



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

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S  
HALL ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor R Stirman (Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews  
R Clatworthy (left at 7.52 pm)  
S Dendy  
H Griffiths  
M Jones  
R Jones  
C Gillard-Sage (left at 7.52 pm)  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors C Lloyd, G Lloyd and M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk  
PCSO M Rees

133/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Ms S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC
Mrs H Griffiths	Pontycymer Men's Shed Financial Donations 2018/2019	Chair OAP Centre Governor Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen
Mr M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member BCBC
Mrs R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Pontycymer Men's Shed	Member BCBC Related to a Member

134/19 TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH WALES POLICE/CRIME FIGURES

PCSO M Rees gave an update on progress and issues over the past month. The January 2019 figures were not available on the Police UK website. Concerns were raised re. parking issues in the whole valley. It was suggested the council may wish to write to BCBC regarding yellow lines and carrying out a traffic audit.

In addition increased activity by motorcyclists on the mountain in Blaengarw were noted on NRW and Community Council land. The Bettws councillors thanked PCSO Rees for his recent help with the spring clean in Bettws.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

135/19 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

**Resolved:** The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

136/19 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 121/19 Review of Electoral Arrangements for Bridgend

The Clerk clarified the findings of the review in regards to the Community Council, as informed by BCBC.

**Resolved:** The updates from the Clerk was noted. It was agreed that the Bettws Councillors would meet and respond to the review directly.

137/19 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor M Jones
- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
- Llangeinor - Councillor R Stirman
- Pontycymer - Councillor H Griffiths

**Resolved:** The updates and information given were noted. The Clerk was given authority to pay the invoices received for the bus stop refurbishment in Bettws and to ask BCBC for a snagging period. The Clerk was given authority to get signs produced to put on each bus shelter saying 'refurbished by the GVCC'. The Clerk was asked to report the leaning wall at the cemetery to BCBC.

138/19 SCHOOL GOVERNOR FFALDAU SCHOOL

Councillor Glyn Walters' term as community council representative governor at Ffaldau School had come to an end. Councillor Walters said he was happy to continue in the role for a further term.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that Councillor Walters would be elected to represent the community council as a governor at Ffaldau School for another term.

139/19 PONTYCYMER MEN'S SHED

A request had been received for a donation of £100 towards the opening of the Men's Shed in Pontycymer and the request had been deferred to this meeting for consideration.

**Resolved:** The Pontycymer councillors agreed to donate £100 from their ward funds.

140/19 ADDITIONAL BINS

The Blaengarw councillors would provide a list to the Clerk.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

**Resolved:** This was noted.

### 141/19 FINANCIAL DONATIONS 2018/19

The criteria for financial donations was discussed and it was agreed that the maximum donation would be £25.00.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. It was agreed to make £25.00 donations to each of the following: Noah's Ark, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Children's Wales Air Ambulance, Cancer Information and Support Services, Bridgend Carers Centre, Bridgend Samaritans, Bobath and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.

### 142/19 RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EVENTS COMMITTEE

The following recommendations were made:

- To purchase a marquee in time for the Easter event
- To work with schoolchildren to paint wooden cut outs for the Halloween event
- To organise a bat walk in the park during the autumn half term and decorate the Visitor Centre for Halloween
- To place the Bettws Christmas tree lights in storage with the Bettws lighting column motifs so that all the decorations for the ward are stored together.
- To purchase small baskets to hide the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, to make wooden cut outs and to request that the Warden is asked to clean up the dog mess in the park on the morning prior to the event

In addition the Committee would like the following noted:

- Their concerns regarding putting Christmas decorations on the tree in Bettws
- Their entertainment plans for the 2019 Christmas events
- Their gratitude to Councillor Gareth Andrews for his work at the Christmas events

**Resolved:** All recommendations were approved and authorised. The concerns re. the Christmas decorations were noted and an explanation given. The plans and gratitude to Councillor Andrews were noted. In addition the Clerk was asked to write to Mr D Clark to thank him for his contribution to the Pontycymer event and to the Choir for their contribution.

Note: Councillors C Gillard-Sage and R Clatworthy left the meeting at 7.52 pm

### 143/19 PONTYCYMER CEMETERY

Councillor H Griffiths gave a brief update on the condition of the cemetery. It was agreed that the grass needs to be cut more often than it is at present by BCBC.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation to cut the grass once a month during the growing season. It was agreed that this would be a Garw Valley

Community Council initiative and the cost would not be borne by the Pontycymer ward funds.

144/19 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Payments March 2019:**

The Clerk requested authority to pay the £5,490.12 of payments for March 2019 as detailed on the March papers. The balance carried forward to April is £51,255.25 (includes a balance c/f of £2,166.07 from BCBC payment for the bus stops in Bettws as £2,833.93 of the original £5,000 has been spent this month)

**Income:**

- £8.22 bank interest had been received
- £522.85 repayment as discussed at February meeting had been received.

**Recommendations from the Finance Committee:**

The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee:

- To approve and adopt the new model Financial Regulations which bring the council's regulations up to date with legislative changes.
- That the Clerk prepares an attendance list for the year to include committees to be presented at the May meeting.
- We recommend the council drafts a Councillor Allowances policy to include the following points:
  - Chair - the Chair's allowance is split into two payments, one in May following the AGM and one on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November
  - Chair or Councillor Death in Service - no attempt will be made to recover any allowances paid
  - If a Chair retires, resigns after 3 months or is sick for over 3 months, a proportionate allowance is to be made
  - If a Councillor is disqualified through lack of attendance for 6 months, or resigns mid-way through the year, the council will request a proportionate amount of the allowance paid to them to be returned

**Resolved:** The March 2019 payments were approved and authority given to make the payments. The bank interest and repayment were noted. The recommendations by the Finance Committee were approved and accepted.

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### 145/19 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had not attended any events on behalf of the council in this month.

### 146/19 CLERK'S REPORT

#### Parc Calon Lan:

The Clerk tabled a list of work undertaken by the Community Warden in the month.

#### Clerk's Report:

#### Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office

The Clerk informed Members that under the Data Protection Act the council is required to register; the annual fee is £40. The council is also required to put a disclaimer on the website.

#### Independent Remuneration Panel Report

All T&CC must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution costs and expenses; it is mandated.

In addition community council can now pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- up to £54.00 for each period not exceeding 4 hours
- up to £108.00 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours

#### New Regulations

The Clerk notified Members that there are new regulations called The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 coming into force. From 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 every new public sector website and app will need to meet certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying they have been met. Existing websites have until 22<sup>nd</sup> September next year to comply.

#### Grass Cutting 2019/20

The Clerk sought guidance on whether the council wished Bleaf to continue cutting the grass in Glengarw and Pen Parcau in 2019/20 and advised Members of the cost.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation to purchase an appropriate mower to enable the Warden to carry out the work.

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### 147/19 CORRESPONDENCE

The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew attention to the consultations, surveys and invitations for this month.

**Resolved:** It was noted that invitation to the Chair to attend the official opening ceremony of Ysgol Gynradd Calon y Cymoedd, Bettws had been accepted. It was agreed to take up NRW's offer to run an additional evening workshop on the Upper Garw Valley and to request plenty of time to advertise the event. The offer to maintain the willow arch in the park was gratefully received, but the Warden would like it to grow a little so maintenance was not needed at present. The Clerk was asked to respond to Councillor Shaw's enquiry regarding whether the council would be making a public announcements on why the reed cutting in the lakes will not be taking place and why the recommendations from the public at the public engagement meetings appear to have been dropped. The Clerk was asked to respond saying that the information was included in the minutes which were accessible to the public and that cost prohibited the work on the lakes to go ahead.

### 148/19 PLANNING MATTERS

A list of planning applications, decisions and appeals was tabled.

**Resolved:** There were no observations made about any of the applications, decisions or appeals.

### 149/19 TO DISCUSS STAFF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS (Public to be excluded)

Note: The Clerk left the meeting at 8.46 pm and returned at 8.53pm

### 150/19 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2019 ORDINARY MEETING

### 151/19 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 6.30 pm at Halo Leisure, Pontycymer**

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm