



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
PONTYCYMER LEISURE CENTRE ON 24TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor D T Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

Mr C G Andrews
Mrs D Griffiths
Mrs H Griffiths (Vice-Chair)
Mr W Hillier
Mr M Jones
Mr R Shaw
Mrs R Stirman
Mrs M Thomas
Mr G Walters

Apologies were received from:
Cllr G Davies
Mr J Szeliegiewicz

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO
4 Members of the Public (up to item 17 on the
Agenda)

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The Chair welcomed all Councillors and four Member of the Public to the meeting.

148/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Mr M Jones	All Matters Concerning BCBC	Member
Mr R Shaw	Website	Owns a web design company
Mrs M Thomas	All Matters Concerning BCBC incl Planning	Member

149/17 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2017 MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record with this, the Chairman duly signed the Minute Book.

150/17 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE

RESOLVED:

The crime figures for March were tabled. PCSO Janine Dulson was asked to request that future figures contained details of the status of reported crime. Councillor D Griffiths suggested that PCSOs make more school visits as their presence needs to be seen and children need to be educated about not breaking the law at a young age.

151/17 TO RECEIVE MR F HUGHES FOR A PRESENTATION

An invitation to attend the start of the meeting had been made to Mr F Hughes to receive a presentation plaque for his service to the council for the past few years but Mr Hughes had not attended. Councillor D T Griffiths was given the plaque to present to Mr Hughes at his home. However a plaque was presented to Councillor G Andrews in acknowledgement of his service as Chair the previous year.

152/17 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MARCH 2017 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

PONTYCYMER SQUARE CAMERA HUB

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The Clerk had requested that the hub be moved to Pontycymer Leisure Centre so that the problems can be fixed asap. The CCSU Manager has agreed to look at the feasibility and the cost.

LAKES

The Clerk informed the meeting that a dog had recently died in Parc Calon Lan lake having got caught in the plants in the water.

The Warden had attended a site meeting with representatives of NRWales and they informed him that they'd applied for funding to enable them to carry out some of the works in the upper valley i.e. wetland creation, natural flood management with the aim of slowing flows and improving water quality thus reducing sediment input into the lakes. In addition they've had discussions with the local Coal Authority to see if their proposals present any concerns and the response has been positive. They are also suggesting a meeting to look at the lakes with a view to start putting together a management plan for more direct works to the lakes themselves and I've asked them for some dates.

In addition I've been in touch with Park Slip and Welsh Wildlife to see if they can offer the Warden any additional training including reed cutting and if we could borrow the equipment to enable him to do this once he's trained. I suggest inviting NRWales to the May or June meeting to update the Council on progress to date.

JOINT CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOLLOWING ELECTIONS

Coity Higher Community Council are in agreement to organise a joint Code of Conduct training session to share costs. The Clerk was asked to organise this with OVW for the end of May at the price quoted.

CONSIDERATION OF AN ALLOWANCE SCHEME

This cannot be kept on the table as discussed at last month's meeting, it needs a clear decision and that decision minuted. It was agreed to put this on the June agenda for consideration.

Resolved: The Clerk to invite NRWales to the May or June meeting, to organise Code of Conduct training with Coity Higher Community Council and to put the allowance scheme on the June agenda.

153/17 AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED

Maintenance and Public Safety of Benches

The Clerk was asked to pull together an audit of benches. It was agreed that guidelines were needed about the maintenance and provision of benches. Councillor G Walters said that some of the benches in Parc Calon Lan sometimes had flowers on them and it can look like a crematorium.

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Attendance at Events

Councillor D Griffiths said that Council representatives at British Legion events were not treated well and that a complaint should be made.

In addition, Councillor Griffiths said that as it was her last meeting as she had decided not to stand for re-election, she wanted to give her reasons for not standing. She said she'd become disillusioned with the Council in the last year as she felt Councillors were not working as a team and that they should not be reporting each other's behaviour to the Public Service Ombudsman.

Website Update

The Clerk said the website needed to be updated and improved as it was functioning properly. She requested permission to look into what needed to be done to improve the quality of the website.

Resolved: Councillor R Shaw would raise the Council's concerns with the appropriate person regarding the British Legion events. The Clerk would pull together an audit and a draft policy for benches and she was given permission to look into improving the website.

154/17 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £4,026.29 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to 2017/18 was £48,445.78

1. The Clerk had presented Members with an up-to-date Receipts and Payments Account and explained the expenditure to date, the balance carried forward was noted. The various cost headings were discussed and variances for the end of year explained and Members resolved that the accounts were accepted.
2. It was noted that the balance carried forward includes an adjustment of -32p interest up to the end of March 2017.
3. A claim under the Rights of Way Agency Agreement has been submitted for the sum of £3,750 and payment had been received in April.
4. The Clerk raised concerns that with the £68,000 precept due the total held in one bank would be over the £85,000 threshold covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and asked for authority to open a savings account with a different bank and to transfer some of the money into that account. This was approved and agreed by the Council.

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5. Councillor R Shaw, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, said the Clerk had done an excellent job managing the finances throughout the year and the full council agreed.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted. That the Receipts and Payments be authorised and accepted and the End of Year accounts be approved. That the Clerk opens a savings account in a different bank.

155/17 CHAIR'S REPORT

RESOLVED:

There was nothing to report.

156/17 WARD REPORTS

RESOLVED:

Pontycymer: Councillor H Griffiths raised concerns about the lateness of the refuse collection and the habit of placing all bags in one area near Ffaldau School. She was concerned that an accident may occur. In addition, Councillor G Walters asked that 20,000 daffodil bulbs be planted at Wood Street in front of the cemetery.

Llangeinor: Councillor R Shaw said the new noticeboard provided by the Llangeinor Ward of the Council was looking good on the main road outside the Richard Price Centre.

Bettws: Councillor Jones said the problem with school transport in Bettws had been resolved with a new contractor appointed. He had attended a meeting regarding the new school and highlighted a Rights of Way issue at Pandy walk.

Resolved: It was agreed that refuse collection and daffodil planting be put on the May agenda.

15717 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE

Daily business continues at BCBC in the run up to the local elections but there was nothing to report.

158/17 CLERK'S REPORT

Warden's Report

- **Work Undertaken**
- Clearance of windblown trees across MTB trails and footpaths.
- Installed Daffodil display sign in Llangeinor.

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- Repaired vandalised stiles and fencing around Darren Fawr woodland and Carn Plant site.
 - Trimmed hedges around Parc Calon Lan.
 - Strimmed bankings and thinning out of trees around Parc Calon Lan.
 - Installed new notice board in Llangeinor.
 - Installed 3 dog bag dispenser units, at Llangeinor, Pantygog Park and Pontycymer lake.
 - Annual Pontycymer lake clean up. Removed rubbish from waters and reed margins. Quad trailer full of rubbish including tyres, large plastic items etc.
 - Clearance of overgrowth on land at Fenton Place, Pontycymer. Area of brambles cut down and all litter removed.
 - Tidy up of bench area at Pantygog. Overgrowth cut back.
 - Repaired and replaced vandalised waymarker posts along the MTB trails.
 - 1st mow of season of events field and surrounds.
 - Removal and cutback of large overgrown and collapsed Buddleia trees along sections of river bank and at Pontycymer lake.
 - Willow structures trimmed, Parc Calon Lan.
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- **Other**
 - Spent a day with a magazine writer riding around MTB trails on a Sunday in March. Journalist worked for Outdoor fitness magazine and was doing reviews and articles on the local cycling scene and locations.
 - Ride-on mower went in for a full service at BGS mowers.
 - Gear pedal snapped on quad, repaired at no cost.
 - Quad bike has been used a lot recently, used to take equipment and materials to repair vandalised fences, posts etc in off road areas. Used to help pull out Buddleia and rubbish from Pontycymer Lake.
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- **Vandalism/Issues**
 - Stiles and fencing cut through and torn out by motorbike users around MTB trails and Carn areas.
 - Several way marker posts torn out along MTB trails.
 - Fires, graffiti, litter and general misuse of picnic benches at Pontycymer Lake.
 - Slab looks to have been forced off on one of the granite benches located at the Plant site behind the co-op, too heavy to replace back on plinth, will have to look at a way to repair this.
 - Vandalism to new dog bag dispenser at Llangeinor. Graffiti on unit and seems an effort has been made to force the unit from out of the ground.

Complaints Procedure

The Clerk highlighted the need for a Complaints Procedure and suggested drawing up a document in line with the Ombudsman's model concerns and public complaints policy. It was agreed to include a discussion on a draft on the May agenda.

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Quad Trailer

Following on from previous Community Warden branding discussions. The Clerk had obtained a quote for signs to go on the side of the quad trailer. Two signs would be needed at a cost of £13.87 plus vat and delivery each, and this was agreed.

Blaengarw Community Fund (Llynfi Afan Wind Farm)

The Clerk had once again chased up the final details of the community benefit fund but again was told the criteria had not been finalised. She would continue checking their website for details.

Resolved: The Clerk to draw up a draft Complaints Procedure document. Approval was given for the purchase of the stickers to go ahead.

159/17 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

1.Bettws Community Club - thank you letter for sponsoring pupils attending the pantomime

2.One Voice Wales:

- E-petition which proposes a levy on the professional football clubs for some of their wealth to be used to provide play areas for our children.
- Information regarding a £223m government rural communities grant
- Electronic copy of The Good Councillor Guide (emailed to Members) plus a hard copy for the Clerk's library
- Public Appointment Information - Victims and Survivors' Consultative Panel (closes 28th April 2017)
- Tree Charter - Become a Local Council Charter Branch
- OVW's Community Town and Council's Manifesto and response to the White Paper - Resilient and Renewed
- WEFO Priority 3 Call for Small Scale Community Energy Proposals
- New Councillor Induction Training (£40 per person) 24th May 2017 Bridgend TC Offices

3.Gavin's Fun Day Bettws - request to support this event i.e. filed hire and insurance as in previous years

4.NSA Afan - follow up letter following the previous correspondence ref Bettws Community Club

5.Y Bont - request for financial donation

6.Elite Security - information regarding the services they offer

7.Ombudsman - a further request for information regarding a complaint

8.RCT Pension Fund - recruitment opportunity

9.Friends and Parents of Blaengarw Primary School - request to use the Breathing Space on Saturday 24th June 2017 for another Big Family Gathering event using the theme of history and supporting Armed Forces Day. The event will start at 1.00 pm with

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a parade from Blaengarw Rugby Club up the main road and on to the Breathing Space for a family fun day for the whole community.

With the consent of the Chairman the following items of correspondence were added as they were received after the meeting's papers had been distributed

10. Garw Valley Railway - 2 matters. A request to start a discussion on the best way to jointly approach reducing the problem of an increasingly significant problem of pet owners leaving bags of dog waste tied to fencing along the Community Route. Plus an update on the sewage problem which is far larger than first thought.

Resolved: It was agreed to support Gavin's Fun Day in Bettws again this year and the Bettws Ward would cover the cost of hiring the field and insurance as in previous years. It was agreed to donate £25.00 to Y Bont and it was agreed that the Friends and Parents of Blaengarw Primary School could use the Breathing Space field for their event on 24th June. The Clerk would ask them to liaise with the Community Warden.

160/17 PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/212/FUL	Change of use from existing members mess room to sale of soft drinks, snacks etc. for consumption off the premises	Bridgend Valleys Railway Co Old Station Yard Pontymmer CF32 8AZ
A/17/9/ADV	2 flagpoles to be erected outside the visitor centre displaying the Welsh national flag and the green flag award flag	Bryngarw Country Park Brynmelyn CF32 8UU
P/17/251/FUL	Change whole of Workmens Institute to a domestic dwelling	5-8 Meadow Street Pontycymer CF32 8HF
P/17/246/FUL	First floor house extension	Bradley House Bettws Road Bettws CF32 8TB
P/17/275/FUL	Retrospective for conversion of disused basement area into 1 no flat and 1 no bedsit	2 Forest View Blaengarw Bridgend CF32 8BS
Decisions:		

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None to date		
Appeals:		
APP/F6915/A/16/3164970	The appeal is dismissed.	8 Glannant Row Shwt BRIDGEND CF32 8UB

With the consent of the Chairman the following planning information was added as it was received after the meeting's papers had been distributed, as was planning decision number P/16/984/FUL above.

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/281/FUL	Two storey extension to the side of existing semi-detached house	22 Brynmawr Bettws CF32 8SD
Decisions:		
P/17/92/RLX	Vary condition 1 of P/09/474/OUT Decision: Cond cons (RLX)	Land at Tynewydd Farm Bettws CF32 8TJ
P/17/86/FUL	Proposed shed to rear garden (to replace existing sheds) Decision: retrospective conditional consent	12 Lower Church Street Pontycymmer CF32 8LA
P/17/167/LAE	Certificate for lawful use for an existing conservatory Decision: LAE approved	1 Glannant Row Shwt Bridgend CF32 8UB
P/17/159/FUL	External step to hardstanding to rear lane, steps from bedroom external landing to hardstanding Decision: Conditional consent	84 Oxford Street Pontycymmer CF32 8DF
P/17/150/FUL	Single storey rear extension for bedroom and convert part of existing dining room into a shower room/wc Decision: Conditional consent	16 Pen y Mynydd Bettws CF32 8SE
P/16/719/FUL	Convert vestry and attached hall to 3 flats Decision: Conditional consent	The Vestry Meadow Street Pontycymmer CF32 8HG

Resolved: No objections were raised.

For information: At this point the 4 members of the public in attendance left the meeting. The Chair asked that the bad language used by a member of the public during the meeting be noted.

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161/17 **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF** (Public Excluded)

Further to minute no 111/17 (a review of the management of the Warden) the second phase to the changes have been completed. The Clerk updated the Members on the next steps to be taken.

The Community Warden and the Clerk had recently attended Appraisal meetings with the Vice-Chair and these were discussed. The Clerk left the room for the Clerk appraisal discussion.

Resolved: The Warden and Clerk's appraisals were noted. The Vice-Chair and Clerk were to implement the actions discussed.

162/17 **ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2017 ORDINARY MEETING**

RESOLVED:

- Refuse Collection (HG)
- Daffodil Planting Pontycymer (HG)
- Complaints Procedure (ACH)
- Invite Sue Evans of REACH and the Consultant to the May or June meeting
- Invite Natural Resources Wales representatives to the May or June meeting for an update on the lakes

163/17 **DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting followed by Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.00 pm at Pontycymer Leisure Centre.

Councillor G Walters and Councillor D Griffiths who were not standing for re-election in May thanked the Chair and Members for their support over their term of office.

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50 pm