
CYNGOR CYMUNED TONGWYNLAIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Tongwynlais Community Council has no political affiliation and has the best interests of the Community in mind.

In May 2022 election, five long-standing members of the Community Council decided not to stand. The Community Council would like to thank Brian Griffiths, Mike Griffiths, Peeter Tiidt and Chris Morgan for their contribution and years of service. Sadly, Brian Griffiths and Mike Griffiths passed during the year and will be remembered for their years of dedication to the community.

The Community Council has nine seats for Community Councillors. Following the 2022 election four seats were filled as followed: -

Mike Jones-Pritchard – Chair
Caryn Hill – Vice Chair
Linda Morgan
Ceri Lane

The remaining five seats were filled by co-option after circulating a newsletter to all homes in the village, requesting expressions of interest from residents. The successful co-options were:

Graham Walters
Ana Waite
Owen Thomas
Simon Underdown
Rob Wiseman

The Community Council has no committees but has created working parties to assist with various local projects including, the Coronation event, Community Garden, and Tanyard.

Representatives are in place as follows: -

Caryn Hill – Health and Safety Representative,
One Voice Wales Representative
Ceri Lane – One Voice Wales Representative,
Ana Waite - Pear Tree Primary School Federation Community Council Governor
Peeter Tiidt – Allotments Manager

During the financial year, the Community Council had two different employees in the role of Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer as follows: -

April 2022-July 2022 – Ms Allyson Richards

August 2022 – current – Mrs Nadine Dunseath who completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration in early 2023.

The Community Council also employs a litter picker, groundsperson and waterer for summer flower planters.

The Community Council is a member of One Voice Wales who provide advice and guidance on statutory requirements expected of a Community Council. The Clerk is a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks who also provide advisory services.

Cardiff City Council entered into a charter agreement with all Community Councils in the County and the Clerk attends meetings with neighbouring Clerks and the Cardiff City Council Monitoring Officer.

ASSETS

The Community Council owns and manages the Tanyard Hall. This is rented by various local groups and residents and is used as a meeting place and location for family parties. The hall has a small area to the rear used by Cardiff Libraries and is open to the public every Friday afternoon.

The Community Council owns allotments situated on Castle Road.

The Community Council also owns the "kickabout area" situated to the rear of Castle Road, although the area and lane is maintained by Cardiff City Council.

The Community Council owns the grass area by the bus stop on Merthyr Road and has a long-term lease agreement with Cardiff City Council for the adjacent Merthyr Road Gardens.

MEETINGS

Meetings took place on the following dates: -

April 25th 2022

May 16th 2022

June 27th 2022

No meeting in July

No meeting in August

Sept 26th 2022

Oct 31st 2022

Nov 28th 2022

No meeting in December

January 30th 2023

February 27th 2023

March 27th 2023

Meetings will usually be held on the last Monday of the month.

FINANCES

The Community Council receives an annual Precept from Cardiff City Council which is a Council Tax levy charged to each household within the ward. The Annual Precept for 2022-23 was £24,500. Other income is received from Tanyard Hall Lettings, Allotment Fees and annual rental of land used for an occasional overflow car park.

Main expenditure for the Community Council is for staff salaries, costs for Tanyard Hall maintenance and Utilities, Annual memberships of external bodies, Website Hosting, Council Insurance, and the Annual Festive Lights.

Donations were given to the football club to purchase a defibrillator cabinet, the City of Cardiff Brass Band to purchase new instruments, the Christmas Hamper project and to the Primary School Gardening Club.

A full breakdown of the Community Council accounts can be viewed on the Community Council website.

AUDIT

The Community Council received a qualified report from the Wales Audit Office for 2021-22 due to an item being reported under the wrong heading. This error has been amended with restated figures as part of the 2022-23 annual return. The Council will be completing a more detailed transaction-based audit for 2022-23 as part of the new arrangements from Wales Audit Office.

ACHIEVEMENTS

As in previous years, the Community Council has financed the village hanging baskets that are placed along Merthyr Road each Summer. The baskets are created by members of Tongwynlais Primary School Gardening Club.

The Community Council were successful in an application for a community garden pack funded by Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature scheme which has been installed behind the bus stop on Merthyr Road, with work starting on the adjacent gardens to improve the area for community use.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated with a children's tea party and commemorative gifts for Primary School Children.

The Community Council published the first village newsletter to every household in the village, which included information on how to get involved as a Councillor, what the Council does and how to order a Jubilee souvenir drinks bottle.

Building works to paint the exterior of the Tanyard Hall has been completed.

Unfortunately, the Community Council were advised that catenary wiring from lampposts could no longer be used for the Christmas lighting and were faced with a change of display at very short notice. Christmas trees were placed at various locations along Merthyr Road. As in previous years, the Christmas lighting competition was a great success and prizes were awarded to the winners.

The Council are reviewing policy documents to ensure they are current and reflective of new procedures. A new lettings policy has been approved which sets out new hiring rates for the Tanyard hall with the intention of keeping costs at a minimum for residents to use the hall.

The Tanyard has achieved the status of a Keep Wales Tidy hub and litter picking equipment can be hired free of charge to help keep the village in good condition. A new litter policy has been approved by the Community Council.

A defibrillator has been donated to the Council which has been installed at the Tanyard.

AIMS FOR 2023-24

The Community Council aims to complete work on the Merthyr Road Gardens which has historically been named "Rest Park". Building work is currently being arranged to help renovate the allotment shed with the view of using this space for community groups, working closely with Aion Chapel.

To mark the coronation of King Charles in June 2023, the Community Council hopes to celebrate with local events.

During December 2023, the Community Council hopes to arrange a pantomime to take place at the Village Hall.

Plans are being made to update and improve the information and content on the Council website with regular updates, as well as regularly producing village newsletters that can be delivered to each household.

The Community Council website
www.tongwynlaiscommunitycouncil.gov.wales

To contact the Clerk to the Council please email: -
clerk@tongwynlaiscommunitycouncil.gov.wales
or telephone: - 07955341292