

# **CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CEFN CRIBWR CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councillor,

You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Cefn Cribwr Community Council to be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre and remotely via Zoom.

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies.
2. To receive declarations of interest, if any, in written form.
3. To receive and adopt the minutes of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
4. Matters arising.
5. Footpaths.
6. Clerk's Report.
7. Grant Application.
8. Members' Reports.
9. A.O.B. – urgent matters raised with the Chairman's consent, given before the start of the meeting.
10. Date and time of next meetings:  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 following the AGM at 7.00 pm  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00 pm

D L Jones, Clerk.

# CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre and via Zoom.

Chairman: Councillor S. Kendall

**Present:** Councillors S. Kendall, A. Beckett and D. Gordon. D. Evans, K. G. Burnell and H. J. David.

**In attendance:** Councillor J. Gebbie and Mr. D-L Jones (Clerk).

**1. Apologies:** Councillors J. Short D. Dimond and C. Holmes.

## **2. Declarations of interest received in writing:**

Cllrs. D. Evans and H. J. David declared an interest in all matters concerning the Cefn Cribwr Community Association as members of that organisation.

Cllr. H. J. David declared an interest in all matters concerning Y Cefn Gwyrdd as a member of that organisation.

Cllrs. K. G. Burnell and H. J. David declared an interest in all matters concerning the Cefn Cribwr Gardening Club as members of that organisation.

Cllrs. K. G. Burnell and S. Kendall, declared an interest in all matters concerning Cefn Cribwr Primary School as members of the Governing Body.

Cllr. K. G. Burnell declared an interest in all matters concerning the Cefn Cribwr Sports & Social Club as Secretary of that organisation.

Cllrs. D. Evans and H. J. David declared an interest in all matters concerning the Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club as members of that organisation.

Cllr. K. G. Burnell declared an interest in all matters concerning Bedford Park as a relation of a member of staff.

Cllr. H. J. David declared an interest in all matters concerning the Cefn Cribwr Sports & Social Club as a member of that organisation.

Cllr. H. J. David declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Bridgend County Borough Council.

## **3. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of Cefn Cribwr Community Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were adopted and signed as a true record.

## **4. Matters arising:**

*School Crossing Patrol Officer:* Cllr David updated via email on 20<sup>th</sup> February that no one applied to BCBC in the current round of recruitment. The next round of advertisement will close on 19<sup>th</sup> March. A banner will be erected on the school railings.

## **5. Footpaths:**

*Footpath 40 Dale View to John Street:* Definitive Map Modification Order – Addition of footpath leading from Dale View to FP 40. The closing date for objections or representations is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

*Footpath 23* – The Clerk reported that he had received no response from BCBC rights of way dept about the fly tipping along this footpath at its southern end. Cllr. H J. David kindly agreed to follow this up with the rights of way dept.

## **6. Clerk's Report:**

### **Correspondence:**

*Council noted the following:*

Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk

Cefn Cribwr Primary School – Letter of Thanks.

### **Bills for payment:**

Clerks Salary for February'25 (S.P. 26):	£648.96
HMRC:	£162.20
Transact Pensions:	£162.24
Mr. W. Evans: Cleaning Memorial Shelter (February'25):	£52.00
BCBC – Christmas Lighting Scheme 2024:	£4,456.48
Zurich Municipal Insurance 2025/26:	£1,123.50

**Council noted the Financial Statements for the period ending 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

## **Planning:**

*Approvals:*

**P/23/643/FUL** Ballarat Court Colman Road: Single storey garage to house vintage tractors.

## 7. Community Grant Application:

Forces Fitness Education CIC- Application for a grant of £500 to run a Children's Health & Well Being day.

The Clerk reported that a representative of the organisation would attend the May meeting so the application could be discussed in more detail.

## 8. Review of Community Arrangements:

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND DRAFT PROPOSALS REPORT January 2025: Microsoft Word - DRAFT PROPOSALS REPORT

It was unanimously agreed to submit the draft letter, previously circulated, with some further additions as discussed. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Gebbie and David, and the Clerk for their work on this.

## 9. Members Report:

*Broadband speeds in Cefn Cribwr:* Cllr David shared a response from Openreach on 20<sup>th</sup> February that he had received from Chris Elmore MP "Our expectation at present is that the build will be completed by the end of the financial year so March 2026, with the caveat that we are building commercially and so any property we reach must be commercially viable for to build to and plans can be amended as work progresses."

*Resurfacing of the carriageway at the top of Bedford Road:* Cllr David had shared a response on 28<sup>th</sup> February that Cllr Gebbie had received from BCBC's Highways Network Manager to confirm that the remaining section of highway at Bedford Road near junction with Cefn Road will be included within the surfacing programme for 2025/26, when the new resurfacing budget has been allocated.

*Electric micro modular nuclear energy plant:* Cllr David forwarded on 26<sup>th</sup> February a letter he received from the developer Clean Energy Llynfi Project about the plans for an electric micro modular nuclear energy plant at the former Llynfi Valley power station. It confirmed the developer will be making an application to Welsh Government as Development of National Significance (DNS).

Cllr. K G Burnell reported that he had represented Council at a public meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 which had been very well attended. We await a copy of the Power Point presentation in due course. A copy of Cllr. Burnell's report is appended to these minutes – Appendix 1.

*Speed limits on local roads:* Cllr David shared on 26<sup>th</sup> February an update from BCBC's traffic management; "However our review of the identifiable streets highlighted as needing to either revert back to 30mph or be lowered to 20mph following the Welsh Governments change in policy, and the publication of a minor amended guidance on setting exempted roads to Council has not been completed."

*Transformation works at Bedford Park nature reserve:* Cllr David reported that led by Bridgend County Borough Council, and funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the project features extensive access improvements throughout the park, will also create designated zones, including a wellbeing space and picnic area. An artist, Ami Marsden, who has been working closely with pupils from Cynffig Comprehensive School to design bespoke oak benches for the park. Representatives of Cefn Gwyrdd, John and Carole Mason, have been instrumental in working with the council to develop new bilingual materials for the site, as well as an education pack for schools.

*Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to eligible businesses for 2025-26:* Welsh Government will provide grant funding to BCBC to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 40% on non-domestic rates bills for such properties.

*Daytime opportunities for people with disabilities across adult social care:* Cllr David reported that the BCBC Cabinet are progressing proposals/remodelling plans following the detailed review of daytime opportunities across adult social care.

*Shared Lived Schemes for adults with additional needs:* Cllr David reported that the BCBC Cabinet has approved the extension of the partnership arrangement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the Adult Placement Scheme (Shared Lives) Service.

*Estyn Inspections of local schools:* Cllr David reported Estyn visited Pil Primary School to consider the progress the school has made towards recommendations from its inspection in November 2022. Overall, Estyn concluded that leaders and staff at the school have worked well to address these recommendations.

Cllr David outlined that the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School inspection report stated that

- Senior leaders have worked collaboratively with staff to develop a broad and balanced curriculum
- pupils make strong progress in developing their creativity and expressive skills through activities like dance, music and drama enriching pupils' learning and enhance their enjoyment of school.
- The school's developed effective relationships with parents who feel informed and included as key partners in their child's progress.

*BCBC's & SWP joint vehicle depot:* Cllr David reported that the council's current initial term arrangement with South Wales Police for joint fleet management and maintenance is due to expire in March 2025. It will be extended for a further 1 year term, to enable detailed dialogue about a future agreement.

*BCBC's fleet replacement programme:* Cllr David advised that £1.2 million has been included in the capital programme, to be funded from prudential borrowing, to enable the Fleet Replacement Programme to continue, including vans and tippers.

*Drop-in advice surgery at Cefn Sports and Social Club:* Cllr David and Cllr Gebbie held a drop-in advice surgery at Cefn Sports and Social Club on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Their next advice surgery will be held at Pyle Family Breakfast Club at Pyle Church Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

*Celebrations of the 80th anniversary of VE Day at the Community Centre:* Cllr David reported that Cefn Cribwr Community Association had organised a celebratory tea for the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on 8th May at Cefn's Community Centre at 2.00pm.

*Children's literature events at Pyle Life Centre:* Cllr David reported that as part of Bridgend Children's Literature Festival 8 free events took place at Pyle Library during the school half term.

*Welsh Guards St David's Day Parade:* Cllr David reported that the First Battalion Welsh Guards were special guests at a St David's Day Parade and Leek Giving Ceremony on Saturday 1 March 2025, in Bridgend Town Centre.

*Maesteg Jobs Fair and Porthcawl Jobs Fairs:* Cllr David reported that over 300 people attended the recent Maesteg Jobs Fair organised by the Council's Employability Bridgend and DWP.

*One Voice Wales Training:* Cllr. D. Evans drew Councils' attention to the training offered by One Voice Wales.

*Child Poverty Innovation and supporting Community Wales Grant Fund:* Cllr. D. Evans drew Councils' attention to the following grant: [Child poverty innovation and supporting communities grant | GOV.WALES](#)

**9. Any other business:** *There was no other business.*

**10. Date and time of next meetings:**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 following the AGM at 7.00 pm

David-Lloyd Jones, Clerk, March 2025.

Signed..... date.....

## **LAST ENERGY UK LTD**

### **Nuclear Micro-Reactor Proposal in South Wales**

### **PUBLIC MEETING Held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Prior to attending the above public meeting I had five basic questions I felt needed answering: -

- Who is “LAST ENERGY”?
- How long have they been involved with the Nuclear Electric Generation Industry?
- If all was to go well for Last Energy – when could we see commencement of electric generation?
- How long would Electric Generation last for on this site?
- What happens after Generation has finished?

#### **MEETING REPORT**

The meeting was well attended with a full hall. A Power Point presentation was given (I await a copy of that Power Point Presentation).

#### **WHO ARE “LAST ENERGY”**

Last Energy is a Washington D.C. based Micro-Nuclear Technology Developer. They have yet to develop these micro-nuclear reactors within the U.K., but are funded by the Export/Import Bank of the United States of America. The bank has agreed to finance, end-to-end, the development of “Last Energy’s” first Micro-reactor in the U.K. (South Wales) with a \$103.7 m commitment. We are told that early discussions have taken place with both the U.K. and Welsh Governments, but NO public money would be involved.

#### **HOW LONG HAVE LAST ENERGY BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE NUCLEAR GENERATION INDUSTRY**

The answer to this question wasn’t very clear from the presentation.

#### **WHEN DO “LAST ENERGY” FEEL THEY WILL COMMENCE ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

They will need to acquire two “OFFICE of NUCLEAR REGULATION (ONR), site of Nuclear Generation Licences (NSL): -

1. Firstly to build the 4 x 20 M.Watt. Micro-Reactor Modular units.

2. Secondly to enable “Last Energy” to run the sites.

From final planning consent, which will come from the U.K. Government, it should be up and running in 3 to 4 years.

Movement of radioactive materials will be outsourced (both incoming and waste) and over seen by the U.K. Nuclear Constabulary (a dedicated police force for the purpose of overseeing this industry). A new entrance would need to be constructed, probably but not certainly via the Paper Mill site.

Both an Environmental Plan and Geographical study will need to take place prior to planning acceptance. No water used on site will be drawn from or discharged into the Afon Llynfi and subsequently the Afon Ogwr. Cooling of the reactors will be way of air fans.

### **HOW LONG WOULD ELECTRIC GENERATION LAST**

The expected life of the 4 units would be 42 years, there after the site would be set aside for another 7 years to allow the reactors to properly cool down. The Modular Units would take up approx. 6 acres within a site approx 12 to 14 acres. The unused area of the site would be taken up by the Electric distribution units and environmental upgrading of the remaining land.

The modular units will be transported by Lorries and are designed to withstand a direct crash from a Jumbo Jet.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS**

Notwithstanding the 7 year cooling period, the waste would be then, under guard, being transferred to a U.K. storage site, designed for the purpose. These sites have yet to be identified.

As I understand what was explained to the meeting, because of the modular design of the reactor units, they would then simply be broken down and removed from the site. We were told that there would be minimal, if any, land contamination. The site would then be cleared and returned to an environmental state.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

1. It is envisaged that between Site Operators, Site Security and Maintenance personnel about 100 people would be employed, with the expected economical benefits within the locality and South Wales

generally. The Modular units will be built within the U.K., and only the Nuclear Storage Barratrics being constructed in the USA, where there is the specialist knowledge. It is hoped to involve local colleges in the recruitment processed of employees.

2. The site is presently owned by and will be acquired from "MORGAN CREDIT INVESTMENTS", which meant nothing to me; however it was met with some concern by local people from the Llynfi Valley. I understand that Morgan Credit Investments had an unsuccessful attempt to establish a BIO-MATIC plant on this site in the past.
3. When asked why they wanted to develop the nuclear option for power generation, we were told that the option was clear – Clean Generation of Electricity or continued carbon heavy Generation.

Kevin Burnell  
19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

#### PERSONAL COMMENTS

In writing this report I have tried to be as neutral as possible, however a considerable amount of concern was expressed in the meeting over issues like:

- The plant being a target for terrorism.
- Value of houses in the area.
- Possibility of ailments such as Cancer.

Over the many years I have had in the political arena and having had experience with other power generation companies e.g. Celtic Energy, I would want to see cast iron written guarantees from both U.K. and Welsh Governments, and even then I would still take, what I heard in that meeting, with a huge pinch of salt. As I see the way the meeting went the main argument from "Last Energy" for the Micro-Reactors was clean Electric generation, well into the future. However on the other side of the argument: is it worth the legacy we would bequeath to our Grand Children and their children after them.

# Clerk's Report to Council 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Correspondence:

Clerks & Councils Direct  
The Clerk

## Bills for payment:

Clerks Salary for March'25 (S.P. 26):	£648.96
HMRC:	£162.20
Transact Pensions:	£162.24
Mr. W. Evans: Cleaning Memorial Shelter (March'25):	£52.00
One Voice Wales Membership 2025/26:	£294.00

**Financial Statements for the period ending 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** (Appendix 1)

**Conclusion of the Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024:** (Appendix 2)

## Planning:

*Applications:*

P/25/130/FUL: Land north of Windcroft Cefn Road - Proposed two-bedroom bungalow with access from Cwm Ffoes.

D L Jones, Clerk  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Cefn Cribwr Community Council				
Cash Book Comparison Against Budget				
Period Ending 17th March 2025				
		Budget	Actual to Date	
		2024/25	2024/25	
<b>Bank Statement Balances as at the 01/04/24</b>		£	£	
Community Account - 91482637		£ 8,208.43	£ 8,208.43	Opening
Business Manager Account - 1457411		£ 35,979.49	£ 35,979.49	Balances
		£ 44,187.92	£ 44,187.92	
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Precept		£ 42,000.00	£ 42,000.00	
Other Income		£ 37,500.00	£ 4,355.51	
		£ 79,500.00	£ 46,355.51	
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
Clerk		£ 7,665.00	£ 7,749.80	
HMRC		£ 1,916.25	£ 2,094.02	
Pension		£ 1,916.25	£ 1,872.00	
Footpaths		£ 2,600.00	£ 2,450.00	
Footpath Creation		£ 250.00	£ -	
Spring Bulbs		£ 1,750.00	£ 1,504.00	
Memorial Shelter Cleaning		£ 700.00	£ 753.99	
War Memorial, Pentice & Bus Shelter Maintenance		£ 7,000.00	£ 7,364.77	
Hire of Chamber		£ 450.00	£ 886.28	
Print & Misc expenses (inc Remembrance)		£ 1,250.00	£ -	
Web Site		£ 550.00	£ 191.87	
Postage		£ 50.00	£ 24.65	
Telephone & BB		£ 575.00	£ 552.00	
Statutory & Depreciation		£ 400.00	£ 254.87	
Insurance		£ 1,000.00	£ 1,080.41	
Member's Allowance		£ 2,000.00	£ 450.00	
Civic Service		£ 350.00	£ -	
Subs OVW/SLCC/ALCC		£ 550.00	£ 471.00	
Travel		£ 100.00	£ 27.90	
Poppy Wreaths		£ 50.00	£ -	
Grant Aid		£ 3,500.00	£ 3,150.00	
Grant - Com Assoc		£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00	
Play Scheme			£ -	
Audit Fees		£ 800.00	£ 243.46	
Legal Fees		£ 1,000.00	£ -	
Christmas Decorations		£ 4,500.00	£ 8,314.70	
Election Fees		£ -	£ -	
Summer Planting Scheme		£ 6,000.00	£ 7,272.50	
Community Project Match Funding		£ 60,000.00	£ -	
Misc		£ 500.00	£ -	
Contingency		£ 2,000.00	£ -	
VAT			£ -	
		£ 112,422.50	£ 49,708.22	
<b>Cash at Bank</b>		£ 11,265.42	£ 40,835.21	Cash book balance
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
<b>Contingency: Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		£ 11,265.42	£ 40,835.21	

**NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT  
AND RIGHT TO INSPECT THE ANNUAL RETURN  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2024**

***Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 Section 29*  
Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014**

1. The audit of accounts for Cefn Cribwr Community Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been concluded.
2. The annual return is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area of the Cefn Cribwr Community Council on application to:

David-Lloyd Jones,  
Clerk to the Cefn Cribwr Community Council,  
47 Cefn Rd, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend. CF32 0BA.  
davidlloyd.jones@btinternet.com  
www.cefncribwr.org.uk

By appointment between 9 am and 5 pm on Mondays to Fridays  
(excluding public holidays), when any local government elector may make copies  
of the annual return.

3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of  
  
£2 for each copy of the annual return.

David-Lloyd Jones,  
Clerk to the Council.

6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

# Community and Town Councils in Wales

## Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

### Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of body: CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	
<b>Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments</b>			
1. Balances brought forward	24,748	45,519	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	42,000	42,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	17,562	627	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	9,931	10,712	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	28,860	33,529	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	45,519	43,905	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
<b>Statement of balances</b>			
8. (+) Debtors	0	0	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	45,519	43,905	<b>All accounts:</b> The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	0	<b>Income and expenditure accounts only:</b> Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	45,519	43,905	<b>Total balances should equal line 7 above:</b> Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	4,250	4,250	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

## Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effective financial management during the year; and</li> <li>• the preparation and approval of the accounting statements.</li> </ul>	X		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	X		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	X		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	X		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	X		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	X		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	X		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	X		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	Has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	3, 6
		X		

\* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

## Additional disclosure notes\*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

**1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000**

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 was £9.93 per elector.

In 2023-24, the Council made payments totalling £4,938.00 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

2.

3.

\* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

## Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

### Certification by the RFO

I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

RFO signature:



Name: David-Lloyd Jones

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Approval by the Council

I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:

Minute ref: 5/6/24 - 6.

Chair signature:



Name: Christopher Holmes

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Auditor General's report and audit opinion

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024 of **Cefn Cribwr Community Council**. My audit has been conducted on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) and guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

### Audit opinion: Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, on the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### Basis of Qualification

#### Accounting Statement

I am unable to conclude whether or not the Accounting Statement properly/fairly presents the Council's receipts and payments/income and expenditure and financial position:

- The Clerk is paid a salary based on the NALC national scale. However, the contract of employment does not refer to the NALC scale and the paypoint used for calculating the salary changed in December 2023. The Council's minutes do not record a reason for this change.

### Other matters and recommendations

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.

 <b>Richard Harries, Director, Audit Wales</b> For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales	<b>Date: 25/03/2025</b>
--	-------------------------

## Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	X				ALL RECORDS CHECKED AND FOUND KEPT IN EXCELLENT MANNER
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	X				CHECKED ALL PAYMENTS AGREED TO INVOICES AND SUPPORTING RECORDS ALL ACCURATELY KEPT
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	X				ALL RISKS MONITORED AND FINANCE REVIEWED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	X				ALL CHECKED TO BUDGETS TO MONITOR FINANCES RESERVE F1164 AS STILL TO FUND FOOTBALL PROJECT
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	X				ALL EXPECTED RECEIVED AND MONITORED. EXCELLENT RECORDS LEADING TO EXTRA INAGREST
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			X		N/A
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	X				WAGES CHECKED TO RECORDS. ALL FOUND CORRECT AND PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	X				CHECKED TO ASSET REGISTER AND VALUES CHECKED

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	X				YEAR END BANK RECONCILIATION CHECKS AND QS CHECKS TO CASHBOOK. ALL OKAY
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	X				STATEMENTS PREPARED ON CORRECT ACCOUNTING BASIS GIVING TRUE AND FAIR VIEW EXCELLENT RECORDS KEPT AND CHECKED TO ALL UNDERLYING RECORDS NO DEBTOR OR CREDITORS AT YEAR END
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			X		N/A

For any risk areas identified by the Council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12.					No Risks areas found
13.					
14.					

\* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\* If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council are included in my detailed report to the Council dated \_\_\_\_\_.] \* Delete if no report prepared.

### Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Robin Charlton

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: *R Charlton*

Date: 1/6/24