



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 19th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor N Harwood-Scorer (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews

J Coles

D Davies

W Davies

H Griffiths

C Lloyd

M Lewis

L Thomas

G Walters (via zoom)

Apologies: Councillors M Thomas & M
Trowbridge

No Apologies: Councillor R Jones

Also Present: 3 member of the public, 1 BCBC
Officer and A Harris (Clerk & RFO)

89/24-25 Apologies (as above)

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The Chair welcomed Councillor Lloyd Thomas to his first meeting.

90/24-25 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
D Davies	Richard Price Centre Tynyrheol Primary School	Director Vice-Chair of Governors
H Griffiths	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Ffaldau School and Federation of Schools	Member Governor
M Lewis	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
C Lloyd	Tynyrheol Primary School	Governor

91/24-25 PRESENTATION BY CLAUDIA FROST, LAND STUDIO

The Chair welcomed Claudia Frost from Land Studio to the meeting to discuss the REACH project. Claudia gave a remote presentation via the laptop and questions were asked. Yiota Haramblos of REACH was also present. There were concerns that the council had not been included as a body for consultation and that the residents of the adjoining street had not been consulted, there were also concerns about the suggested locations for the hubs.

Resolved: It was agreed that Claudia would provide the Clerk with an electronic version of the presentation and councillors would feedback comments via the Clerk.

92/24-25 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2024 ORDINARY MEETING

The October 2024 Ordinary Meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

93/24-25 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2024 MEETING

Minute 71/24-25 Presentation by Halo Leisure on the Summer Activity Scheme

A further invitation to attend the November meeting had been extended but had been declined due to annual leave. An explanation on the council's concerns ref. the Bettws scheme and for the number of children banned was given, which the Clerk read out.

A request had been received for funding for 2025 which would be raised in the Correspondence section.

Minute 73/24-25 Matters Arising from the September Meeting

Daffodil Bulbs: There was feedback on the planting.

Defibrillators: Councillor Chris Lloyd confirmed that she has not changed all pads on all the defibrillators in the valley including the ones which were not installed by GVCC and has registered as the contact with the Welsh Ambulance Service. She also confirmed that all batteries are fine.

Minute 77/24-25 Bottom Half of the Community Route

It was noted that the bottom half of the route remains closed and that there are 4 bridges that need repair. It was also confirmed that Sustrans will provide the funding for BCBC to buy the lease for the land, though how long a process this will be is unknown.

Minute 78/24-25 Awen Christmas Event Parc Calon Lan

The Clerk had completed all the funding paperwork for the application to cover the cost of the Drumsark drummers for the event. The Clerk would provide BCBC with proof of payment to receive a full reimbursement. If the weather is not good the Drumsark element of the event will be moved into Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

Minute 80/24-25 Financial Requests

Carn Rovers had thanked GVCC for the £2,000 donation towards a storage container.

Minute 84/24-25 Clerk's Report

Remote Equipment: This equipment has now been purchased and it is £39.68 cheaper to the council than expected.

Website Accessibility Rules: the work to the website has been completed and an accessibility statement added.

Pontycymer Lake: a quote of £12,712 has been received this year to clear the pond weed and cut back the reeds, last year it was £10,912.

Minute 85/24-25 Correspondence

IRPW Report: there are no determination changes for T&CCs, however the £52 consumables payment will be tax exempt going forward and there is no longer a requirement to publish the names of the councillors who accept the allowances, just the total amounts.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was agreed not to go ahead with the pond weed and reed cut back this year and to re-evaluate it in 2025/26. It was agreed that the money should be spent on the repairs needed to Pontycymer lake bottom bridge and the Clerk was asked to obtain quotes.

94/24-25 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 2024

The crime figures for October were discussed, there were no SW Police present to explain the figures.

Resolved: The information was noted.

95/24-25 EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING CHRISTMAS/ CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024 UPDATE

Councillor Heather Griffiths gave feedback on the meeting and made the following recommendations to full council:

Christmas Concert:

- As many councillors as possible to attend on the night
- Councillors Billy Davies and Chris Lloyd to be on the door
- Christmas attire to be worn, jumper, hat or funny glasses
- All councillors to display posters in local premises
- The Clerk to check on copyright regarding providing copies of wording for the sing-a-long particularly for the school children
- All councillors to promote tickets sales
- Councillor Neal Harwood-Scorer to present gifts at the end of the night and Councillor Maxine Lewis to assist

Christmas Gifts for School:

- Stickers of the council's logo to be ordered at a cost of £42 to place on the mug boxes
- Councillor Chris Lloyd to order the mugs and Councillor Lloyd and the Clerk to purchase and collect

VE Day Anniversary May 2025:

- Lamp Lights of Peace to be given to Councillor J Coles nearer the date to change the batteries.
- No further work needed to the Remembrance Monument following the Warden's repairs.

Ideas for 2025:

- To be suggested prior to the next Events Committee meeting in February 2025.

Resolved: All the recommendations made by the Events Committee were unanimously agreed. The Christmas Concert programme was given unanimous approval to print.

96/24-25 RESPONSE TO THE FUTURE OF LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE MEETING HELD AT BCBC

The Chair gave feedback on the meeting attended by the Chair and Clerk at BCBC on 24th October 2024. Since the meeting a letter has been received from the CEO stating that a further meeting has been set for 21st January and a formal invite will follow. The main points of the meeting and a copy of the CEO's presentation had also been received. Councils had been asked to consider what they could work in partnership with BCBC on for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget and feed back to BCBC. This was discussed. The additional cost for employees to cover the additional work was noted.

Resolved: Councils had been asked to consider what they could work in partnership with BCBC on for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget and feed back to BCBC. This will be considered following the meeting scheduled for 21st January 2025

97/24-25 RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE DRAFT PRECEPT BUDGET 25/26

Members had been asked to bring ideas for projects for the precept budget to the meeting. A suggestion was to look for funding to replace the outside cladding on the Richard Price Centre possibly via the T&CC grant funding and replacement steps at Meadow Lane.

Resolved: Funding would be considered for community project in the draft precept budget.

98/24-25 FINANCE REQUEST - BETTWS SCHOOL

This had been discussed at the October 2024 meeting and it had been resolved that the Clerk would obtain further information from the Head. That information was included in the meeting papers and the costs were discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Thomas would assist in finding out if the light fittings could be adapted to take LED bulbs; the Clerk would liaise with Councillor Thomas and the school.

99/24-25 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

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Payments: The payments and budget monitoring sheet for November 2024 was included in the council's papers. The Clerk requested authorisation for the payments of £14,582.83, the balance carried forward to December 2024 is £120,741.84

Income: There was no income in the month.

Resolved: Authorisation was given for all payments on the sheet presented. The budget monitoring sheet was approved.

100/24-25 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor H Griffiths - gave an update on the water leak outside Oxford House. It is on private and attempts are being made to establish ownership. Councillor Griffiths said that Ffaldau Primary School has received an excellent Estyn report, that YCCD had a very good post inspection report and she had laid 3 remembrance wreaths and attended 10 events as Mayor.

Councillor M Lewis - is delighted that the work on the Strand has been started. Councillor Lewis made a request to the Blaengarw ward councillors to install a bin near the Queen's Jubilee bench outside the William Trigg Centre Councillor Lewis had attended the Remembrance Day service at Pontycymer and congratulated Councillor Billy Davies on organising the Pontycymer events.

Councillor D Davies - said that the Llangeinor ward councillors will speak to Calfarfa Baptist Church about putting on a small remembrance service next year.

Councillor W Davies - said that the bench outside Glengarw Flats is damaged and Councillor Lewis confirmed it has been reported to V2C.

Councillor C Lloyd - said school transport arrangements from Llangeinor to CCYD continue to be a concern.

Councillor J Coles - had placed a Remembrance wreath on the fence behind the Tommy on the Strand.

Councillor N Harwood-Scorer - said Councillor Trowbridge had placed a Remembrance wreath had been placed on the Lest We Forget bench in Bettws.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed to purchase and install a bin outside the William Trigg Centre, to be paid out of Blaengarw ward funds.

101/24-25 CHAIR'S REPORT

As minuted in item 96/24-25 the Chair had attended the Response to the Future of Local Delivery Service meeting held at BCBC on 24/10/24

Resolved: The information was noted.

102/24-25 CLERK'S REPORT incl. WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden's Report for November 2024 had been included with the meeting papers.

New Model Financial Regulations:

The Clerk will draft new financial regulations and will present them to the Finance Committee in the first instance.

The Strand:

The council have been successful in obtaining T&CC match funding from BCBC for the work to the walls and steps on the Strand. Due to a cancellation in the contractors diary the work had started earlier than expected with the new steps already in place. In addition the Warden has planted up the two unused planters with daffodil bulbs and the Clerk had obtained advice on the trees along with costings and these were discussed.

T&CC Funding Parc Calon Lan:

The second phase of the T&CC funding to renew the footpaths in Parc Calon Lan has been completed with 840 trees planted within the park. The Community Council were very grateful to the volunteers for their help in planting, particularly the school children of Blaengarw Primary School.

The third phase is to complete the wildflower seed planting, with a scarifier being hired to create three x six foot borders of wildflowers.

Pocket Park, Pantygog:

The Warden has carried out the final grass cut of the year and pulled the weeds that were encroaching the steps. A potted Christmas tree with lights will be installed on 2nd December, weather permitting.

Bench Wood Street:

The Clerk had signed the licence for the new bench and ordered it ready for installation.

Pontyrhyl:

A new bin has been ordered for the post next to the bus shelter. The Clerk had requested a clean up of the bus stop as the shelter is full of weeds and grass. Two

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Christmas trees with lights will be installed in Pontyrhyl once the Warden has cleared the overgrown foliage in the usual location.

Christmas Blaengarw and Shwt:

The motifs and lights will be installed and switched on by 1st December.

December 2024 and January 2025 Meetings:

These will be held at Tanio, Bettws. A hire fee of £30 is being charged.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was agreed that ARB Cymru would carry out tree maintenance once the wall/steps contractors have left site, the contractor would then install the new benches and the Warden would install the new bins. Once this work is completed the blue plaque can be installed and the Tommy moved to a better location within the site. The Clerk has informed BCBC that the community council will take over responsibility for the whole site from 1st January 2025. Following completion of phase 3 of the Parc Calon Lan project the Clerk will make a claim for reimbursement of 50% of the cost. The cost of the room hire for December and January were approved. It was agreed to Councillor J Coles' request to send letters of thanks to the children of Blaengarw Primary School and the local volunteers for their help with the tree planting.

103/24-25 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 - new consultation Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill
- OVW - consultation Role, Governance and Accountability T&CC responses
- BCBC - postponement of T&CC Forum
- BCBC - Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025 (nominations close 17th January 2025)
- National Grid - unmetered electricity supply for Christmas decorations/lights
- SLCC/NALC - pay agreement for 24/25 backdated to 1/4/24
- Eisteddfod yr Urdd - donation request
- Pontycymer Rugby and Community Sports Club - financial request for storage container
- OVW - publication of consultation papers on Planning Resilience and preserving trees
- OVW - Wales COVID-19 Inquiry

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- Halo Leisure - request for funding for Active for Life Scheme 2025
- SBGC - request to attend a future meeting to discuss a sporting project that would benefit the whole valley.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025 would be included on the December agenda. The SLCC/NALC pay agreement was accepted in line with the Clerk's contract of employment. The Eisteddfod yr Urdd request would be deferred to March 2025. It was agreed to donate £2,500 to Pontycymer Rugby and Community Sports Club and to put provision of £9,650 in the 25/26 precept budget for the Active for Life Scheme 2025. It was agreed to invite SBGC to the January 2025 meeting.

104/24-25 PLANNING MATTERS

In total 0 planning request had been received and there were 0 decision and 0 appeals. Four Planning Aid Wales email had been sent out via email.

Resolved: All information received was noted.

NOTE: The Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting for the next confidential item.

105/24-25 STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

Following on from last month's discussion a staff confidential report was included in the meeting papers. This was discussed and a resolution made.

Resolved: The information and unanimous resolution were noted.

106/24-25 URGENT ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2024 PRECEPT MEETING

- Recommendations from the Finance Committee including the draft precept budget for 2025/26
- Councillor Resignation
- Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2025

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

The date for the next Precept Meeting is Monday 16th December 2024 and will take place at 6.30 pm at Tanio, Bettws and via zoom.

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The meeting closed at 8.42 pm