**Cyngor Cymuned Blaenrheidol Community Council**

**Minutes – 4 February 2025**

**Present:** Mick Bruce (Chair), Dafydd Jones, Huw Morris, Aled Thomas, John Wall, Rhodri Davies (County Councillor), Amanda Roberts (Clerk)

**1 Apologies:** None

**2 Minutes from last Meeting (30/7/24)**

**Accuracy:** Approved by Huw Morris and seconded by John Wall

**Matters Arising:** See Action Plan below

**3 Correspondence**

* **VE Day 80** - 8 May 2025. It was suggested to try to get members of the community together at 9.30pm to sing meaningful hymns / songs – The Council discussed this and asked the Clerk to speak to the local Church to see if they were intending to organise an event or were interested in holding a joint event. The Council was prepared to decorate the Church accordingly by using the donation received from the Rally.
* **The following reports** were noted and approved (where appropriate):
  + - Practice Development Note 8 Code of Conduct: Members and Officers
    - Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Draft Annual Report 2025-2026 (it was noted that the Council did not pay any remuneration)
    - Model Financial Regulations 2024
    - New Constitution for Blaenrheidol Community Council
    - Guidelines about Email and Procurement
* **Consultation Process and Documents Syr John Rhys School**. The Community Council had submitted a letter to the County Council during a consultation period regarding the closure of the school. However, the process had since been halted – It is believed that the County Council is proposing to recommence the process, aiming for a closure date of September 2026. A hall meeting had taken place, and it is hoped a new hall committee will be formed. It was noted that other Community Councils had purchased their school buildings on closure.
* **FOI request** from ‘Screaming Frog Ltd’ Media & marketing co – the company had requested the sum of the Council’s budget for Christmas lighting & decorations. A response was sent by the Clerk within 21 days stating ‘zero’
* **LPIP Survey**: A questionnaire has been circulated to councils by a project run by the University to discover how Councils are run. It was noted by the Cambrian News that responses were slow to arrive – The Clerk completed the questionnaire on behalf of Blaenrheidol CC and circulated to the Councillors for comment. The questionnaire was forwarded to the University on 29/1/25.
* **Cefn Croes**: Grant offer re Defibrillator. Notification had been received in response to the claim made stating “The trustees are very pleased to be able to grant Blaenrheidol Community Council, the sum of £1,625.00 towards the cost of a Defibrillator, outdoor cabinet and installation costs” – It was agreed that the Clerk should now request quotes for a defibrillator and a post to hold it. It will be located in Ystumtuen, next to the Community Council’s noticeboard.
* **Lluest y Gwynt Wind Farm** (Councillors DJ and AT declared an interest) – It was noted that a meeting for the community had been held and that the consultation is still open.
* **Code of Conduct**: The Council is running a training session on this on ‘zoom’ on 11/2/25 (6pm-7:30pm) and suggest that the majority of councillors and clerks attend – The Clerk will circulate the link to all once it is received.
* **OVW Area Committee Survey**: OVW have circulated a questionnaire asking councils what they think of the service they provide. The survey closing date is end of February – The Clerk agreed to complete the questionnaire and circulate it to the Councillors for their comments prior to the next meeting for submission to OVW.
* **Rali Ceredigion 2025:** The dates and two routes within the Blaenrheidol boundary were given to the Council to consider (as these were currently for consultation only the Council was requested not to share these with the public). – The Councillors could not envisage any problems with the info provided for consideration. This would be reported to the Rali secretaries.
* **Maes yr Awel Grit Bin**: It was noted that nobody can make it up or down the middle hill in Maes yr Awel when it is frosty. The yellow grit bin (owned by the County Council) is located by the entrance to the estate but is too far away to be used on the hill (although it has recently been filled). The Community Council purchased a green grit bin for the estate a few years ago. This is located at the top of the hill, but the County Council refuses to fill it, apparently due to liability issues. – The Clerk was requested to clarify this with the County Council and find out who should be providing the grit for Maes yr Awel.
* **Brynglas Lane** – a message was received from a member of the community noting difficulties when joining the A44 from the Lane. It appears that the owner of the field opposite the Lane has already been asked to cut the trees. Currently, it is not possible to see the cars driving in to the village – there have been many narrow escapes. Is the Council able to get these trees cut? Also, a car is sometimes parked on the junction which is an additional hazard. – The Clerk was requested to ask the field owner to cut the dotted trees opposite the junction.

See Blaenrheidol CC Actions Plan below; as well as a list of additional correspondence forwarded since the last meeting.

**4 Planning** – A240647 - Cwmergyr, Ponterwyd, SY23 3LD – The Email and planning statement were circulated on 25/9/24 – no comments made.

**5 Finance**

* + **2023-24 Accounts** – These were returned by Audit Wales categorised as unqualified with no matters arising. Copies are currently displayed in noticeboards.
  + **IRPW - Statement of Payments 2023-24** – The annual return has been completed and returned stating no payments made. Individual emails will be required from all to confirm this.
  + **Bank Balance** - £5,643.41 (as per latest bank statement dated 13/1/25)
  + **Draft 2023/24 Estimated Budget** – circulated
  + **2025/26 Precept** – Form submitted to County Council on 29/1/25 requesting a precept of £4,824 (ie 2.5% which is current rate of inflation [£118] applied to previous year’s precept of £4,706)
  + **Invoices due for Payment**:

1. S O Evans (grass cutting) - £160
2. Ceredigion County Council (Lease) - £5
3. Internal Auditor - £100
4. Website - £334.98
5. Audit Wales - £200

Agreed to pay.

* + **Charity Letters**:

It was noted that due to the number of letters received every year, and the sum of the precept, only charities which are specific to Blaenrheidol community are supported.

1. Wales Air Ambulance (by email 1/11/24) – helicopter upgrade project
2. Urdd Gobaith Cymru Fund For All Appeal (by email 18/11/24)
3. Ceredigion YFC (Felinfach) (by email 15/1/25)
4. Y Ddolen Community Paper (by email 22/1/25)

It was agreed to donate £50 to Y Ddolen.

**6 Any Other Business**

* A member of the community had complained to a Councillor (DJ) as the Community Council had not placed a Christmas tree in the area last year; and also, no red poppies had been displayed in the village during the remembrance period. The Council will have to bear this in mind and ensure that the appropriate items are displayed at both times this year.
* The Councillors were shocked to hear that those residences which had been without water for five days in the village had received neither correspondence from Welsh Water to explain why this had occurred nor an apology for the inconvenience. The Clerk was asked to write a letter requesting this.
* Cost of Living Crisis – The Council is currently receiving many emails re the crisis. It was agreed that it would be an idea to do something to help. It was suggested that it could be run alongside the County Councillor’s bi-monthly ‘surgeries’ eg offering a ‘warm space’ for those two hours and possibly provide a snack / activity. There have been grants available for this.
* It was noted that the Clerk had attended the annual Society of Local Council Clerks & OVW joint event on 20 November and had found it very useful.
* Due to the length of the Agenda on this occasion the Action Plan was not considered.

**Date of next meeting**: 11 March 2025

**Meeting Closed**: 9pm

**Forwarded Correspondence to Councillors since the last meeting:**

* Police & Crime Commissioner Bulletin (4/9/24) - (event 12/9/24)
* One Voice Wales National Conference 16 October (4/9/24)
* Cynnal Y Cardi Bulletin (4/9/24)
* Tenovus Cancer Care Bulletin (4/9/24)
* Launching ‘My Health, My Choice’ Primary Care and Community Services engagement (4/9/24) - (event 24/9/24)
* Views sought on Aberystwyth coastal defence scheme (4/9/24)
* Councils Connect: Cost of Living Initiatives (4/9/24) - (2 x webinar and forum)
* International Older Persons Day and Age Friendly Ceredigion (4/9/24) - (event 30/9/24)
* Ynni Cymru: Capital Grant Funding Programme (25/9/24)
* Free Community Orchard Package (9/10/24)
* Meeting between representatives of the County Council and Town and Community Councils – 26 November 2024 (9/10/24)
* Parking Ticket scam (9/10/24)
* Consultation Letter - Off Street Parking Places Proposals (9/10/24)
* Consultation: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26 (10/10/24)
* Invitation to Participate in the Rural Housing Action Guide for Wales Project Online Survey (10/10/24)
* Parking on Aberystywth Promenade – Consultation (10/10/24)
* Invitation to Community Liaison Group meeting for Lluest y Gwynt Wind Farm and Grid Connection (11/10/24) - later postponed
* Ceredigion Community Review - Final Recommendations Report (11/10/24)
* Pethau Bychain Event 15.10.24 (Making space for Reptiles) (16/10/24) - recording and info
* One Voice Wales response to the Senedd Inquiry for Community and Town Councils (24/10/24)
* Funding News from the Cost of Living Crisis Support Team (24/10/24)
* OVW - Draft Minutes - Ceredigion Area Committee (24/10/24)
* Upcoming Network Event with Planning Aid Wales (24/10/24) - (event 14/11/24)
* Cynnal y Cardi October Bulletin (24/10/24)
* Important update on the RAIB's initial findings following the Cambrian rail incident (13/1/25)
* Publication of two consultation papers - Planning resilience and preserving trees (13/1/25)
* Ceredigion Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027 (13/1/25)
* Cost of Living Crisis Project - Information and Resources (email 16/1/25) x 3
* Have Your Say 2024: A message to older people (email 16/1/25) – questionnaire
* Pethau Bychain Event 3/12/24 – Making space for Amphibians (21/1/25) – recording & resources
* Review of Senedd Constituencies (21/1/25)
* Consultation on Reforms to the Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Rules (email 24/1/25)
* One Voice Wales Ceredigion Area Committee 14.1.25 (24/1/25)
* Ceredigion Area Committee PSB Notes (24/1/25)
* Unjumbling the Jargon (25/1/25)
* Cost of Living Crisis Project 'Working With Partners: To Deliver Cost of Living Support to Your Community' Webinar on 6/2/25 (29/1/25) – webinar
* Can You help – RVS Poster (29/1/25) – poster to be placed in noticeboards
* Cynnal y Cardi January Bulletin (29/1/25)
* Buckingham Palace Garden Parties 7th and 20th May 2025 (29/1/25) – no nominations to date

Please see Actions Table listed at year-end