



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
BETTWS LIFE CENTRE ON 20th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors: Mr G Andrews
Mr R Clatworthy
Mr J Davies
Ms S Dendy
Mr M Jones
Mr R Jones
Ms C Lloyd
Ms M Pinches
Mr C Gillard-Sage
Mrs R Stirman
Mr G Walters

Apologies were received from:

Councillor M Thomas
PCSO J Dulson

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

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The Chair welcomed Councillor Glyn Walters, elected in the recent by-election to the meeting.

75/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest	Minute No
Mr J Davies	Correspondence from J Griffiths	Proprietor Bettws Club	86/18
Ms S Dendy	BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning	Member	All relevant incl. 87/18
Mrs H Griffiths	Finance and Accounts - Financial Request for Ffaldau Primary School	Chair of Governors	82/18 (3)
Mrs R Stirman	BCBC incl. Development Control and Planning	Member	All relevant incl. 87/18

76/18 TO RECEIVE LEILA THORNTON OF NATURAL RESOURCES WALES FOR AN UPDATE ON THE UPPER VALLEY SCHEME

Leila informed Members that the work was now at the feasibility stage for the upper Valley work and the reason for Leila's attendance at the meeting was to check that Members are happy for NRW to proceed with the study. Members were updated with the proposed plans and the aesthetic importance of Pont lake to the community and Members was reiterated.

Resolved: It was agreed that the feasibility study should go ahead and that once the Results were received by NRW Leila would return to a future Council meeting, hopefully along with the consultants, to feed back their findings. Leila also agreed to speak to Rob Jones at BCBC regarding the commitment to reed clearing in both lakes.

77/18 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

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

78/18 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH WALES POLICE

PCSO Mike Rees and Acting Inspector Nick Jones attended the meeting and explained the crime figures which had been included with the papers for the meeting. Inspector Jones updated Members on the assaults mentioned in the figures and stressed that both were not stranger crimes and updated Members on anti-social behaviour in Bettws. Cllr Stirman asked where to send dash cam footage?

Resolved: The information was noted. Inspector Jones agreed to find out about dash cam footage and email Cllr Stirman.

79/18 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2017 ORDINARY MINUTES

Christmas Decorations/Lighting

Two new decorations purchased for this year have now been installed in Blaengarw and the new lights for Pontycymer have also been installed.

Daffodil Planting

All 16 sacks have now been planted throughout the valley. Thanks go to the Community Warden as it was a huge task and thanks go to the children of Blaengarw Primary School, the Garw Wombles, Councillors Clatworthy, Stirman and Walters for their help.

Water Safety Talks

The one outstanding talk for Bettws Primary School took place last Monday and the resources the Community Council purchased have been sent out to all primary schools. Each child will be given a RLSS poster about safety around water and includes safety around water including when dog walking.

Lighting Column Llangeinor

Due to a very busy schedule in the run up to Christmas the inspection of the column has not yet taken place, but is scheduled.

Events Committee

An update from the Chair, Councillor Ryan Clatworthy was given about future ideas. Councillor R Jones agreed to replace Councillor J Davies as the Bettws ward member of the committee. Representatives of the Carnival had given a short presentation requesting help with funding and it was agreed to discuss this further at the Precept meeting to be held in December.

Sale of Logs

The sale of logs will start from the 1st of December. They will need to be ordered in advance and a delivery/collection time arranged. A sign will be put up in the window of

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the Visitor Centre and on the website. They will be sold in 3 sizes: a quad bike trailer full, half a trailer and a large IKEA size bag. Delivery is £5, collection is free. There are no clauses in the lease for the land which prevents the sale of logs and the lease states that managing the land in accordance with good estate management practice which must include clearing fallen trees is a condition.

Noticeboard Blaengarw

A quotation for a noticeboard of the same design as the one in Llangeinor has been obtained which would enable half to be used by the Community Council and half by the Community. Councillor Dendy is happy to be the key holder for the Community half. It would be placed at the Strand. Planning permission would be needed at a cost of £190 and the cost of purchase is £1,475.84 excl. vat. The cost will be paid out of the Blaengarw ward fund.

Bettws

Permission has been obtained from BCBC to include a bin outside the kebab shop on the collection schedule. Permission has been sought to place it on V2C land. The quotation for the type of bin requested is £362.

Japanese Knotweed on Heol Dewi Sant

The NRW Japanese Knotweed project includes Bettws is focused around the Garw river corridor and does not include Bettws; they are tackling some on private land but only where this immediately borders the river. They do not have the resources to broaden the scope and therefore cannot help with controlling the land at Heol Dewi Sant.

The responsibility for controlling Knotweed does lie with the landowner, although it is not an offence for a landowner to have Japanese knotweed growing on their land and there is no legislation which requires landowners to control Japanese knotweed, it is only an offence to deliberately spread the plant. It was noted that it is spreading and overhanging the pavement.

Dog Bins

Permission to include the two sites, Pont Lake and outside the play area at the top site at Bettws, on the collection schedule has been given. The bins have been delivered to the Warden and will be installed this month.

CCTV Camera Pontycymer Square

There is no capacity in the current communications cabinet at Ffaldau School for any extra equipment and the 'CCTV router' from YGG Cwm Garw will need to be located in secure communications cabinet. Rather than add another communications cabinet, the easiest option would be to upgrade the current one to a larger one. This would need a quote by a cabling contractor, and the cost would be approx. £1,000. The Head Teacher should also be made aware of any equipment or exterior masts CDS require to enable this

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed to include a donation to the Carnival and the cost of the communications cabinet in the draft precept budget at the December meeting. The arrangement for the sale of logs was approved as was the purchase of the noticeboard for Blaengarw at the price quoted and the purchase of a bin for Bettws.

80/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE INCLUDING REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR R SHAW, BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FOR PONTYCYMMER

Blaengarw: Councillor Dendy informed Members that she'd received an invite to attend a meeting regarding the proposed 8 wind turbines in Blaengarw and would update Members after attending the meeting.

Llangeinor: Councillor Stirman informed Members that speed monitoring had recently taken place in Llangeinor and that she would now speak to Keith Power and the Safety Partnership. In addition, a Christmas tree would be provided in Pontyrhyl completely funded privately and jointly by Braund's Garage and Councillor Stirman, no public funds would be used. The street sign in Tynton has not yet been moved. The water stopcock on the main A4064 are due to be inspected by Welsh Water as they have sunk well below the road. The Clerk asked what progress had been made on the safety of the trees overhanging the main road from Blaengarw to Llangeinor and Councillor Stirman said that BCBC had informed her that the trees are regularly inspected.

Bettws: Councillor Jones had attended budget management meetings at BCBC and had been interviewed by Estyn Inspectors for Bettws Primary School.

Pontycymer: Councillor Shaw informed Members of the many meetings he'd attended in the last month including a celebration of Annette who has carried out the School Crossing Patrol role for 30 years. He also informed Members of the details of the new Youth Club and that a Community Car Wash was taking place on Saturday 25th to raise funds for Ffaldau Primary School following the break in.

Resolved: The information was noted and it was also noted that three of the Borough Councillors had recently had a successful meeting with Inspector Nick Jones to discuss local crime issues.

81/18 AGENDA ITEMS

To Consider Interpretations Boards

Councillor Stirman requested permission to liaise with the Community Warden and representatives of BCBC to plan a shorter walk for Parc Calon Lan and arrange interpretation boards. The approximate cost would be between £700 and £1,400.

Consider an Allowance Scheme

The Independent Remuneration Panel's Report and its recommendations for Town and Community Council Allowances were discussed some time ago and no decision was made. It is now a requirement that a unanimous conclusion must be agreed on whether to adopt the scheme or not and this decision must be minuted. The draft Report for 2018/19 has now been published it states what allowances the Panel are recommending as payments to T&CC councillors next year and Members need to decide if they are adopting the scheme before the precept for next year is set as it affects the budget.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Independent Remuneration Panel's Allowance Scheme was discussed and it was unanimously decided not to join the Scheme but to revisit the decision in a year's time. It was also agreed that Cllr. Stirman could liaise regarding a shorter walk and interpretation boards and she was asked to keep the Clerk updated on progress.

82/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

1.Accounts submitted for approval at the November 2017 Full Council Meeting

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £9,773.63 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to December 2017 was £59,880.12. This included income payments of £7.41 in bank interest. The Clerk reminded Members that £27,226.95 of the total carried forward to December is village funds.

2.Finance Committee Meeting

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Councillor J Davies, informed Members that the Finance Committee had met on 7th November and the Clerk had tabled a draft precept budget for 2018/19. This was discussed and changes have been made by the Clerk who will send out the second draft in advance of the Precept Meeting being held on 4th December. He informed Members that an increase in precept is likely to be unavoidable this year.

A draft Risk Assessment Schedule for 2017/18 had been tabled at the Finance Committee meeting by the Clerk and it was agreed to recommend it to Full Council who had received a copy in their papers for the Ordinary Council meeting.

8.25 pm The Chair left the room at this point and declared an interest. Vice-Chair, Councillor M Pinches took over the Chair.

3.Financial Request

A letter had been received from Heather Griffiths, Chair of Ffaldau Primary School asking for financial assistance following the break in at the Primary School over the half term holiday. The request was for £4,000. A discussion followed before the Chair returned to the room.

8.42pm The Chair re-entered the room and returned to Chair the meeting.

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk and the Chair of the Finance Committee were noted and the Draft Risk Assessment Schedule for 2017/18 was approved. The Receipts and Payments for November were authorised and accepted. In regards to item 3 the full council agreed that the Pontycymer ward should donate as much as possible towards this request and that the Borough Councillor for Pontycymer should be asked to speak to the Education Authority to assist with this matter.

83/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the Memorial in Pontycymer and laid a wreath on behalf of the Community Council.

Resolved: This was noted.

84/18 WARD UPDATE

Blaengarw: Councillor Andrews had also received an invite to attend the proposed wind turbine meeting.

Llangeinor: Councillor Pinches informed Members that the Llangeinor ward had doubled their contribution to the recent fireworks display at the football club, that a dog waste dispenser was soon to be installed at Pontyrhyl Park by the Community Warden, that the land to the side of Bryn Cottages had been cleared by the Community Warden and daffodils planted and it was hoped that the he could clear Hotwells Lane.

Bettws: Sports Hub discussion are continuing and Councillor Jones had attended the Mini Football Festival held recently and said it was a great event and it was good to see the children wearing shirts provided by the Community Council.

Pontycymer: The Ffaldau Primary School break in and damage was noted. Councillor Griffiths said the BCBC emergency crew who attended had been fantastic.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk informed Members that the Warden had inspected Hotwells Lane and was not able to carry out the work.

85/18 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN

Wardens Report

Work Undertaken:

- Last mowing and grass cutting of the season around Parc Calon Lan, events field and Pontycymer lake areas
- Plant! site park and adjacent footpath by the Co-op strimmed
- Strimmed, steps cleared and litter removed on patch of land at end of Bryn cottages, Lluest
- Helped out with repair works to sculpture in Parc Calon Lan
- Annual painting of the cabin before the winter
- Removed a few fallen trees across trails in Darren Fawr woodland after high winds
- Mowed grass/clean up around cenotaph in front of Police station, Pontycymer
- Attended First aid course in Bridgend
- 16 sacks of daffodils planted

Shwt and Bettws:

- Pandy path- path scraped back and strimmed between the 2 new gates
- Path leading to Pen y Mynydd strimmed
- Weeds around cemetery wall treated
- Grass strimmed around top site stone monument
- Tree work carried out in Shwt (unable to remove remaining limb due to phone wires passing through upper branches)
- Clearance of bush on green and overgrowth around kissing gate to right of way, Shwt

Clerk's Report

Government Finance Course and Audit 2017/18

There are a few additional things the Community Council needs to put in place including:

- Annual Review of Internal Controls
- What needs to be included now in the engagement letter to the Internal Auditor

The Auditor General's future governance themes for local councils and the theme for 2017-18 is the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and the Use of Reserves.

The Clerk would raise these matters at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Grit Bins

The Clerk asked Members to let her know if grit bins, or any repairs or replacements are needed in their wards.

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One Voice Wales

As you're aware from last month's meeting OVW now class this council as a larger council (i.e. having more than 2,500 dwellings), and they are asking each council to put forward a representative to attend their quarterly meetings which are held in Mid Wales. The next meeting is on 24th January in Llandrindod Wells.

Community Transport in the Garw Valley

The Clerk informed Members of details of a service coming to the Valley around April 2018 and tabled information from Sharon Gronland at BCBC.

Council Committees

A vacancy for the Chair of the Council's Employment and Disciplinary Committees (both same Members) is required. All 4 wards are represented - Councillors Griffiths, Andrews, Lloyd and Pinches.

Declarations of Interest

A reminder to all Members to declare their personal or prejudicial interests.

Parc Calon Lan Monument

The sculptor has shown the Warden how to repoint the monument and given him the materials and shown him how to seal it; a job which needs to be carried out annually. She had also written to the Clerk to express her gratitude for the Warden's help and said how helpful and invaluable he'd been on the day.

Coffee Machine

The coffee machine in the Visitor Centre is in working order and it was agreed to attempt to sell it as it was no longer required at the Centre.

Quad Use

The Clerk was asked at the Finance Committee how often the quad is used and she updated Members on the information given by Global Telemetrics who monitor the tracker.

Resolved: All information was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would try and sell the coffee machine, that Councillor Pinches would Chair both the Employment and Disciplinary committees and that the OVW larger council representative would be Councillor Griffiths.

86/18 CORRESPONDENCE

No.	Sender	Details
1.	Garw Valley Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email advising the Community Council that the GVR have been successful in receiving a grant of £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund towards the maintenance and management of the Garw Community Route
2.	Garw Valley Responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from Don Sage requesting funding for placing a cabinet on the Police Station in Pontycymer giving 24 hour access as all other defibrillators in the valley are inside shops
3.	BCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information re. firework displays and bonfires for inclusion on the BCBC website • Bridgend County Civic Charity Appeals Standing Committee events - Coffee Morning 17th November 2017 and a Charity Lunch on 20th October 2017 • Email from Mark Galvin at BCBC regarding the Planning Workshop being held on 18th December in Bridgend • Bridgend Public Services Board draft Wellbeing Plan Consultation - links to the full plan, more information and a survey • Agenda T&CC Forum Meeting 16th October 2017
4.	One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial Charges for Children • Email announcing the publication of its Revised Proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. • Link to CADW war memorial grant schemes • Town and Village Greens consultation (closes 2/2/18) • Invitation to Tax Forum meeting 6th November 2017 • Capturing Planning in Images (closes 10/11/17) • Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (closes 12/1/18) • Local Approaches to Poverty Reduction: The Well-Being of Future Generations Act and Public Service Boards • October 2017 News Bulletin • Wales Centre for Public Policy - change to Communications Functions • OVW Innovative Practice National Awards 2018 • Review of Community and Town Council Sector - consultations across Wales, 5th December in Pencoed from 7 - 9 pm • Future of Work in Wales - a link to an on-line report • Details of Cardiff & Vale Area Committee 23RD October, Agenda, Draft Minutes and Associated Papers

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5.	Boundary Commission for Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of invitation to the Chair or a representative to a presentation at Civic Offices, Bridgend on 9th January at 5.30 pm to explain the review process of electoral arrangements. Need to rsvp. Letter announcing the publication of its Revised Proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Any representations to be received by 11th December 2017.
6.	ABM CHC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review questionnaire
7.	N. Allcock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence regarding Pontycymer Notice Board, Fly Tipping Problems, By-election, Christmas Lights, Memorial Benches, Storage for Garw Wombles, Daffodil Planting, Volunteering, Candidacy, Meeting Council Members and Compost Heaps
8.	Clerks & Councils Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2017 Issue
9.	Ombudsman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaint and a further letter informing the Clerk that a decision has been taken not to investigate the complaint.
10.	J. Griffiths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter on behalf of Bettws OAP Association requesting a donation for their Christmas Lunch at Bettws Life Centre.

9.00 pm Standing Orders were suspended.

With the consent of the Chair the following correspondence was added as it was received after the meeting's papers had been distributed

No.	Sender	Details
2.	Garw Valley Responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further information: request also includes the purchase of a defibrillator. Total cost £1,400 Notice of AED public training at 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on 25th November at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall with free coffee and tea.
3.	BCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy Notice and Drawings ref. Orders for Bettws made 13/11/17 Mayor's Citizenship Awards 2018 Community Transport in the Garw Valley
4.	One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ombudsman's Casebook Issue 30
7.	N. Allcock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence re Polling Day
11.	M Peach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence re dangerous footpath along A4064 Llangeinor
12.	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Statement by Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Resolved: The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk highlighted various items. It was agreed to include consideration of donating £1,400 for a defibrillator and cabinet for the Garw Valley Responders at the December Precept Meeting. It was agreed that Councillors Dendy and Clatworthy would attend the OVW consultation event in Pencoed on 5th December, that the Chair would attend a presentation on the review process of electoral arrangements at the Civic Offices on 9th January. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Allcock to inform him that the Community Council did not wish to pursue the noticeboard, compost heap or fly tipping ideas any further. The Clerk had referred M Peach's email to the Highways Department at BCBC for action and the Cllr R Stirman had also responded and taken action. A donation from the Bettws ward fund would be considered in response to J. Griffiths' letter. Councillor J Davies declared an interest.

87/18 PLANNING MATTERS

1.Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/929/RLX	Remove condition 1 of P/09/635/FUL relating to sound insulation	Golygfa Y Cwm Mountain Road Llangeinor CF32 8PN
P/17/898/FUL	Change of use of disused barn into a holiday let cottage with removal of dormer and replacement with window	Blaengarw Farm Mount Pleasant Blaengarw CF32 8AL
Decisions:		
P/17/754/FUL	Remove existing domestic stable and erect replacement stables and store; new private garage; new private swimming pool Decision: Conditional Consent	Mole End Bettws Road Brynmenyn CF32 8UR
P/17/718/DOC	Approval of details for Conditions 1, 4, 5 & 6 of P/12/577/FUL Decision: DOC Agree	Plot 5 Heol Ty Nant Llangeinor CF32 8HZ
P/17/689/FUL	Conservatory on east elevation of dwelling Decision: Conditional Consent	Blaengarw Farm Mount Pleasant Blaengarw CF32 8AL
P/17/674/FUL	Approval of details for conditions 3 & 5 of P/15/214/FUL Decision: DOC Agree	Harden House 115-125 Oxford Street Pontycymmer CF32 8DE
P/17/251/FUL	Change whole of Workmens Institute to a domestic dwelling	5-8 Meadow Street Pontycymmer CF32 8HF

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	Decision: Retrospective Conditional Consent	
P/17/135/LIS	Renovate listed building Decision: LIS Approval with Conditions	5-8 Meadow Street Pontycymmer CF32 8HF
Appeals:		
None to date		

2.Planning Aid Wales

- Details of Free Planning Training 18th December in Bridgend (2 free places per Community Council - 1 reserved)
- Pre-application Consultation: Maximising your Community Influence

Resolved: The Clerk would arrange for Councillor Dendy to attend the Free Planning Training on 18th December.

88/18 ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 2017 PRECEPT MEETING AND JANUARY 2018 ORDINARY MEETING

Only urgent items to be considered as the meeting is a Precept Meeting.

Resolved: This was noted.

89/18 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (PUBLIC TO BE EXCLUDED)

This discussion was confidential. The Clerk read out the draft letter to be sent on behalf of the Community Council, which was discussed at the last meeting. Staff appraisals for both staff had been carried out in November and recommendations were made.

Resolved: Members unanimously agreed that the letter should be sent. The appraisal recommendations made by the Clerk for the Community Warden were agreed and authorised and the appraisal recommendations made by the Chair for the Clerk were agreed and authorised and a further discussion would take place at the Precept Meeting.

90/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be a Precept Meeting and will take place on Monday 4th December 2017 at 6.30 pm at Bettws Life Centre. The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 15th January 2018 at 6.30 pm at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

Resolved: The information was noted.

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With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm?