

# **ROWEN COMMUNITY GROUP OPEN MEETING**

**12 JUNE 2025, ROWEN MEMORIAL HALL**

## **Present**

Sean Brand, Chair (SB), Hamza Mould, Treasurer (HM)  
Helen Rawlins, Secretary (HR), Linda Anderson (LA)  
Eileen Burtonwood (EB), Ann Cotterill (AC)  
Heddwen Roberts (H Roberts), Charles Hawkins (CH)  
Matt Griffiths (MG), Dawn Griffiths (DG)

## **Apologies**

Goronwy Edwards, Sue Kenwell, Robert Kenwell, Nicky Fryer, Mair Hulse,  
Dave Hulse, John Burtonwood, Helen Hawkins, Lisa Brand, Penny Wingfield

## **Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved for the last open meeting of the group which was on 27 March 2025.

## **Actions from last meeting**

**Payment of donations:** HM said there had been some issues with the bank account relating to the change of signatories which had delayed the payments. SB and HM both now had access to online banking and the donations to Ty a Fi and St David's Hospice had been paid on 12 June. Outstanding expenses would also now be paid. There was currently £2832.88 in the bank account. The car boot sales in April and May had generated income of £1800 with expenses of around £500. Expenses for the first car boot sales were typically higher to cover stocks of supplies.

**Painting of bus shelter:** SB had spoken to Caerhun Council who were willing to pay for the paint. He had a contact to follow up on whether the Young Offenders would be able to do the painting. If not, other volunteers would be needed. It was agreed that only the inside needed to be painted and that ordinary masonry paint could be used. **Action: SB** to follow up with Young Offenders.

**Painting of Caernarfon sign:** CH said this action was still outstanding.

## **Car boot sales**

EB gave an update on the 7 June car boot sale which had been cancelled due to the weather. Cake makers had been warned in advance of the possibility of cancellation. The decision was taken on the day at 7.30 and a message about the cancellation was put on facebook. Supplies which could be used at the next boot sale had been frozen or stored. The baps and other perishables had been taken to the Hope Restored food bank. A further message apologising for any inconvenience caused was also posted, which was a good learning point for the future. HM had the list of contact numbers for booters which had been collected last year and said he would now set up a mobile with the numbers in a Whatsapp group for future information sharing. HM said he

would also make up a cancelled sign which could be used at the gate in future. **Action: HM.** LA suggested also adding a cancelled sign to the existing signs and offered to ask Tal-y-bont how they do it. **Action: LA**  
There was a discussion about using the Croeso sign. In the past there had been problems with where the sign had been fixed and the length of time it had been up. It had torn in the wind and been noisy for residents. The sign was now repaired but it was agreed it should only be used for specific events and would need to be placed where it would not cause any disturbance.

There was a discussion about any other improvements which could be made. DG suggested having an activity for children. It was agreed that the bacon baps were very successful but much more work than hot dogs. HM asked if there should be a vegetarian option. MG said that soups and stews or halloumi rolls were good vegetarian options as they were easy to prepare and could also be enjoyed by non-vegetarians. It was agreed to keep the food options as they were for now, with a limited number of bacon baps and to do some research at the next boot sale to gauge the demand for a vegetarian option.

### **Public toilets**

EB had been exploring options to modify the Memorial Hall to provide public access to the toilets. Unfortunately her preferred option would not work as she had been advised by a builder that the roof was too low. Another option would be to provide public access from the outside to the disabled toilet but this would have to be a "Jack and Jill" toilet with doors to both the inside and outside of the hall. This would rely on users always remembering to lock and unlock both doors and would not work in practice. SB thought that the stage had now been reached where the Community Group couldn't take the issue any further. CH asked if the Ty Gwyn had said they would open their toilets to the public. HR thought they had not yet taken a decision. LA said that the group should lobby the Council to reopen the toilets.

### **Community skip**

SB had spoken to Caerhun Community Council but they would not fund a community skip. He had asked if they would be able to help with the logistics of providing a skip if the Community Group paid for it but had not yet had a response on this point. It was agreed that the skip should be on a Saturday and someone would need to come with the skip to manage it, as had previously been the case when the Council had provided a community skip. The car park would need to be coned off the night before. **Action: HR** to speak to Bryson Recycling to explore whether they can provide a skip and someone to man it on the day.

### **Remembrance Day**

SB had confirmed with Graham Morris that he was still content to raise and lower the village flag and to lay the Rowen wreath on Remembrance Day at the war memorial in Tyn-y-groes. He had confirmed that he was, but had suggested that there should be more representation from Rowen at the Remembrance Day service and that Rowen should also have a figure of a female soldier as part of our memorial as well as the current soldier which is

put up each year. These suggestions were agreed and HM offered to explore with the British Legion the cost of getting a female soldier figure. **Action:** HM to contact British Legion. DG suggested that the local air cadet band could also be involved in the Remembrance Day service. SB said that the service was organised by Tyn-y-groes but there might be other opportunities in the future for the band to play a role.

### **Any other business**

**Playground:** LA said that the children's playground was dangerous and needed attention. In particular the slide was too high and something was needed for smaller children. She wasn't sure who now owned the playground. HM said that he had experience of inspecting playgrounds and was happy to follow this up. **Action: HM** to look at playground and find out from GE who owns it.

**Pub quiz:** CH said the last pub quiz had raised £350 and had been very successful apart from some problems with the PA system which had now been fixed. The next quiz was scheduled for 17 September. CH was open to suggestions for who to raise funds for at the next quiz. He asked if there was any appetite for an additional summer quiz and the consensus was yes. He asked people to email him with any thoughts on the date or format.

**New bench:** LA said that the new oak bench was splitting. **Action: CH** to consult the manufacturers.

**Malwen Cafe:** DG and MG said that the manager of the Malwen Cafe would be leaving in 4 weeks and they were looking for someone to take over the daily running of the cafe. The current owners were open to suggestions about how to keep the cafe open. They asked for ideas about what people in the village wanted. LA suggested putting up a notice at Llandrillo College to advertise for staff among the catering students. Other suggestions included doing a survey or putting up a notice in the cafe and phonebox or via Peter McFadden's Rowen emails to ask for suggestions and feedback. If there was a flyer it was agreed this could be handed out at the next car boot sale.

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 11 September at 7.30pm.