

CYNGOR CYMUNED DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

Thursday, 20 March 2025 - Lee Hall – 6.30pm

Minutes of Meeting

Register of Members present

Present:

Cllr S Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr M Phillips

Cllr R Grigg

Cllr D Evans

Cllr J Fanshaw

Cllr J Cowpe

Cllr L Stevens

Cllr C Asbrey

Cllr A Asbrey

Cllr K Hatton

Cllr C Mirza Davies

Cllr V Driscoll

Cllr M Cowpe

Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Hartrey, K Shaw and Cllr C Franks

121. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr D Evans declared an interest in Item 102d (COSAC Minutes – Item No. 78)

Cllrs K Hatton and J Fanshaw declared an interest in item 102a (Finance Minutes Item No. 84)

(Declaration of Interests signed by the above Members in Standing Committee meetings)

122. **Welcome- Stephen Doughty MP – Labour and Co-operative member of Parliament for Cardiff South and Penarth**

The Chair welcomed Stephen Doughty inviting him to introduce himself to members. Stephen Doughty began by providing a brief history into his background and early childhood links to Cardiff. He also introduced his Assistant, Sonny Edwards (a previous pupil at St Cyres School) to the meeting. Stephen is very happy to be a represent a part of Cardiff and a part of Vale of Glamorgan. He has a dedicated team who help him deal with a host of cases. He holds regular surgeries but for security reasons is not able to hold them face to face.

Stephen works closely with MS members too. He has friends across the political spectrum and has very good relationships with local MPs, and local councils such as Penarth and Llandough. He is delighted to build links with the Dinas Powys Community Council and would be happy to attend Community Events, but would appreciate notice well in advance of any events.

Following Stephen's presentation, Members were invited to ask questions. The covered a broad spectrum of topics including:

Devolution, Flooding and Flood Funding in Dinas Powys, Public Transport, Policy, Housing, Energy, Tidal Power, Off Shore Wind Power HS2, Child Care and Child-Minding issues and Security.

123. **To confirm Minutes of Full Council held on Thursday, 20 February 2025**

The Minutes of Full Council held on Thursday; 20 February 2025 having been previously circulated were taken as read. Cllr K Hatton proposed, Cllr J Fanshaw seconded and it was **RESOLVED** the Minutes be **APPROVED**.

124. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

Item 113 – Extraordinary Meeting of Finance & GP Committee – 27 January 2025

In response to Cllr V Driscoll's request to check if the Parish Hall roof is covered for storm damage, the clerk confirmed it is covered, however, the Insurance company would

undertake a thorough investigation of the roof to ensure it had not been left to fall into disrepair before paying out any claim.

125. **To Authorise and confirm**

- a) Payment of Accounts as at 28 February 2025
Cllr R Grigg proposed, Cllr J Cowpe seconded and Council **APPROVED** the Payments of Accounts for January 2025.
- b) Financial Position as at 31 February 2025
The Financial Position was **NOTED**.
Action: Clerk was asked to provide details of the number of bins the Council are responsible for, and how much it costs per bin.

126. **To receive Committees and other Reports**

- a) Finance & GP Committee – Monday 17th March
Cllr K Hatton provided a brief breakdown of the Minutes. The majority of time during the meeting was spent running through the proposed amended Financial Regulations in preparation to present to Full Council to adopt. The amended regulations contain more mandatory items. One of the main changes made was to remove Petty Cash from the Regulations.

Cllr V Driscoll queried the reason why Finance Committee did not pursue a commercial valuation on the Highways Unit (ref: Item 84 in previous Minutes). Cllr K Hatton advised that Committee members present considered it too expensive and members were unclear as to what the purpose was to arrange one. If it were to lead to higher rates, it could potentially price out the local community for renting the units.

It was proposed by Cllr R Grigg, seconded by Cllr C Mirza-Davies and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** the Council accepts the report and **APPROVES** the actions and recommendations contained therein.

- b) COSAC Committee – Tuesday, 18th March 2025
Cllr A Asbrey provided a summary on the Minutes. Cross Common continues to be an issue. A request by a resident to install a gate over Cross Common Land has not been agreed as yet, because more time is needed to enable the land to dry out and for COSAC to consider how to best manage the land and deal with horses using the Common. Chair of COSAC and Cllr C Asbrey visited another resident earlier today (20th March) regarding the condition of the Common following works to resurface the bridle path. This matter is also still work in progress.

Cllrs D Evans, M Phillips and the Chair of COSAC expressed an interest in attending an online Biodiversity Course on 27th March. Unfortunately, the course is only available to County Councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** the Council accepts the report and **APPROVES** the actions and recommendations contained therein.

- c) VE Day - Verbal Update
Cllr J Fanshaw provided an update advising members that a short service has been arranged on 8th May. Year six in local primary schools have been invited. A small reception will be held in the Parish Hall afterwards. Members of DP WI have agreed to help with. VE Day flags are to be purchased. VE Day Royal British Legion wreaths are to be laid by the Schools and Council. The Council will cover the cost of refreshments, flags and donations for the poppy wreaths. The Last Post will be played by Elinor Foster, as Sally Craven and

Huw Jones are not available. The event will be kept low key as the Council does not have the resources to formally close the road during the week.

- d) Seel Park – verbal Update
As per COSAC Committee Minutes – - Tuesday, 18th March - Item No. 80
- e) Report from Councillors on meetings/training attended
There was nothing to report to date.
- f) County Councillors Report
Cllr M Cowpe provided notes on the following:
 - i. Council Tax
The council tax rise has increased by 5.9%. In addition, many services are being cut or reduced. Car parking chargers are being extended
 - ii. National Insurance Contributions (NIC)
Although the additional NIC paid on VOG staff is being reimbursed that is not necessary the case for organisations serving the council. This can include care workers, agency staff and contractors. It is unacceptable that so late in the day that councillors' face the threat of additional costs.
 - iii. Cosmeston Country Park
There are proposals for Water Sports at Cosmeston Country Park. The exact nature of the activities is unclear. The relevant company is moving from Cardiff Bay, apparently due to the nature of the water quality the Bay.
 - iv. Litter bins
The removal of litter bins in Dinas Powys is a big issue and causing more problems regarding the removal of litter. It is understood the more litter bins are to be removed in the new financial year. It is also understood that a number of recycling bins will be introduced across the Vale, but further details are needed on when they plan to introduce them and where. Cllr M Cowpe advised members she has written to the Chief Executive of VOG regarding this matter but will write again for further clarity.
Action: Cllr M Cowpe to write to follow up

County Councilors Anne Asbrey, Marianne Cowpe, Chris Franks

127. **Council Policy Documents**

- a) To consider adopting the Council's (amended) Financial Regulations
Cllr J Fanshaw proposed, seconded by Cllr R Grigg and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ACCEPT** and adopt the amended Financial Regulations
- b) To consider adopting the Council's Recruitment Policy
It was proposed by Cllr R Grigg, seconded by Cllr J Fanshaw and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to ACCEPT** and adopt the Council's Recruitment Policy
- c) To consider adopting the Council's (amended) Sickness and Absence Policy
As the clerk is awaiting clarification on certain aspects of the Draft Policy, Members **AGREED** to defer this item.

128. **To consider any items which the Chairman has decided are urgent**

- a) Motor Bikes on the Common
4 x motor cyclists (with no number plates and wearing just balaclavas) were seen riding over the Common last week. Photos were taken by a resident but they did not

report it to 101. (The Assistant Clerk did report the matter). Everyone must be encouraged to report antisocial behaviour or vandalism to 101.

b) Village Store Break-in

The Village store on the Twyn has been broken into for a second time in a year. Many residents have expressed their sadness and frustration. A petition has been set up in support of the shop owner.

129. **Matters which the Chairman and other Members may wish to bring before Council**

a) Local Hero Award 2025

Chair advised members the deadline for nominations is nearing, suggesting they submit a nomination form before the deadline. Chair is to consider on how to proceed. It was suggested he speaks to last year's Chair for advice.

b) Fire at St Andrews

Cllr V Driscoll mentioned a recent fire in the St Andrews vicinity. It seemed to be a big but by they arrived at the scene the fire had been put out. It is a bit of a mystery.

c) Dinas Powys War Memorial

Cllr L Stevens noted one of the Plaques on the War Memorial only referred to 'men' sacrificing their lives, suggesting the Council should consider changing this to reflect that woman also sacrificed their lives.

Action: Clerk to investigate cost and report back to COSAC Committee

d) Lanyards for Community Councillors

Cllr L Stevens suggested whether Councillors ought to wear lanyards (with Community Council's Logo) when attending meetings.

Action: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to Investigate

e) Toxic waste in landfill sites

Cllr L Stevens queried whether the Vale Council regularly monitors its landfill sites (and similar sites) for toxic waste as all local authorities have a statutory duty to inspect potentially contaminated sites to ensure people and property are not at risk. Cllr V Driscoll mentioned that his been questioned in the past. Cllr M Cowpe has agreed to investigate this matter further

Action: Cllr M Cowpe to pursue

130. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10th April 2025**

Signature:

Date: