

Costings of the playscheme were provided to the Council together with information on attendance figures from the previous year.

Valley and Vale are running 3 days in Bettws and 3 days in Blaengarw.

The Bettws Ward Members are not happy to fund a playscheme that is partly taking place outside of Bettws. The Blaengarw Ward had given their playscheme funding to Halo Leisure to run a playscheme in the Garw Valley Life Centre, Pontycymmer and therefore could not make a contribution to Valley and Vale towards the cost of the playscheme in Blaengarw.

The Bettws Ward Members decided to discuss this matter further after the Meeting.

Alex Bowen also provided feedback about the theatre performance of "A Winter's Tale" held in Parc Calon Lan on 15th July 2015.

Alex Bowen and Alys Jenkins left the Meeting.

The Chairman reminded the Members to act in an orderly manner and members of the public that the use of recording equipment during Council Meetings is strictly prohibited.

89/16 Police Matters

There were no Police present. The Clerk had received the Police information for the Bettws, Pontycymmer and Blaengarw Wards and circulated these to the Members.

90/16 Minutes of the June Ordinary Council Meeting

Resolved: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

91/16 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 8th July 2015

Resolved: the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

92/16 Matters arising from the July 2015 Ordinary Council Minutes

70/16 (3) - The Clerk spoke with the CCSU Manager about what will happen when YGG Cwm Garw closes as the 'hub' is currently at the school. The CCSU Manager said that it will be moved when the school closes and envisages that the cost will be dealt with as a closure cost and not have a cost implication for the Community Council.

93/16 Finance & Accounts

- a) The reconciliation of the Council's Bank Accounts as at 30th June 2015 was confirmed.
- b) The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 1st June to 30th June 2015.

Total payments £6,310.14
Total receipts £2,297.35

- c) The Meeting received the Receipts and Payments Account from 1st April to 30th June 2015.
- d) Payment of the invoices from SCATS Countrystores was approved (total amount due = £212.98 inc VAT)
- e) Payment of the invoice from Bakers DIY was approved (total amount due = £66.32)
- f) The Clerk informed the Council that an unqualified External Audit Report had been received from BDO LLP (External Auditors) and there were no matters arising requiring the issuing of a separate issues arising report. The Clerk also informed the Council that she had displayed the Conclusion of Audit Notice from 29th June – 13th July 2015 in each of the four wards and on the Council's website.
Resolved: the Council approved and accepted the 2014/15 Annual Return post-audit.
- g) To approve the Clerk's expense claim for June 2015
Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk's expenses for June 2015
- h) To discuss the proposal from Valley and Vale Community Arts to run a summer playscheme – *see Minute 88/16*
- i) To discuss the request for financial assistance from Y Bont
Resolved: this item is left on the table

94/16 **Clerk's Report**

1. The Clerk has received notification from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that two complaints have been made against individual Members prior to circulating the Agenda. The Clerk had since received correspondence that the Ombudsman has decided to investigate one of the complaints and to drop the other complaint. **This matter is for information purposes only and the Clerk has a duty to keep the nature of the complaints confidential at this stage.**
2. The external auditors, BDO LLP, have completed the audit and have issued an unqualified Audit Report. There were no issues arising out of the audit – *see Minute 93/16 (f)*
3. The Clerk reported the pothole on the bridge on Bettws Road to BCBC as requested by Cllr D T Griffiths. BCBC are to carry out the repair and the Clerk has notified Cllr D T Griffiths.
4. Valley and Vale Community Arts event on 15th July – Alex Bowen provided feedback about the event – *see Minute 88/16*
5. Llangeinor Ward (Meeting with B'Leaf) – the two Llangeinor Councillors and the Clerk met with B'Leaf at the end of June to discuss the planting of daffodils on the grass verges of Llangeinor and the upkeep of Llangeinor Square. Please see Meeting Notes of 29th June 2015 for details of decisions made.

The Clerk has also chased BCBC about the sitting out area that was promised for the Square and also took this opportunity to ask when the repair to The Strand Steps in Blaengarw will be performed. The reply from BCBC is that the Tidy Towns team has been disbanded and they are not aware of any outstanding works. Currently there is no budget or resources for the benches or to carry out the repairs.

Cllr Mrs M Thomas (as the Borough Councillor for Llangeinor) said that she is pursuing this matter as there is a promise (on email) from BCBC for a bench.

6. The Clerk has submitted a VAT refund for £205.13 for the two months' ending 30th June.
7. The Clerk has received a complaint about the grass not being cut between Station Street and Glen Garw Flats in Blaengarw. The Chairman, Clerk and Warden met with the person and the land is the responsibility of the Community Council. The Blaengarw Ward Members have met and agreed that they cannot afford to maintain this area but are willing for the Warden to cut a path through if required. The person has been informed.

95/16 **Correspondence**

1. BCBC – Blue Badge Proposed Changes – Informal Consultation – copy sent to every Member
2. Welsh Government – Public Health (Wales) Bill – Provision of toilets available for use by the public – copy sent to every Member
3. BAVO – providing a copy of their first funding e-bulletin
4. Bridgwater College – thanking for allowing Mr O Beaman to do his work experience with the Council
5. BCBC (Education) – informing that the Consultation Report for the proposed relocation of YGG Cwm Garw has been published – copy sent to every Member
6. BCBC (Education) – informing that the Consultation Report for the proposed enlargement and relocation of Brynmenyn Primary has been published – copy sent to every Member
7. BCBC – Developing Community Access Plans to support Local Transport Plan – copy provided to every Member
8. BCBC – providing information about the Mulligan Community Family Centre – copy sent to every Member
9. Inspector Justin Evans (South Wales Police) – informing that PCSO Wallen's replacement is PCSO Gareth Stoneham
10. BCBC – reminder about the Planning Aid Training Workshop on 13th July – copy sent to all Members
11. BCBC – proposed diversion of Footpath 9 – copy sent to every Member

12. BCBC – informing about the Awen Cultural Trust – copy sent to every Member
13. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – enclosing a copy of the 2014/15 Annual Report
14. BAVO – informing of the Changing for the Better Grant Scheme – copy sent to every Member
15. Bridgend Communities First – forwarding their July Newsletter
16. BCBC – informing about the Active Travel Act – Existing Routes Consultation and enquiring whether there are any upcoming events that BCBC could attend to consult members of the public – copy provided to every Member
17. Communities First – informing of services provided – copy provided to every Member
18. BCBC – forwarding information about the Scope Community Café and volunteering opportunities – further information available from the Clerk

Items 1 to 18 are noted

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following correspondence which had been received after the Agenda 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):

19. BAVO – “Would you like to get involved in a new accessibility project?”

Item 19 is noted

96/16 Planning Matters

- a) The following planning application received was discussed:
 - i) P/15/398/FUL – application for rear single storey kitchen extension at 52 Heol Glannant, Bettws – *no objections*
 - ii) P/15/404/FUL – application to convert Club to café with 2 bunk rooms and 7 flats (suitable for disabled use) at the Charter Club, Church Street, Blaengarw – *no objections*
 - iii) P/15/412/OBS – application to erect and extend 66,000 volt overhead line with all wood poles and stays in the Llynfi Valley area – *no objections*
 - iv) P/15/415/FUL – application for refurbishment and upgrading semi-derelict existing commercial premises to provide Community Art Gallery at 18 Oxford Street, Pontycymmer – *no objections*
 - v) P/15/421/FUL – application for a detached dwelling and garage at Plot 15 Cwm Coed, Bettws – *no objections*

With the consent of the Chairman, the Clerk reported the following planning application that had been received after the Agenda 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) P15/445/FUL – application to construct a new two storey extension to rear of Fforchwen Farm, Pontycymmer

b) To note the planning application decisions below:

i) P/14/838/BCB – WITHDRAWN APPLICATION (To demolish existing school building and construct new English and Welsh Medium Primary School at Bettws Primary School)

Cllr C G Andrews informed the Council that YGG Cwm Garw is drawing up a letter to send to BCBC regarding the new school and will be looking to the Community Council for support on the matter. Further information will be provided when available.

97/16 **To discuss the problem with dog fouling in Pontycymmer**

The Members discussed the problem of dog fouling in the area and requested that the Clerk arranges for the Dog Warden to patrol the area together with a representative from the Police.

Cllr Szeligiewicz informed the Council that he never received a response from the Forum that he attended in Maesteg about dog fouling.

The Council also requested that the Gazette Correspondent puts a piece in her column requesting dog owners to clear up after their dogs.

Resolved: the Clerk is to contact BCBC and the Police to arrange patrols of the area.

98/16 **Items for the September 2015 Ordinary Meeting**

1. To discuss the repositioning of the grit bin on Richard Street, Pontycymmer (JS)
2. To discuss the speed camera in Llangeinor (GD)
3. To discuss the purchase of a fridge and cleaner for Parc Calon Lan (DG/GA)

99/16 **Date of the next Meeting**

Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 21st September 2015 at Bettws Primary School

The Chairman reminded the Members about the Finance & Resources Committee and Extraordinary Meetings being held on 22nd July 2015. Cllr G Walters gave his apologies for being unable to attend due to another commitment.

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.55pm

Chairman _____ **Date** _____