reviewed. This will be added to the Agenda for November.
6. It was agreed that moving forward, all requests for financial support will now have to complete the LLCC Financial Assistance Form, no matter the value requested.
7. **Minutes/Maters arising from Septembers meeting:**
8. The repairs have now been completed on the wooden bridge thanks to a local resident funding and undertaking the work.
9. We are still awaiting further information from Cllr. Haines regarding the risk assessment for the wooden bridge.
10. 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.
11. Cllr. Faulkner advised Footpath 16 still remains to be cut.  LT to contact N Thomas.
12. Cllr. Morgan has arranged for our Internal Audit for 2025 to be undertaken locally.
13. The batteries are replaced in the defib at the community centre.
14. The new defib will need to be installed into the old phone box.  Cllr. Gronow will liaise with Roger (British Heart Foundation) to support with the installation.
15. Potential collaboration with Tondu FC. – No progress to date.   Cllr. Haines and Cllr. Jones continues to await further information to report back to the community council.  They also continue to arrange and facilitate a meeting at BCBC . - This will remain on the Agenda.
16. LT did not continue with the application for the Orchard Package.  LLCC would not have been able to meet the 5 year plan requirements.
17. Christmas Tree – This will be placed onto the Agenda for November.
18. Members allowance are not PAYE applicable.  It was advised that all allowances will be published on our council webpage.
19. Memorial Day will be held at 2.00pm at the Community Centre. On Sunday the 10th of November. It was agreed that Cllr. Gronow will place the wreath this year. Cllr. Morgan will personally purchase the wreath on behalf of the community.  She would also like to donate a bench in remembrance to her grandparents.
20. CBT accountants. - Having reviewed the annual cost for the wages to be completed. It was unanimously agreed to complete the wages ourselves using Sage Payroll at a cost of £12pm, a considerable annual saving.
21. Cllr. Windsor, Cllr. Gronow and Cllr. Faulkner objected to LLCC having their own Facebook page. Thus, they felt that the Council would not have any control over what would be posted onto the page. It was discussed further by the council that with the community Facebook page "Coytrahen Hub" being public, the residents can post to this regardless of the council  Cllr. Windsor advised the admin for the “Coytrahen Hub” were  2 local residents. Mr Mark Turner and Mr Gareth Adams were both of Nicholls Road. Coytrahen.  Cllr. Windsor voiced his dislike of one of the administrators and since removed himself from the group. (The Councillors are aware that one of the administrators Mr. Mark Turner is my husband).
22. Precept – To be discussed in Novembers meeting.
23. It was agreed that all future purchases would require a purchase order. Clerk LT will organise the Purchase Order Number upon request.
24. **Matters Discussed**
25. Cllr. Faulkner expressed that community residents have approached her with their disappointment with the council's decision not to have Christmas Lights in the village this year.  The Chair shared that due to the cost of the lights being over £1,600 and only having a £9,500 precept, this is a large cost to the council. Cllr, Morgan, Cllr. Windsor and Cllr. Gronow shared that the light did not work properly last year and agreed this was a large cost that did not need to be spent.  It was agreed that the money was best to be spent elsewhere.
26. Cllr. Morgan suggested contributing to the OAP lunch orgaised by the community association. Making it free. Cllr. Faulkner advised that this would just be a token gesture this year. Plus, this would then set a precedent for further years.  It was agreed that LLCC would not contribute towards the lunch.
27. LLCC agreed that budgets need to be implemented due to our small precept and ongoing financial commitments.  Cllr Jones proposed and carried by the meeting we should set aside £300pa for the children of the community.

Cllr. Gronow and Cllr. Windsor objected to the children receiving money and not the elderly community members. Upon debate, it was agreed by the chair that £300 pa will be set aside for Children’s activities. Currently Cllr. Roberts spent £100 on the children's Halloween party. The remaining £200 would be used towards the children's Christmas selection boxes at "Coytrahen does Christmas".

1. LLCC agreed to continue to work jointly with the CCA to fund 1/2 of the cost towards the buffet for Memorial Day.
2. Cllr. Windsor raised his concern that Louise Turner, clerk to the council, put in the community newsletter that free training was offered to the wider community on CPR and training to use the new installation of the defib. He stated that it was his opinion that I should have permission from all Cllr. Prior to placing this in the newsletter, it was noted that the community letter is not regularly published and should we wait for the next council meeting for approval the opportunity would have gone amiss. All other present Cllr. did not object to the clerk placing this in the newsletter.  The Chair then gave the Clerk permission to be allowed to contribute to the newsletter to benefit the wider community under her powers.  Plus, discussed being a community letter any community member can request to place information onto the letter.
3. MTT (Wind Farm) have requested to reschedule their presentation until January 2025. This was agreed. Clerk to re-arrange this.
4. 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.
5. **Planning Matters**

Concerns are raised with the proposed application to build 2 x 20mw Micro reactors on the old Llynfi Power Station. – LLCC will await the public consultation prior to discussion.

The Clerk receiving a letter from Robert Sedgman the UK Development Director for Last Energy offering a meeting. The clerk passed the email to the chair immediately for her comments.

Cllr. Morgan advised should any press or any other person ask for a comment from the Cllr’s they should not engage in conversation and reply they await for the public consultation to take place.

1. **Correspondence**

Email received from MTT (Wind Farm) requesting to re schedule Octobers Visit to January 2025.

1. **Members Report**

Cllr. Windsor

* Cllr Windsor raised his concern about trees near to his property and the increased cost of his insurance. Unfortunately, should the trees be on a neighbouring property, BCBC would not be able to maintain them.

* He also raised concerns regarding the eroding riverbank and the trees. He is of concern that with the winter months  approaching this potentially could be hazardous.  LT to ask Cllr. Haines to discuss this with BCBC.

Cllr. Gronow

* Advised, Gemma Terry a local resident, planted the daffodil bulbs at the cost of £60.00. Cllr. Morgan inquired if they had also been planted at Ffordd y Gyfraith. Unfortunately, they had been missed off.

Cllr. Faulkner

* Cllr. Faulkner advised that the pavement/tarmark by the kissing gate needs to be repaired, because it is a danger to the public. Clerk to advise Cllr. Haines to report this.

* Cllr. Faulkner also stressed the community would benefit from an update regarding the potential collaboration with Tondu FC., even just to say that nothing has happened to date.

* Cllr. Faulkner also raised concerns regarding the wooden posts that were just left following the recent car accident. (Cllr. Davies advised he has since removed them). It was advised that V2Coast would be responsible for all repairs.  Should no repairs be taken within the next week or 2, LT will inquire with V2Coast for an update on timescales for the repairs. .

* Cllr. Faulkner expressed the upset within the community regarding having no Christmas lights this year. Cllr. Morgan stated that she would have to provide the complaint's names and alternatively for them to complain directly to the community council. She was unable to accept anonymous complaints.

Chair: Cllr. Morgan

* Contacted John Turner at WEPA regarding the speeding trucks not maintaining the 20mph restriction.   Mr Turner will contact his transport contractors to emphasise the 20mps zone.

* Cllr. Morgan has made contact with Richard Lewis of WEPA to discuss the potential support they could offer within the community.  She said that once she'd spoken to Richard she would inquire to engage towards the cost of cleaning the 3 bus shelters.

Cllr. Davies

* Reported that he removed wooden posts following the recent car accident for safety reasons.

* He also reported that the cars going up and down Cilcaudy Hill were mainly from Landsker Child Care. LT to ask Cllr. Haines to speak to  Paul Thomas (Director) to make him aware of the issue.

* He raised concerns about the grass verge at the side of the Nicholls Arms Pub.

Cllr. Roberts.

* ​Remains to advocate for the need for the crossing on the main road.
* She thanked the Community Council for the £100 donation towards the community children's Halloween party.  Cllr. Roberts shared that the children really enjoyed themselves and the party was a success.

Cllr. Jones

* Children were seen pulling wooden posts out from the banking of the Nicholls Arms Pub used for posters to be displayed. Clerk to advise the Tennant Mrs. Salmon of this issue to enable her to rectify the issue.
* Cllr. Jones also raised concerns regarding children building bike/skate ramps on the greenery adjacent to the houses  behind the Nicholls Arms.  LT to advise Cllr. Haines.

1. **Cllr Haines**

Clerk to email Cllr. Haines for support towards matters arising from this month’s meeting.

1. **Public Participation**

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Any Other Business**

Nothing raised

1. **Items for November’s meeting:**

* Precept 2025/2026
* Christmas Tree
* Potential Collaboration with Tondu FC
* Children’s Christmas Selection Boxes
* Banking Update
* Watercorse.

1. **Date of Next meeting**

Wednesday 27th November at 7pm

Philip Squire Community Centre, Coytrahen

Signed (Chair) Date:

Chair Comments: