**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2025. At Penybont Community Hall at 7.30pm [[1]](#footnote-1)**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs R.Watkins (Chair); Cllr D.Lyall Cllr Bufton Cllr R.Duggan:R.Watkins:;

**Apologies**: J.Lawrence

**Absent:** Cllr D. Bayliss

**Others:** County Councillor G.Morgan

**Declarations of Interest:**

*Reminder to members. A personal Interest is also a Prejudicial Interest because under the objective, public perception test (Para 12(1) of the Members’ Code of Conduct) where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. Forms available from the Clerk*

**PD/0023/25 Minutes**

To authorise the Chairman to sign minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on the 11th of March 2025

Proposed Cllr D.Turner Unanimous

**PD/0024/25 Clerk’s update**

On sick leave

**PD/0025/25 County Councillors Report**

Councillors discussed matters further arising from the documentation relating to an urgent question of the budget for in part our area. It was ruled out on procedural matter preventing his representation. In part the consequence his position of becoming the Reform Councillor. The forth coming Annual Meeting of PCC and the resignation of the Chair widely reported.

**PD/0026/25 Planning:**

* Update letter from Bute Energy-Councillors advised this was not an issue of planning, already determined but to be discussed as per community projects/issues. (See below)
* Rhos-Swydd Common, correspondence between council and National Grid + map. Documentation acknowledged.

**PD/0027/25 Community Projects/Issues:**

 Cllr Turner presented a discussion document Appendix A regarding *‘Community Interest money’.* Following a discussion, it was decided that the Clerk contact surrounding community councils, to establish work already carried out, or possibly joint action. To contact Powys Planning relating to the governance of community benefits of large planning works.

**PD/0028/25 One Voice Wales**

Minutes of their meetings published with agenda.

**PD/0029/25 Finance**

* Expenditure to authorise.

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| --- | --- |
| **Council Insurance to Zurich** | **£426.13** |
| **Welsh Audit Office 2023/4** | **£260** |
| **VAT refund** | **953.89** |
| **Audit Office refund, assigned to incorrect year** | **£260** |

* **Internal audit for submission to Welsh Audit office.**

Clerk gives explanation and Chair signs for submission to Welsh Audit Office.

* Current financial position supplied

**Proposed** to pay Cllr Bufton  **Unanimous**

**PD/030/25 Correspondence**

None

**PD/0031/25 Public Questions**

* Mrs Jenkins raised the following matter: A Section 6 report for community councils is a required document that outlines a public authority's efforts to comply with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. What is the current position of this community council?
* ///spenders.cork.pencils has a fallen tree into the river. The effect to the road, is that the river Mithil is undermining the road. Highways to be informed.

**PD/0032/25 Date of Next Meeting and format**

10th June 2025 at 7.30pm Hybrid available.

**Appendix A**

**Discussion Paper Penybont and District Community Council**

**Hendy Wind Farm**

As the years pass and, as a Community Council, we have heard nothing to suggest that Hendy Wind Farm might become operative it may be worth considering whether the Community Council might work with others to see if it might be possible to set up a Community Interest Company, along with other Councils in the area, to enable the Wind Turbines to finally produce electricity for the benefit of the local population.

This is particularly relevant at the moment as Bute Energy are beginning the final consultations to see if the Welsh Government will give them permission to create a much larger Wind Farm on the hill tops of the Radnor Forest. If this goes ahead there will be considerable Community Interest money available, and there could be no better use for this money than to use it to bring Hendy to life and to serve the local community.

Clearly there has been a lot of opposition to the development of wind farms locally and while we would not want to exacerbate community tensions, the time may now be right to explore this proposal as Hendy is there and using electricity to keep its blades turning and Bute Energy may get permission for their development. If they do not then this proposal may fall flat but if it does then it will be important to have a plan in place or we will find that it is likely that the ‘community interest’ may be defined by other people who may or may not have an ‘interest’ in the local community.

**The formal definition of Community Energy Companies is:**

Community energy companies in the UK are organizations focused on collective action to address climate change and fuel poverty through community-led renewable energy projects and energy efficiency

initiatives. These projects often involve local ownership or control and aim to deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits locally.

**Support for Community Energy Initiatives:**

**Community Energy Wales**

Community Energy Wales is a not-for-profit membership organisation that provides assistance and a voice to community groups working on energy projects in Wales. They say: “We want to help create the conditions in Wales that allow community energy projects to flourish, and communities to prosper.” See: https://communityenergy.wales/about-us

1. Clerk on sick leave, no on-line facilities [↑](#footnote-ref-1)