

CYNGOR CYMUNED DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Full Council

Thursday, 16 April 2026 - Lee Hall – 6.30pm

Minutes of Meeting

Register of Members present

Present:

Cllr J Cowpe (Chair)
Cllr M Cowpe
Cllr A Asbrey
Cllr R Grigg
Cllr C Franks
Cllr C Mirza-Davies

Cllr D Evans (Vice Chair)
Cllr C Asbrey
Cllr V Driscoll
Cllr M Phillips (virtual attendance)
Cllr S Griffiths
Cllr J Fanshaw

123. Apologies for absence

Cllrs M Hartrey, K Hatton, K Shaw & L Stevens

124. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs J Fanshaw declared an interest in Item 129c (Finance & GP – item 79)
Cllrs C Franks declared an interest in Items 129c(Finance & GP – item 79) & 131
Cllr D Evans declared an interest in Item 131
Cllr J Cowee declared an interest in Item 129a (Halls item no. 53)

125. Mike O'Brien – Adfocad, an organisation for unpaid carers

The Chair welcomed Mike Obrien to the meeting, inviting him to speak about the organisation. Mike provided some informative facts about unpaid carers in Wales. The last Census showed that there were 350 thousand unpaid carers in Wales. In the Cardiff and the Vale area there are approximately 57 thousand unpaid carers, saving the Welsh Government a significant amount of money. One of the main concerns is that carers don't talk about their concerns until they reach crisis point.

Adfocad collect their stories and take that information back to the Local Authorities.

The main objective of the organisation is to get the Welsh Government and Local Authorities to identify unpaid carers. A question-and-answer session then took place.

Cllr J Fanshaw suggested Mike may wish to pay a visit to the Murchfield Community Centre on Mondays to join their 'coffee and conversation' session. The Chair thanked Mike for coming along to the meeting and for sharing his story. It was suggested that Mike forward details of Voices Wales to the Clerk to distribute to all Members.

[Mike O'Brien left the meeting]

126. To confirm Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Thursday, 19 March 2026

The Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Thursday; 19 March 2026 having been previously circulated were taken as read. Cllr R Grigg proposed, and seconded by Cllr M Cowpe, it was **RESOLVED** the Minutes be **APPROVED** (on the proviso, for accuracy, councillors referred to in item 110, declared an interest in item 117.

127. Matters arising from Minutes - Thursday, 19 March 2026

Item 115 – Parish Hall Roof – Proposal to proceed with obtaining quotes for the works
Request to explore VAT reclaim principles.

Clerk advised that they had not found any specific information on the HMRC website, relating to a cap on the amount of VAT that can be reclaimed.

Action: Clerk to continue to investigate

128. To authorise and confirm

- a. Payment of Accounts as at 31 March 2026
Cllr J Fanshaw proposed, and seconded by Cllr S Griffiths, and Council **APPROVED** the Payments of Accounts for March 2026.
- b. Financial Position as at 31 March 2026
The Financial Position was **NOTED**.

129. To receive Committees and other reports

- a. Halls Committee – 31 March 2026
Cllr J Fanshaw provided a brief outline of the minutes, advising that some members expressed concerns over Item 53 (a plaque in memory of the late Dr Haydn Jones). As the item was not on this meeting's Agenda, it was suggested it be added to the next Full Council Agenda for further consideration. In the meantime, the Clerk is to explore the cost to erect a small plaque on the Twyn and or the Parish Hall. It was proposed by Cllr R Grigg, seconded by Cllr C Mirza-Davies and **AGREED** by Council that the minutes and the recommendations contained therein be **ACCEPTED**.
Action: Clerk to investigate
- b. Planning Committee – 8 April 2026
Cllr M Cowpe (Vice Chair of Planning) provided a brief overview of the meeting. Committee decisions were **NOTED**.
- c. Finance & GP Committee – 13 April 2026
Cllr V Driscoll (Vice Chair of Finance & GP) provided a brief overview of the meeting. Cllr R Grigg proposed, seconded by Cllr D Evans and Council **AGREED** that the minutes and the recommendations contained therein be **ACCEPTED**.
- d. County Councillors Report
Cllr C Franks provided an update on the issues relevant to Dinas Powys
 - i. Goodbye to Phil
The well-liked librarian at the Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre has moved to a new role. Phil Gauci helped steer the Library from Vale of Glamorgan Council. Now a self-governing Community Library that depends on over 70 volunteers. Phil has been promoted to oversee library services in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

It is strange to consider that the library has been an independent library for nearly a decade. The one cornerstone has been Phil. His personality and professionalism have guided volunteers at the library through many challenges. One major initiative was the setting up of painting exhibitions.

Phil is also a leading light in the Vale Council's Disability Support group.
 - ii. Busy junction must be resurfaced urgently
One of the busiest junctions in the locality, must be where Penarth Road is crossed by Barry Road / Cogan Spur. This by what used to be called the Elizabethan now Courts. The surface is rapidly deteriorating and needs a substantial resurfacing. The Vale says that the work will be done within months. It would be much better if the job was done sooner. We are asking for a more exact start date.

iii. Pot Holes

The pot hole team has been about and about in Dinas Powys. Parts of Millbrook Road and Cardiff Road received attention on Wednesday. The council says that 10 teams are busy across the Vale. Time will tell.

iv. Encouraging women to engage in physical activity

The Vale established a Task & Finish Working Group have met to explore barriers to participation for Women in physical activity, to help mitigate inactivity, sedentary lifestyles, and poor health. As well as looking at informal organised physical activity the Group aims to increase social participation to reduce feelings of anxiety and loneliness. The resulting report will be presented to Cabinet with a timeline of events, context and research reasoning for consideration and action.

v 'Bins for the Boys'

The 'Bins for Boys' initiative will see the introduction of sanitary disposal bins in men's public toilets, supporting those living with incontinence and other health conditions.

The campaign has been championed by the charity CHILL – Cancer Help In Local Lives – which supports people living with cancer across the whole of Wales. The initiative has been driven in part by local campaigner Ed Grant, a member of CHILL in the Vale of Glamorgan, whose personal experience following prostate cancer treatment highlighted a significant gap in public facilities.

County Councillors Anne Asbrey, Marianne Cowpe, Chris Franks

During discussions concerns were raised about the future of Leckwith Bridge over the river Ely. There seems to be uncertainty about its safety and who will ultimately provide the funds to replace it – potential house development contractors or the relevant county council.

130. Parish Hall Roof – Verbal update on Tender Process

Clerk is still waiting to hear back from the Nathan Goss Conservation. He plans to forward the tender documents to the Council before they are submitted to Sell2Wales.

Cllr D Evans took the opportunity to share a draft letter i.e. 'Raise the Roof' appealing to local businesses for financial support towards the roof replacement. Cllr D Evans also expressed an interest in setting up an Instagram page, to promote and 'get the word out' into the community, as there is a need to encourage community involvement. Members **UNANIMOUSLY** supported this initiative.

131. Seel Park Transfer – Verbal update on Tender Process

Cllr C Asbrey provided a brief update on developments. Vale Officers plan to finalise the specifications for resurfacing the play area in the next few weeks. He and Cllr D Evans will have sight of this before it goes out to Tender. The Transfer process itself, will however, be inevitably slow.

Action: Clerk to seek a further update

132. To consider the removal/disposal of Halls Furniture equipment no longer in use

It was **RESOLVED** to dispose of the unwanted furniture equipment. Where possible and if working condition to offer items to local charity organisation

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

Social Media Issues

The Chair advised that over the past few months there have been some concerns regarding statements on social media platforms made by councillors and whether they represent the views of the Council. There also appears to be some confusion amongst the residents the Council represents. The Chair proposed that Councillors should ensure their posts on social media platforms should only quote Dinas Powys Community Council or use the Council logo image if their statement has been supported by the Community Council.

Message of Thanks from the Chair

Chair advised Members it was his last Full Council Meeting as Chair. He took the opportunity to thank his fellow councillors for their cross-party support, guidance and engagement over the last year. He found the experience rewarding and, in some cases, challenging, but the wealth of experience around the table helped him immensely. The Chair thanked the Clerk and her team for all the work they have put in over the last year. He finished off by wishing his successor all the best for the forthcoming pre-local elections year and looks forward to the forthcoming Annual Meeting of Council, post Senedd election day.

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

a. **Memorial to commemorate the Home Front**

Cllr J Fanshaw advised he has been nominated to set up a working group to discuss ideas for a memorial to commemorate the Home Front during WW1 & WW2. The meeting has been scheduled for 5th May at 6.30pmin the Old Library. Cllr A Asbrey has agreed to be a part of the group, but everyone is welcome. Members of the Remembrance Sunday working group will also be invited.

b. **Dinas Powys Play Scheme**

Cllr J Fanshaw advised Members that he plans to set up a working group for this year's Play Scheme. Details to follow.

135. Date of next Meeting – Thursday 21 May 2026

Signature:

Date: