



CYNGOR CYMUNED
CEFN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT GEORGE EDWARDS
HALL AND ZOOM ON
TUESDAY 25th February 2025 commencing at 6.45pm
Chair: Mr. P Vaughan

128. PRESENT Cllrs Mr. D Wright, Mrs. G Wright, Mrs. P Roberts, Mr. P Blackwell, Mrs. H Brimfield, Mrs. J Jones, Mr. D Metcalfe, Mrs. K Tiltman, Mrs. S Matthews, Mrs. I Twigg, Mrs. S Mills, Mrs A Williams & Mrs. K Witherden. Also, present Clerk T Nicholls-Smith and Minute taker A Ruscoe.

Cllrs Mrs. S Benbow Jones & Mrs. K Benfield joined via the Zoom platform

129. APOLOGIES No Apologies

130 .TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Joan Jones declared interest in agenda item 12 – *In reference to the Planning Application P/2024/1591*

Cllr Stella Matthews declared interest in agenda item 12 - *Planning Application due to being a member of the WCBC Planning Committee. Cllr Matthews left the room when planning item was discussed*

Cllr Angela Williams declared interest in agenda item 12 – *In reference to the Planning Application P/2024/1591*

Cllr Derek Wright asked the Clerk to arrange Code of Conduct training for the two new members, Cllr Mrs. Katie Witherden and Mrs. Angela Williams.

131. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS

None received.

132.TO RECEIVE POLICE CORRESPONDENCE



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

No report was available this month. The Clerk informed the Council that she had received an email from PCSO Sarah Clark-Lewis, who operates in the Ruabon area. PCSO Clark-Lewis stated that she will be responsible for compiling and submitting police reports at the beginning of each month. She also noted that the format of these reports may differ from those provided by the previous PCSO.

The report for February 2025 is scheduled for to be sent on 1st March 2025. The Clerk has responded to PCSO Clark-Lewis, providing details of the Council's meeting schedule, and is currently awaiting a response.

Cllr Gaynor Wright asked the Clerk whether PCSO Sarah Clark-Lewis would be covering both Ruabon and Cefn Mawr permanently or if this was a temporary arrangement. The Clerk clarified that PCSO Clark-Lewis would be covering these areas alongside PCSO Kelvin Evans and that PCSOs are no longer assigned to specific areas.

Cllr Derek Wright inquired about the areas covered by the regional PCSOs. The Clerk confirmed that they are responsible for Ruabon, Chirk, Cefn Mawr, and Trevor.

Concerns were raised by Cllr Helen Brimfield, who noted that this is a large area for only two PCSOs to cover. Cllr Isabel Twigg recalled a previous instance where PCSOs had been shared across multiple areas, expressing concern over the potential impact.

Cllr Angela Williams questioned whether this arrangement was now a long-term strategy implemented by the Police. Both the Chair and Vice Chair agreed that this appeared to be the case.

Cllr Sonia Benbow-Jones requested that the Clerk obtain contact details for the two newly assigned Police officers. Additionally, Cllr Stella Matthews and Cllr Derek Wright asked that this information be circulated to all Cllrs.

133. TO RECEIVE COMMUNITY AGENT REPORT – February 2025

- Cefn - 1
- Rhosymedre – 1
- Acrefair –
- Newbridge –
- Plas Madoc –
- Other -

Good evening, everyone,

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to deliver my leaflets. Your help means so much, and it's a great way to spread the word about the support that is available for people over 50 that I can support.

I'm also delighted to share that my Chat and Chill group has been a real success! It's been fantastic to see people coming together, enjoying quizzes, having a chat, making new friends, and of course, tucking into delicious bacon baps!

Now that we've made it through January and spring is just around the corner, I'm sure we'll all start feeling brighter and ready to get out and about more. With that in mind, I'll be organising some fantastic trips and activities from March onwards, so keep an eye out for updates!

If you need to get in touch, you can email me at agent@cefncommunitycouncil.gov.uk or call me on 07925048711.

Thanks again for all your support!

Donna

All Cllr's acknowledged the Community Agent's report.

Cllr Vice Chairman Derek Wright requested to the Clerk the attendance of Community Agent Donna Thornley at the next Full Council meeting.

134. CLERKS REPORT

1. Community in Bloom Awards

The Clerk informed the Council that Chairman Cllr Phil Vaughan and Community Development Officer Andrew Ruscoe attended the Wales in Bloom presentation at Wrexham Council's Guildhall on 24th January 2025. At the event, Cefn Community Council was awarded a Level 4 Thriving Award, and Wrexham Council received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its participation in the Wales in Bloom competition.

Chairman Cllr Phil Vaughan advised that additional groups and categories could be entered for the 2025 competition. Community Development Officer Andrew Ruscoe will be compiling entries.

2. New Shed and Raised Bed Provided for Community Use

Wrexham Councils Zachary Jones, Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Officer from Wrexham Environment & Technical Department, has provided Cefn Community Council with a new shed for storing gardening and litter-picking equipment. This has been made possible through the Low Carbon Project.

Additionally, a raised bed has been installed to support growing edible food, promoting sustainability and community engagement.

3. 100th Birthday Celebration

The Chairman, Cllr Phil Vaughan, attended Plas Telford on Saturday, 22nd February, to present flowers to Mrs K. Morris in recognition of her 100th birthday.

135. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 21st January 2025 – ***RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 21st January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the chairman at the earliest opportunity.***

- (b) To confirm the minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 21st January 2025 – ***RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 21st January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the chairman at the earliest opportunity.***
- (c) To confirm the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on the 19th February 2025 – ***RESOLVED that the minutes of the Development Committee held on the 19th February 2025 be confirmed and signed by the chairman at the earliest opportunity.***

136. TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 19th FEBRUARY 2025

Cllr Stella Matthews proposed the approval of the recommendations as listed, seconded by Cllr Joan Jones. A vote followed, all members in favour.

The recommendations that were approved were as followed:

- 1.1. To submit an application to the SPF Fund.
- 1.2. To allocate a further £10,000 from reserves if needed to cover remaining works at the Plaskynaston MUGA Development.
- 1.3. To allocate £500 towards the VE Day Celebrations.

137. CHAIRMAN TO UPDATE WORKS AT TREFYNANT CEMETERY

Chairman Cllr Phil Vaughan provided an update on the ongoing works at Trefynant Cemetery. He confirmed that a 10-day notice had been issued to the public via social media, the council website, and local media. For safety reasons, the cemetery has been temporarily closed to the public.

The works are progressing well, and Eastmans have granted access for machinery to operate on their land, ensuring minimal disruption and preventing damage to the cemetery grounds.

Cllr Dave Metcalfe raised concerns regarding the removal of trees, emphasising the council's commitment to supporting low-carbon initiatives. He expressed his view that an excessive number of trees, many marked with red dots, were at risk of being removed. He highlighted the potential impact on local wildlife and stated that, compared to historical photographs, the area was beginning to resemble a "moonscape."

In response, Chairman Cllr Phil Vaughan clarified that the removal of trees was based on health and safety assessments. A professional arboreal survey had been conducted, identifying trees that were rotten and posed a risk to public safety. He reassured the council that the expert assessment aimed to minimise unnecessary tree removal and that cutting down trees was considered only as a last resort.

Cllr Stella Matthews stressed the importance of prioritising public safety and acknowledged that the decision to remove trees was not taken lightly. The Clerk further emphasised that Cefn Community Council holds responsibility for residents' safety, and any tree removal was strictly based on health and safety concerns.

The Chairman reiterated that expert advice indicated that within six months, trees and branches could begin falling, posing a significant hazard.

Cllr Katie Witherden inquired about potential funding opportunities to mitigate the removal of trees, particularly regarding the impact on the windbreak. The Clerk explained that while

the council has undertaken extensive replanting initiatives across the community, no immediate plans were in place for replanting at Trefynant Cemetery. However, they assured that not all trees were being removed, and that the windbreak should remain largely unaffected.

Cllr Karen Benfield supported the reliance on professional expertise, stating that an arboreal officer would not recommend tree removal without a valid reason. She inquired whether the officer had suggested any stipulations for replanting to compensate for the loss of trees.

Cllr Angela Williams proposed that the council collaborate with local schools for future tree planting efforts. Vice Chairman Cllr Derek Wright confirmed that the council had previously worked with schools on replanting initiatives, including at the Plaskynaston MUGA. He highlighted that while approximately 40 trees had been removed, over 300 had been replanted across the community at a cost of around £3,000.

Cllr Sue Mills suggested reaching out to Wrexham Councils Jacinta Challinor for support with tree planting. However, the Clerk noted that the council had already collaborated with her on other projects.

The debate was brought to a close by the Chairman.

138. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS TO BE PASSED FOR PAYMENT 25th FEBRUARY 2025

EXPENDITURE

Wages/Sal from (month 10) – Staff 6781.29

Invoice No

INV NO	CHQ NO	RETRO	FROM	£
24/223	DD	Y	British Gas - Invoice for GE Hall	584.65
24/224	BACS	Y	Comm Agent - Invoice for expenses	61.70
24/227	BACS	Y	Slick Stickers - Invoice for Plas Kynaston	80.00
24/228	BACS	Y	WTE Printers - Invoice for comm agent flyers	265.00
24/229	BACS	Y	ACS Technology - Invoice for office IT	161.10
24/230	BACS	Y	ACS Technology - Invoice for annual SSL	80.00
24/231	BACS	Y	MEGA Electrical - Invoice for repairs	221.11
24/232	BACS	Y	TMNS - Expenses for Jan/Feb (LGA 1972 sect 112) -	69.89
24/233	DC	Y	Huws Gray - Invoice for Plas Kynaston	139.92
24/234	BACS	Y	Honeycomb Construction - Invoice for Plas Kynaston	3060.00
24/235	BACS	Y	Steve Pugh - Invoice for gravedigging	425.00
24/236	BACS	Y	Peter Green Groundcare - Invoice for Play Area Maintenance	750.00
24/237	BACS	Y	Defib Store - Invoice for Zoll Pads	162.00
24/238	BACS	Y	WCBC - Invoice for contribution of Play Service as per SLA	4897.40
24/239	BACS	Y	WCBC - Invoice for contribution of Youth Service as per SLA	6666.17
24/240	106749	Y	SLCC - Invoice for Membership Renewal	300.00

24/241	BACS	Y	MEGA Electrical - Invoice for removal of Christmas lighting	1098.00
24/242	106750	Y	Griffiths Hire Shop - Invoice for Security fencing hire	322.56
24/243	BACS	Y	TMNS - Expenses for Jan/Feb (LGA 1972 sect 112) -	35.59
24/244	DD		British Gas - Invoice for GE Hall	756.63

Invoices Received During Jan/Feb 25

HMRC Tax & NI	1393.58
Clwyd Pension Fund	1385.39
CSA Payment	293.12
HSBC	6.60
	<u>£29996.70</u>

Income

Lightsource	3778.21
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Burial

GE Hall

WCBC Labour Party (Rec0510)	65.00
Dance Zone (Rec0511)	308.00
WCBC (Rec0512)	135.00
Cefn Historical Society (Rec0513)	28.00
G Langford (Rec0514)	75.60

Slimming World (Rec0515)	327.60
Young Carers (Rec0516)	39.00
Sported Foundation (Rec0517)	41.00
Dance Zone (Rec0518)	277.20

Interest

Business Money Manager 13.01.25	237.68
	<u>£5312.29</u>

Resolved that the listed payments be approved

139. CORRESPONDANCE

Correspondence Received During Jan/Feb 25:

Bolded items are recommended to be noted by the Chairman:

1			WCBC - email re: SLA 2025-26 for maintenance of Play Areas - clerk to report - <i>The Clerk informed the council that a letter had been received from Wrexham County Borough Council regarding the 2025/2026 Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the maintenance and safety inspections of the 11 play areas within the community. The cost for the upcoming year is £3,400, reflecting a £271 increase, which equates to a 2% rise from the previous year. The Clerk had budgeted £3,500 for this expense. Cllr P Vaughan proposed to accept the costings, 2nd by Cllr D Wright, all members in favour. The Clerk was requested to sign the agreement and notify WCBC.</i>
2			Nightingale House Hospice & Wales Air Ambulance - Letter of thanks for donation

3		Flintshire CC Pension Fund - Email re: Year end 2024/25
4		WCBC - Email re: link to regional transport consultation - Ambition North Wales - <i>The Clerk informed the council that a link to the Regional Transport plan consultation had been made available. All Cllrs requested access to the link, except for Vice Chairman Cllr Derek Wright, who already receives it through his role at Wrexham Council.</i>
5		Cefn Mawr Library - Email re: Minutes from last community meeting 23/01/25 - Cllr Helen Brimfield raised a question regarding the status of the libraries in the borough to those who attended the Cefn Mawr Library community meeting on 23rd January 2025. In response, Cllr Vice Chairman Derek Wright informed Cllr Helen Brimfield that he is part of the chair of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee, and that the library report has been deferred until after the 13th of June 2025. <i>Cllr Sonia Benbow-Jones, who was also part of the meeting, expressed concerns about the delays. The council noted the updates and concerns raised regarding the library situation.</i>
6		Friends of the earth Cymru - Email re: Monsanto site - <i>The Clerk informed the council of an email from Friends of the Earth Cymru. The organisation is investigating legacy issues related to PCP chemical dumping by Monsanto during the 1960s and is interested in meeting with members of the community. They are particularly keen to speak with individuals who may have previously campaigned on this issue. Resolved -The council duly noted the email.</i>
7		WCBC - Email re: Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26 - <i>The Clerk informed the council that the next round of the Shared Prosperity Fund is now open and will be addressed further in Cllr Derek Wright's report. The Clerk also noted that she attended the related webinar. The council duly noted this information.</i>
8		C Hughes - Letter re: Letters to Heaven - Clerk to report - <i>The Clerk informed the council about discussions with Chairman Cllr Phil Vaughan and Community Development Officer regarding the possibility of installing a "Letters to Heaven" box in the community. Mrs. Catrin Hughes suggested the initiative, explaining that it would provide a space for those who have experienced bereavement to write letters to their loved ones. While the idea was seen as unique, the Clerk noted that a similar box exists at Rhosllanerchrugog Cemetery. Although warmly received members expressed concern regarding potential GDPR/DPA regulations. Resolved to invite Mrs. Catrin Hughes to the next meeting to provide further information.</i>
9		RSPCA - Email re: Mobile Vet Clinic - Clerk to report - <i>The Clerk informed the council that the RSPCA is seeking a free space in the Cefn Mawr area to set up a mobile vet clinic. They proposed using George Edwards Hall to provide care for animals in need, including treatment for minor illnesses and injuries, as well as issuing vouchers for more complex veterinary issues such as dental care and surgery. The initiative also includes a pet food support scheme aimed at assisting those facing financial hardship. Following a discussion, the council agreed that the RSPCA could use the car park at George Edwards Hall, with a pop-up marquee for the clinic, unfortunately the council could not accommodate the service indoors. The Clerk was requested to write to RSPCA with their proposal</i>
10		Natasha Borton - Email re: Wales Broadcast Archive, calling groups in North East Wales - <i>Natasha Borton emailed the council to inform them of a new opportunity with the Wales Broadcast Archive. The archive offers access to a collection of BBC and S4C footage from the past 100 years, and they are reaching out to groups in</i>

				<i>North East Wales to experience it. This could be an exciting chance for local groups to explore historical and cultural content that reflects the region's legacy. The Chair reported he was in contact with Ms Borton, and Cllr H Brimfield asked for the contact details. The council noted the email and the opportunity.</i>
11				<i>NWP - letter of thanks re: PCSO Shiers – The Clerk read an email to the council expressing appreciation from PCSO Lara Shiers, via Sergeant, for the letter of thanks previously sent by the council. This acknowledgment highlights the positive relationship and support between the council and the local police team.</i>

140. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr S Matthews left the room.

P/2024/1591 Change of use of land and installation of outdoor seating area
Including erection of outdoor pods, and creation of children’s play area
Sports and Social Club, Bethania Road, Acrefair.

In relation to application P/2024/1591, Cllr Isabel Twigg stated she had no objections to the application. This was echoed by Cllr Gaynor Wright, Members voted on the application, following the vote, the clerk was requested to write to WCBC and confirm there are no objections from Cefn CC

P/2025/0041 Erection of Site office, staff room and welfare facilities
S&L Aerospace Engineering Ltd
Park Road, Rhosymedre

In relation to application P/2025/0041, no observations/objections were raised.

P/2025/0088 Conversion of barn to holiday let
Ysgubor Ucha, Peny Y Bryn, Penycae

In relation to application P/2025/0088, no observations/objections were raised.

P/2025/0089 Listed building consent for external alterations
Retain existing openings and install doors and shutters to
South elevation
Cefn Kynaston, Hill Street, Cefn Mawr

In relation to application P/2025/0089, the council unanimously supported the application, provided it is in compliance with the requirements for listed buildings.

Cllr Stella Matthews returned to the room.

141.REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

141.1 Cllr Isabel Twigg reported the continuous significant potholes on Bethania Road, extending up to Delph Road. She highlighted that the road from the Post Office to Acrefair along King Street is in particularly bad condition. Cllr Twigg further raised that a 20mph road sign has been knocked down on the stretch between Bethania Road and Llangollen Road, and it is currently lying on the side of the road. Finally, Cllr Twigg reported that a hedge on a private property on King Street, is overgrown and causing an obstruction.

141.2 Cllr Paul Blackwell added that the potholes are also a concern along the junction of Llangollen Road to Abernant, as well as from Abernant down to the former weighbridge. He stated in his opinion that the community is not receiving adequate funding from Wrexham

Council to address the pothole issues.

The Clerk brought to the council's attention that she had recently been on a drive around with the Streetscene supervisor. Cllr Stella Matthews informed the council that she has emailed the Chief Officer, Darren Williams, to raise concerns about several roads, including Llangollen Road and Bowers Road. She was advised that a programme for the necessary works is being developed, but there is no guarantee of when or if the work will be completed. Cllr Stella Matthews suspects that progress may be delayed until the new budget is confirmed.

She also reported receiving over 20 complaints regarding potholes and expressed concern that the current repair methods are ineffective. Instead of resolving the issue, the temporary tarmac is spreading across the road, making conditions worse. However, she noted that Dave Douglas from Wrexham Council has requested a comprehensive list of required works. Cllr Dave Metcalfe informed the council of a recent study by Oxford University, which was featured on BBC News radio, stating that there are more potholes on UK roads than craters on the Moon. Cllr Pam Roberts highlighted to the council that in Newbridge, potholes are not being repaired using the traditional method of a wacker plate.

141.3 Cllr Derek Wright informed the council that a new coordinator officer has been appointed at the World Heritage Site, following Mike Bathers' departure in December 2024. He has extended an invitation for her to attend the next community council meeting and is awaiting a response. He also suggested reinstating stakeholder meetings proposing that if he is unavailable, the Community Council Chair or a delegate should attend in his place.

Cllr Derek Wright provided an update on the recent Development Committee Meeting. He reported that an apologetic email had been received from the chairman of Cefn Albion Football Club regarding a breakdown in communication with the Community Council. He also noted that the Clerk and Deio Jones had attended a webinar on the newly available SPF Funding stream and had relayed the information to the committee.

It was agreed that, if successful, the funding should be used for the refurbishment of George Edwards Hall, focusing on modifications to the toilets, kitchen, roof, and hall flooring, based on a completed feasibility study. Given his extensive experience in securing funding, the committee acknowledged that Deio Jones should guide the process. Community Development Officer AR has been tasked with obtaining quotes for the works as soon as possible, given that the funding application deadline is March 17, 2025. Cllr Stella Matthews advised that any quotes older than 18 months should have a 20% increase applied to account for inflation.

Additionally, Cllr Derek Wright updated the council on the extra £10,000 funding approved for the Plaskynaston MUGA, following a meeting with FAW Licensing Manager Dewi Evans. The funding will be used to complete the necessary improvements to meet FAW Tier 3 licensing requirements for Cefn Albion Football Club, with a target completion date of April 2025. A meeting with the contractor is to be arranged to ensure the work can be carried out effectively, considering concerns about the impact of heavy machinery on the ground in March. Cllr Sue Mills stated that a resident had been gathering support on social media, particularly on Facebook, regarding the idea of selling seats in the new stand to raise funds for works at the Plaskynaston MUGA. While some comments were positive, others were critical of the community council. Cllr Derek Wright responded that the idea was a good one and could be considered for the next season. However, he noted that the suggested pricing

would need further review, particularly if plaques were to be included. He emphasised that any decision would ultimately rest with the council, as the stand is the property of Cefn Community Council. The Clerk recorded concerns regarding misinformation circulating among the public about the level of effort and financial support Cefn Community Council has contributed to the Plaskynaston MUGA development. She reiterated her suggestion from the Development Committee meeting that had a public consultation been conducted at the outset—clearly outlining that approximately £80,000 would be invested—public perception may have been different. Cllr Gaynor Wright expressed concern over the lack of understanding regarding the extensive work carried out on the Plaskynaston project by the Clerk, Vice Chair, Chairman and Community Development Officer. She emphasised the significant time and personal effort invested, including evenings, weekends, Cllr Gaynor Wright also highlighted the public's confusion surrounding the roles and responsibilities of Community Councils and Borough Councils. Cllr Derek Wright informed newer members of the council that Cefn Community Council had commissioned five feasibility studies, made possible through financial support from Cadwyn Clwyd and the efforts of Project Coordinator Deio Jones alongside Cadwyn Clwyd's Helen Williams. These studies, conducted over the past five years, were essential in positioning the council to apply for funding for projects like the Plaskynaston MUGA. Each study was fully funded by Cadwyn Clwyd and has proven to be invaluable in securing future development opportunities. Without them we would have never got such projects off the ground.

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed.