



# **GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW**

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### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Bettws Life Centre Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

#### ***Members Present:-***

Councillor T M Jenkins (Chairperson)

***Councillors:*** C G Andrews; G Davies; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; H Griffiths; W J Hillier; F Hughes; M Jones; J Szeligiewicz; M Thomas and G Walters.

***Police:*** PCSO M Rees

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and was chaired by Councillor T M Jenkins.

#### ***No.***                      ***Minute***

#### ***1/15***                      ***Apologies for Absence***

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apology received from Cllr S Maclaren

#### ***2/15***                      ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllrs M Thomas and M Jones – all BCBC matters

#### ***3/15***                      ***Presentation from Mr Richard Hughes re: Blaengarw Workmen's Hall***

Mr Richard Hughes (Interim Head of Healthy Living) and Mr David Chambers (Operations Manager) attended and gave a presentation about the future direction of Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

Mr Hughes stated that BCBC would be looking to run the Hall directly for 12-18 months but would be looking to have a group to assist with the running of it going forwards.

The Members asked various questions including what commitment is expected from the Community Council and also raised the point that there are other Community Centres in the Valley that may require assistance from BCBC/GVCC.

The next step will be for BCBC to call a public meeting. Mr Hughes acknowledged that it will be challenging to get the Hall back established as an Arts Venue but that there appears to be a lot of interest from local volunteers to get the Hall operational again.

The Community Council will wait to hear from BCBC on this matter.

#### ***4/15***                      ***Police Matters***

The Clerk circulated the statistics for all four wards to the Members present.

PCSO Rees attended and gave the statistics for Bettws.

The Council asked for future GVCC Meetings that outcomes of crimes/incidents are reported not just the instances.

In addition, PCSO Rees was asked to provide the Council with the reason why the person arrested for the burglaries at Calfaria Baptist Church was only given a caution ahead of the next meeting.

The Clerk asked for a report on the number of calls received about off-road motorbikes in the area ahead of the next meeting.

5/15 Minutes of the March 2014 Full Council Meeting

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 are a true record**

6/15 Matters arising from the March 2014 Minutes

None

7/15 Clerk's Report

1. Pontycymmer Steps – the construction of the steps are very nearly complete. The handrails and signs are being installed this week. The fencing will need to be hired for another month to secure the site until the steps can be opened to the public.  
There was a problem with the blocked drain reported in the last meeting. BCBC did unblock the drain after several phone calls and it was discovered that there was a problem with the pipework under the drain. BCBC did a very poor job to repair the pipework and this was reported to Satwant Pryce at BCBC. Despite asking BCBC to correct the job, our contractor had to repair the job that BCBC did so that he could stay on his programme of works and scheduled concrete deliveries (the pipe ran under the area they were working on).  
One of the planning conditions was that “all nosings are made apparent by means of permanently contrasting material 55mm wide on both tread and riser”. This has been purchased and will be fitted when the handrails have been completed. Also, a small piece of tarmac path needs to be constructed at the bottom of the steps.  
The £8,624 of funding from BCBC has been received on 14/4/14.
2. Tree in Shwt – There is a very large conifer in Shwt that is causing a nuisance to the residents. BCBC have been made aware of the problem as the tree is on their land. However, they will not undertake the work as they do not consider the tree to be diseased or dangerous. Cllr Jones has put in a Members Referral asking permission for the tree to be cut down. BCBC have stated that as it is the bird nesting season, no works can be performed and if the GVCC wants to pursue having the tree removed, Cabinet approval will be needed.  
There are cables running through the tree. Western Power Distribution have inspected and confirmed they are telephone cables.  
**Resolved: Cllr Jones is going to handle this matter.**
3. Trees, bottom site in Bettws – there have been ongoing problems with vandalism and high winds. The Warden is in the process of putting in stronger supports and re-planting the trees.  
**Resolved: the Council wishes to pass on their thanks for a job well done.**
4. Town and Community Council Forum – The Clerk forwarded copies of the two reports that were discussed in this Forum:
  - i) Town & Community Council Fund 2012/13 to 2014/15
  - ii) Contributions towards street cleansingCllr Jenkins attended on behalf of the Council and fed back that BCBC are expecting Town and Community Councils to start providing front line services. Cllr Jenkins said that the representatives present were all very concerned with how this will be funded which was echoed by all the Members of the GVCC.

The Clerk informed the Council that BCBC have awarded funding of £5,544 towards the cost of having brown MTB tourism signs installed.

5. Youth Club – they leaders have been unable to secure any further funding and so the Club closed on 27<sup>th</sup> March.
6. Code of Conduct – The emailed OVW to query whether the requirement to attend training within 6 months of acceptance of office can be removed. A copy of the response was forwarded to all Members.  
***Resolved: the requirement is to be removed from Standing Orders but permits a Member to attend if he/she desires.***
7. Legal Forest Riders – The Clerk has received a response from NRW and enclosed a copy for every Member prior to the Meeting.  
A lengthy discussion took place about the contents of the letter.  
***Resolved: the Clerk is to write back to NRW requesting information about what preventative measures have been installed in the Garw and also how the enforcement, provision and education policy is working in the Garw.***
8. Pension for the Warden – this item was discussed in a closed session of the meeting due to its confidential nature - *Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12.*  
***Resolved: the Warden is permitted to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Council will meet the employer's cost.***
9. GVCC website – the Clerk informed the Members that Agendas and Minutes will now be available online. Also, the Clerk has recently updated the website.
10. Darren Fawr – the Clerk had a meeting with Mr Liley about Darren Fawr. He has inspected the restocking and fencing and is happy with the works performed. There is no interest in the timber on the ground as the market is flooded and it is costing NRW to remove timber at the moment.
11. Breathing Spaces project – the Clerk has called for a meeting with the directors of Blaengarw Play Development Group Ltd, the Chair and the Blaengarw Members to discuss the maintenance and management of the site. Meeting to be held on 29/4/14.

8/15                    Correspondence

1. Cor Meibion Cwm Garw – request for financial assistance  
***Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under s137 LGA1972 should incur expenditure of Fifty Pounds which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure***
2. Samaritans – request for financial assistance  
***Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under s137 LGA1972 should incur expenditure of Twenty Five Pounds which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure***
3. Clerk to Police – concerns re: increasing crime levels and the need for quality information at CC Meetings. No response received to date.  
*Item 3 is noted.*

4. PCSO Janine Ireland – informing that she is transferring to Porthcawl after 6 ½ years in the Garw wards.  
*Resolved: The Clerk is to write to PCSO Ireland and wish her good luck in her new role.*
  5. Clerk to NRW – requesting unblocking of public rights of way on NRW land. BCBC have also sent in a complaint on this matter. BCBC originally reported it in May 2013
  6. Clerk to Senghenydd Heritage Society – chasing up if the correction has been made to the Llest Pavier. The reply received said that the correction has yet to made but they hope to have it done in 2-3 months' time.
  7. Clerk to HMRC – claiming VAT refund of £2,454.40 for 3 months to 31/3/14.
  8. MAWS – thanking for donation
  9. BCBC – informing that the Abergarw Road road closure has been postponed and no new date arranged yet.
  10. Reach – advertising the “This is YOUR Heritage ... 2014” event on 11/5/14. COPY ENCLOSED/EMAILED.
  11. B.C. Civic Charity (Mayor) – advertising events.
  12. Mr Carl Cowling – making general enquiries about the CC.
  13. Eisteddfod yr Urdd – enclosing programme
  14. One Voice Wales – enclosing Agenda and Minutes for the Larger Local Councils Committee on 16/4/14.
  15. One Voice Wales – enclosing guidance on the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011
  16. Clerk to BCBC (Parks) – chasing about the missing bin in Blandy Park.
  17. Came & Co – enclosing the Spring Parish Matters magazine.
- Items 5 to 17 are noted.*

**9/15            Planning Matters**

**BETTWS**

***Applications***

None

***Decisions***

None

**LLANGEINOR**

***Applications***

None

***Decisions***

None

**PONTYCYMMER**

***Applications***

P/14/187/OUT – outline planning application for 2 detached houses with garages on land north of 12 Bridgend Road – *no objections*

P/14/196/FUL – application for replacement of antenna headframe on the existing 15m ADC monopole with 4 new replacement antenna on mast on land at Ty Meinwr Farm – *no objections*

***Decisions***

None

**BLAENGARW**

***Applications***

None

***Decisions***

None

***10/15            Discussion re: increasing crime levels***

This matter had already been discussed at length earlier in the meeting.

***11/15            Condition of pathways and slabs in Parc Calon Lan***

The Clerk informed the Members that the paths in the park could do with some maintenance. The Clerk had received a quote of approximately £10,000 just for the cost of the tarmac (excluding labour) to replace the paths. Also the Members discussed the broken terracotta slabs and statue.

***Resolution 1: The Warden is to dig up one terracotta slab to see what the surface is like underneath. The Clerk is to report on this in the next Meeting.***

***Resolution 2: The Warden is to use a tamping plate to improve the condition of the path as the Council cannot afford the cost to replace the paths with tarmac.***

***12/15            Daffodil bulbs***

Cllr Davies would like to have daffodil boxes planted along the banking of Heol Pandy, Llangeinor and the triangular parcel of land at the entrance to Lluest.

***Resolved: the Clerk is to make enquiries about land ownership and feed back to Cllr Davies about the feasibility of this.***

***13/15            Condition of the park on The Strand, Blaengarw***

***Resolved: the Clerk is to write to BCBC asking for the repairs to be carried out.***

***14/15            Finance & Accounts***

1. The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £24,606.63

***Resolved: That the accounts were approved for payment***

2. Members ***resolved*** to note the Receipts and Payments Account prepared for the period 01/04/13 to 31/3/14

***15/15            Items for the May Meeting***

1. Planning Notice – Plot by Calfaria Church (GD)
2. Lack of Policing in Blaengarw (GA)

***16/15            Date of the next Meeting***

***Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Bettws Life Centre***

With business concluded the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20pm

***Chairman*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date*** \_\_\_\_\_