

Ponthir Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on 10th March 2025 at Ponthir Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr I Danaher, Cllr P Buffery, Cllr R Morgan, Cllr M Leighton and Cllr A Lang.

Also present: Clerk to the Council – Mrs C Danaher.

1. **Apologies:** – Cllr P Matthews and Cllr L Ryan-Scales. apologies accepted, proposed Cllr Leighton, seconded by Cllr Morgan.
2. **Declaration of interest:** Cllrs Danaher and Buffery – PVH grant application.
3. **To consider matters raised by members of the public:** None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2025:** Proposed Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Leighton. Minutes were signed and dated by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Guest:** TCBC Elections Manager, Caroline Genever-Jones, shared with Council information regarding the proposed boundary changes in Torfaen, which will come into effect from May 2027. The proposed changes will go to full Council (TCBC) in July 2025. These changes will then go to the Boundaries Commission for approval. Transitional arrangements will be shared with Council later.
6. **Matters arising:**
 - a. **Bank forms and deposit account:** Cllr Leighton confirmed she will complete the bank mandate to become a signatory on the account before our April meeting. Clerk confirmed the deposit account is in the process of being opened.
 - b. **Planters:** Cllrs Lang and Matthews have still to move the planter from School Close to Lamb Lane. **Action:** - Cllrs Lang and Matthews to move the planter by our April meeting. Clerk to ask Cllr Ryan-Scales what's happened to the bulbs in the Hafod Road planters.
 - c. **Biodiversity:** Cllr Buffery has now obtained biodiversity information from PVH. Cllr Leighton still trying to get information from the PSCC. Members agreed we publish the biodiversity plan. PSCC information will be added when available.
 - d. **Caerleon Road drains: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete.
 - e. **Budget form amendments: Ongoing Action:** - Cllr Lang to complete.
 - f. **Caerleon Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa Times:** James Dawson is pleased with our £300 donation for this year. **Action:** - Clerk to make payment in April.
 - g. **Speeding in the Village:** Clerk meeting the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Provision of a mirror at the junction of Haford Road and Caerleon Road will be discussed.
 - h. **Community Event:** PSCC are in the early stages of planning a Food and Music Festival for August 2025. **Action:** - Cllr Leighton to update us at the next meeting.
7. **To consider and discuss items:**
 - a. **Training Plan:** Councillors need to look at the OVW training courses before the next meeting as a training plan needs to be published. **Action:** - Clerk to ask OVW what other councils our size does re training.
 - b. **Grant applications:** Ponthir Rainbows grant application. Council agreed £150. Ponthir Guides grant application. Council agreed £150. Both proposed by Cllr Danaher and seconded by Cllr Morgan. PVH indoor bowls asked for a grant of £500 towards replacing outdated equipment. Councillors able to vote agreed a grant of £200 in line with our current grants policy. Proposed Cllr Morgan, seconded Cllr Leighton. **Action:** - Clerk to liaise with the three organisations regarding payment.

- c. **Amazon vouchers:** Clerk confirmed that she has received £60 worth of vouchers for the 4 Councillors who completed the recent survey. Cllr's Danaher and Buffery agreed that the vouchers are to be used for the purchase of stationery items.
 - d. **SmartWater:** Information received regarding this initiative. Council felt the cost and take-up would be prohibitive at this time. **Action:** - Clerk to advertise on noticeboards and social media the benefits of this scheme.
8. **Finance and Accounts:** balance and all transactions noted.
9. **Planning:** MMCA/24/P/0722/FUL Proposed extension to Laurel Cottage, Tram Lane, Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran. No comments were noted.
10. **Committee Reports:**

Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School: The 50th Anniversary celebration took place on February 19th.

Torfaen Community Trust: Cllr Buffery couldn't attend the meeting on 6th March.

Gwent Valleys Partnership: No meeting.

Ponthir Village Hall: Grants continue to be utilised for the upgrading of the hall. New solar panels have been installed and are now working. All interior decoration has been finished with the new cinema equipment being installed next week.

PSCC: Cllr Leighton confirmed that our second marquee is being repaired and will be returned by the beginning of May. PVH looking to borrow both marquees for an event in May. The club is seeking more funding/sponsorship. The bar continues to be very busy.

Mick Morris Memorial Sporting Trust: No report.

Local Council Partnership Committee: No meeting.

Chair's Report: Attended the Cwmbran CC awards evening at the Parkway Hotel. The Chair planted four Japanese cherry trees with pupils at Ponthir School to mark their 50th anniversary. Finally, Cllr Danaher confirmed he would be standing down as Chair at the AGM in May.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 14th April at 7pm in Ponthir Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 20:00

This document is available on our website.

A copy of this document can be made available in Welsh.

**Please contact the Clerk on 07454 988250 or email
clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk**