

Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2025
at Llanymynech Village Hall

Present:

Cllr R Dover (Chair)
Cllr J Fynes
Cllr C Hall
Cllr. F James
Cllr C Jones
Cllr C Savage
Cllr. I Done

In attendance:

County Cllr Arwel Jones
Ms Ellie Jones (PCSO) for item 7.2
Mr Terry Ingram (Secretary of the Burial Board) for item 10.1.
1 member of the general public.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr I Parry (belated apology)

2. To record Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Hall for item 5.2.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Fynes, seconded by Cllr James and approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1. Ref: Item 7.5. The Clerk confirmed that a donation of £250 to the Tennis Club had been made.

5 Finance

5.1. Current position

The clerk had circulated papers which confirmed that the Council's accounts as at Thursday 20th February 2025 were as follows:-

Deposit account: £ 10713.11.
Current account: £ 1395.37
Pension account £ 75.54

5.2 Grounds Maintenance Contract

Council had received the table in the papers for the meeting setting out the names of contractors who had tendered for the grounds maintenance contract together with prices. The detailed tenders had been sent to councillors under separate cover.

Two contractors were very close in their submissions and the final decision was reached on the basis of locality and price. After discussion, it was decided to offer the contract to M. I. and T. E. Pritchard of Rhydwith Farm, Llanymynech.

The Clerk said that he would draw up a contract based on the tender documents. At the Clerk's suggestion, the Chairman and Cllr Done offered to scrutinise the contract prior to its being sent.

Once accepted the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Contractors to sign off the contract.

ACTION: Clerk, Chairman & Cllr Done

5.3. Approval of Payments

Approval was sought for the following payment as listed in the papers for the meeting: -
Llanymynech Village Hall – rent of meeting room on 28th January - £24

This was approved unanimously.

6. Planning

6.1 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended) Consultation Application Reference: 25/0189/FUL Grid Reference: E:326578 N: 320911 Proposal: External works to include retention of rooflight, external door and window Site Address: 3 Ashfield Terrace , Llanymynech, SY22 6EU.

Following discussion, the Council decided that it would not take a view on this application.

7. Other Matters

7.1. Montgomery Canal Development Project

County Cllr Arwel Jones confirmed that the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) had been given an extension on the project until March 2026.

Work has started on the new Carreghofa Bridge and the application for Williams Bridge is now ready for submission to the County Council. The CRT has said that it will complete the project within budget.

Cllr Fynes noted that the dredging programme had been put back but felt that this makes sense as the work on the new bridge will create the need for more dredging once it is completed.

Cllr Done said that some tree felling had started.

7.2. Matters for the PCSO

This item was taken at the beginning of the meeting so that PCSO Jones was free to go about her other duties.

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Ellie Jones to the meeting. She felt that there were not many issues to bring forward; the main ones being the matter of speeding and vandalism at the Golf Club.

Cllr Fynes asked if the 'off-roaders' who frequent the area at the weekends were the same people as those causing damage at the Golf Club. PCSO Jones said that they were not and, that, on the whole, the 'off-roaders' were no problem.

Cllr Done asked if the riders without helmets were involved. PCSO Jones felt that they were and she further said that an orange and white bike had been seen in the vicinity of the damage.

Cllr Fynes referred to the Community Council's Facebook page and said that there had been 51 comments about speeding on the A483. PCSO Jones said that she had passed this information to the Traffic Unit. However, she stressed that Llanymynech is only one of a number of small villages that have made requests for greater police presence.

Cllr Done referred to fly tipping at the small car park by Williams Bridge. However, Cllr Jones said that this was left there by the volunteers clearing the canal and would be cleared later.

Cllr Done raised the question of drug dealing. He felt that the Dolphin car park had become a venue for this. PCSO Jones said that she would note this but everything depended on the police being there at the right time to catch the perpetrators.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Jones for her attendance and said that she would be welcome to attend future meetings to keep the Council informed of matters.

7.3 Green GEN Cymru Vyrnwy Frankton Project

The Chairman gave some background to this project. A Statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 is now underway and representations must be submitted by 16th April 2025.

As part of this process there is a public meeting at Llanymynech Village Hall on Saturday 1st March from 10.00am to 3.00pm. and councillors were encouraged to go if they were free. The Clerk drew attention to other similar meetings being held at various locations which councillors could attend if they could not make the one at Llanymynech.

The Clerk referred to a very full submission which Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council had made to an earlier, unofficial, consultation. Carreghofa Community Council had, at the time, decided to wait for the official consultation before making any comments. It was felt that the Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council paper could form the basis for Carreghofa's response and the Clerk was asked to obtain and circulate a copy.

This matter would then be a major item at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

7.4 Defibrillator

The Clerk said that he is still waiting for information from Calon Hearts. Cllr Savage said that she had talked to the British heart Foundation, the 'guardian' of the defibrillator and someone at the Dolphin where the defibrillator is located. The view is that the defibrillator is in good working order.

This matter will be reviewed within three months.

7.5 One Voice Wales AGM - 11th March

Cllrs noted the request from One Voice Wales for a representative from each member council to attend the on-line AGM.

Unfortunately, no one was available on the date and the Clerk was asked to inform One Voice Wales of this

ACTION: Clerk

7.6 Arboricultural Consultant

Cllrs noted the item in the papers for the meeting from Mr J. Wilsker offering to act as the Council's Arboricultural consultant.

Cllr Savage asked if the County Council had staff who checked on the condition of trees. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that they did not.

It was felt that there were not enough trees to warrant such a post and the Council decided not to appoint an Arboricultural consultant at this time.

The Clerk was asked to inform Mr Wilsker of the decision.

ACTION: Clerk

7.7 Social media activity for the Council (standing item)

In the absence of Cllr Parry there was no report. However, it was noted that the majority of comments were about speeding (51 comments).

Cllr Hall said that she would ensure that information about the Green GEN Cymru Vyrnwy Frankton Project was displayed.

ACTION: Cllr Hall

8. Amenities

8.1.1 Walls Bridge Lease

Nothing further had been heard about a new lease for the playground. The Clerk said that he would follow this up.

ACTION: Clerk.

8.2. Football Field

Nothing to report.

9 Highways and Byways

9.1 Road Repairs and Potholes

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he hoped action would be taken on potholes in the next month, utilising monies unspent at the end of the financial year.

Cllr James said that the salt bins have now been filled but reported that one bin has been removed.

County Cllr Arwel Jones said that there are surplus bins in stock and that he would ask for another to be supplied.

The Chairman said that the gullies on Carreghofa Lane had been cleared but Cllr Hall said that slurry was being washed off the fields and filling them up again.

Reference was made to cars parked in the small car park at the entrance to Pen-y-Foel. These cars were being used for advertising purposes, and taking up space that could be taken by legitimate users.

The Clerk said that there had been notices that could be affixed to these cars instructing the owners to remove them. He would produce some more

Action: County Cllr Arwel Jones & the Clerk

10 To receive reports on Meetings from Outside Bodies

10.1 Burial Board

This item was taken at the beginning of the meeting so that Mr Ingram was free to leave after the item had been dealt with.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ingram (Secretary of the Burial Board) for attending and gave some context to the matter.

Mr Ingram then addressed the meeting. He said that he had spent the last six years talking to various organisations to try and find a site for a new burial ground in Llanymynech / Carregghofa. These organisations included Powys County Council, the Diocese of Lichfield and CDS Ltd of Bedford, a company used by local authorities to help them find and develop new burial grounds.

It is now obvious that there are no suitable sites available in the area. On the Carregghofa side most areas are subject to flooding and in Llanymynech and Pant there are steep hillsides and such sites that might have been available have been taken for housing development.

An approach to the Diocese of Lichfield to utilise existing land in the church cemetery is not available for legal reasons.

Mr Ingram has, therefore, been considering how to find more space in the existing burial ground. He put forward a scheme in 2 phases:-

1. To develop the bottom end of the cemetery which is, at present, overgrown and has been a dumping ground for excess soil and other waste. If this area is cleared and flattened, Mr Ingram, said that it could provide the space for 30 plus full burial plots.
2. To develop the area currently covered by fir trees on the old school side of the cemetery. Mr Ingram considers that this could provide 40 extra burial plots. The fir trees would need to be replaced with a wooden fence. Planning permission would be needed to remove the fir hedge.

Phase 1 is estimated to cost £2500 and Phase 2 £5000.

Mr Ingram stated that the Burial Board has its own bank account but in 2024 the income produced was £1795 and expenditure incurred was £3259.

Cllr Fynes asked if the plots were restricted to local people. Mr. Ingram said that they mostly were taken by locals and the Burial Board had taken a decision that burials of people from outside the area would command double fees.

The Clerk asked if the fees for the Burial Ground were commensurate with other cemeteries in the area. Mr Ingram said that they were similar to those run by other community councils.

The Chairman felt that the Community Council together with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council should help with the funding. Cllr Fynes agreed; he pointed out that the longer we delayed the more costs would rise.

Cllr Savage suggested that the work could be carried out in phases to spread the cost to the two councils.

It was suggested that the cost could be met by the combined councils over a two year period.

The Clerk was asked to contact Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council to ascertain their views.

The Clerk also said that given the projected costs the matter may have to be subject to a tendering exercise.

This will be an item on the next agenda.

ACTION: Clerk

10.2. Powys C. C. and Town and Community Councils meeting

Nothing to report

10.3. Village Hall

Cllr Jones reported that the Village Hall's AGM would take place next month. A number of people had indicated that they would be stepping down and, therefore, more representatives would be needed. She pointed out that, as the two local councils were joint trustees, councillors should consider whether they could take up this role.

11 Correspondence

11.1. Matters of decision

There are no matters for decision

11.2. Correspondence to note.

Council noted the correspondence sent out by the Clerk since the last meeting and itemised in the papers for the meeting

From	Date	Subject
Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service	24 th January	Reshaping Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service Together
Older People's Commissioner for Wales via OVW	3 rd February	'Shaping my work' questionnaire.
Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service	3 rd February	Calon Tan magazine
20s Plenty for Us	3 rd February	Keeping your community streets safe
Severn Wye Energy Agency	3 rd February	New Windfall grants set to boost sustainability projects in Montgomeryshire
One Voice Wales	5 th February	Joint event One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales – Thursday 27 March from 10:00am to 1:30pm, remote via Zoom "Understanding the Planning System – your questions answered"

Russell George MS	5 th February	February newsletter
One Voice Wales	7 th February	Training dates February / March
Powys County Council	7 th February	Planning Decisions 31 st January
Lingen Davis Centre	7 th February	Cancer Champions
Welsh Government	12 th February	Electoral Review Programme 2025 (ERP 2025)
Parish Online	19 th February	Newsletter
Powys County Council	21 st February	Traffic – 20mph review

Item 12. Any other business from councillors

12.1. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he had received an email from a resident of Parc Llwyfen about the state of the fence between the estate and the football field. Powys County Council has advised that this is the responsibility of the landowner, in this case Lewis Bros. who own the football field. County Cllr Arwel Jones said that he would speak to Mr. Lewis.

ACTION: County Cllr Arwel Jones

12.2 Cllr Done asked about the content of wording on the planters. He also asked where the QR code would take people.

It was agreed that the wording on the planters should simply be Carreghofa Community Council followed by 'Sponsored by 'Name' where a sponsor had offered to support the planter.

The QR code should take people to the Community Council's website.

ACTION: Cllr Done

13. Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.00pm at Llanymynech Village Hall.

ACTION: All to note

Approved by Council as a correct record: -

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____

Signed: _____ Chairman

Date: _____