



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

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE RICHARD PRICE CENTRE  
AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

J Coles (via zoom from 7.24 pm)

D Davies

W Davies

C Lloyd

M Lewis

M Trowbridge

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, H Griffiths, R Jones and G Walters

No Apologies: Councillor M Thomas

Also Present: PCSO J Elliot(up to Item 5), A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

48/24-25 Apologies (as above)

**49/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Vice-Chair of Governors
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor
N Harwood- Scorer	Co-option Bettws Ward	Personal/Prejudicial Interest

**50/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

The July 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

**51/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2024 MEETING**

**Minute 36 To Consider Matters Arising from the June 2024 Meeting**

**The Strand:** The 3 tier planter is now in place. The 3 bins and benches have been purchased and are in storage ready for installation in January 2025 once the wall and steps work has been completed. The Warden and Clerk had looked at the old flower beds and the Warden will dig them over and plant one of the sacks of daffodils that the Blaengarw ward has purchased. A tree surgeon had been out to check the trees and whilst there are no obvious defects the trees are affecting tv reception to the adjacent houses, the Clerk has requested a quote for cutting back the trees. The lighting column at the centre of the land is not in use. It was used some years ago for a Christmas motif but it is no longer possible to use it for that as there is no suitable access for a cherry picker. The Clerk asked when Members would like to ask BCBC to cease cutting the grass, emptying the bins and trimming the shrubs?

**Noticeboards:** Advert consent has been approved by BCBC for the boards to be installed in Llest and Pontyrhyl. The work will be carried out in October.

**Flower Baskets:** The Chair and Clerk had met with the flower contractor to establish why the baskets had not been installed in 2024; the Chair gave an update and this was discussed.

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**Allowances:** The Clerk gave an update on allowances to be claimed and its effect on the allowances budget line. This was not an item for discussion as allowances are a personal matter, but an item to note the likely overspend of £115.

### Minute 37 To Receive the Crime Figures for June 2024

It was noted that the burnt out, abandoned car in Llangeinor would be removed by BCBC and that the Warden has cleared the footpath to it for ease of access.

### Minute 39 T&CC Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

The Clerk had received a receipt from BCBC noting that the application had been received.

### Minute 40 Events Committee Recommendations Including Christmas 2024

**Future Events - VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** the Clerk had looked into items to mark the animals' involvement for the anniversary, but the only items available are not official items through the British Legion.

**Remembrance Monument Pontycymer:** Councillor M Lewis, the Warden and Clerk had met on site to look at the condition of the monument and gave an update on the repairs needed.

**Grass Cutting Blaengarw and Bettws:** The Clerk informed Members that a temporary grass cutter has been engaged to cut the grass in Blaengarw and Bettws until October.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. It was unanimously agreed to ask BCBC to cease carrying out maintenance to this area from January 2025 when the CC would take over managing it all. The Clerk was asked to write to the contractor to agree a date for installation in 2025, to request a risk assessment and a copy of their public liability insurance for the council's records. It was unanimously agreed to adhere to the guidance from the Pageant master for the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was agreed that the Warden will repair the loose areas in time for Remembrance Day 2024 and that going forward the Clerk applies for funding for a full repair from the War Memorial Fund.

### 52/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2024

PCSO J Elliot was present and took Members through the figures. Members were informed that a report of a smell of cannabis is now classed as anti-social behaviour.

Continued problem with motorbikes speeding up and down the valley were noted.

**Resolved:** The crime figures for July and August and the information regarding the smell of cannabis were noted.

### 53/24-25 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Councillor Coles was unable to present on this subject and asked for it to be included on the October 2024 agenda.

**Resolved:** This would be included on the October 2024 agenda.

**54/24-25 PLACES OF WORSHIP GARW VALLEY**

Councillors C Lloyd and H Griffiths had raised their concerns regarding the closure of churches in the valley over the winter. Councillor C Lloyd gave an update and Councillor W Davies gave some additional background and the information was discussed.

**Resolved: Councillor W Davies would ask the Llandaff Diocese to write to the council confirming its plans for the winter so that the council could write in reply.**

Note: The Chair declared an interest and left the room and did not participate in this item. Councillor M Lewis, Vice-Chair chaired this item.

**55/24-25 CO-OPTION BETTWS WARD**

Two applications had been received for one vacancy. A vote was taken on both applications.

**Resolved: It was resolved to co-opt the second candidate, Luke McGuinness-West. Both candidates were worthy.**

**56/24-25 FUTURE WARD MAINTENANCE**

Councillor M Lewis raised her concerns about future additional work which the community council may be required to take over from BCBC and the impact on the CCs budget. A meeting is being called by BCBC for Chairs and Clerks to attend in the autumn. Councillor Lewis' main concern was the grass cutting contract for the valley. Councillor J Coles agreed that money needs to be spent in the valley, but that he is seriously concerned that if the CC took over the cutting it would be seen by the public as double taxation.

**Resolved: The Chair and Clerk would attend the BCBC meeting and feed back to Members at the council meeting in November.**

**57/24-25 BENCH WOOD STREET, PONTYCYMER**

Councillors M Lewis requested that a bench be purchased and installed on land at Wood Street in front of the cemetery. The request is from Councillors M Lewis and H Griffiths.

**Resolved: It was agreed that the Pontycymer Ward will purchase a bench and cover the cost of installation. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements for a licence, purchase and installation.**

**58/24-25 LAND/GARDENING PACKS BLAENGARW**

Councillor M Lewis requested that the council applies for a gardening pack grant to enable her to arrange for a group to refurbish the raised beds to the side of PC Lan near Darren Bungalows. V2C have agreed to clear the land.

**Resolved:** This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to make the funding application.

**59/24-25 CHRISTMAS/CONCERT 2024**

**Christmas Gifts:** Councillor Lloyd had been unable to collect a Christmas mug for Members to see.

**Christmas Concert:** Councillor D Davies had designed three draft posters for Members to choose their preference and these were discussed. The Clerk confirmed the prices of hiring Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and the Ogmores Vale Choir. Both were available on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The Clerk confirmed that Blaengarw Primary School were happy to sell the concert tickets through the school and for the children's choir to sign but need to check on staffing to accompany the choir on the night. It was also confirmed that the hall will be decorated with a tree and there will be a garland above the bar. The council can gain access to add any decorations from 5.00 pm. The event will start at 7.00 pm and end at 9.00 pm.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to contact the five primary schools to ask if they are happy to accept mugs for all the children and to ask for numbers to enable purchasing well in advance of Christmas. It was unanimously agreed to use the red Christmas bauble poster for the concert publicity; Councillor D Davies was asked to change the colour of the wording regarding entertainment from gold to white and to include the information about purchasing tickets from Blaengarw School. It was unanimously agreed to accept the cost of the hall hire and choir. All information was accepted and agreed.

**60/24-25 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024/2025**

A draft risk assessment schedule for 2024/2025 had been included with the meeting papers.

It was noted that this was an exercise of best practice.

**Resolved:** The draft risk assessment schedule for 2024/2025 was accepted.

**61/24-25 TRAINING PLAN 2024/2025**

A draft training plan for 2024/2025 had been included with the meeting papers. Details of future training courses had been emailed to councillors.

**Resolved:** Councillor M Lewis did not require Chaining Skills training and this will be removed from the draft plan. The newly co-opted Councillor would require Code of Conduct training and possibly some others, the Clerk would discuss this with the new Councillor. All other members were asked to let the Clerk know if they wish to attend any future training. The Clerk was asked to amend the plan and publish.

**62/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**Payments:** The payments and budget monitoring sheets for August and September 2024 were included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £46,700.16. The balance carried forward to October is £145,269.67.

**Income:** A donation of £6,000 had been received from local charity Caol y Cwm and the vat reclaim for 2023/24 of £10,249.83.

**Resolved:** Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet and balance c/f were approved and the income noted. It was unanimously agreed to use the £6,000 to purchase 3 new benches and 3 new bins for the Strand green open space and to install them after the wall and step repairs are completed in early 2025.

**63/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor M Lewis** - informed Members that a lot of children had been banned from the Pontycymer Halo play scheme and that the staff at the Bettws scheme had abandoned the scheme altogether due to extreme bad behaviour.

**Councillor J Coles** - said a footpath is blocked at Pontyrhyl. Councillor Coles said he's looking for volunteers to plant the trees in PC Lan in October and that the lower lake off David Street is clogged but he is aware this is not the Community Council's responsibility.

**Councillor D Davies** - issues with balsam overgrowing into the road on the bend opposite Washbourne's farm and the issues with road surface water on the bend now that the weather is getting colder and it is likely to ice over.

**Councillor C Lloyd** - said that the proposed completion date for the new flats on the old Bettws Club site is June 2026.

**Councillor M Trowbridge** - thanked Members for her card. She raised several issues including that a litter pick had not been done so far in 2024, issues with commercial fly tipping, concerns ref. trees on V2Cs bank on the hill near the Oddfellows pub, the gateway feature overgrown with weeds, grass cutting areas missed, fly infestation, water issues on the football field, CCTV funding, the decorative edging damaged on Bettws Green and the naming of the development on the old Bettws Club site.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. Questions regarding behaviour at the Halo summer play scheme could be asked at the October meeting when they will present feedback to the council. The Clerk was asked to report the overgrown balsam and the water issues in Llangeinor. One of the damaged decorative edging has been retrieved by a resident of Rose Cottages and is in their possession, the other is missing. Councillor Trowbridge was asked to pass on the contact details of the original supplier so that the Clerk could obtain a quote in time for precept budget setting.

**64/24-25     CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair had nothing to report.

**Resolved:** Noted.

**65/24-25     CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden's Report for August and September 2024 had been included with the meeting papers. The report included an update on the maintenance and repairs needed to the Visitor Centre. The Warden had carried out repairs and painted the exterior, but it is likely that at least a new roof is needed as some of the roofing boards are starting to decay.

**Reach Project:** The Clerk had met with Yiota Haramblos of BCBC to receive an update on the tender for the proposed work. No responses were received to the initial tender and so two elements were removed which would not be needed for the initial study. The main focus of the study is to carry out research, give options, give recommendations for a wellbeing work hub to aid with a capital funding application. The contract has now been awarded to a Welsh company who have visited the park and the Clerk has had an online meeting with a representative of the company.

**Six Month Attendance Rule:** The Clerk had sent out information on the rule to Members and stressed the importance of familiarising themselves with the rule as it is their duty to be compliant and carry out the required action if absent for six months. One Voice Wales has advised councils to take care if advising Members that may be

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coming up to six months absence as the view of the Welsh Government is that democracy through elections should be encouraged.

**Land Registry Documents:** Documents have been received from the Land Registry addressed to a previous Clerk and to their home address. The Clerk has applied for additional time to complete the forms to change the details.

**Lantern Event:** As mentioned in the Correspondence below a request has been received from Tanio to hold an event in the park. The Clerk had checked in advance with the Warden that he is happy to be in attendance for the event which is outside of his usual working hours and he has agreed.

**Daffodil Bulbs:** These have been delivered and the Bettws, Pontycymer and Blaengarw wards have been asked to collect them.

**T&CC Fund 1<sup>st</sup> Round:** Following the completion of the footpaths in PC Lan the final phase of fulfilling this funding round is to order the trees and wildflower seeds and plant/sow. Following submission of the bid in February the free trees are no longer available but the Clerk wished to thank Councillor J Coles as he had contacted the Woodland Trust and completed the funding application in the Clerk's absence and the council has now been awarded free trees.

**Annual Insurance Renewal:** The annual renewal quote of £3,042.50 had been received and is due on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

**PC Lan Plaques:** These have been removed and the Clerk was asked to replace the wording and re-install.

**Remembrance Wreaths:** The Clerk asked how many wreaths are required?

**Defibrillators:** The Clerk had spoken to the local responder who confirmed that he is no longer able to continue supporting the defibrillators in the valley. In addition, the Welsh Ambulance Service has stopped replacing items and it is now up to the council to manage them themselves and pay for replacement items such as pads and batteries. The defibrillator for Pantygog has not been installed and is in storage. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The information regarding the Visitor Centre was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the work in time for the November 1<sup>st</sup> draft precept budget setting exercise. Councillor J Coles would collect one sack of daffodil bulbs for Blaengarw with the other being planted by the Warden in the existing flower bed areas on the Strand, Councillor N Harwood-Scorer agreed with Councillor M Trowbridge that he would collect the bulbs for them both to plant



and Councillor H Griffiths would be asked to collect the sacks for Pontycymer. Councillor J Coles was thanked for his work in securing free trees. The Clerk was asked to renew the insurance at the price quoted. The Clerk was asked to purchase 2 for Pontycymer, 1 for Bettws, 1 Llangeinor and 1 for Blaengarw. Councillor C Lloyd said she'd be happy to monitor and manage the defibrillators in the valley if the council would cover the cost of the replacement items and would plan to meet with the responder to find out all the information needed and include her name on the Ambulance Service's defib register.

Note: Standing Orders were suspended at 9.00 pm

### **66/24-25    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 - Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru Guide to the 2026 Review
- Maesteg Town Council - Invitation to the Chair and Consort to a Civic Service in September 2024
- Splice Child and Family Project - financial request
- Resident - funding request for local athlete
- Carn Rovers - funding request
- Awen - request to use PC Lan for a Lantern Event
- One Voice Wales - Training dates September to December 2024

**Resolved:** All information was noted. Two of the financial requests would be deferred to the October meeting due to a lack of discussion time. The Clerk had requested further information and the completion of the council's application form from Splice Child and Family Project but nothing had been received in time for the meeting to consider. Permission was given to Awen to use PC Lan subject to the receipt of a risk assessment and a copy of Awen's public liability insurance and the Warden being present for the event. The Chair accepted the invitation from Maesteg Town Council.

### **67/24-25    PLANNING MATTERS**

In total 4 planning requests had been received and there were 2 decision and 0 appeals. 7 Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

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**Resolved:** All information received was noted. There were no objections or matters raised.

**68/24-25 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING**

- Christmas/Concert 2024 Update
- Armed Forces Covenant (JC)
- Financial Requests x 2
- Halo Leisure - Feedback on the Summer Activity Scheme

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

The date for the next Ordinary Meeting is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at the Richard Price Centre and via zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm