



COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor E. Caparros

Clerk: Ms M. Thomas

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2025

Held at 7.00pm in the Williams Memorial Hall, Main Road, Coychurch

2641. The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.00pm.

2642. PRESENT: Councillor Caparros (chairman), Councillors Brace, Sutton and Dickinson, Snoddy, Randall and the clerk, Ms Thomas.

There were 34 members of the public present.

2643. APOLOGIES - None

2644. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Caparros reminded members of his interest in Item 2647 as he is the community's Bridgend County Borough councillor.

2645. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 14th JANUARY 2025
The minutes, having been circulated previously, were agreed unanimously and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2646. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Views were taken from members of the public on the proposals by Bridgend County Borough Council to alter the ward boundary to include Waterton/Brocastle and the retail and industrial estates in the Bridgend Town ward of Oldcastle and to include Coychurch village and the surrounding farms in the new Brackla Community ward.

Included in the feedback were concerns about:

- the erosion of community identity and cohesion
- distancing the electorate from it's immediate tier of local government
- loss of control over the future enhancements for the village and maintenance of the current amenities
- the resulting uncertainty about the future of the Williams Memorial Hall (as, currently the Coychurch Lower Community Council as a corporate body is the sole trustee) and the supportive funding that is provided by the community council
- How two very different "cultures" would fit together
- The current Coychurch Lower community council ethos is that of volunteers, working together to better their community. There was concern about how this would fit with a very politicised council while having 2 members in a larger group of 14 councillors.
- The long standing residents of Waterton Lane (which is not mentioned as one of the roads affected by the move to Bridgend Town), Laurel Close and Waterton Close would not consider themselves an urban community.
- One resident who had lived in Brackla and now lived in Coychurch was clear that the communities are very different.



COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor E. Caparros

Clerk: Ms M. Thomas

- The Brackla area has a rolling population while people come to Coychurch to put down roots, to stay and get involved in the community. There is high emotional investment in the community, its assets and environment.

Asked what were the benefits of the change, it was suggested that the local council precept may be slightly less in the short term as some benefits of larger scale purchasing, reduction in staff costs and possible loss of support for the Williams Memorial Hall take effect.

It was pointed out that these changes, should they go ahead would come into effect for the May 2027 elections. How the change would be managed would be decided if the changes were agreed after the feedback from the public was analysed.

A member of the public asked if they could start a petition in order to ensure that those not on the internet/social media could also have their say. There were no objections and others agreed that it would be a way forward.

Despite this, it was emphasised that individuals also need to send in their reasons for objecting, or agreeing, to the changes so that when these are reviewed there will be strong evidence either way. It was pointed out that the address and email for feedback were on the discussion document handout and that feedback can also be sent via <https://beinvolvedbridgend.uk/engagementhq.com/town-and-community-councils-electoral-arrangements-review>

A further public session will be held at the next council meeting at 7pm on 11th March 2025 in the Williams Memorial Hall. Council was asked if a request could be made through the Leader of BCBC council for a member of BCBC Electoral services to attend the next meeting on 11th March to explain the proposal in more detail and answer questions. Cllr Caparros said he would make the request.

Members of the public left at this point.

2647. TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO WARD BOUNDARIES

It was agreed that the clerk would draft a response based on the feedback from residents and circulate it to members for consideration / amendment before final agreement at the meeting in March.



COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor E. Caparros

Clerk: Ms M. Thomas

2648. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – All circulated to members previously:

Planning Application No.: P/24/674/FUL Applicant: bp Pulse UK

Location: Waterton Retail Park Waterton Lane Bridgend CF31 3TN

Proposal: Re-purposing existing car parking spaces for use as parking spaces for recharging of electric vehicles, including the installation of 2 upstands, feeder pillar, 4 bollards, lighting column and associated landscaping adjustments [amended location and plans/documents]

COUNCIL DECISION – No Objections

Planning Application No.: P/25/1/FUL

Applicant: Brickability

Location: Brickability, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 3XG

Proposal: Construction of storage shed within the existing storage yard

COUNCIL DECISION – No Objections

2649. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FUND APPLICATION

A resident with experience in the field of outdoor equipment had been asked to review the revised quotation for outdoor fitness equipment. Following his comments and further discussion it was decided to refine the quotation by taking out one item and putting in another wheelchair accessible item. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a revised quotation to include wetpour groundworks under the equipment and the identified in the inventory.

To help with the cost to the community council the Clerk will submit an application to the National Lottery Awards for All Scheme.

Councillor Randall left the meeting at this point

FINANCE

2650. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY 2025

The Schedule of Receipts and Payments for January was presented. Totals were as follows:

Payments £476.68

Receipts £51.07 (bank interest)

2651. TO RECEIVE THE 3rd QUARTER BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk presented the 3rd quarter accounts and bank statements for review. These were agreed and signed by the chairman.

2652. TO RECEIVE MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Randall advised that the Coychurch Community Field was being used much more by people than this time last year, and used by a wide range of people, not just dog walkers.



COYCHURCH LOWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor E. Caparros

Clerk: Ms M. Thomas

2653. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 11th March 2025 at 7pm in the Williams Memorial Hall.

2654. Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed by the Chair: _____

On: _____

Minute No: _____