



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT HALO LEISURE CENTRE,  
PONTYCYMER AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews  
J Coles  
D Davies  
W Davies  
H Griffiths  
R Jones (from 7.15 pm via zoom)  
C Lloyd  
M Lewis  
M Thomas  
G Walters (left at 7.34 pm)

Apologies: Councillors M Jones and M  
Trowbridge

Also Present: PCSO J Elliott and Mrs A C Harris,  
Clerk & RF

**1/24-25** Apologies (as above)

**2/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School Community Award 2023	Director Chair of Governors Related to Nominee/Winner
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ffaldau Primary School	Member Chair of Governors
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor

**3/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

The April 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the April 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

**4/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2024 MEETING**

**Minute 164/23-24 To Consider Matters Arising from the March 2024 Meeting**

**Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report:** still no response from BCBC as to why the lakes were surveyed.

**The Strand:** The Clerk updated Members on correspondence from the Corporate Director for Communities on the land at the Strand. The Clerk requested authority from Members to progress this project and it was noted that going forward the council will need a discussion on how its maintenance will be funded.

**Additional Floral Baskets Bettws:** The gardener has made a site visit and the lighting columns in the area of the bus stop are too narrow to get permission from BCBC.

**Noticeboards Llangeinor Ward:** The advert consent notice is now out and determination will be made in 12 weeks not the usual 8 due to the amount of requests planning are dealing with unless we ask for it to be 8 weeks.

**Damaged Railings Pontyrhyl:** Councillor Griffiths informed Members that barriers had now been put in place to fill the gap.

**T&CC Grant Funding Application:** Following the Community Council's success in obtaining match funding, the work will start on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. A compound will be set up in a corner of the Visitor Centre car park and access will be needed for machinery to the side of the stone entrance from the car park which will mean temporarily removing the litter bin and removing the end fencing post to allow access.

**Litter Collection:** We continue to use a local litter contractor who collects the bags, provides a waste licence receipt and the litter is sorted at its destination.

### **Minute 169/23-24 Spring Bulbs 2023**

The order has been placed.

**Resolved:** All the information and action of the Clerk were noted. Authority was given to the Clerk to progress the work at the Strand, to temporarily remove the bin and end fence post to allow contractor access to the footpaths at Parc Calon Lan and to request a determination for the two noticeboards within 8 weeks.

### **5/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR APRIL 2024**

PCSO J Elliott attended the meeting and explained some of the figures.

The crime figures were discussed. An update on the recent vandalism of the Visitor Centre and areas of the park was given. Concerns re drugs were raised.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

NOTE: Councillor D Davies declared an interest and left the meeting for item 6.

### **6/24-25 COMMUNITY AWARD 2023**

The Clerk had not received any nominations for the general Community Award. The nomination received for the Sports Community Award was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to award Miss Nia Lewis the Sports Community Award for 2023/24 for excellence in her football career. Nia and her family will be invited to attend the June 2024 Ordinary Council meeting for a presentation and to receive a small gift.

**7/24-25 COMMUNITY CUSHIONS/EMERGENCY LIFTING CHAIRS**

Details of the equipment had been included in the meeting papers pack. Councillor Coles suggested the Clerk should speak to a local responder to see if maintenance etc. could be covered before council discusses further and decides.

**Resolved:** Councillor Coles' suggestion was unanimously agreed and the Clerk would contact a Responder for guidance.

**8/24-25 ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

**Resolved:** Councillor M Jones was absent from the meeting and therefore this item was deferred to the June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**9/24-25 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The following were recommended to full council:

- No risks to the budget were identified.
- To approve the ear mark reserves as follows:
  - 2 x charity donations to year end 31/3/23 £50.00
  - Outstanding External Audit Fees £425.00
  - Parc Calon Lan Lake De-silt £5,000.00
  - Ward c/f 2023/24 £7,255.78
  - Footpath renewal Parc Calon Lan £15,000.00 (match funded by BCBC T&CC grant funding)
- Amendments are made to the budget in order to increase funding for projects proposed for 2024/25 and to include planter floral displays and community grass cutting in Blaengarw and Bettws from the general budget and to increase Christmas lighting funding for wards; This will reduce the general reserve from £43,239.15 to £22,879.15
- It was also agreed not to recommend to full council that the grass in the area of the dram between Llest and Pantygog is cut and provision made from the general budget as this appears to be private property.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed to accept all the Finance Committee recommendations.

#### **10/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:** The payments and budget monitoring sheet May 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £5,105.68.

**Income:** The precept of £120,001 had been received.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet and balance c/f were approved.

#### **11/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor M Lewis:** issues continue with parking outside schools.

**Councillor H Griffiths:** gave an update on Roly Patroly, the site meeting at the old Bettws Club.

**Councillor D Davies:** Llangeinor had once again had issues with flooding, she also updated Members on events being held at the Richard Price Centre ie basic skills, men's shed, living with dementia etc. Councillor Davies raised her concerns regarding the overgrown hedgerows in Llangeinor and informed Members that Llangeinor under 15s are through to a final game in Maesteg later in the week. Councillor Davies had attended a site meeting ref. the old Bettws Club planning application.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. Councillor M Lewis will put in a referral to BCBC regarding the hedegrows. The outcome of the planning application for the old Bettws Club is of a concern to all.

#### **13/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT**

This was the Chair's first meeting and there was nothing to report this month.

**Resolved:** There was no Chair's report this month.

#### **14/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden's Report had not been written and June's would include updates for May and June 2024.

### **D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

#### **Lanterns:**

The anniversary is nearing and the Lamp Lights of Peace the Council has purchased are due to be lit at 9.15 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Councillor Coles has adapted all 4 lanterns so that they are lit by battery operated lights and not paraffin; though it is still possible to use either.

The Clerk gave out the lanterns and holding hooks and it was agreed they would be placed at the War Memorial in Pontycymer, in the Pocket Park Pantygog, and a venue tbc in Llangeinor and next to the bench outside the William Trigg Centre. Each lamp would be put in place by the allocated time and they would monitor them for an hour from 9.15 pm. If paraffin is to be used the Clerk must receive a Risk Assessment before 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. As agreed at a previous meeting there would not be a lamp in Bettws.

#### **Tommy Silhouettes:**

The Silhouettes have yet to be received. The Clerk will chase them up. It was agreed to install them at the following locations, subject to permissions: Llangeinor - Calfaria Chapel, The Strand - on the wall to the far left, Bettws - side of Bettws Life Centre and Pontycymer - the Pocket Park next to the remembrance plaque.

### **Vandalism**

In addition to the vandalism to the Visitor Centre in Parc Calon Lan, two life rings have been removed; one has been recovered and all the life ring ropes have been removed. The Clerk has purchased replacements at a cost of just over £200.

### **Floral Baskets/Displays**

The Clerk gave an update on permission for the 10 baskets for each wards. A solution to the rail planters in Pontyrhyl has been found, with the addition of a bracket and progress has been made in regards to the sign post planters opposite Bryn Stores.

### **School Community Awards 23/24**

The Clerk asked for authority to purchase vouchers for the School Community Awards 2024.

### **Turning Circle, Railway Terrace**

The Clerk updated Members on a further site visit with a contractor to the turning circle. The information was noted.

### **Damage to decorative border Bettws**

The damage to the decorative edges of the green near the petrol garage at Bettws were noted.

### **Projects 2024**

The Clerk asked for authority to progress all projects included in the precept budget for 24/25.

The Clerk asked Member to confirm the locations for the installation of the Tommy Silhouettes

### **Defibrillator Pantygog**

The Clerk nor Councillor Griffiths had any further update on installing this at the Pocket Park. The Clerk would chase it up.

### **Llangeinor Square and the Pocket Park**

Councillor Griffiths had drawn the Clerks attention to the need for Llangeinor Square to be cleaned including the Miners' Lamp. Enquiries at BCBC had resulted in being told that the land is not theirs. The Clerk asked authority to employ a local power washing company to clean the area and the lamp and to scrape the grass overgrowth and power wash areas of the Pocket Park.

### **Draft Annual Report 23/24**

The guidance states that the report must be written as soon as practicable after the end of the year. The Clerk asked for authority to prepare a draft for the July meeting.

### **Christmas 2024**

This will be an item on the July 2024 agenda, but in the meantime please use the time to talk to your ward colleagues to decide what your requirement is prior to the July meeting.

### **Annual Leave**

The Clerk reminded Members of her annual leave dates in June 2024.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for the installation of a drainage pipe from the turning circle to the culvert and the resurfacing of the turning circle. The Clerk was given authority to hire a contractor to power wash Llangeinor Square and the Pocket Park and to clean the Miners' Lantern in Llangeinor. Authority was also given for the draft Annual Report to be considered at the July 2024 meeting. The Clerk was given authority to progress all projects including in the precept budget and to purchase the School Community Award Vouchers again this year. Councillors were asked to send the Clerk a risk assessment prior to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 for the Lamp Lights of Peace if paraffin is used to light them.

NOTE: Councillor D Davies declared an interest and left the meeting for the discussion on the financial request from the Richard Price Centre.

## **14/24-25    CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence had been sent out to Members since the last meeting and with the Chair's consent an additional sheet had been distributed for items received after the papers were distributed.

The Clerk highlighted the following:

- One Voice Wales - Save the Date Innovative Practice Conference 3/7/24
- BCBC - letter confirming success of the T&CC grant funding
- BCBC - letter regarding an additional round of T&CC funding in June/August 2024
- BCBC - proposed changes to the council's home-to-school/college transport provision (consultation closes 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024)
- Ray of Light Cancer Support - financial support request
- Garw Valley WI - email regarding withdrawal of funding application for leaflet print and that they'll be in touch for the end of May meeting ref. funding for the gazebos
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod - financial support request
- Bridgend Samaritans - invitation to the Chair to attend their AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Richard Price Centre - financial support request
- Wales Air Ambulance - thank you for a recent donation
- St Brides Minor CC - invitation to Chairs and Clerk to attend a meeting of all T&CCs in the borough to discuss areas of common concern and to explore ways that there can be more co-operation between councils - 4<sup>th</sup> June 6.30 pm at Sarn Centre.
- Awen Cultural Trust - Adult IT Survey 2024
- Neath Port Talbot Council - LDP Consultation (closes 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Councillor M Lewis will attend the Innovative Practice Conference. The two financial requests from Ray of Light Cancer Support and Llangollen International Eisteddfod will be deferred to March 2025 for consideration. The request from the Richard Price Centre was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the council could not support this financial request. The Chair and Clerk would attend the St Brides Minor CC meeting and the Chair would attend the Samaritans AGM. It was noted that no further request or information had been received from the Garw Valley WI.



**15/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 3 planning requests had been received and there were 3 decisions and 0 appeals.  
2 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out.

**Resolved:** All information received was noted.

**16/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Armed Forces Covenant (MJ)
- Presentation on the work of Tenovus
- Community Sport Award Presentation for Nia Lewis

**Resolved:** The agenda would be kept open for items to be added in the month.

**The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the William Trigg Centre, Blaengarw and via zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm