

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 6th September 2023 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 12th July 2023.
4. Matters arising.
5. Footpaths.
6. Clerk's Report.
7. Members' Reports.
8. Revised Standing Orders 2023 (Appendix 2, separate attachment)
9. Biodiversity Policy (Appendix 3)
10. Mission Statement (Appendix 4)
11. Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023.
12. A.O.B. – urgent matters raised with the Chairman's consent, given before the start of the meeting.
 - a. Speed of Traffic in village.
13. Date and time of next meetings:
Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.00 pm
Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.00 pm
NB. Sunday 12th November Remembrance Service.

D L Jones, Clerk.

CEFN CRIBWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 12th July 2023 at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre and via Zoom.

Chairman: Councillor C. Holmes

Present: Councillors C. Holmes, A. Beckett, K. G. Burnell, H. J. David and D. Evans.

In attendance: Mr. D-L Jones (Clerk).

1. Apologies: Councillors J. Short, A. West, S. Kendall and D. Dimond.

2. Declarations of interest received in writing:

Cllrs. H. J. David and D. Evans 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 the Cefn Cribwr Sports & Social Club as a member of that organisation.

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

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

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

Cllr K. G. Burnell declared an interest in all matters concerning Cefn Cribwr Primary School as a member 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.

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

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of Cefn Cribwr Community Council held on Wednesday 14th June 2023, were adopted and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising:

Recycling Centre at Village Farm Ind Est: Cllr. H. J David reported he is in communication with NRW regarding the ongoing delay surrounding the opening of this public amenity.

Caravan at Clos St. Ioan: Cllr. H. J David confirmed he had reported the caravan, which has been parked at Clos St. Ioan, to V2C which still hasn't been removed. Cllr. David agreed to ask V2C for an update.

Violet Pole: Council noted with sadness the recent death of Mrs. Violet Pole, former Community Councillor and Chairman of the Community Council.

Commemoration of the Coronation: The Clerk reported that he had investigated a suitable clock to commemorate the Coronation of Charles III for installation at the Memorial Bus Shelter. Initial research had indicated that this would cost several hundred pounds. Members felt whilst it is appropriate to commemorate the Coronation, there should also be a community benefit. It was suggested that a perhaps a new bench at the Common would be more appropriate. All agreed this seemed a better use of funds and asked the Clerk to follow this up with BCBC who manage the Common. Cllr. H. J. David reported that he understood that the family of Mrs. V. Pole would also like to place a bench in memory at the Common and it was hoped that both benches could be installed at the same time.

6. Footpaths:

Footpath 8: The Clerk reported he had received a letter from Network Rail confirming that the new temporary footbridge should open at the beginning of August.

See Planning:

Prior Notification:

Network Rail: Stormy level crossing, Stormy Down, Bridgend: Prior notification for erection of temporary footbridge.

P/23/359/GPN

6. Clerk's Report:

Correspondence: Council noted the following:

Clerks & Councils Direct

The Clerk

Cefn Cribwr Primary School – Letters of thanks

BCBC: Review of Electoral Arrangements

Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club

BCBC: Town & Community Council Fund

Cefn Cribwr Primary School

Bills for payment:

Clerks Salary for June'23 (S.P. 24):	£560.21
HMRC:	£140.20
Transact Pensions:	£140.05
Mr. W. Evans: Cleaning Memorial Shelter (June '23):	£43.33
Audit Wales: External Audit Fee 2022/23:	£200.00
G Tellum: Photographic Services for Website:	£250.00

Financial Statements for the period ending 17th June 2023: Council noted the financial statement.

Planning:*Applications:*

Mrs. E. Evans, 20 West Avenue: Single storey rear extension **P/23/399/FUL**

Mr. M. Hibbs, 9 Gwelfor: Demolish existing flat roof outbuilding and construct single storey extension to the side and rear of house, new patio and steps down to garden **P/23/222/FUL**

Messrs H. Davies & S. Emery, Ael Y Don, Ty Fry Road: Conversion of domestic garage into granny annexe **P/23/381/FUL**

7. Members Report:

PACT: Cllr. K G Burnell reported that he had attended a recent PACT meeting on council's behalf. The following items had been discussed: Speeding, Anti-Social Behaviour, Motorised Scooters, Cars using Asda Car Park when the store is closed, Access to Kenfig Hill Rugby Club, Roll out and enforcement of 20 mph Speed Limit (a suggestion was made by Councillor Granville to write to the Chief Constable) Drug related issues and Dog Fouling.

Cllr. Burnell reported that a detailed discussion had taken place regarding all of the above issues but expressed concern that no record of the meetings are made, This inevitably leads to repetition and a reliance on memory which is neither effective or transparent. It was suggested that Council could write to The Police and Crime Commissioner or the Chief Constable, however this approach was felt to be out of proportion as the PCSOs and Police Officers are doing a good job, it is simply an issue of good practice and effective record keeping. It was agreed to ask at the next meeting for formal minutes / notes of the meeting to be taken going forward.

The next PACT meeting would take place at Pyle Life Centre on 28th September at 4.30 pm.

New Aldi store: Cllr. H. J David reported he had recently attended the opening of a new Aldi Store at Porthcawl.

V2C Car park, Cefn Road: Cllr. H. J David reported the hedge at the rear of the car park (near the former Farmers Arms) will be cut back in the autumn.

Y Cefn Gwyrdd: Cllr. H. J David reported Y Cefn Gwyrdd had recently celebrated it's 40th Anniversary with a series of events.

BCLC: Cllr. H. J David reported he had spoken with the leadership team at BCLC. They are presently having capacity issues particularly with caretaking. There is also an issue with a gas pipe in the main ball which means ball games can no longer be played there and indications are that the relocation of the pipe will be prohibitively expensive.

Darts Academy: Cllr. H. J David reported that the recently started darts academy regularly has 17 children attending.

Iron Works: Cllr. H. J David reported he is awaiting an update regarding the Iron works restoration.

Cefn Cribwr Football Club: Cllr. H. J David reported that CCFC had recently restarted two junior teams.

8. Any other business:

20 MPH Speed limit roll out: The Clerk reported that the infrastructure for the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit was being installed and noted, with disappointment, it would appear that Councils' observations had not been taken onboard. The Clerk had already emailed Cllr. H. J. David about this who had asked BCBC Highways Dept for their comments and the outcomes of the consultation responses. We await a response.

9. Date and time of next meetings:

Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7.00 pm at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre and via Zoom. (NB. 1st Wednesday of Month)

Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.00 pm at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre and via Zoom.

David Lloyd Jones, Clerk, July 2023.

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

Clerk's Report to Council 6th September 2023

Correspondence:

Clerks & Councils Direct
The Clerk
Bridgend Local Development Plan

Bills for payment:

Clerks Salary for August'23 (S.P. 24):	£560.21
HMRC:	£140.00
Transact Pensions:	£140.05
Mr. W. Evans: Cleaning Memorial Shelter (August '23):	£43.33
One Voice Wales Annual Subscription:	£263.00
P J Landscapes: Footpath Maintenance:	£800.00
Jo's Flowers	£45.00

Financial Statements for the period ending 17th August 2023: (Appendix 1)

Planning:

Approvals:

Mrs. E. Evans, 20 West Avenue: Single storey rear extension **P/23/399/FUL**

Mr. M. Hibbs, 9 Gwelfor: Demolish existing flat roof outbuilding and construct single storey extension to the side and rear of house, new patio and steps down to garden **P/23/222/FUL**

D L Jones, Clerk

2nd September 2023.

Cefn Cribwr Community Council			
Cash Book Comparison Against Budget			
Period Ending 17th August 2023			
	Budget	Actual to Date	
	2023/24	2023/24	
Bank Statement Balances as at the 01/04/23	£	£	
Community Account - 91482637	£ 45,166.85	£ 45,166.85	<i>Opening</i>
Business Manager Account - 1457411	£ 352.41	£ 352.41	<i>Balances</i>
	£ 45,519.26	£ 45,519.26	
INCOME:			
Precept	£ 42,000.00	£ 42,000.00	
Other Income	£ 22,600.00	£ 68.62	
	£ 64,600.00	£ 42,068.62	
EXPENDITURE:			
Clerk	£ 7,058.65	£ 2,801.07	
HMRC	£ 1,764.66	£ 700.20	
Pension	£ 1,764.66	£ 700.25	
Footpaths	£ 2,600.00	£ 800.00	
Footpath Creation	£ 250.00	£ -	
Spring Bulbs	£ 1,750.00	£ -	
Memorial Shelter Cleaning	£ 700.00	£ 259.98	
War Memorial, Pentice & Bus Shelter Maintenance	£ 7,000.00	£ 92.34	
Hire of Chamber	£ 450.00	£ -	
Print & Misc expenses (inc Rememberance)	£ 1,250.00	£ 50.00	
Web Site	£ 200.00	£ 444.87	
Postage	£ 75.00	£ -	
Telephone & BB	£ 575.00	£ -	
Statutory & Depreciation	£ 400.00	£ -	
Insurance	£ 1,000.00	£ -	
Member's Allowance	£ 2,000.00	£ -	
Civic Service	£ 350.00	£ -	
Subs OVW/SLCC/ALCC	£ 500.00	£ -	
Travel	£ 100.00	£ -	
Poppy Wreaths	£ 200.00	£ -	
Grant Aid	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,188.00	
Grant - Com Assoc	£ 2,500.00	£ -	
Play Scheme	£ 3,000.00	£ -	
Audit Fees	£ 450.00	£ 385.40	
Legal Fees	£ 1,000.00	£ -	
Christmas Decorations	£ 4,500.00	£ 3,560.03	
Election Fees	£ -	£ -	
Summer Planting Scheme	£ 6,000.00	£ 1,338.00	
Community Project Match Funding	£ 50,000.00	£ -	
Misc	£ 500.00	£ -	
Contingency	£ 2,000.00	£ -	
VAT		£ -	
	£ 102,437.97	£ 12,320.14	
Cash at Bank	£ 7,681.29	£ 75,267.74	<i>Cash book balance</i>
Current liabilities			
Contingency: Surplus/(Deficit)	£ 7,681.29	£ 75,267.74	

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ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1, SECTION 6 BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY REPORT 2023-24 **Biodiversity Forward Plan**

Background

All local Councils in Wales have a duty to prepare and publish a Biodiversity Forward Plan, setting out its proposals to comply with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Section 6, duty in the exercise of the Council's functions, and in doing so, to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

What is Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. It includes all animals, insects, plants, fungi and bacteria and the complex habitats and ecosystems which they form. It includes the life in the soil as well as the life we see above ground. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and in the sea. Biodiversity represents quality of life.

The Biodiversity Forward Plan looks at how the Council manages and improves natural resources to ensure that biodiversity and sustainability are considered in all areas, becoming a natural part of the decision-making process.

Biodiversity - why we should conserve it

Biodiversity is important to all of us for a number of reasons, the most significant of which are: Many people appreciate biodiversity for its own sake, for the opportunity to see wildlife, or walk in attractive or 'natural' places. An environment that is rich in biodiversity is therefore important for our quality of life. The ability to experience nature enriches our lives on a daily basis, whether we are watching the birds in our garden, looking outside our office windows, or walking across a heather clad mountain side in mid-summer listening to the bees amongst the flowers.

Biodiversity provides us with many useful things

Plants and animals provide food, timber and building materials. They provide material for clothing, and many of our most effective medicines have come directly from the organisms in our natural world. Studies are increasingly demonstrating that contact with the natural world not only provides us all with a genuine sense of wellbeing, but also helps us to relax, concentrate and deal with stress and anxiety - it generally improves our mental health (Bird, 2007). Environments which support a wide range of natural species and habitats are typically attractive ones that people want to visit, relax and take exercise in. Recreation in the outdoors has been shown to reduce obesity, aid mental health recovery and support a healthy immune system (Tzoulas K et al, 2007; Thompson Coon J, 2011)

Action

The actions in this plan, will be reported on every three years in accordance with statutory requirements, and reviewed and updated at the end of each 3-year period.

The Biodiversity seeks to improve the environment for all to benefit, and with the aim that results in biodiversity enhancement and conservation, and a more sustainable way of living, to protect our resources and ensure that future generations have the same or better quality of life.

Actions resulting from this plan to meet the Council's obligations under Section 6, of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 will need to be funded from existing budgets, with grant sources sought.

About Cefn Cribwr Community Council Area

For many centuries before it became the site of the present, almost continuous linear village, Cefn Cribwr was no more than a narrow-crested ridge formed by the Millstone Grit, severed in remote geological time from its 'twin' to the east, Cefn Hirgoed, and virtually devoid of human habitation. During much of the last millennium the long ridge was mainly pastureland and woodland, exploited as such by the burgesses of Kenfig or the monks of Ewenny, and parochially associated with churches and settlements to the south, Tythegston, Laleston and Newcastle.

Industry brought the first significant changes. John Bedford came to Cefn c.1770 and built his still surviving Ironworks at the foot of the northern slope of the ridge, a site taken over by Williams Bryant in the early 19th century. By about 1840 another, larger ironworks had been built on the Cwsc, a little to the north-east. Collieries like that at Ffos Pit, first regarded as ancillary to the iron works, soon became important in their own right. The horse-drawn Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl Railway, opened in 1828, provided for a while an adequate means of transporting the products of local industries, but it was superseded, in the middle of the 19th Century, by the more efficient steam-drawn railway, connecting the works north of Cefn first with the dock at Porthcawl then with that at Port Talbot.

As a result of these developments Cefn's population began to grow, and from about 1825 there appeared the first modern housing developments – not, significantly, in the fields along the sides of the ridge but along the narrow crest itself, with its through road. Overt Row is a typical mid-century development of this kind. The usual public buildings accompanied the increase in population: chapels, entirely Welsh at first like Siloam (1827) and Nebo (1848) but later English like Wesley (1886) and Calvary (1907) to accommodate a large influx of people from the West Country; public houses like The Three Horse Shoes, The Farmers Arms and The Star; a village school in 1894 and a Public Hall in 1924.

The beginning of the 20th Century saw further important industrial developments with the opening of Aberbaiden / Pentre and other new collieries. Council housing estates extended the size of the village in the 1920's and again in the 1950's (by which time the Abbey Steel Works had become a major local employer). For all that, Cefn's population has not gone on increasing and now in the early 21st Century, is probably not materially larger than it was in, say, 1850. Perhaps this is one reason why (many people feel) Cefn Cribwr has managed to retain a sense of community and of its own distinctness from neighbouring communities – helped no doubt, by a sense of elevation on the crest of the long ridge, which was where we began!

Operational matters:

Paperless office:

The Council has a duty to ensure sustainable and environmentally friendly operations. At present, Cefn Cribwr Community Council is not a paperless office. As a statutory authority, Cefn Cribwr Community Council is obligated to retain certain documentation for variable amounts of years, so it may be that operations cannot be fully paperless with regards to archive material. However, operationally, moving to be paperless going forward can still be an ambition for Cefn Cribwr Community Council. One of the areas with high costings and a significant environmental footprint is our printer network. Therefore, by reducing the number of printed agendas will support the Council's environmental, efficiency and cashable savings objectives by reducing the Council's use of paper, toner, electricity and officer's time.

The Council also has a duty to ensure carbon footprint friendly operations. At present the majority of meetings are in person, however, some Council meetings are held remotely. To continue to reduce emissions Cefn Cribwr Community Council should consider reducing travel and meeting costs by continuing to hold all or some of the meetings electronically which has worked well historically. By continuing to promote flexible working for staff long-term would also further reduce CO₂ emissions. A Flexible Working Policy should be adopted by Council.

Decision making and procurement

Working to protect our natural resources and wildlife is a key objective for Council and will be reflected in the Council decision-making process. Contracts that are entered will adhere to the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and take opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the area. Council will also seek other opportunities, through its other activities to promote biodiversity and engage the community in this action, where possible.

Planning

All planning applications submitted to Cefn Cribwr Community Council for review will continue to be scrutinised with due consideration for any adverse impact on the environment. Consistent with objections and observations made over a number of years, the Council will take particular care to ensure that any developmental impact on surface drainage, tree cover and impact on existing resources such as educational provision is duly notified to the Planning Directorate of Bridgend County Borough Council.

Rights of Way

Cefn Cribwr Community Council will liaise with Bridgend County Borough Council Rights of Way Department to monitor the footpaths and rights of way which are recognised and established within its area of jurisdiction, and ensure that they continue to provide access and amenity to residents and visitors alike.

Raising awareness

Cefn Cribwr Community Council will seek to raise awareness of the importance of this work by sharing updates with the public via our website. Over this three-year period, Council will seek to liaise with other organisations in the area who have land to encourage them to take small steps to promote and maintain biodiversity.

Safeguarding principal species and habitats

Cefn Cribwr Community Council currently have no direct responsibility for land. However, should the Council be authorised to undertake any particular works on Bridgend County Borough Council owned land whereby principal species and habitats are identified safeguarding measures to protect wildlife will be put in place.

Tackling negative factors

Communication is key to engaging the public in positive behaviour to look after their community. Work with young people is especially important and will be addressed as opportunities arise. By informing the public and promoting positive action, the Community Council hopes to contribute to the slow change in behaviours and attitudes that can cause problems.

Use, share and improve evidence

The collection in a scientific rather than anecdotal manner is beyond the current capability of the Community Council. However, during the next period of this plan, the Community Council will seek, in partnership with other organisations such as Natural Resources Wales to establish mechanisms to collect evidence to demonstrate the positive (or otherwise) impact of the work carried out. At the end of the next reporting period (February 2025), it is hoped that some initial evidence will have been acquired that will be a baseline from which to measure improvement.

Support capacity and/or other organisations

Any local organisations that are looking for support or would like to involve the Community Council in their efforts to promote biodiversity should contact the Clerk for more information.

Key outcomes

The key outcomes for the next three years include, but are not limited to:

- Revision of Council contracts to include clauses to promote biodiversity.
- Promote the work in the community alongside organisations.
- Engage with key partners to work together to make changes and gather evidence.

Review points 2025 Points for review in 2025 will be:

- Increased use of technology to reduce Co2 emissions.
- How can the community be further educated and voluntary actions on homes be encouraged?
- Review working arrangements with key partners to assess the need for improvement.

How and when will S6 duty be monitored and plan renewed

This is a live plan that will evolve during the three years. It will be monitored by the Community Council. The next formal report and renewal of the plan will be published no later than October 2025.

Mission Statement

The Council is required to have a mission statement. The following is an example for discussion:

'Serving our community, preserving our identity'

The Council will always strive to:

- *Be open and accessible in all our decision making*
- *Be accountable in all our council activities*
- *Be responsive to the needs of the community*
- *Encourage community participation*