



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE WILLIAM TRIGG CENTRE,
BLAENGARW AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 17th JUNE 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews
D Davies
W Davies
H Griffiths
C Lloyd
M Lewis
M Thomas

Apologies: Councillors J Coles, M Jones, R Jones, M Trowbridge and G Walters

Also Present: 1 Member of the public, Nia Lewis and Family, Judith Major and Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RF

17/24-25 Apologies (as above)

18/24-25 - 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
N Harwood-Scorer	Planning Ref: P/23/699/FUL	Local Resident

19/24-25 TO RECEIVE NIA LEWIS AND FAMILY FOR THE COMMUNITY SPORT AWARD 2023

Nia Lewis of Llangeinor had been selected as the Council’s Community Sport Award Winner for 2023/24. Nia has excelled in her football career, being capped for Wales twice and playing in the Wales Under 15 and Under 17 age groups. Nia and her family were welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer and presented with flowers and a gift, an engraved shield to keep for a year and a small trophy to keep.

Resolved: The information was noted.

20/24-25 TO RECEIVE JUDITH MAJOR OF TENOVUS CANCER CARE

Judith Major of Tenovus Cancer Care was invited to speak at the meeting and updated Members on the work of Tenovus and the services they provide. Members asked questions including how long treatment is following diagnosis for people in the valley.

Resolved: Leaflets on the services offered by Tenovus were left for Members to take. Judith Major said she would find out about the length of time from diagnosis to treatment and let the Clerk know.

21/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2024 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETING

The May 2024 Annual and Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Resolved: The Minutes of the May 2024 Ordinary Council Meetings were approved and signed by the Chair.

22/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY 2024 MEETINGS

Annual Meeting

Minute 10/24 To Agree the Internal Auditor for the 2023.2024 Accounting Year

Mr N Davies had completed the Internal Audit on behalf of the Community Council

Ordinary Meeting:

Minute 4/24-25 To Consider Matters Arising from the April 2024 Meeting

The Strand: The Tommy Silhouettes had been installed in each ward and positive comments received. The Clerk is waiting on the quote for the wall and steps despite chasing.

Turning Circle Railway Terrace: The quotes to dig out the current tarmac, resurface and run appropriate drainage so that water doesn't sit on it in future is just under £17,000. This was discussed.

Noticeboards Llangeinor Ward: The advert consent application expires on 19th June so a determination should be given shortly. As soon as that is given the Clerk will arrange for the installation of the boards in Lluest and Pontyrhyl.

Minute 7/24-25 Community Cushions/Emergency Lifting Chairs

The responder has been on holiday for a few weeks and the Clerk had been unable to contact him.

Minute 14/24-25 Clerk's Report incl. Warden Report

Lanterns: All were lit throughout the valley and positively received.

Floral Baskets/Displays: The 3 tier planter quote has been requested for the Strand.

There has been a lot of to-ing and fro-ing to obtain permission for the floral baskets which has gone on for months. Last week a form was introduced to complete at the 11th hour. Permission has now been given for 10 baskets in each ward, with Llangeinor having more as they already pay for some out of their own ward funding. All will be installed by the end of this week, with the exception of the rail planters in Pontyrhyl as the bracket has still not been received.

School Community Awards 23/24: Four of the five schools have responded saying they'd like to take part, Ffaldau has not yet replied. All would like a representative from the council to attend.

Defibrillator Pantygog: Responder on holiday.

Llangeinor Square and Pocket Park: The Pocket Park work is almost complete. The Tommy Silhouette has been installed, the scraping back and power washing has been done, the grass has been cut. The flower basket which was going on the column outside is now being put on the wall the opposite side of the silhouette as the column has been changed to aluminium. The only outstanding items are the defibrillator and the large stones being put back into place.

Llangeinor Square was power washed, but only the metal decorative panels, the lantern and the brick patterned stones; the rest will be power washed in a week's time.

Resolved: All the information and action of the Clerk were noted. It was unanimously agreed that the work to the turning circle including drainage could not be carried out as the cost is too high.

23/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR MAY 2024

There were no SW Police representatives present. There were no comments on the figures.

Resolved: The crime figures were noted. The Clerk was asked to contact Go Safe to request a speed check on the new road from Brynmenyn to Pandy.

24/24-25 HANDRAIL BETTWS

Councillor M Jones was absent from the meeting. He asked the Clerk to raise the following: 'We have received a request from an elderly resident in Bettws to replace a handrail outside her home to enable her to negotiate some steps, a facility previously provided elsewhere in Bettws'. Councillor Jones asked if members would support exploring an initial quote for this item. This was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that support could not be given to this request or the provision of a handrail for one person's benefit in the community and suggested that Councillor Jones should approach V2C for support in this matter.

25/24-25 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

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

26/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS including INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND AUDIT STATEMENT FOR 2023/24

Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet June 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £6,299.25?

Income: Had been received of £3,450.00 for reimbursement of Rights of Way expenditure and maintenance of the Community Route.

Internal Audit Report and Audit Statement for 2023/24: The Internal Audit Report and the Audit Statement for 2024/24 signed by the Internal Auditor had been included with the meeting papers. Councillor C Lloyd thanked the Clerk for her work and an excellent report.

Financial Request: A request had been received from the Garw Federation of Schools - Ffaldau, Blaengarw and Bettw Primary Schools - for financial support for the Garw Federation Choir to perform in the National Festival Infant & Junior Choir session. The request is for assistance with the cost of £850 per school for coaches. This was discussed.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet and balance c/f were approved. It was agreed to donate £850 to the Garw Federation of Schools; £450 to be paid from general reserves and £100 to be paid by the four ward funds. The Internal Audit Report and the Audit Statement for 2023/24 were accepted and approved and the Chair and Clerk signed the audit statement; the Clerk would now prepare and submit the External Audit for 23/24.

27/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths: informed members that none of the play areas in the valley could be used as they are all being renovated at the same time. Referrals continue regarding potholes and the recycling service although this should improve going forward. The road from Bettws to Shwt will be closed for a time as the road is being resurfaced. Councillor Griffiths has received many compliments on the valley though grass cutting referrals and the uncut grass in Pontycymer cemetery continue to be an issue. Councillor Griffiths informed members that a new bench is due to be placed outside the cemetery.

In Llangeinor, Councillor Griffiths had made a referral regarding the overgrown hedgerow near Llangeiinor House and brambles near the zebra crossing. It was noted that Ffaldau Primary School had lost water/pressure in the week.

Councillor W Davies: said there's been issues with water drain lids on pavements being opened and left sticking up in the pavement. Councillor Davies requested that the council send Councillor M Trowbridge a card wishing her a speedy recovery.

Councillor M Thomas: had received comments on how nice the valley is looking

Councillor M Lewis: Similar to Councillor Griffiths, on-going referrals re potholes and grass cutting particularly in the cemetery.

Councillor C Lloyd: Issues with drainage in recent heavy rain was referred to the Clerk to refer to BCBC.

Councillor D Davies: complaints have been received about the lack of grass cutting throughout the village, speeding through the village, the out of use phone box outside the Richard Price Centre and the litter collection changing days without notice. Councillor Davies said that tree roots in Pontycymer Cemetery are becoming an issue as they are affecting graves. A recent report to Dwr Cymru by the Clerk regarding sewage/drains in Llangeinor has been followed up and dealt with. Councillor Davies asked the Clerk to thank the person she contacted for their help.

Resolved: The information was noted.

28/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

A meeting had been held on 4th June at Sarn Centre, hosted by St Brides Minor Community Council and an invitation had been extended to all T&CC Chairs and Clerks in the borough to attend.. Councillor Neal Harwood-Storer and the Clerk had attended; it had been well attended with representatives from 14 of the T&CCs, including two cabinet members. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss areas of common concern and to explore ways that there can be more co-operation between councils to collaborate in any way, share resources, jointly procure, deal as one voice in matters relating to external organisations such as One Voice Wales, BCBC etc.

Resolved: The meeting raised some valid points and a resolution had been made to write to BCBC regarding changing the format of the T&CC Forum.

29/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for April, May and June 2024 had been included with the meeting papers. One matter of great concern was the continuation of the person who attends the Plant! site twice a day to let their dogs run free to defecate in this area. The person's details and car registration has been passed to the Clerk

Footpaths PC Lan: the work is due to start on 24th June 2024. Part of the Visitor Centre car park will be used as a compound.

Bin at Lluest Sitting Out Area: It appears that BCBC no longer empty this bin, so the Warden has taken over this service.

Allowances: The Clerk reminded everyone to return their allowances form asap. She also reminded them that the allowance payment is not tax free and councillors should make their own arrangements to pay any tax due on their claims.

Christmas 2024: Will be included on the July 2024 agenda. The Clerks asked that ward members discuss their requirements in order to feedback at the July meeting.

Annual Leave: The Clerk reminded Members of her leave dates in July.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to report the person using the Plant! site as a toilet for their dogs to the Dog Warden.

20/24-25 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:

- Morgannwg Endeavour Charity - update on golf event and afternoon tea event
- BCBC - T&CC Forum change of date
- Garw Federation Choir - financial request (minute 26/24-25 above)
- One Voice Wales - multi-location meetings info
- BCBC - 2nd round of T&CC Fund (closes 31st August)

Cllr M Trowbridge - email correspondence ref. attendance. Councillor M Trowbridge has been absent from council meetings since 15th January 2024 and is unlikely to be able to attend the 15th July meeting. In accordance with council governance as Councillor Trowbridge is approaching the six month disqualification period, she has written to ask full council to accept her apologies and reasons for non-attendance and asks that she is able to continue as a councillor after 15th July 2024.

Resolved: All information was noted. Members would consider what could be put forward for the second T&CC Fund application. Councillor M Trowbridge's letter,

apologies and reasons for non-attendance were accepted and it was agreed that she would continue as a councillor after 15th July 2024.

NOTE: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer left the meeting and Councillor M Lewis chaired the Planning item

31/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 2 planning requests had been received and there were 4 decisions and 0 appeals
3 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out.

Resolved: All information received was noted. Decision P/23/699/FUL was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the Community Council would write and object to the decision.

32/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE JULY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

- Christmas 2024
- Draft Annual Report 2023/24
- T&CC Fund - 2nd round

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 15th July 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the William Trigg Centre, Blaengarw and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm