



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall
Monday 19th January 2015**

Members Present:-

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

Councillors: C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; W J Hillier; F Hughes; Mrs T M Jenkins; J Szeligiewicz and Mrs M Thomas.

Police: None present

Prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting commencing, the Chairman made a presentation of Community Council plaques to recognise the outstanding sporting achievements to:

Lance Corporal Ashley Williams – bronze medallist at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in the light flyweight category and also captained the Wales Boxing Team. In late 2014, LCpl Williams won the Army Sportsman of the Year Award. LCpl Williams is originally from Bettws and trained at the Garw Amateur Boxing Club.

Miss Rebecca Struthers – represented Wales at both the youth and senior levels in Ladies Cricket. In 2014 Miss Struthers represented Wales in the World Indoor Championships in New Zealand and in 2011 represented Wales in a tour to South Africa.

Mr Paul Taylor – bronze medallist at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in the Men's Triple Lawn Bowls. Mr Taylor is a member of Pontycymmer Bowling Club.

The meeting commenced at 7.05pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

No. ***Minute***

142/15 ***Apologies for Absence***

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apologies received from Cllrs Mrs H Griffiths, M Jones, S Maclaren and G Walters.

143/15 ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllr Mrs M Thomas – with all matters relating to BCBC

Cllr Mrs T M Jenkins – Correspondence item 11 (personal and prejudicial)

144/15 **Chairman's announcements**

Cllr G Davies informed the Members that he has signed a form to become a Community Governor at Tynyrheol Primary School and stated on the form that he is a Member of the Garw Valley Community Council.

145/15 **Police Matters**

No Police present. Apologies had been received from PCSOs Hamilton (training course) and Wallen (annual leave). The following crime statistics were circulated to the Members:

Bettws 13/11/14 – 11/12/14
Llangeinor 24/11/14 – 10/1/15
Pontycymmer and Blaengarw 1/12/14 – 31/12/14

The Members expressed their extreme disappointment that once again there was not any Police in attendance. The Members also discussed the issue that not all criminal activity is being included on the PACT Reports being sent to the Council as they are aware of crimes that have been reported to the Police that do not appear on the Reports. There was also concern amongst the Members that local residents have reported to them that they are no longer reporting crimes and information to the Police as the Police are telling them that unless they have evidence to support the information, they will not take any action. One of the Members informed the Council that there is a Facebook Group set up called "Garw Crime" where local residents are reporting crimes and anti-social behaviour amongst themselves.

Resolved: the Council is to write a letter to the Local Policing Inspector to raise these concerns

146/15 **Minutes of the November Ordinary Council Meeting**

Resolved: the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2014 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

147/15 **Minutes of the Precept Meeting**

Resolved: the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th December 2014 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

148/15 **Matters arising from the November 2014 Full Council Minutes**

122/15 – Poppy Appeal Concert. The Clerk wrote to Mr Dean as requested. Mr Dean has replied stating that all dignitaries were mentioned at the opening of the concert. A copy of the reply had been provided to the Chairman.

130/15 – the Clerk reported the matter to the Police on 18/11/14 and a crime number has been allocated. The Chairman requested the Clerk prepares a report on this matter which the Clerk has done and delivered to the Chairman on 20/11/14.

The Clerk informed the Council that she has archived at the Glamorgan Archives:

- Community Council Minutes from 2002/03 to 2010/11
- Annual Returns from 31/3/1992 to 31/3/2010
- Receipts and Payments Books from 1st April 1995 to 31/3/1998

Resolved: the Clerk is to contact the Police to find out the result of their investigations.

135/15 – the Clerk has contacted BCBC regarding the overgrowth on the pathway between Bettws Social Club and Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws. The Highways Inspector has issued an order to have this path cut back.

One of the Bettws Members confirmed the work has been performed.

140/15 – Items for the January Meeting “To discuss the validity of this Council’s decision to reject Cllr Szeligiewicz’s nomination as Vice-Chairman in May 2014”. The Clerk contacted Mr Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services at BCBC for advice on this item and provided Mr Jones with the background to the case. Mr Jones has advised that “*The decision of Council is lawful (when it appointed Cllr Andrews as Vice-Chairman) and therefore it is inappropriate for Cllr Szeligiewicz to query the validity of the decision*”. The Clerk discussed the matter with Cllr Szeligiewicz and he has withdrawn this item from the January Ordinary Meeting Agenda based on this advice and the Chairman has been informed.

149/15 Finance & Accounts

- The Finance Committee met on 13th January 2015. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee reported that matters are ongoing and that a further meeting is due to be held on 27th January. The Committee will report back to the Full Council in the February Ordinary Council Meeting.
- The reconciliation of the Council’s Bank Accounts as at 31st December 2014 was confirmed.
- The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 1st November to 31st December 2014.

Total payments £11,881.24

Total receipts £3,028.24

- The Meeting received the Receipts & Payments Account from 1st April to 31st December 2014.
- To approve the Clerk’s expense claim for December 2014
Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk’s expenses for December 2014

- To approve the expenditure on the Plant! scheme
Resolved: the Council approved the expenditure on the Plant! scheme as contained in the Report provided to each Member. All expenditure is fully recoverable from the Plant! scheme.

The Clerk stated that when she had met with Mr Liley to discuss the Plant! scheme, she discussed ideas for income generation with him. Mr Liley offered to attend a Community Council Meeting to have a question and answer session about renewable energy. All Members present were in favour of inviting Mr Liley to the February Ordinary Meeting.

- g) To approve the costs of the service for the ride-on mower and parts for the two trimmers/brushcutters (details of cost in the Clerk's Report).
Resolved: the Council approved the expenditure for the service of the ride-on mower and parts for the two trimmers/brushcutters
- h) To discuss the quotation received to repair the CCTV camera on Pontycymmer Square
Resolved: this item is left on the table. Cllr Mrs T Jenkins objected to this item being left on the table. Cllr Jenkins reminded the Council of the maintenance contract options that were discussed in the February 2014 Ordinary Council Meeting.
- i) To discuss the request for financial assistance from Marie Curie Cancer Care
Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under s137 LGA1972 should incur expenditure of Twenty Five Pounds (£25) 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
- j) To discuss the request for financial assistance from St David's Children Society
Resolved: this item is left on the table
- k) To discuss the request for financial assistance from the Urdd National Eisteddfod.
Resolved: that the Council in accordance with its powers under s137 LGA1972 should incur expenditure of Twenty Five Pounds (£25) 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
- l) To discuss the request for financial assistance from the Royal Welsh Comrades Association (Bridgend Branch)
Resolved: this item is left on the table

150/15 Clerk's Report

1. Cllr Mrs M Thomas contacted the Clerk on 20th November suggesting that a "No Admittance" sign is placed on the Breathing Spaces land following a conversation with a Legal Officer at BCBC. The Clerk replied that the administrators of Blaengarw Play Development Group Ltd have not disclaimed the lease yet and are therefore still responsible for the land. However, when this has taken place, the Clerk agrees with the suggestion until the Council decides what it is going to do with the land.
2. Cllr Mrs H Griffiths contacted the Clerk requesting that a footpath above Nant-yr-Ychain Terrace, Pontycymmer is cleared. Cllr Griffiths is to arrange to meet the Warden to show him the exact location.
3. The Clerk has submitted a VAT return reclaiming £429.71 for the two months ending 30th November 2014. The refund was received into the bank account on 15/12/14.
4. The Clerk has submitted a claim to BCBC of £723.13 for the grant funding towards the cost of the brown tourism signs. The claim was received into the bank account on 22/12/14. The final invoice has not been received and therefore the remainder of the grant cannot be claimed. The Clerk is to monitor the situation so that the Council remains eligible for the grant.

5. The Clerk has forwarded photos either electronically or hard copies of the Nature Keeper sculpture (Keeper of the Song) to every Member and updated the website to include this.
6. The Warden has informed the Clerk that the ride-on mower needs a service prior to the start of the grass-cutting season. The mower was last serviced in April 2013 at a cost of £230 (excluding VAT). In addition, a new handlebar and parts are needed for the two trimmers/brushcutters. The Warden has obtained a quotation of approximately £100 from BGS Motors and Mowers for these parts.
7. The Warden made a request to the Clerk at the beginning of January that a whacker plate is hired to carry out some necessary repair and maintenance work on the MTB trails (especially on the berms) and on the paths in Parc Calon Lan which have started to wash away again. The cost to hire is £40 (excluding VAT) for 5 days. The Clerk spoke to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and they have agreed to this expenditure. The Clerk has given the Warden £50 petty cash to cover this.
8. Fisheries project – the Clerk reported in the October Ordinary Meeting (Minute 104/15 (2)) that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was going to place gravels in the river below Pontycymmer Lake. NRW are now delaying this project until the Spring of this year.
9. Mrs Sandra Dent has received the key requested to the gate at the end of Pwll Carn Terrace, Blaengarw. Original request notified to the Council in the September 2014 Ordinary Meeting (Minute 79/15 (47)).
10. Improvement works to Community Route bridge – work has been completed on the bridge at the northern end of the Community Route in Blaengarw to make it suitable for equestrian use. The Clerk informed the Council of the works in the October Ordinary Meeting – (Minute 105/15 (2)).
11. Additional plaque to be put on existing bench in Parc Calon Lan – the Clerk received a phone call from the owner of a bench in Parc Calon Lan. She requested permission to put another plaque on the bench. The Clerk consulted with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman who both agreed to this. There are a number of benches in the area with more than one plaque on.
12. There have been problems with youths congregating outside the Visitor Centre in the car park of Parc Calon Lan. One of the handles on the roller shutter door has been broken off. The Police have been informed of both the anti-social behaviour taking place and the damage caused. The Police are continuing to monitor the area.
13. The traffic calming measure near Lluest has been replaced (Minute 109/15)
14. In the Precept meeting, planning application P/14/742/OUT was discussed (application for 26 dwellings on land north of Bryngarw Farm). During this discussion it was mentioned that the building had already commenced. Please note, a separate planning application for four dwellings has previously been approved - P/09/774/FUL.

In addition to the above Report, the Clerk had sent out reports to the Members from visits made to the Warden. The Warden has been clearing out blocked drains and fallen trees in the Darren Fawr Forestry from the heavy winds and rain.

The Clerk had visited on the morning of the Meeting and the Warden requested permission to purchase cement to repair the steps in the park that have become loose. The Clerk informed the Council of this expenditure. The Clerk also informed the Council that there was a Police hunt for a missing person taking place on the same morning in the Darren Fawr Forestry both on foot and by helicopter.

The Members discussed the possibility of B'Leaf (based at Bryngarw Country Park) assisting the Warden. The Members requested that the Clerk contacts B'Leaf to invite them to the March Ordinary Council Meeting to give a presentation on works they can perform and the costs involved.

Resolved: the Clerk is to write to B'Leaf to invite them to give a presentation to the Council in the March Ordinary Council Meeting.

151/15 Correspondence

1. Clerk to BCBC – confirming that the Precept has been set at £66,000 for 2015/16.
2. Welsh Government – informing that the Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2015-16 is £7.36 per elector.
3. Bridgend Community Transport – invitation for the Chairman to the “Wheels to Work” scooter loan project launch on 23rd January. *The Vice-Chairman is to attend this event as the Chairman is unable to attend.*
4. BCBC – confirmation that the Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places Order has come into place (limited waiting time of 20 minutes outside 6-14 Heol Llangeinor, Llangeinor).
5. BCBC – informing that they will not install extra bollards alongside the driveway of Stowcroft, Bettws. However, BCBC will provide permission for a third party to introduce approved bollards at this site – copy sent to Bettws Ward Members.
6. BCBC – informing that the Public Notice regarding the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw has been published on their website. Copy sent to every Member
7. BCBC – informing that the next Town and Community Council Forum is being held on 12/1/15. A copy of the Agenda and Minutes of the previous Meeting are available from the Clerk.
8. BCBC – providing contact details for officers and informing of Community Asset Transfer Programme briefing events being held by the Big Lottery– copy sent to every Member
Items 1 to 8 are noted
9. Mr Chris Adams (Chairman - Bridgend Valleys Railway) – raising concerns about the public liability position for the Community Route – copy sent to every Member

10. Mrs Stirman – raising concerns about the ownership and responsibility for the Community Route – copy sent to every Member
(Items 9 and 10) Resolved: the Council is to write to BCBC expressing their concerns about the safety and future of the Community Route and to urge BCBC to take action.
11. Bridgend Castle Players – requesting feedback on the funding application - copy sent to every Member
Resolved: the Council is to reply stating that it only has limited financial resources and therefore is unable to support the application at this time
12. BCBC (Prevention and Wellbeing Development Officer) – requesting information on the priorities in the local area - Copy sent to every Member
13. Mrs Roberts (resident on lane by Queen Street, Blaengarw) – requesting a street light on the lane for safety reasons. The Clerk has forwarded the request to Cllr Pugh as this is a matter for BCBC.
14. Older People’s Commissioner for Wales – informing of the new initiative “Ageing Well in Wales” and inviting organisations to join. Copy sent to every Member
15. OVW – informing that the Welsh Government is currently consulting on the Draft National Transport Plan 2015. Information available from the Clerk.
16. OVW – advertising upcoming training courses. Information available from the Clerk.
17. OVW – forwarding the amended Chapters 8 (Internal Audit) and 13 (Budget setting and monitoring) of the ‘Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners’ Guide (2011)’- amended December 2014.
18. Bridgend Communities First – advertising two ‘Walking Football’ events aimed at people aged 50+. 9/2/15 in Y Dderwen Community College from 5 – 6pm and 24/2/15 in the Ogmere Valley Life Centre from 11am – 12pm.
19. Pencoed Town Council – forwarding a motion to be put forward at the next meeting of OVW regarding pensions – Copy sent to every Member
20. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC – enclosing the Pension Fund Report 2014
Items 12 to 20 are noted.

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following correspondence which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days’ notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

21. Groundwork Wales – statement regarding Groundwork Bridgend – copy provided to every Member
Item 21 is noted
22. SLCC – inviting the Clerk to take part in a consultation on CiLCA for Wales on 4/2/15 – *the Council gave permission for the Clerk to attend the event.*

23. Cllr R Jenkins (copied in to Member's Referral) – requesting the 12 non-functioning lights on Pontycymmer Square are replaced/repared for safety reasons.
Item 23 is noted.
24. BCBC (Education) – advising that there is a vacancy for a Community Council Governor Representative at Ffaldau Primary School.
There was no interest from the Members present. The Clerk is to circulate the vacancy to the Members who were not present at the Meeting.
25. BCBC – enquiring about the poppies on the lampposts. The query has been forwarded on to Mr Dean of the Royal British Legion.
26. BCBC – forwarding information about the Sainsbury's Community Grant Fund – copy provided to every Member
27. BCBC (via Cllr Jones) – informing of reduced railway fares for concessionary bus pass holders
28. Mr Mark Shephard (Corporate Director Communities at BCBC) – providing information about Salting Routes and Winter Preparation
29. Bridgend Carers Centre – newsletter
30. OVW – Agenda for the Larger Local Councils Committee on 21/1/15
31. OVW – Agenda for the Area Meeting on 26/1/15
32. OVW – advertising the joint OVW/SLCC Event on 14/5/15 – copy provided to every Member
33. OVW – advertising the training course “The Council Meeting” being held on 17/2/15 at Bridgend YMCA
34. OVW – response to the “Front loading of the Development Management System” consultation.
35. OVW – response to the “Planning Committees, delegation and joint planning boards” consultation.
36. OVW – response to “Consultation on Overriding Easements and Other Rights”
37. OVW – invitation to a Centenary Partnership event (Imperial War Museum and Welsh Government) on 23/1/15 in Cardiff Bay – copy provided to every Member
38. The Bridgend and County Borough Veterans Association – request for financial assistance. Copy provided to every Member; to be discussed in the February Ordinary Council Meeting.
Items 25 to 38 are noted

152/15 **Planning Matters**

- a) The following planning applications received were discussed:

- i) P/14/795/FUL – application for a two storey extension at 43 Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer – *no objections*
- ii) P/14/811/FUL – application for 8 dwellings with associated soft and hard landscaping (including parking) on land adjacent to 15 Heol Persondy, Bettws – affects Footpath 9. *Please note, this is a resubmission of an earlier refused application (P/14/402/FUL). Cllr M Jones has formally submitted a response as the Borough Councillor for the Ward fully supporting the application as it will fill a void of housing for single/elderly residents in the area. No objections from the Community Council*
- iii) P/14/825/FUL – application for a timber workshop and store for the coppicing and management of a woodland copse at Woodland Copse, off Moel-Gilau Road, near Llety Brongu – *no objections*
- iv) P/14/842/FUL – application for a single storey side extension at 14-16 Y Wern, Bettws (Premier Lloyds Store) – *no objections*
- v) P/14/848/BCB – application for the provision of a new English and Welsh Medium Primary School on the current site of Bettws Primary School – *no objections*

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following Planning Applications which had been received after the Minutes had been circulated and was provided for information purposes only (the three clear days' notice as defined in Sch 12 para 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 could not be adhered to due to the timing of receipt of these items):

- vi) P/15/11/FUL – application for change of use from former clinic to a two bedroom dwelling, no external changes proposed to existing building at The Former Clinic, Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer – *no objections. The Members not present had been informed of this application and not submitted any objections to it.*
- b) The following planning application decisions were reported on:
- i) P/14/355/FUL - permission granted for a single storey extension and rear garage at 74 Pen y Mynydd, Bettws
 - ii) P/14/402/FUL – permission refused for 8 dwellings and landscaping/parking on land adjacent to 15 Heol Persondy, Bettws
 - iii) P/14/511/FUL – permission granted to re-site external staircase at 4 Dan yr Eglwys, Bettws (amendment to P/12/808/FUL)
 - iv) P/14/531/FUL – permission granted to construct one detached dwelling and provide access on land adjacent to 15 West Rhondda, Pontyrhyl
 - v) P/14/551/FUL – permission granted for construction of summer house, balcony, garage and alterations at The Vicarage, St David Street, Pontycymmer

- vi) P/14/557/FUL – permission granted for a single storey extension to provide a shower room at 6 Heol y Felin, Bettws
- vii) P/14/565/BCB – permission granted for a new timber framed building to match the existing B'Leaf Building at Bryngarw Country Park
- viii) P/14/597/FUL – permission refused for a 3 bedroom two storey dwelling on Plot 5, Stable Lane, (off New Street) Pantygog
- ix) P/14/631/FUL – permission granted for the construction of a detached domestic garage at 1 South View, off Lower Adare Street, Pontycymmer
- x) P/14/674/FUL – permission refused for proposed horse stables at Cefn Gelli Fileds, Bettws Road, Llangeinor
- xi) P/14/702/FUL – permission refused for a conservatory to the front elevation of The Cottage, Pontyrhyl
- xii) P/14/739/FUL – permission refused for a timber clad rear extension to create new bedrooms at Fforchlas Cottage, Pontycymmer

153/15 Update on the Breathing Spaces land

No update was available at the Meeting. Cllr Mrs M Thomas gave her apologies and will aim to have a report for the February Ordinary Council Meeting.

154/15 Enforcement Action re: highways improvements at New Street, Pantygog

The Clerk had written to BCBC at the beginning of January to request an update. BCBC are still waiting to hear back from the Developer.

155/15 Purchasing and refilling of grit bins

Cllr Mrs M Thomas informed the Council that BCBC will only refill grit bins purchased through BCBC and highlighted that BCBC is running out of grit and doesn't have the financial resources to restock the grit supply when it has run out.

156/15 Parking problems near traffic calming measures in Bettws

The Council discussed the dangerous parking of vehicles near the traffic calming measures on the Bottom Site in Bettws. The Clerk is to meet with Cllr D Griffiths to show her the exact location and the Clerk will then contact the Police/BCBC to discuss having double yellow lines painted at the location.

Resolved: the Council is to request double yellow lines are painted at this location to prevent an accident occurring in the future

157/15 Tynyrheol Primary School

The Borough Councillor for Llangeinor and the Community Councillor Representative on the Board of Governors gave the Council an update on the situation with Tynyrheol Primary School. The school is to remain open and not be a part of the new school in Bettws. The Community Council Representative expressed his concerns regarding the way the Board of Governors is being run at Tynyrheol Primary School and he has reported this to the Education Department at BCBC.

158/15 **Items for the February Meeting**

1. To discuss the non-attendance of one of the Llangeinor Ward Members at Community Council Meetings (DG)

159/15 **Date of the next Meeting**

Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 16th February 2015 at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.45pm

Chairman _____ **Date** _____