



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
LLANBRADACH & PWLL-Y-PANT
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the ORDINARY Council Meeting held on
Monday 10th March 2025, 6.15pm, at Llanbradach Community Centre
in a MULTI-LOCATIONAL format in accordance with the provisions of the
Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.**

Present

Councillors: N Cabble (Chair), D Edwards*, N Hewer (Vice Chair), C Mann, V Noble and E Thomas.

Clerk: C Mortimer

In Attendance: PCSO Beverley Coggan of Gwent Police; Mr Richard Thomas Community Development Coordinator of United Welsh Housing Association; Ms Jessica Moreton, Richard Lawrence and James Green of Bute Energy.

Chair Cllr Norma Cabble welcomed everyone to the meeting.

200 Declarations of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Clerk.

There were no declarations of interest.

201 Apologies were received and noted from Cllr V Alexander due to sickness and Cllr B Newton due to work commitments.

Chair Cllr Norma Cabble invited PCSO Beverley Coggan to update members on the next item.

203 Police Update – to include the arson attack

Members received and noted a written update which was also verbally presented by PCSO Beverley Coggan:

Crimes logged between 01/02/2025-10/03/25

95 Incidents in total

Incidents include:

- Criminal damage /ASB
- Arson
- Public order offences
- Common
- Threats
- RTC (bus collided with vehicle)
- Domestic incidents
- Missing persons
- Concern for safety
- Fraud
- Theft of unattended motor vehicle
- Burglary

Bypass 13 calls.

Include

Broken down vehicles

Dangerous driving

INCIDENTS OF NOTE

Arson Attacks to vehicles at Glyn Llwyfen – members noted that details of the arson attacks would be discussed at the public meeting tomorrow evening at the Comrades Club, whereby Chief Inspector Steve Warden, PCSO Beverley Coggan, the Fire Service and Robert Hartshorn from CCBC's Public Protection would be present.

Ward members Cllr Colin Mann and Cllr Gary Enright would also be attending alongside our Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie, Cllr Val Noble and Cllr David Edwards.

PCSO Beverley Coggan also reported windows smashed at Heol Ty Gwyn / Oakfield Street by young persons, but they could not be identified. However, members were reassured that patrols were ongoing by local officers.

Chair thanked PCSO Beverley Coggan for the update and the Officer subsequently left the meeting.

Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie invited Mr Richard Thomas to address members on the next item.

204 United Welsh Housing Association

After a brief introduction, Mr. Richard Thomas informed members that he was collaborating with local residents of Llys Cambria and Heol Beulah, as well as CCBC's Parks Services, to discuss the proposed installation of football posts and picnic benches in the area. Members warmly invited the residents to an Easter Party at the Community Centre, and Mr. Thomas generously pledged a donation from United Welsh to support the purchase of Easter eggs and other items for the event.

Mr Thomas was thanked for his attendance and subsequently left the meeting.

Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie invited members of Bute Twyn Hywel to address members on the next item.

205 Twyn Hywel Wind Farm

After a brief introduction, it was explained that Bute Energy was formed with a vision to create a more sustainable world, now and for future generations. They are bringing forward plans for a family of energy parks across Wales to generate clean energy and create healthier, wealthier communities.

Twyn Hywel is the first of their energy parks to be given the green light by Welsh Government. The Minister Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning approved their application for a Development of National Significance in November 2024.

The application was given approval to include 14 wind turbines generating 92.4MW of clean, green energy, enough to power the equivalent of 81,000 households a year.

As a key stakeholder, Bute wanted to ensure that we are kept updated throughout the project's development. They're keen to have ongoing conversations about the project, potential partnerships and opportunities to support community initiatives, and their supply chain opportunities.

Before they start construction in 2026, they will be undertaking several site surveys to meet the requirements of their planning conditions.

The first phase of work happening on site will be ground investigations. These will enable Bute to ensure they fully understand ground conditions across the site, including looking at chemical and soil properties, geology, hydrology and water management.

They don't anticipate any significant disruption during these works. The public footpaths will remain open throughout the ground investigation works, however minor temporary re-routing may be required around specific areas.

The ground investigation works started on 31 March 2025 and are expected to last 8-10 weeks. Contractors, Terra Firma Wales, will be on site undertaking studies during this period.

Bute were keen to be moving forward with their Community Benefit Fund. The Fund will invest around £693,000 every year into local communities nearest the energy park. Bute's Community Investment Team have been building relationships with local communities, schools and charities to understand how the fund can work best.

Bute stated that they are committed to retaining as much of the investment in the area as possible.

Members inquired about the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing and transporting the turbines from Europe. It was explained that offsetting this environmental impact would require between one and four years of turbine operation to reach a neutral baseline.

Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie thanked the Bute Officers for attending the meeting with an informative update and presentation. Ms Jessica Moreton, Mr Richard Lawrence and Mr James Green subsequently left the meeting.

206 Public Participation – there were no public present.

207 Chair's Announcements

Chair Cllr Norma Cabbie reminded members to attend the Comrades Club tomorrow evening at 7pm if they were available, to show support to the few residents on Cwm Las Estate affected by the arson attacks.

208 Minutes

Minutes of the ORDINARY COUNCIL meeting held on 10/02/2025 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

209 Matters Arising

Re: Minute no. 142 (i) on 9th December 2024 - The Crown Estate

To receive and note response from the Welsh Government following our request to transfer the management of the assets of the Crown Estate in Wales to the people of Wales.

"Thank you for your e-mail of the 21st of January regarding the motion passed by Llanbradach & Pwllpant Community Council stating that the Crown Estate should be devolved to Wales.

We welcome the motion put forward by the Council. Our programme for Government includes a commitment to pursue the devolution of the Crown Estate in line with Scotland, and our position on that remains unchanged. It is important that the Welsh Government have the powers to pursue net zero in a way that retains wealth in Wales, and management of Crown Estate assets would greatly contribute to this goal.

The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales has recommended devolution of the Crown Estate to Wales, and that an expert group should be established to ascertain how the devolution settlement between the UK Government and the Welsh Government could be reformed, particularly with regards to energy generation.

We have held initial discussions with UK Government on the constitutional reform agenda, and the UK Government has recently announced that a Welsh Commissioner will be appointed as part of the Crown Estate Bill. We look forward to collaborating with the UK Government to ensure we maximise the opportunities and benefits for the people of Wales, while working towards our goal of devolving the Crown Estate to Wales”.

210 Finance to 5th March 2025

(i) Balance of Funds

'Balance of Funds' document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(ii) Reconciliation

Reconciliation document was received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iii) Bank Statements

Bank statements 261 & 262 were received, approved and signed as an accurate record.

(iv) Memorial Bench

RESOLVED: Council received and ratified the following expenditure:

(a) additional items as agreed for the bench at a cost of £1,280 (helmets, pick, rifle, shovel)

(b) 2nd bench cost to the sum of £840, reusing old metal sides.

(c) Galvanising costs to the sum of £170

211 Smart Money Cymru – Community Investment Bond

This item was deferred for further information.

212 Audit Year Ended 31st March 2023 and 2024 – deferred from last meeting as awaiting still awaiting response from Audit Wales.

213 Section 137 - Discretionary Expenditure Limit for 2025-2026

Members received and noted the following:

An appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Community and Town Councils in Wales for the financial year 2025-26 is £11.10 Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits each Community or Town Council to incur expenditure for purposes for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Community and Town Councils are also permitted under section 137(3) to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2025-26 will be £11.10 per elector.

For the financial year 2025-26, the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) is calculated by applying the formula set out in Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. The Retail Prices Index increased by 2.68% between September 2023 and September 2024. This means that, by application of the formula, the appropriate sum for the financial year 2025-26 increases from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

Members also noted that for 2025/26 the following applies:

$3,241 \text{ electors} \times \text{£}11.10 = \text{£}35,975.10$ for Section 137(1) and
 $\text{£}35,975.10$ for Section 137(3).

** CCBC Electoral Services figure Feb 2025*

214 Financial Assistance/Grants 2024/25.

(i) Kids Cancer Charity Appeal

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £100 to Kids Cancer Charity Appeal

(ii) SSAFA – the Armed Forces Charity (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen’s Families Association).

RESOLVED: Council agreed to fund the sum of £ 60 to SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen’s Families).

215 Projects 2024/25

- (i) Project summary - was received and noted.
- (ii) Victory in Europe (VE Day) Commemoration to mark 80th Anniversary since the end of WWII in Europe – extra Bank holiday on Monday 5th May 2025 – members will invite Coed y Brain Primary School PTA to request funding for celebrations.
- (iii) Any new project proposals – there were no new projects

**216 Training- Members are encouraged and supported to attend training
To receive:**

- (i) Training sessions were received and noted. Cllr Emma Thomas and Cllr Nicola Hower were attending training on 20th March at 6.30pm
- (ii) Training Plan was received and noted.

217 Ty’n y Graig Footbridge Update - Transport for Wales (TfW)

It was noted that Cllr Colin Mann was in negotiations with TfW and CCBC.

218 Bluebell Woods Bluebell Woods Update - Llanbradach Area Regeneration Committee (LARC)

It has previously been noted that LARC has received charitable status. There was also a meeting later in the week with Woodland Savers.

219 Land at Wingfield Works Lane Llanbradach CF83 3RW

Following details of the Enforcement Notice issued to the landowner and minuted at the last meeting, there were no further updates.

220 CCTV in Llanbradach

RESOLVED: Llanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council members agreed to support maintaining the last remaining CCTV camera in the village for the purpose of supporting law enforcement and community safety.

The statistics from 2024 clearly shows that CCTV footage can be crucial in investigating crimes, providing visual evidence to aid the police and support prosecutions.

CCTV cameras act as a deterrent and also provides community reassurance, knowing that incidents are being monitored and recorded, reducing police response times to prevent situations escalating and supporting investigations.

221 Planning Applications

Comments or enquiries must be emailed to planadmin@caerphilly.gov.uk within 21 days of receipt of the email date.

It was noted there were no planning applications received.

222 Next meeting Date: ORDINARY Meeting on Monday 14th April 2025, 6.15pm at Llanbradach Community Centre.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed: _____ **Chair**

Date: 14th April 2025