

GRWP CYMUNEDOL ROWEN COMMUNITY GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 NOVEMBER 2025

ROWEN MEMORIAL HALL

Present

Sean Brand, Chair (SB), Hamza Mould, Treasurer (HM), Helen Rawlins, Secretary (HR), Lisa Brand (LB), Eileen Burtonwood (EB), Linda Anderson (LA), Heddwyn Roberts (H Roberts), Goronwy Edwards (GE), Helen Hawkins (HH), Charles Hawkins (CH), Michael Wingrove (MW), Sophie Davies (SD), Mair Hulse (MH), Dave Hulse (DH), Ann Hughes (AH), Penny Wingfield (PW), Helen Gregson (HG)

Apologies

Nicky and Michael Fryer, Sue and Rob Kenwell, John Burtonwood, Hannah Torrance.

Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved for the last open meeting of the group, which was on 11 September 2025.

Chair's report

SB thanked all Committee members, volunteers and cake makers for their hard work and dedication over the year at boot sales and other activities to raise funds for village events. A special thanks went to CH for holding pub quizzes, tidying up Wallace's grave and refurbishing the Caernarfon sign at the bottom of the village. The number of boot sales was expanded to six in 2025 which is the maximum permitted without a licence. Five had gone ahead successfully.

Despite a power cut the village had rallied round to hold a Winter Festival with the help of the Ty Gwyn and a well-attended children's party had been held in the Memorial Hall the next morning. The Group had also provided financial donations to Ti y Fi and St David's Hospice and had fulfilled all the community requests made to the Committee over the year. These included painting the bus shelter, supplying a skip for the community and adding a female soldier to the Remembrance Day memorial. The group had also explored options to keep the public toilets open, although it had not been possible to identify a sustainable solution. SB stressed that the Committee rely on input from the Community and encouraged people to put forward ideas for things that the group can do in the future.

SB thanked EB and the sub-committee for arranging this year's Winter Festival to be held on 6 December. SB said that he was standing down after nearly 7 years on the Committee and reiterated his thanks to all committee members, volunteers and other members of the group for their help over the years.

Treasurer's report

HM thanked SB on behalf of the group for all his work as a Committee Member, Treasurer and Chair.

HM said that income from the boot sales had been good, with expenditure of £800 and income of over £4,500, making a profit of around £3,700. Insurance costs had been slightly higher than last year and all the requests from the community had been funded including the female soldier figure, new bench, doing up Wallace's grave, the community skip and donations of £500. The new flag bought last year also appeared in this year's account. The biggest expense was the Winter Festival. Taking account of the cost of the skip hire, the final balance brought forward was £4,663.22. A copy of the accounts is attached.

HM asked for suggestions for local charities or causes which support the community for the group to consider for donations at the next meeting.

Actions from last meeting

Painting of bus shelter: SB thanked DH and MH for completing this with help from AH and PH.

Thank you to Gill: this had been actioned by EB and was much appreciated by Gill.

Community skip: HR reported that a 10 cubic yard skip with door had been arranged for 18 October at a cost of £359.52. The skip had been used by 23 households from different parts of the village and had been filled up within an hour. HR thanked LA for publicising the skip and liaising with local residents to ensure that the road was clear and thanked LA, DH, HM and JB for their help with arrangements on the day.

Purchase of Remembrance Day wreath: actioned. SB thanked Graham Morris for representing Rowen at the Remembrance Day service.

Willow tree branches on fibre lines: HM had emailed Cartrefi Conwy as the owners of the tree but had not received a response. GE was following up with Cartrefi Conwy. **Action: GE**

Collapsing river bank near Rose Gerlan cottages: CH had reported this to the Council and confirmed that they were taking action.

Interpretation Board

Sophie Davies, Community Engagement Officer with the Carneddau Landscape Partnership gave an update. SD had a draft from the artist of what the board would show. She did not want to make a lot of modifications but would welcome reasonable feedback. Feedback on the draft was positive and it was agreed not to show a car park by the Memorial Hall as parking space in this area was limited. The QR code and links to history points and the website were also ready. The board needed to go in a safe place, on the pavement at a height suitable for children and wheelchairs and facing the right direction so

readers could see the mountains. The plan was to install it by the grit box opposite the willow tree area. SD asked if there were any comments on the location of the board.

After liaison with the Council, National Park and Highways SD had now found a local contractor who had the right licence to install the board. SD was hoping that the board would be installed by the end of the year. She explained that her job finished in December but if the board was not completed before she left there would be a liaison officer in the national park to take over and money was in place to complete the project. GE offered to chase up with Highways if there were any bottlenecks with getting the panel installed. CH asked about the frame of the panel. SD said it would have a dark green metal frame but it would be possible to get a quote for a different colour or for a frame in wood. SD asked for information on any community projects planned for next year and said that she could consider whether it was possible to ringfence any funding eg for the Winter Festival.

Winter Festival

EB confirmed that this would take place on 6 December and thanked the members of the sub-committee helping to organise it. The Festival would start with a children's party in the hall from 3-5pm with food and drink, Santa's grotto and an entertainer. At 5pm the children would walk to the tree where the lights would be switched on at 5.30pm. Then there would be a hog roast in the Ty Gwyn with hotdogs for the children, followed by live music. The event would take place in a marquee and EB asked for volunteers to help put this up. The presents for the children had already been bought and wrapped. EB thought that not all the allocated budget would be needed and suggested that any left over could be put towards an event in the summer. **Action: EB and Winter Festival subcommittee.**

Carol service

The village carol service will take place in the chapel on 22 December. A volunteer was needed to represent the Community Group. **Action: MH volunteered.**

Any Other Business

AH said that she had asked the Council to provide a new bin for the bus shelter as the current one was unsafe.

Election of Committee Members

The Constitution requires a Committee of at least 7 members and no more than 11.

The following 8 committee members confirmed that they would continue on the committee:

Linda Anderson

Eileen Burtonwood

Ann Hughes

Goronwy Edwards

Nicky and Michael Fryer as one member

Mair Hulse
Hamza Mould
Helen Rawlins

HR proposed Hannah Torrance as a new Committee member and this was seconded by LA.

SB asked if anyone would else would like to stand for the committee. There were no further volunteers. The Committee therefore has 9 members.

The open meeting ended at this point and the members of the Committee stayed to elect a Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary.