

Pencoed Town Council

Minutes of Full Council meeting Thursday 13th February 2025,
held in Salem Chapel Vestry, Coychurch Road, Pencoed.

Present Councilors:

P. Edwards – Town Mayor/Chair

R. Williams

T. Lyddon

C. Edwards

R.J. Hancock OBE

J. Butcher

M. Walters

B. Doughty

In attendance: Town Clerk Geraint Thomas, Deputy Clerk Morgan Davies and PCSO A. Osborne.

This was a Hybrid meeting, and the zoom link was tested prior to the meeting commencing.

Prior to the meeting the Mayor P. Edwards presented a donation to Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby Club, and was received by organiser Dominic Evans.

8534 Apologies for absence and dispensation

Apologies were received from the following due to illness/unavailability:

Cllr J. Jones

Cllr H. Whyley

Cllr J. Ryan – family emergency. Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moves that dispensation is granted for at least three months, seconded by Cllr

Cllr M. Evans

Cllr L. Lewis – was to attend via zoom, though there was a technical fault.

8535 Declarations of interest

Cllr R. Williams – item 7 regarding the Cennin wind farm and further energy discussions as a member of BCBC's Development Control Committee.

Cllr J. Butcher – item 8 relating to the grant application received from Coity Walia as a PTC representative on Coity Walia's Board of Conservators.

Cllr M. Walters – item 8 regarding pavilion opening/closing costs as a family member is employed partly for this role.

8536 To receive the Police Report and any correspondence

PCSO A. Osborne states that the crime report may look worse than it is as the crimes vary in severity but come under the same category, i.e., assault, harassment etc.

A few issues of dog fighting have been reported.

Signs to be produced on the mentioned land to warn dog walkers.

Cases/fights not too serious.

Damage to Pencoed cemetery – this seems to be a targeted attack against a person.

Motor vehicles – recent cases of people attempting to open vehicle doors, seeking house CCTV and BCBC CCTV to identify suspects.

There is a homeless person staying near the playing fields, though has not been there when the police have investigated. There is concern for his safety and whether he is linked to the above case.

Cllr B. Doughty thanks PCSO A. Osborne for the report, though expresses his concern over stalking/harassment and linked assaults (20% of crimes committed).

Cllr B. Doughty suggests that the Council could use social media, website or notice boards to raise awareness and warn of stalking cases.

PCSO A. Osborne states the Police have various partners to help with this, details to be referred to the Town Clerk.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE – matter to be referred to the safer streets committee.

Cllr B. Doughty raises the issue abuse/threats on the Pencoed Hub Facebook page, possibly linked to stalking/harassment cases?

PCSO A. Osborne state that social media is difficult to

monitor/control, must be determined whether a line has been crossed, though could be reported by victims.

Cllr R. Williams – there is a new camera in the Co-op, could be used to monitor crimes.

PCSO A. Osborne replies that the Co-op are very cooperative and tend to hand over footage when needed.

ASB cases – same group of kids, more likely to be on social services register rather than early help referrals.

More cases have been reported recently, though CCTV cannot determine the culprits.

Mayor P. Edwards raises the issue of the skateboard park fence being burnt, a bit of a blind spot from CCTV - Possibility of installing CCTV for the skatepark.

Cllr T. Lyddon raises concern over incidents of violence/aggression near shops.

PCSO A. Osborne states these have been recorded, particularly near Tesco Express.

PCSO A. Osborne explains there is now greater police presence during later hours to intervene in any of the mentioned incidents above.

Brackla Political Group – PCSO A. Osborne states that graffiti and stickers are being placed around the area promoting Welsh Independence/Nationalism, no immediate concern from counter terrorism, one graffiti tag in Pencoeed.

Cllr C. Edwards – can the tags be shared?

PCSO A. Osborne replies that they are to be sent to the Town Clerk

The Council thanks PCSO A. Osborne for his attendance and Police Report.

RESOLVED TO NOTE.

8537 To receive questions from the public

The Town Clerk states that a question has been received regarding the hyphen - Why do Christmas lights cost £10,000 this year and £9,000 next year? Lights of poor quality, money better spent elsewhere, same goes for the £3,500 spent on hanging baskets.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moved that the correspondence is noted, seconded by Cllr T. Lyddon.

Town Clerk - Lots of emails have been received regarding the proposed Cennin in wind farm, with particular reference to Councilors on Coity Walia. Though some of the emails come from people not from the Pencoed area.

Cllr B. Doughty states that there is a Committee 1 recommendation linked to this

8538 To receive Mayoral messages

The Mayor P. Edwards attended two events in January –

18th Jan British Legion AGM, the first Pencoed Mayor to attend.

Fifty delegates in attendance and a speech was given by the Mayor. The event had a general focus on mental health, while it was announced that the RBL raised £13.6 million from PDQs alone.

Cheque presented to admiral nurses for over £100,000.

The RBL have stated that they would like to maintain contacts with the Mayor next year.

Volunteers welcome to help out with the Legion.

The Town Clerk and Mayor visited a resident for her 90th Birthday, she has lived in Pencoed since 1961.

Moved to receive report by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE, seconded by Cllr C. Edwards.

RESOLVED TO NOTE.

8539 To receive the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16th January 2025

Cllr J. Butcher seeks clarification on Penprysg Bridge Group representative issue.

The Town Clerk states that there are only two reps allowed from Council (Mayor and Town Clerk).

Cllr J. Butcher proposed to be a representative prior to Cllr/Mayor P. Edwards, and thus asks how did this come about.

Cllr J. Butcher expresses his disappointment at this.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE states that this is in line with the what was agreed at this year's AGM regarding being nominated as a Council representative to an outside body, as per the Council's standing orders. The Mayor was elected with a majority.

Minutes moved by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE, seconded by Cllr B. Doughty.

RESOLVED TO NOTE AND ACCEPT MINUTES.

8540 To receive the minutes of the Planning and Public Consultation Cttee 1 meeting held on the 30th January 2025

Cllr B. Doughty - a few recommendations.

Compulsory purchase process and compensation reforms – recommends the Council reject proposals of removing hope value for town councils.

Review of electoral boundaries – recommends that the Council

considers merging with Heol y Cyw/Coychurch Higher.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE states that he supports the merge in principle, but the report - being based upon numerical statistics - states that there should be 700 electors per Councilor, yet for Heol y Cyw/Coychurch Higher there are 2 proposed representatives for 700 total electors, at the expense of two PTC seats in Felindre and Hendre.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE believes the Council ought to object to the numerical problem of Heol y Cyw/Coychurch Higher.

Accept with the above concerns in mind.

Emergency plan – recommend that the Council writes to BCBC regarding what emergency plan they have in place and how PTC fits in. Policy not clear/possibly outdated.

Cllr C. Edwards states that other provisions and areas need to be researched to ensure the Council can provide shelter, food etc.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moves that the Council writes to the Public Services Board, and ask for a copy of up-to-date emergency plan.

Seconded by Cllr B. Doughty.

OVW report - recommend that Committee 1 meets to discuss any necessary action/plans.

Cenin – Recommend that the Council be invited/made aware of consultation sessions on Feb 27th or March 5th.

Cllr C. Edwards notes Cllr B. Doughty's comments, but it was previously decided that people should not attend as Councilors.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE – three big energy proposals ongoing: Cenin's wind farm, the nuclear plant near Maesteg and hydrogen plant.

There are pressure groups for all three and energy costs are an issue for residents.

The Council must be careful that the Council isn't used as the head of three pressure groups. Best to note correspondence and Councilors can attend, but not as Council representatives.

Cllr T. Lyddon states that herself, Cllr M. Evans, Cllr R. Williams and Cllr P. Edwards went to consultations previously to gain information; this is the case with Cllr B. Doughty's recommendation.

Accept and note that councilors can attend the consultations but as individuals, not as Council representatives.

Moved to accept minutes and recommendations with amendments by Cllr B. Doughty, seconded by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE.

RESOLVED TO NOTE AND ACCEPT.

8541 To receive a verbal report from the Finance and Projects Cttee 2 meeting as appropriate held on 12th February 2025

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE recommends a few amendments – after “precepting authority” under item 3, add “in accordance with PTC policy”.

And under Item 9, remove the name of an employee for privacy reasons.

Meeting adjourned for the Cttee 2 minutes to be read.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moves that the minutes and recommendations be accepted. Cllr M. Walters raises concerns over pavilion provision to the Rugby Club.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE states that this is recommended because the Cricket Club have a key, so it is only fair to provide similar to the Rugby Club and because members of the Cricket Club are also involved with the Rugby Club.

It costs £75 for the pavilion to be opened/closed, while charging £32 per pavilion rental by PRFC.

Proposed that a key is given to chairman ONLY, if trial of key fails, then PRFC will be charged £75 per pavilion use.

This is an act of faith due to major a improvement in PRFC/Council’s relationship.

And also allows for the provision of good sporting facilities at a reasonable cost.

Cllr B. Doughty raises the possibility of providing a key that cannot be replicated.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE also proposes the freezing of costs of playing field/pavilion use for PRFC and the Cricket Club for the upcoming seasons.

The Town Clerk clarifies that a key was provided to the Cricket Club at a time when the Council’s relationship with PRFC was at a low.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE raises the matter of grant applications –

Coity Walia grant application – there is no allowance made for such a grant in PTC’s budget and it is PTC policy that they would support Coity Walia’s ambition to become a precepting authority.

Memorial garden – Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE recommends the Council adopts proposal 2 (life’s journey).

Coedbach – recommended that the Council continues to consult via a possible public meeting together with a visual representation of the proposed project.

Cllr J. Butcher asks if the Council have been asked to provide allotments?

The Town Clerk replies that requests have been by groups, more than six.

Grenke – recommends that the Council pays the due payments to Grenke as legal fees may exceed the fees due to Grenke.

Cllr J. Butcher - When does the contract run out?

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE – it is a five-year contract that started last year, but with the option to leave at the 3.5 year point.

Audit report – The Town Clerk provides a summary of the qualified report.

The Town Clerk states there is not sufficient evidence to warrant any consideration, asked for clarification, now the report has been amended regarding the contract of an employee.

Report claims that the Council hasn't followed legal procedure, wrote back to auditor, no response.

Critical of annual statements – no comment from internal auditor who found no issue.

The Town Clerk expresses his disappointment at the report as there is no evidence for some claims and claims made on good evidence have been rectified.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE - Market testing/value for money – standing orders requirement of seeking tenders for any work over £5,000, this was not an order when the audit was done.

Issue of payments being approved once payment is made, now rectified as payments now have to be approved by two members before payment.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE believes progress has been made, thus further clarification is being sought. And asking for a list of internal auditors they could use to attain value for money.

Cllr B. Doughty questions whether all employees have a written contract.

The Town Clerk replies that all employees have a written contract.

RESOLVED TO ACCEPT MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

8542 Notice of Motion – Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE:

“Pencoed Town Council are extremely disappointed at the recent announcement by Cardiff University to reduce Courses and shed 400 jobs as a result of financial difficulties. We are however deeply concerned at the proposed closure of the Nursing school and the potential damage to the NHS in Wales. We call upon the Welsh Government to explore every possible avenue to prevent the closure of the Nursing Faculty in particular and to mitigate job losses elsewhere within the University.”

Moved by Cllr R.J.Hancock OBE, Seconded by Cllr. C Edwards

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE asserts that nurses are the backbone of NHS, thus the Council needs to take action.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moves that the Council asks the Ministers of Health and Education to do all they can to ensure the nursing facility remains at Cardiff University.

Seconded by Cllr C. Edwards.

8543 To receive reports from representatives to outside bodies

Coity Walia – meeting held on 29th January, not much of relevance to Pencoed. Owing carpark of S&T Motors, to be discussed with owners.

Town & Community Councils' Forum – Meeting on 24th February.

Rockwool meetings – meeting soon

One Voice Wales and the Larger Council Forum – Cllr T. Lyddon read the minutes of a recent meeting, where it was stated that the Future Generations Act is not fit for purpose and hasn't protected the prioritized communities.

Youth Engagement Panel – Cllr B. Doughty asks the Town Clerk to write to BCBC to ask whether the panel is going to meet.

Cllr B. Doughty – youth center kitchen being refurbished, oven included. Problem of general public filling center bins, thus wooden structure being built to contain them.

Welfare Hall Management Committee – Cllr J. Butcher states that a camera has not yet been installed. AGM is in May. Abandoned cars removed, though lights not working.

Friends of Salem – nothing to report.

Liaison Group Pencoed RFC – possibly of meeting after meeting with PRFC Chairman H. Jones regarding pavilion access.

Safer Streets – nothing to report.

21st Century Schools Group - nothing to report.

Penprysg Bridge Working Group – nothing to report.

RESOLVED TO NOTE.

8544 To consider the Town Clerk's General Report

The Town Clerk states there were multiple queries for the position of Town Clerk/RFO, though only one applicant.

The Town Clerk has been working closely with the Chair of Finance (Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE) on financial matters.

This is the Town Clerk's penultimate meeting.

Meeting adjourned to discuss the current Clerk's retirement.

RESOLVED TO NOTE.

8545 Financial Matters –

- a) **To receive a list of creditors for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st January 2025.**

Creditors list from January 1st to January 31st 2024.

Staff Salaries/Wages	XXXX
Staff Pension	41
HMRC PAYE	2280.1
R. Williams (Lock up Rent)	120
BCBC (Rates for Car Park)	105
Telephone Charges	139.26
Photocopying Charges	38
Allstar (Fuel Charges)	70.73
Days Rental (Van Lease)	477.83
Grounds Maintenance (Felindre Road)	240
Waste Disposal (Nolan)	216
Pavilion WIFI (EE)	48
TCRM	108
Certas Energy	456.17
Bookers	86.3
Zurich	147.68
SLCC Training	90
One Voice Wales	487.75
The 8ate Building	860
Pencoed Builders Merchants	80.43
Expenditure marked XXXX	£8,988.05
Total Monthly Expenditure	£15,080.30

b) To accept the details of the expenditure to date and bank reconciliation statement.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE explains that income from rentals to be moved to cover wage costs.

Moved to accept financial matters by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE, seconded by Cllr B. Doughty.

RESOLVED TO NOTE AND ACCEPT.

8546 Correspondence

The Town Clerk raises the upcoming OVW Buckingham palace garden party – moved by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE that the Mayor P. Edwards be invited, seconded by Cllr T. Lyddon.

Town Clerk - April Care are soon to be celebrating their 30th anniversary – planning community celebration, open to Councilor celebration. Wish to provide a defibrillator to us.

Bulletins from Llais have been produced, posters to be circulated.

The Town Clerk raises that a OVW document on draft electoral review 24/25 circulated.

Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE moves that this goes to Committee 1, and plenary powers are granted to the Committee for this purpose.

Moved by Cllr R.J. Hancock OBE, seconded by Cllr T. Lyddon.

Cllr R. Williams reveals that the Former Clerk Norman Davies has relocated to Edward Albert Hall care home.

RESOLVED TO NOTE.

8547 If appropriate, to receive items for future agendas

Nothing received.

8548 If appropriate, to consider passing the following resolution:

That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporary excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

The resolution WAS passed.

MEETING ENDED AT 9:00pm.

DRAFT