

Cyngor Cymuned Abbeycwmhir Community Council

A meeting of Cyngor Cymuned Abbeycwmhir Community Council was held on Thursday **17th December 2024 at 7.30 pm**. The meeting was at the Philips Hall Abbeycwmhir

MINUTES

1224/01 The Community Council Meeting was opened at 7.35 pm

Present: Brian Rees, (Chairman), , John Jones, David Jones, Gareth Rees, Edwyn Powell.

Apologies: Cllr. Claire Johnson-Wood, Julie Evans, Diane Powell.

No Internet access available. No requests had been received to join remotely.

1224/02

Declarations of Interest: none

1224/03

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15th August 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record. (JJ/BR)

1224/04

Matters arising from the previous Council minutes: BR had been contacted by the Rhayader First Responders and it was confirmed that at least 2 Defibrillators would be passed to ACC. These would become the responsibility of the community. It was noted that replacement batteries and pads would be required to be funded from community resources. Members agreed that the Council should budget for this and that any financial resources received with the defibs should be set aside in a ringfenced reserve.

1224/05

Planning: applications considered: Application 24/1634/FUL – erection of agricultural manure store at Tynyberth, Abbeycwmhir. The application plans were viewed and discussed. There were NO OBJECTIONS.

1224/06

Finance:

1) The balance of income and expenditure was noted at 17/12/24 was noted bank statements viewed and approved and the following invoices were approved. (GR/DJ)

Current account £ 4,841.08

Savings Account £ 5,477.47

Clerk Q3 to be paid on or after 31/12/24	468.93 (lb)
Clerk back pay (Q1 – Q3)	62.37 (ib)
OSW inv 4085	25.94 (ib)
Succeed Online inv 1289	80.00 (ib)
Wyehost Ltd inv 36942	210.00 (ib)
For Info: Bank charges (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)	20.00 (chg)

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For info interest on savings (sept, dec)	52.20 (int)
For info Precept payment 2 Aug 2024	2,177.00 (cr)

2) Management accounts showing net position by cost centres were viewed and noted to be used as supporting information for the consideration of the budget (see also item 7)

3) An unqualified External Full Audit Report 2023-24 had been received. Additional advisory comments were discussed. It was noted that since the audit submission with an insurance period of 01/6/23 to 31/5/24 the insurance provider had been changes and fidelity guarantee was more clearly shown in the schedule. The Audit recommendations stated that 'the Council did not include the total precept amount within the minutes' this was incorrectly stated by the auditor as the full budget, precept contribution and band D impact per household was recorded under minute 0124/03(c). Audit advised that the council submit VAT claims, it was noted that this had been addressed. During the current financial year – a first submission includes backdated claims. The incorrect box had been ticked on the Annual Governance Statement regarding Trust funds, As the Council has none the advised to tick the N/A box in future was noted. The clerk advised that no contact had been received from the auditors during the audit to request any additional information or query any of the issues raised. Councillors asked that thanks to the Clerk be recorded for the timely submission of the Audit and the receipt of another unqualified report. Copies of the Conclusion of Audit statement, the Accounting, Governance Statement and Auditors report were taken by Councillors to be posted on the Notice boards.

4) Clerks Pay Review 2024 – the 2024 salary review undertaken by NALC was adopted and the resulting pay increase of £83.16 for 2024-25 was approved. The Clerk advised that the hours worked continued to be adequate as this year the website access updates were undertaken by Succeed Online (linked to Wyehost Ltd. the website provider). It was agreed that the 2024-25 salary be set at scale point 15. (EP/GR)

5) A list of contractors and preferred local suppliers was reviewed and additional local businesses were added.

6) Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2025-26 - a short briefing note i.r.o. Section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 was circulated and explained by the Clerk. The appropriate sum for the financial year 2025- 26 was noted to have increased from £10.81 to £11.10 per elector.

7) A full Council Governance review was noted to be undertaken with outcomes to be discussed at the 2025 Annual Meeting. It was noted to set up a Digital Working protocol.

8) To consider and approve the budget and set a precept for 2025-26: Payments and receipts for the year to date and projected payments and income were noted – the management reports were referred to along with a comparison of budgets for 2024-25 against proposed draft budget for 2025-26 The current reserve amounts set aside were reviewed and agreed to be maintained in full into the next financial year. It was noted that a reserve also be set up for defibrillators. Reserves would be adjusted to account for any project spend made in the current year. Members were mindful to set a budget that did not increase the community precept this year and considered projected spend accordingly. The draft budget was discussed: Budgets amounts were agreed based on the review of the current year with proposed increases or decreases based on actual costs in the current year or specific quoted future costs e.g. Clerk's salary. £770.00 was agreed as a new budget line for defibrillator/community projects. An operating reserve of 25% of budget was agreed. A total budget of £8,693.28 was set requiring a precept contribution of £6,520.25. PCC had confirmed a precept tax base for 2025-26 of £135.22 resulting in a precept charge per household of £48.22.

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1224/07

Correspondence: the following had been previously circulated by email and noted for reference there had been no comments or queries.

- Model financial regulations for community and town councils in Wales model financial regulations template was produced by the national association of local councils (nalc) in april 2024 for the purpose of one voice wales. To be reviewed before the next financial year
- Pethau Bychain i One Voice Wales Nature Network for Community and Town Councils across Wales. Members of Pethau Bychain will receive information and resources about biodiversity and nature and invitations to exclusive sessions on a variety of topics
- Councillor Training Bursary Scheme in Wales The bursary is available during this financial year. It must be claimed before the 28th of February 2025.
- House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee inquiry on community cohesion
- One Voice Wales, researchers from Aberystwyth University are undertaking a survey as part of a Local Policy and Innovation Partnership / Partneriaeth Polisi ac Arloesi Lleol (LPIP) funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- PCC Play Sufficiency Assessment Link to the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZsQHq5cQPc>
- Older People's Rights Branch Welsh Government [Have Your Say 2024: A message to older people](#)
- Valuation Tribunal for Wales Membership Recruitment
- Community Transport Toolkit
<http://www.onevoicewales.org.uk/OVWeb/UserFiles/Files/Cost%20of%20Living/Guide%20to%20Community%20Transport%20Final%20version.pdf>
- Safe and Warm Hubs – Welsh Government funding to support and expand safe and warm hubs across Wales, providing essential spaces for residents to gather, socialise, and access key services.

1224/08

Local Member Update: None - Cllr CJW had sent apologies. She had advised that Councillors contact her directly with any queries of issues.

1224/09 **Community Matters.**

(a) Windfarm – it had been confirmed that Garn Fach Wind Farm received planning consent on 22 October 2024.

(b) Highways – Quality of pothole repairs and their durability continued to be an issue. It was agreed to ask Cllr CJW to contact Highway Officers with the community issues and chase up a timetable and locations for proposed resurfacing of some road sections.

1224/10 **Member Discussions and items not on the agenda:** none

1224/11 **Date of Next Meeting:** the next Ordinary Meeting will take place on 18th February 2025

Meeting Closed 9.05 pm

