



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held at the
Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall on
Thursday 5th March at 6.15pm**

Present: Councillor A Williams, Presided

**Councillors M Donnelly, W Thomas, J Morgan, M Allen, M Evans, C
Williams, G Roberts, R Millington, L Evans, G Davies, M Shrewsbury
& G Burdett**

On Zoom: County Councillor S Davies

**Attended: B Morgan (Clerk), Mr N Hickey (Community Payback
Scheme)**

**280. PRESENTATION BY NIGEL HICKEY FROM COMMUNITY
PAYBACK SCHEME**

Mr Hickey gave a presentation detailing the work the Community Payback scheme could undertake on behalf of the Town Council and to help the community. Mr Hickey answered questions from the Cllrs. It was shared that Ynyscedwyn Ward were looking to buy a pressure washer for the scheme to use locally and it could be used to clean the park equipment. Any work that Cllrs would like to be put forward to Mr Hickey should be sent to the Clerk or he could be contacted directly. Cllr R Millington thanked Mr Hickey for the work done on the steps in Penrhos.

281. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Horrell, C Nickels & J Rigby and P Dennis (Facilities Manager).

282. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

283. REPORT FROM CLLR P ROBERTS REGARDING CANOLFAN

There had been no written report from Cllr P Roberts regarding Canolfan and the future of day services in Ystradgynlais. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would continue to ask for updates.

284. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr S Davies updated the Council regarding the road in Maespica. It had been inspected and a report was pending.

Ysgol Maesydderwen had been under a two-day lock down due to threats made.

The budget for 2026/27 had been passed with a 4.9% increase in council tax.

A meeting had been held with Roger Francis from Housing Services. Cwmtwrch Ward would feed back the outcome of the meeting.

Cllr S Davies left the meeting at 6.42pm.

284. MINUTES

Noted that in the Ordinary Meeting on 5th February 2026, it was Cllr M Allen and not Cllr M Evans that had raised concerns regarding the amount of money spent on the flower beds.

Resolved that the minutes of the below meetings with the corrections, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman:

- a) Ordinary Meeting 5th February 2026
- b) Management Committee Meeting 10th February 2026

MATTERS ARISING

285. CWMTWRCH WARD – YNYS TRE DEG

Further to Minute 253, a meeting had been held between the Ward Cllrs, Cllr S Davies (County Cllr for Cwmtwrch), Mr Roger Francis (Housing Quality Service Manager for Powys CC) and Town Council officers. In the meeting Mr Francis reiterated the stance of Powys County Council Housing that permission for vehicular access was refused due to health and safety concerns and maintenance issues. Mr Francis had stated that this was laid out in correspondence spanning some years including recently. It was **resolved** to secure the correspondence from Sian Barnes and also the Legal Department within Powys County Council.

It was highlighted that with Powys County Council refusal then residents could not access Town Council land. It was proposed by Cllr W Thomas and seconded by Cllr J Morgan that the Council had considered the application for consent for vehicle access across its land leading from Gwysfryn in Upper Cwmtwrch and that the Town Council should vote on the decision. There were nine votes for, two votes against and one abstention therefore it was **resolved** that permission to cross Town Council land should be refused. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would write to the residents who had asked for permission.

285. SETTING UP A WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE

Further to Minute 257 regarding the setting up a working group to look at the Biodiversity Action Plan and potentially other committees, information from SLCC had been distributed. It was **resolved** to agenda this item for the April meeting.

286. CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE

Information regarding cross-border healthcare was received from David Chadwick MP, circulated prior to the meeting and noted. Further to Minute 258, it was **resolved** that Cllr R Millington would attend the meetings regarding cross-border healthcare and feedback to the Council.

287. DIGITAL NOTICE BOARDS

Further to Minute 264, Cllr M Donnelly updated the Council that the grant for a digital notice board was close to being completed and the Council would be kept updated if it was successful.

PAVO had asked for confirmation that if the grant was unsuccessful then the £2700, they had allocated, would be spent on traditional notice boards. It was **resolved** that if the Town Council was not successful in their bid for digital notice boards, then traditional notice boards would be purchased.

288. THE IRONWORKS IN YNYSCEDWYN WARD

Further to Minute 265, the Clerk reported that Powys County Council had replied to say that a series of technical and ecological surveys were being carried out to understand the extent of the works required and that they would keep the Town Council updated.

289. BRIDGE ON FOOTPATH 110

A discussion was held regarding the bridge close to footpath 110. It was **resolved** that Paul Dennis would get quotes for the work and would meet with the Ward Councillors who would come back to the full Council with a recommendation.

It was **resolved** that in the meantime, the bridge would be closed temporarily, with signs being put up and residents being written to explain the situation. Photos of the closure notices would be taken.

290. FREE PARKING FOR SBUHB TOUCHED BY CANCER EVENT

Cllr M Donnelly had enquired with Powys County Council regarding the price of closing both Heol Maes-y-Dre and Heol Eglwys car parks for the event on August 8th. The cost would be £156.65 plus an admin fee of £98.40 (inclusive of VAT the cost would be £255.05). It was **resolved** that the cost of the car parks to be free for the day would be paid by the Town Council.

291. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the accounts detailed in Appendix 1 be paid.

292. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

It was **resolved** to approve the following Annual Management Risk Assessment Report constituting of:

- a) Minor Works Risk Assessment
- b) Financial Risk Assessment
- c) Insurance Policy and Schedule

293. TO CONSIDER THE DOCUMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It was **resolved** to approve the following documents recommended by the Management Committee:

- a) Grant Awarding Policy

It was **resolved** that it would be published on the website and reviewed in one year.

294. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Clerk explained that Powys County Council had sent the link for the code of conduct training. It was **resolved** that a mutual date for the majority would be found and those that could not make it would be sent the link.

295. ROAD CLOSURE FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY AND CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Clerk reported that Powys County Council charged £598 for the first road closure and the £432 for a subsequent closure. Road closures had to be requested 10 weeks before the event. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would enquire with other Clerks if they paid for road closures.

296. GRANT RELEASE REQUEST FOR GURNOS TRA

Cllr W Thomas reported that the committee for Gurnos Tenants and Residents Association had recently changed and there had been a brief breakdown in communication. The new committee had requested that the remainder of the grant allocated in 2025/26 was released to pay for essential upkeep in the park. All agreed that it should be released. It was **resolved** that the remainder of the grant was released.

297. GOVERNING BODY VACANCY IN YSGOL GYMRAEG DYFFRYN Y GLOWYR

A request had been made from Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr for a representative from the Town Council to sit on the governing body. It was **resolved** that this should be passed to Cwmtwrch Ward for a nomination.

298. CHANGE OF DATE FOR MAY MEETING

Due to the Senedd Elections happening on May 7th in Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall, it **resolved** to change the date for the one month to the second Thursday – May 14th 2026.

299. RENEWAL OF ONE VOICE WALES MEMBERSHIP

It was **resolved** to renew One Voice Wales membership.

CORRESPONDENCE

300. BLODAU 10TH ANNIVERSARY BENCH

It was **resolved** to ask Blodau for the chosen inscription for the bench to be bilingual.

301. ACCESS TO DIAMOND PARK

Following a complaint to Mr Stephen Butcher regarding the disabled access into Diamond Park a discussion was held around solutions. Cllr G Roberts noted that there would be a need to ensure that any new gates would not allow bikes to access the park. Cllr L Evans stated that the access points in Coronation Park should also be looked at. It was **resolved** Paul Dennis would look at the access points into Diamond Park and Coronation Park and would report back with ideas to rectify the issue.

302. ST CYNOGS CHURCH PATHS

A request had been received for assistance to repair the paths running through St Cynogs Churchyard as they are public rights of way. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would ask St Cynogs if they had received quotes for the work and to contact Mr Hickey to see if the Community Payback scheme could assist.

303. DOGS IN DIAMOND PARK

A discussion was had regarding a recent complaint regarding dogs that were out of control in Diamond Park. It was proposed by Cllr M Shrewsbury and seconded by Cllr G Davies that signs were erected and training for dog-owners was looked into. It was **resolved** that signs stating that dogs must be kept on their leads would be purchased and displayed at all entrances to the Park. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would make enquiries regarding training.

Standing orders were suspended at 8.30pm to allow the meeting to continue over two hours.

304. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BENCH IN GOROF CEMETERY

A request had been received to renew a bench in Gorof Cemetery. Cllr G Roberts stated that there needed to be policy for benches moving

forward. Cllr L Evans noted that the requester would need to maintain the bench. It was **resolved** that the request would be approved as long as the proposed bench was seen by the Council.

305. PENSION SCHEME CONTRIBUTION

It was noted that there had been a change in funding position since the last valuation (2022) and funding was moving from 95.4% to 100%. It was noted that the contribution rate is set to remain at a fixed percentage of 18.3% for the next three years starting from 1st April 2026. It was **resolved** that the RFO would be invited to present to the Management Committee regarding the Pension Fund. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would ascertain whether there would be a future shortfall.

306. OMBUDSMAN CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029

It was noted that there was a consultation on the Ombudsman draft Strategic Plan for 2026-2029 open until 31st March. Councillors were encouraged to respond online.

307. RENUMERATION REPORT 2026/27

It was noted that the Remuneration Report for 2026/27 had been published and was available online. It was noted that the only change for members of town councils is the optional financial loss compensation, which has been increased by 6.4%, reflecting the increase in average earning.

308. ROAD TO TICK TOCK BOWLS CLUB

A complaint had been received from a resident regarding the condition of the road leading to the Tick Tock Bowls Club. Cllr W Thomas stated that he thought it was a stipulation of planning that the road had to be maintained. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would contact the Land Registry to clarify ownership of the land.

309. ACCOUNTS OF YSTRADGYNLAIS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The accounts of Ystradgynlais Community Centre were noted and thanks given for their submission.

310. ONE VOICE TRAINING DATES

It was noted that there were One Voice Training sessions for Members the following week and it was **resolved** that all those interested should contact the Clerk.

311. CONDITION OF VARTEG HILL

A complaint from a resident regarding the condition of Varteg Hill was noted and it was **resolved** that the Clerk would report the issues to Powys County Council and County Councillor Susan McNicholas. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would ask Mr Hickey if the Community Payback scheme could assist with litter picking the hill.

312. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning observations made in respect of the applications received and considered by the Town Council. It was noted that there was a meeting regarding the proposed development in Penrhos on 12th March at 10am.

313. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS

313.1 P Dennis (Facilities Manager) sent a written report regarding the actions needed following the Fire Risk Assessment for Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall. New fire doors to isolate the stage area and the installation of a new smoke detector were needed or the fire brigade would issue a prohibition notice. It was estimated that the work would cost approximately £7000. It was **resolved** that the work had to be completed for the Hall to stay open. It was **resolved** that P Dennis should proceed with looking for quotes for the work.

313.2 Cllr J Morgan reminded Cllrs that Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall was celebrating it's 100th Anniversary on the forthcoming Saturday with all invited to attend.

313.3 Cllr C Williams reported that there had been expression of interest from Ystradgynlais Community Centre to Powys CC to

receive a Freehold from the Council but it had been refused. Cllr C Williams also expressed a wish to set up a meeting with the Youth Council regarding how the Community Centre could support them.

313.4 Cllr G Roberts reported that there were issues regarding large vehicles/access/potholes on Heol Pantyffynon. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would arrange a site visit with Ward Cllrs and Cllr McNicholas to discuss issues.

313.5 Cllr M Donnelly wished to thank Cllr G Roberts and all those involved in arranging a very successful St Davids Day Parade in Ystradgynlais on 2nd March.

314. CLOSED ITEM – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960) The Town Council resolved that the public and press be excluded from the following item due to confidentiality of the matter under consideration.

Cwmtwrch Ward gave an update on the progression of the case regarding the vehicles at Gwysfryn.

315. CLOSED ITEM – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960) The Town Council resolved that the public and press be excluded from the following item due to confidentiality of the matter under consideration.

The salary point progression of the Clerk, as according to the contract, was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm

Appendix 1

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

5 March 2026

HM Customs and Excise	NI Employers Contrib March	807.69
Powys C C	Employer Pension Contrib March	1,722.94
Civic Systemes Ltd	Asset Management Monthly Pay Mar	234.00
Expert Access	Front Door repair	462.10
Expert Access	Repair and fit fixings to door safety barrier	824.95
Morgan & Morgan	Dell 24' Monitor	78.32
OVW	Clerk training module 16	42.00
Centregreat Ltd	Xmas Lighting Cwmtwrch	3,474.00
T E Hughes	Electrical Fault finding Ystrad Wel Hall	40.00
Peter Thomas	construction of steps Gorof Cemetery	6,020.00
T E Hughes	Electrical work Ystrad Wel Hall	1,203.46
Direct computers	Office Chair	108.32
Clerk	Mobile Telephone Account Aug 25-Mar 26	84.33
Facilities Manager	Expenses / Mob Phone Jan – Feb 2026	38.05

Note :- Above payments exclude VAT

Signed ----- Chairman

----- Vice Chairman

**YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF YSTRADGYNLAIS**

**Planning matters to be considered by the Town Council for the month
of March 2026**

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information available on the Powys County Council website, the following applications the Town Council has been consulted upon have been granted approval.

2.0 Applications refused consent

From information available on the Powys County Council website, no applications the Town Council has been consulted upon have been refused approval.

3.0 Applications for consideration

From information forwarded by Powys County Council the Town Council has been consulted upon and are requested to give consideration to the following applications:-

Mr James Gibbs	1 Llundain Fach Brecon Road Ystradgynlais Swansea Powys SA9 1ST	Erection of extension, works to roof and replacement dormers No observations
Mr Elliot Antcliff	57 Cwmpfil Road Lower Cwmtwrch Swansea SA9 2QA	Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling and associated engineering work No observations

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Mr Alex Bull	Sunning Dale Caerbont, Abercrave, SA9 1SW	Erection of a replacement garage No observations
Mr Lloyd Morgan	Brynsiriol School Road Abercrave SA91XD United Kingdom	Erection of detached garage No observations
Mr Matthew Morgan	Land at Bryngroes Farm Ystradgynlais, Swansea SA9 1LF	Full discharge of condition 10 of planning approval 25/1139/REM No observations

4.0 Miscellaneous

Withdrawn - 25/1357/LBC Sardis Chapel Heol Giedd Ystradgynlais SA9 1JY Powys;
Replacement of existing roof and all associated works