



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held at Bettws Primary School
Monday 18th May 2015**

Members Present:-

Councillor C G Andrews (Chairman)

Councillors: G Davies; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; Mrs H Griffiths; W Hillier; F Hughes; M Jones; and Mrs M Thomas.

Police: PCSO A Wallen

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm and was chaired by Councillor C G Andrews.

No. ***Minute***

37/16 ***Apologies for Absence***

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs T Jenkins, D Sage and G Walters

38/16 ***Declarations of Interest***

Cllrs M Jones and Mrs M Thomas - all matters relating to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)

39/16 ***Chairman's announcements***

The Chairman announced that he had attended Pencoed Town Council's Civic Service on 10th May (in the capacity of Vice-Chairman).

40/16 ***Police Matters***

PCSO Wallen attended the meeting and ran through the Police statistics with the Council. PCSO Wallen informed the Council that this would be his last attendance at a Community Council Meeting as he is due to start his Police Constable training shortly.

The Members thanked PCSO Wallen for his contribution to the Garw Valley and wished him luck.

The Members asked if he was aware if he was to be replaced. PCSO Wallen advised the Council to contact Inspector Justin Evans on this matter. The Council requested the Clerk to write a letter stating that it is vitally important that he is replaced.

41/16 ***Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13th April 2015***

Resolved: the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th April 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

42/16 **Minutes of the April Ordinary Council Meeting**

Resolved: the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2015 are a true record and the Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

43/16 **Matters arising from the April 2015 Ordinary Council Minutes**

13/16 (h) – The Clerk has contacted BCBC about the repair of the PTZ CCTV Camera on Pontycymmer Square. BCBC are going to chase their supplier as the repair has not been carried out yet. BCBC have confirmed that when the camera has been repaired, it will be rotated as requested.

14/16 (8) – Bridgend County Care and Repair has confirmed that they will attend the June Ordinary Meeting to give a presentation about the services offered.

15/16 (10) – BT’s “Adopt a kiosk” campaign – the Clerk has forwarded a copy of the “Adopt a kiosk” booklet to all Members and made enquiries with BT, the Council’s insurers and the Planning Department at BCBC about the financial implications for adoption. The Clerk had prepared a Key Facts sheet and this item was discussed as an Agenda item – see Minute 53/16.

15/16 (21) – the Clerk forwarded copies of extracts from the June and July 2013 Minutes where the production of the film was discussed and the presentation given by the director of the film company to all of the Members.

44/16 **Finance & Accounts**

- a) The Chairman of Finance and Resources Committee requested that the Clerk arranges a meeting of the Committee and circulates proposed dates. The Chairman of the Committee also requested that the Clerk prepares a draft budget for presentation at this meeting.
- b) The reconciliation of the Council’s Bank Accounts as at 30th April 2015 was confirmed.
- c) The Meeting received and adopted the list of payments and receipts from 1st April to 30th April 2015.

Total payments £18,370.64
Total receipts £72,660.00

- d) The Meeting received the Receipts and Payments Account from 1st April to 30th April 2015.
- e) Members had been provided with a copy of the 2014/15 Annual Return with the clear days’ notice required by the Local Government act 1972 Sch 12 Para 10 (2)

Section 1 of the Annual Return for 2014/15 was explained by the Clerk. The Receipts & Payments Account from 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015 had been previously approved in the April 2015 Meeting and they match the Annual Return. With all Members present in agreement, it was:

Resolved: that Section 1 of the 2014/15 Annual Return was approved

Section 2 of the Annual Return for 2014/15 (Annual Governance Statement) were answered positively and so it was:

Resolved: that the Annual Governance Statement is approved and the Chairman duly signed Section 3 of the 2014/15 Annual Return.

The Clerk had provided each Member with a copy of the Fixed Asset additions for 2014/15 as required by the Council's Risk Management Policy (Section 1B)

- f) To approve the Clerk's expense claim for April 2015

Resolved: This item on the Agenda was closed to the press and public under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as prescribed in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk's expenses for April 2015

The Council discussed the payment of the Warden's mileage claim and whether he should be allowed to claim mileage to transport his tools from Parc Calon Lan to Pontycymmer. The Council also discussed the submission of worksheets.

Resolution 1: the Council authorised the payment of the claim submitted up to the end of April 2015

Resolution 2: the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to take over the supervisory role of the Warden and will be authorising the claiming of all expenses and the submission of worksheets as part of this role.

- g) To discuss the bid of £350 to support/sponsor a charity sports day in Bettws

Resolution 1: the Bettws Village Fund will be used to provide the support/ sponsorship funding for the hire of the field and insurance costs

Resolution 2: the Council delegated authority to the Clerk to spend up to the amount in the Village Fund for each ward when requested and authorised by the majority of the Members in that ward.

- h) To discuss the Warden's request to spend £100 on fertiliser and a further £100 on bedding plants for Parc Calon Lan

Resolved: the Blaengarw Village Fund will be used to purchase the above items up to the value of £100 each.

Cllr F Hughes requested that he is informed which bedding plants are purchased.

45/16 Clerk's Report

1. The Clerk has submitted a VAT reclaim of £2,297.35 to HMRC for the two months' ending 30/4/15
2. The internal audit has been completed and no issues have been identified. A copy of the Audit Report had been provided to every Member.

3. The external audit will take place on or after 27th May. The Clerk publicly displayed the Exercise of electors' rights Notices from 13th to 26th April as required by BDO LLP. The Clerk has provided a copy to every Member of Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for approval at the May Ordinary Meeting (Agenda Item 8(e))
4. The Warden had submitted a mileage claim – see attached claim form.
5. The Warden has reported two separate incidents of a horse and rider on the MTB Trails and one incident of rocks being deliberately being placed on the Black Trail near the quarry section; the reporting rider cleared the obstruction.
6. The Warden has pulled 10 tyres out from the two lakes. The Clerk has arranged with BCBC for these to be collected.
7. Report from Warden (22nd April 2015) – copy sent to every Member

46/16 **Correspondence**

1. South Wales Police Federation – letter “Cuts Have Consequences” – copy provided to every Member
2. BCBC (Education) – informing that they wish to consult on the proposal to relocate Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw to the site of the existing Bettws Primary School – copy provided to every Member
3. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – informing of the revised guidance on the Code of Conduct – a copy of the letter and guidance has been provided to every Member
4. Welsh Government – providing electronic links to the guidance and legislation on “Access to Information on Community and Town Councils” – came into force on 1st May 2015 – copy of guidance and Statutory Instrument provided to every Member
5. BCBC (Mayor) – informing that the Mayor’s Civic Service is booked for Sunday 6th September
6. Mr Graham Pound – reporting blocked access at two points on the Garw Valley Walk
2. The Clerk has forwarded the email to the Council’s Warden and also spoken to BCBC Rights of Way Department who will handle this matter.
7. Mr Paul James – requiring further clarification on the Community Route. The Clerk has replied informing Mr James that this item is included for discussion in the May Ordinary Council Meeting.
8. Clerk to HMRC – claiming a VAT refund of £2,297.35
9. Mrs Bridgeman – complaining about dog fouling – copy provided to every Member
10. Mr Karl Paterson (Garw Valley Life Centre Manager) – informing of the event in the Centre to mark National Families Day and requesting the Members to attend – copy provided to every Member

11. Adran and Aelwyd yr Urdd Porthcawl Committee – invitation to the Best of the Borough Concert on Friday 15th May at 6pm in Archbishop McGrath High School. A copy of the invitation has been sent to the Chairman.
12. BAVO – informing of the free use of a Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV car to BAVO members – copy provided to every Member
13. BAVO – volunteering e-bulletin– copy sent to every Member
14. BAVO – advertising a funding surgery with Coalfields Regeneration Trust on 14/5/15 – copy sent to every Member
15. Bridgend Carers Centre – providing information about their activities – information available from the Clerk
16. Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine

Items 1 to 16 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):

17. Rights of Way (BCBC) – dedication of new bridleways – Upper Garw Valley – copy provided to every Member – to be discussed in the June Ordinary Meeting
18. Mayor (BCBC) – information above Volunteers Week
19. BCBC – Visitors Support Events Fund – copy provided to every Member – to be discussed in the June Ordinary Meeting
20. Derek Vaughan MEP – enclosing posters and calendars advertising his contact details
21. BCBC – informing of the new Mayor/Mayoress, Deputy Mayor/Mayoress, Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor and the new Cabinet structure
22. BAVO – Parks for People Fund – copy sent to every Member

Items 20 to 22 are noted

47/16 Planning Matters

- a) The following planning application received was discussed:
 - i) P/15/236/FUL – application to erect 8 dwellings to substitute plots 3-10 approved under consent P/06/1465/FUL on land at City Farm, Bettws – *no objections*
 - ii) P/15/247/FUL – application to construct two new first floor timber framed link structures at Dan-y-Mynydd, Heol William Trigg, Blaengarw – *no objections*

- iii) P/15/266/FUL – application for ramped access from public footpath to front entrance door at 33 Pen Parcau, Bettws– *no objections*
- iv) P/15/205/FUL – application for proposed horse stables at Cefn Gelli Fields, Bettws Road, Llangeinor – *objections on the grounds of access to the site, the loss of a greenbelt and the problem with management of manure at the site*
- v) P/15/291/FUL – application for a single storey kitchen/cloakroom extension and alterations at 40 Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer– *no objections*

b) To note the planning application decision below:

P/15/113/FUL – permission granted for a single storey extension at 3 Stable Lane, Pantygog

48/16 *Income generation from the timber in the Darren Fawr Forestry*

The Council were informed by one of the Members that vans have been accessing the Darren Fawr Forestry, collecting the timber and then selling it for a significant sum of money.

Resolved: the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to meet with the Warden to discuss what to do about this matter

49/16 *To discuss the possibility of the Warden carrying out maintenance work in Bettws*

Resolved: the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are to meet with the Warden to discuss how to take this matter further

50/16 *To investigate the possibility of making the Community Route from the Loco Shed in Pontycymmer to Brynmenyn a designated Footpath or Bridleway*

The Council discussed the maintenance and safeness of this section of the Community Route and:-

Resolved: to invite the Rights of Way Manager at BCBC to attend a Council Meeting to discuss this matter.

51/16 *To discuss B'Leaf providing services to the Council*

Resolved: the Council would like to engage B'Leaf to cut the grassed area affronting Pen Parcau and Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws. The Clerk is to make the necessary arrangements. The Bettws Village Fund will pay for this works.

52/16 **To discuss and approve the request from the Rights of Way Manager at BCBC for the Council to enter into an agreement for the Warden to carry out routine maintenance work on the Community Route from Prospect Place, Pontycymmer to Pwll Carn Terrace, Blaengarw**

Resolved: the Council willing to enter into the same agreement this year for the Warden to carry out routine maintenance work on the verges of the Upper Garw Valley Community Route from Prospect Place, Pontycymmer to Pwll Carn Terrace, Blaengarw for the £600 offered.

53/16 **To discuss the BT “Adopt a Kiosk” campaign**

Resolved: the Council does not wish to pursue this matter

54/16 **To discuss the venue for the Ordinary Council Meetings in July, September and October 2015**

Resolved: the Council wishes to use Bettws Primary School for the Ordinary Meetings due to be held in July, September and October 2015

55/16 **Items for the June 2015 Ordinary Meeting**

1. Progress on the missing files (Cllr D T Griffiths)
2. Replacement of willow tree with oak tree in Parc Calon Lan (Cllr Mrs D Griffiths)

56/16 **Date of the next Meeting**

Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 15th June 2015 at Bettws Primary School

This concluded the business of the Ordinary Council Meeting where the Clerk was responsible for clerking and she left the Meeting at 9.05pm

Mr Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services at BCBC took over the role of the Clerk.

57/16 **Exclusion of the public**

Resolved: This item on the Agenda was closed to the press and public under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as prescribed in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972:

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the under-mentioned items in private with the public being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above.

RESOLVED: *That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 30 April 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to:*

- a) The amendment of the date in the header on pages 3 & 4 to read 30 April 2015 and not 16 February 2015.*
- b) clarification being received from the other representatives of the Blaengarw ward agreeing to the appointment of Cllr CG Andrews as a member of the Finance and Resources Committee was agreed.*

A vote of thanks was agreed for Cllr D Griffiths for her role as Chairperson of the Finance and Resources Committee.

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.12pm

Chairman _____ *Date* _____