



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at the Bettws Life Centre
Tuesday 8th July 2014**

Members Present:-

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

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

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

No. **Minute**

1 **Apologies for Absence**

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apologies received from Cllrs H Griffiths and S Maclaren.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr M Thomas – all BCBC matters

3 **To review previously presented finance reports**

There were many questions asked of the Clerk regarding the financial procedures, banking arrangements in place and the accounts held with local suppliers. The Clerk provided the information requested of her.

The main concern for some of the Members of the Council is the sustainability of the staffing costs without a large increase in the precept next year.

The Clerk reiterated the point in her letter to the Councillors regarding how the precept is set and that each year is looked at in isolation using the current year and preceding year as a guide as set out in The Practitioners Guide. The precept for the forthcoming year is determined by the Full Council.

There was a proposal that a Finances and Resources Committee is established as a matter of urgency with suitable terms of reference.

Resolved: a Finance and Resources Committee is to be established with appropriate terms of reference.

There was a proposal made that Finance & Accounts Agenda item is put higher up on the Full Council Meeting Agenda going forwards and with all Members present in agreement it was:

Resolved: that the Finance & Accounts item is placed higher up on the Agenda with effect from September 2014 as the July Agenda had already been signed and delivered

4 **To explore options to reduce expenditure**

The Council considered using volunteers to maintain Parc Calon Lan like the Friends of Maesteg Park do. No motion was passed on this discussion.

The Council discussed surrendering the 50 year lease of the 217 acres of land from BCBC. No motion was passed on this discussion.

A proposal was made that the Council did not have sufficient information at the meeting to consider ways of reducing expenditure and therefore it was:

Resolved: that no decision could be made on this matter until the Finance & Resources Committee was established and met

5 **To improve income generation**

The Council discussed the possibility of grant funding. The Clerk highlighted that the majority of grant funding was for capital projects which have a maintenance element once completed. No motion was passed on this discussion.

6 **To consider plans to provide financial stability**

The Clerk stated that this is done in December for the forthcoming financial year when the precept is set.

One suggestion put forward was to not erect Christmas lights. No motion was passed on this discussion. The matter will be discussed when the Finance & Resources Committee is established and first meets.

7 **To discuss the proposed amended terms to the Clerk's Contract of Employment**

The Clerk had submitted a report to the Full Council requesting that her salary is paid in accordance with the National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The Clerk left the room for this discussion.

When the Clerk returned to the room she was informed that no decision was made on the matter and that it will be discussed in the next Full Council Meeting.

The Clerk was also informed that all expenditure is to be approved by the Chairman.

8 **Date of the next Full Council Meeting**

Resolved: the next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14th July at 7pm in the Bettws Life Centre

With business concluded the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.45pm

Chairman _____ Date _____