

CYNWYL ELFED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 20.07.2026

at Cynwyl Elfed Community Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr Delme Phillips (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Elfed Davies, Cllr. Eifion Jones, Cllr. Bryan Davies, Cllr. Aled Jones and Cllr. Robin Bowen.

Clerk: Enid Davies

Translator: Hefin Jones

Dyfed Powys Police: PCSO Martin Dickensen and PCSO Joanna Phillips attended a question and answer session held at the beginning of the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Amy Evans and Cllr. Julian Evans.

In the absence of Cllr. Amy Evans Chair, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Delme Phillips, chaired the meeting.

Cllr. D. Phillips welcomed all present and also welcomed PCSO Martin Dickensen and PCSO Joanne Phillips who attended on the request of the Council. PCSO M. Dickensen gave a summary of crime trends in the area. PCSO J. Phillips informed the Council about Cyswllt Dyfed-Powys Connects, a new messaging service where the public can send messages about local concerns, e.g. speeding issues or ask for security advice. There was a brief question and answer session. She explained that this system is not for reporting a specific crime. The public must continue to dial 999 in an emergency. There was a brief question and answer session and the Council was pleased to learn that Dyfed-Powys Police officers continue to carry out school visits and engage with pupils aged 5 - 16 to deliver crime prevention and safety lessons. Cllr. Delme Phillips on behalf of the Council, thanked the officers for their time and for the interesting and valuable information they had shared regarding policing in the Cynwyl Elfed area.

31. Declaration of Personal Interest

The chair asked Council members if they had any interests to declare in the business being discussed - nil declared.

32. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meetings

Minutes of the meeting held on 15.06.26 were agreed to be a correct copy - proposed by Cllr. R. Bowen and seconded by Cllr. A. Jones

33. Matters to report:

- a. Highway matters:- see under Highway Matters.
- b. Public Conveniences and Cynwyl Elfed Hall - see under reports from sub-committees.
- c. O.V.W. National Conference - Attended by Cllr. Bryan Davies -who gave the Council a report of the meeting and shared information which he had gathered at the meeting.
- d. Formal Complaint to the Ombudsman: A letter received from the Ombudsman Wales informing the Council that they have decided not to investigate the matter.
- e. Hermon Noticeboard- Cllr. E.D. and Cllr. B.D. had been to assess the condition of the noticeboard - it was decided that Cllr. B.D. will repair the noticeboard. If he is unable to repair the noticeboard the Council is to look at the matter again.
- f. Batteries for Cynwyl Elfed CU SP1 defibrillators at the Hall and Village Post Office -the clerk reported that two new batteries received and that she had accompanied volunteer E. Tipping when she went to replace the batteries which had passed their End of Service dates. The Council expressed their gratitude for the work carried out by Emma Tipping in checking all of the defibrillators in the area once a month to help ensure that they are emergency ready.

34. Correspondence

Copies of relevant correspondence received is circulated to members via e-mail.

- Letter - from local resident requesting road inspection, bridges inspection and pointing out various defect he had noted: The Council understands that Carmarthenshire County Council road engineers inspect the roads including the A484 and bridges on a regular basis. The Council decided to forward include the request to the relevant departments in its report to the County Council of matters which need attention.
- Letter from local resident requesting speed bumps in Cwmdud - Clerk to contact the sender as there is no details included apart from the e-mail address and name of sender, for more information. The Council decided that clerk is to contact Go-Safe to request that the speed camera is in regular attendance at Cwmdud.
- Cyngor Sir Gâr and Ramblers Association - volunteers required to walk and inspect footpaths - noted.
- Carmarthenshire County Council new Recycling arrangements - this will affect the local post code area - although no details received to date by residents who will be affected by the change - clerk to contact the county for more details.
- Carmarthenshire C.C. - Assessment of Local Well-being - noted.
- One Voice Wales - Innovative Practice Conference 30.09.2026 - Cllr.BD announced that he had won two tickets for this conference - it was decided that Cllr.B.D. and Cllr. D.P. would attend on behalf of the Council.

35.Planning

PL/11015 - Extension of existing curtilage and construction of a detached garage in the new curtilage - Yr Hafod Llwyd, Hermon, Carmarthen, SA33 6SR - Councillors were contacted during the consultation period and the Council decided to support the application.

36.Payments and Finances

Payments

Payments

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| • Maria Thomas June 2026 | £230.00, July 2026 | £230.00 and August 2026 | £230.00 |
| • ME Davies Clerk's salary. 06/26 | Plus backpay | | £632.50 |
| • H.M.R.C. Q(1) 2026/27 | 05/07/26 | | £381.86 |
| • ME Davies (Defib Store. Batteries for CUSP1 Cynwyl Elfed x2). | | | £492.00 |
| • EDF Electricity June 2026 | | | £ 41.10 |
| • W3 Web Design Annual Fees | | | £169.00 |
| • .Bevan Buckland (internal Audit) | | | £370.00 + VAT |

There was an increase in cost due to extra time spent carrying out the audit.

The Council approved that the approve payments be made.

Electricity Contract for Renewal:

EDF Tariffs + 2 others.

The existing contract is due to expire on 18 September 2026. Quotes were obtained for a 3 year contract directly from EDF and also from Bionic Business Comparison and Octopus Energy. The Council decided to choose the Renewable Energy quotation directly from EDF energy: Standing Charge 50p per day, Unit rate 29.1p per kWh with an estimated monthly bill of £44.50. The electricity use has not been very high over the past two years since the heaters were serviced and PIR sensors installed. Clerk is to arrange for a Smart Meter to be installed.

Internal Audit - conclusion and recommendations:

The Council received the report of the Internal Audit, carried out by Bevan Buckland Audit Ltd. for the year 2025/26 and resolved to take action in respect of the recommendations made. Main findings conclude that the control objectives were evaluated and proved to be satisfactory. Three recommendations for steps to be taken to mitigate possible risks identified.

1. The date of cheques written are before the date approved at the council - It was decided to review the payment arrangements to ensure that there is a strategy in place to deal with payments which fall due to ensure that they comply with the Financial Regulations of the Council.
2. Hourly Rate paid to Clerk does not align with SLCC rates - It is recommended that the clerk's rate of pay is assessed and aligned with SLCC rates.
3. Financial Regulations P.2.6 states that at least once a month a member and the Chair will be appointed to verify bank reconciliations which will involve the signing and dating of the original bank statements. Although the Bank reconciliation form was signed the statement had not. The council resolved to ensure that the statements are also signed at the same time as the Bank Reconciliation is carried out to comply with its financial regulations from now on.

Approve the Annual Governance and Accounting Statement for the year ending 31.03.2026

- The Council reviewed the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual return and resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2026.
- The Council considered the Accounting Statements certified by the Responsible Financial Officer (Enid Davies) and resolved that the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 be approved and adopted. Proposed by Cllr. E. Davies and Seconded by Cllr. E. Jones.
- The Council resolved that Cllr. Delme Phillips Vice-Chairman (in the absence of Cllr. A. Evans) be authorised to sign the appropriate approval box on the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2026 on behalf of the Council.

REVIEW - RECONCILIATION OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Cllr. Delme Phillips reviewed the accounts to the 30 June 2026 and verified that they appeared to be correct and signed the accounts reconciliation and the Bank Statements to confirm this had been done.

27. Highway Matters:

Update on matters reported on 15.06.26

- Stop tap near Esgair Bridge repaired.
- Engineer report received regarding bridge near St. Cynwyl Church - Council was informed that the bridge is privately owned and that the U5474 public highway ceases before the bridge. The engineer carried out an inspection and found the bridge damaged and informed the Community Council. Clerk to inform the possible owners who have rights to use the bridge and have riparian responsibilities of the Engineer's findings.

Highway Matters reported on: 15.06.2026a) Service Bus required through HermoCllr. ED reported that there were trees in the river near Mile End bend. Clerk to contact NRW and Carmarthenshire County Council

- a) C2043 - Cynwyl Elfed - Penrhiwcrynfryn - Edges of the road on the left hand side has eroded causing the road to become narrower in places.
- b) A484 Ty Coch - Cwmdud - bend just below Nantyclawdd - large pothole at the side of the road.
- c) Cwmdud pavement required.
- d) SA33 6EY - near Green Villa - road surface very poor with multiple potholes.
- e) SA33 6UD - road near the entrance to Penlanchwilor - road has subsided.
- f) C1313 - Road to Cemetary - Road surface is in a terrible condition.
- g) SA33 6ST U5463 - road is in a very poor condition between just before the bridge at NantyrEsg and Clungwyn.

28. Reports from Sub-Committees and Organisations.

Public Conveniences: -

- Nothing new to report.

Cae Chwarae Bro Elfed Playing Field -

- A carnival fund raiser is to take place on the school field on 15/08/2026.
- Questionnaires have been distributed throughout the area asking people how they wish to see the park developed.
- Once the questionnaires have been completed and decisions made then the committee will apply for grant monies available.
- Cllr. R.B. told the meeting that the Park Committee need more volunteers to help.

Canolfan Cymdeithasol Cynwyl Elfed - Hall

The hall is open every Saturday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 a.m. for volunteers to clean and do jobs to upkeep the hall.

29. Any Other Matters

- **Complaints Policy(2025)** -Clerk has obtained model complaints policy (2025) from One Voice Wales and this has been adapted to Cynwyl Elfed Community Council. Councillors have had time to read the document. The Council decided to adopt the Complaints Policy following a proposal by Cllr. B.D. and seconded by Cllr. R.B.
- **Advertise for a new clerk.**-The clerk has produced an advertisement for a new clerk. The Council has approved the advert. Clerk is to advertise locally and through One Voice Wales and the SLCC.
- One Voice Wales - National Conference held on 1/7/26 - Cllr BD gave the Council a report of the conference which he attended on behalf of the Council which included some useful information and helpful links for the Council.

30. Date and Time of next Meeting.

Next Monthly meeting is to be held on: Monday **21 September 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**

The meeting concluded at 21.50 hours.

.....
Cllr. Delme Phillips (Vice-Chairman) who chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr. A.Evans.

.....
Date.