



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
BETTWS LIFE CENTRE ON 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 AT 7.00 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

Apologies were received from:

Councillor M Thomas  
PCSOs M Rees & J Dulson

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

**60/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Minute No</b>
Ms S Dendy	BCBC Planning Committee	Member	All relevant incl. 71/18
Mr C Gillard-Sage	Anti-Social Behaviour Oxford Street	Property Owner	65/18
Mrs R Stirman	BCBC Planning Committee	Member	All relevant incl. 71/18

**61/18 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2017 ORDINARY MEETING**

An amendment was requested and agreed to Minute no 57/18 Correspondence resolutions to be changed to:

Resolved: To include #Talk Valleys and the consideration of a policy for live streaming meetings on the October agenda. It was agreed to agree M Lewis' request to plant a wild flower meadow in Blaengarw, to write to G Jarvis to agree to the request to use the Visitor Centre for the Open Doors Day in September 2018 but to ask that it is held a week later than in 2017, and to inform Mr Jarvis that the Community Council may be opening the Visitor Centre that weekend and so the facility may have to be shared. That the Clerk will request further information regarding supply cable to the lighting column in Llangeinor, that the Clerk would forward the correspondence from P. Scott to the Borough Councillor for Llangeinor and that an apology would be sent to T Davies regarding the plaque presentation.

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

**62/18 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE**

**RESOLVED:**

There were no PCSOs in attendance, but the crime figures for September had been included with the papers for the meeting so all Members were up-to-date. Cllr J Davies highlighted an issue with buses in the Bettws ward.

63/18 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2017 ORDINARY MINUTES

RESOLVED:

Christmas Decorations/Lighting

A Christmas tree decoration has been put up in error in Pantygog, now that it is installed it will remain, but it was not part of this year's plan.

Daffodil Planting

Planting has started in Pontycymmer and will continue throughout the coming months.

Community Council School Governor Representatives

There is a vacancy at Betws Primary School and Members need to decide on a representative. Councillors J Davies and R Jones' names were put forward and a vote was taken for each candidate and Cllr Jones was confirmed as the representative.

Visitor Centre Matters to Raise, 3 Year Plan and T&CC Fund

These items have not been included on this month's agenda as Councillor Stirman was expected to be absent. In addition Karl Paterson was unable to attend so will now attend the January meeting and give his presentation.

Parc Calon Lan Paths

The Warden and Clerk had met with a representative of the Building Training College and looked at the stone pillars in Bettws, the Parc Calon Lan Paths, the Turning Circle at the end of Railway Terrace and the Parc Calon Lan monument. Unfortunately since that meeting they've come back to say that staffing levels at this moment in time are insufficient for them to commit as a centre to undertake the projects. They can however offer leaners to support a main contractor on a placement opportunity.

Water Safety Talks

Had been arranged to take place today in all 5 schools in the valley. In addition the resource materials have been purchased and sent to the schools. As well as personal safety the trainer had been asked to make reference to animal safety when near the lakes and the importance of the lifesaving rings remaining in place.

Footpath 14

A new self-closing gate had now replaced the damaged kissing gate at the top of the path and further down the path as it opens up into the field, a new kissing gate had been installed.

Lighting Column Llangeinor

BCBC were inspecting the columns this week. They do not believe there is live cabling to the column but are double checking. The Llangeinor councillors have advised the Clerk that they're happy to contribute £300 from their ward funds for removing the column.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk would notify the Education Department about the change in representative at Bettws Primary School.

**64/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE INCLUDING REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR R SHAW, BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FOR PONTYCYMMER**

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**65/18 AGENDA ITEMS**

RESOLVED

To Discuss the Visitor Centre Car Park Lease

The Clerk had met with the Community Council's solicitor regarding the inclusion of the Visitor Centre Car Park into the Parc Calon Lan lease. A plan of the car park was given to Members showing blue areas which are included in the lease and white areas which are not. The white areas are not covered by the £5,000 cap for repair/maintenance of the leased land. The solicitor recommended that a Deed of Variation is drawn up which will incorporate a covenant to keep the Visitor Centre and the unleased land in with the rest of the lease. As the Visitor Centre is not covered by the £5,000 cap it is important that the Community Council keep it in a good state of repair. The Clerk requested authority to instruct the Solicitor to liaise with BCBC's solicitor to sort this matter out ASAP, especially in view of the possible changes to Town and Community Council's in 2018, and this was agreed.

To Consider the Idea of a Policy to Live Stream Future Meetings

This is not a service the Community Council currently offers. Rule no 5 of the Standing Orders of the Garw Valley Community Council state: photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent.

The Clerk had taken advice from One Voice Wales and the guidelines are that if a Council wishes to allow the filming/live streaming of meetings it will need to have a policy in place governing such arrangements. However it may consider that it is

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premature to go along this route at this time in advance of any change in the legal position introduced by the National Assembly in the future. The legal position in Wales is different from that applying in England and there is no automatic right to film/broadcast meetings in Wales.

The Clerk had contacted all 20 Town and Community Councils in the borough and of all who replied none are currently doing this or are considering it.

The Clerk also pointed out that the fact that you are unable to attend a public meeting of your council's executive, its committees or sub-committees does not mean you cannot find out about the decisions made there. The national rules require a council to keep records of any executive decisions made as soon as reasonably practicable after any public meeting. You can then inspect the records and any reports considered at the meeting at your council's offices and on the council's website.

The NALC legal topic on meetings states:

The meetings of the council must be open to the public pursuant to the provisions of the 1960 Act. Local councils will also need to consider the needs of disabled persons in relation to access to participation in meetings. Councils will need to make reasonable adjustments which may include making physical alterations to premises used for meetings or changing the premises used for meetings if it disadvantages disabled persons.

A discussion followed the information given by the Clerk and it was agreed that the Community Council would not undertake live streaming of meetings.

### To Consider Setting Up an Events Committee

Consideration of setting up an Events Committee was discussed in order to promote events and charities. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that Cllr R Clatworthy would Chair the Committee which would consist of a representative from each ward: Cllr. S Dendy (Blaengarw), Cllr J Davies (Bettws) and Cllr R Stirman (Llangeinor). The Clerk would liaise with the Chair to set up the first meeting and speak to Plant! About community funding.

### To Consider Selling Logs

The Clerk had spoken to the Warden to find out what system would work for him to enable the selling of logs and allow him to be away from the Visitor Centre during the day working in the Community.

He had suggested that sale of the logs should only be advertised in the valley and they should be available to purchase on request only. He suggested charging according to the amount requested i.e. half a trailer, full trailer, full boot (within reason) and to charge a delivery charge within the distance allowable with the quad. The idea was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would work with the Warden to set up a pricing system and an ordering system and it would be trialled for six months.

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### To Discuss Anti Social Behaviour Oxford Street

Problems with anti social behaviour in Oxford Street had been brought to the Council's attention and various suggestions were made by Councillors during the discussion. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for the 4 Borough Councillors in the valley to meet with the local Inspector to discuss this further. Cllr M Jones would set this up and invite Cllr R Shaw.

### To Discuss the Rationalisation of Supported Bus Services 2018/19

Cllr M Jones informed Members that Councils have been warned that subsidies on bus services cannot be maintained. More than £614,000 is spend on supported bus services but the figure is unsustainable in the face of on-going cuts to public funding.

By 2018/19 the budget for the service is likely to drop and a full 12 week consultation is being prepared that will ask local residents to provide feedback on options for how bus services could be provided in future. Further details of the consultation will be released at a later date but all wards are affected.

It was noted that some of the bus stops in Bettws are in a particular bad state of repair and the cost of a single journey down the valley to attend medical appointments or benefit appointments cost £5.

### To Discuss BAVO Funding

Cllr S Dendy informed Members of a scheme where bringing primary school children and old people together by sharing stories, bringing history to life etc. helps with bullying, loneliness and other issues. Funding is available and Cllr Dendy requested authorisation to look into this further. It was agreed that this was a good idea and Cllr Dendy was asked to find out more information and to come back to the next meeting with an idea for a one-off event.

In addition, Cllr Dendy raised the matter that the skate park in the valley remains unfinished and suggested looking into this further; this was agreed.

### To Consider an Amendment to the Standing Orders

Two requests from Councillors to amend the start time of the Ordinary Council meetings to the earlier time of 6.30 pm had been received by the Clerk. The current Standing Orders do not specify the start time of an Ordinary Meeting although they do specify that the Annual Meeting shall take place at 7pm (though this is now out of date as it is a statutory requirement that an Annual Meeting starts at 6.00 pm.)

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The only specification made in the Standing Orders regarding time is in Standing Order 17 which states that 'meetings are to close no later than 9.30 pm. Following a discussion it was agreed to amend the Standing Orders and that all Ordinary Meeting from November 2017 onwards will start at 6.30 pm.

The Standing Orders need to be redrafted to meet the statutory requirements and the Clerk will email out a draft for consideration at the November meeting.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk would instruct the solicitor, Mr C Morgan of King Davies & Partners, Maesteg to liaise with BCBC regarding the Visitor Centre and Car Park lease, to set up the first meeting of the Events Committee, to set up the trial log selling system for 6 months and amend the Standing Orders to reflect the time meetings start. In addition Cllr M Jones would set up a meeting between the Borough Councillors and the SW Police and Cllr. S Dendy would progress the BAVO funding idea and the completion of the skate park. It was agreed not to adopt a policy for the live streaming of Council meetings.

### 66/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

#### RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £10,090.30 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to November 2017 was £69,646.34. This included income payments of £4,444.81.

**Resolved:** That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted including the need for caution of spending for the remainder of the year outside of the ward funds. That the Receipts and Payments for October be authorised and accepted.

### 67/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

After a busy September attending civic services and a British Legion concert, there was nothing to report this month.

**Resolved:** This was noted.

### 68/18 WARD UPDATE

**Blaengarw:** A request was made for a Community Council/Community Noticeboard for Blaengarw to be placed in the Strand. This was agreed and the Clerk would obtain a quote for one in the same style as Llangeinor.

**Llangeinor:** The Llangeinor ward had agreed to use £500 of their ward fund towards the Fireworks display at Llangeinor AFC. A request was made to write to Mr Penry Davies to thank him for the work he's carried out on the Community Path from Llangeinor to Pontycymmer and this was agreed.

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Bettws: A request was made to place a bin near the kebab shop on Bettws Road. This was agreed and the Clerk would obtain a quote.

**Resolved:** The donation for Llangeinor AFC was agreed and noted. The Clerk would obtain quotes for the noticeboard and bin and write a letter of thanks to Mr Penry Davies for his work on the Community Path from Llangeinor to Pontycymmer.

### 69/18 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN

#### Wardens Report

##### **Work Undertaken:**

- Strimmed whole length of community route from Carn to Pontycymer Lake. Also cutback of overhanging trees along route.
- Painted all wooden benches around Parc Calon Lan.
- Removed remaining Daffodil sign structure, Llangeinor.
- Planted Daffodils along the banking in front of the fire station at Pontycymer.
- Sprayed/treated pockets of invasive Japanese Knotweed along riverway & cycle path between Pontycymer Lake & bridge near old Charter club. This is part of a project to tackle Knotweed throughout the whole valley corridor.
- General maintenance & MTB trail inspections.

##### **Issues**

- Fires have been set alight inside a few of the litter bins from the Park to Pont lake, & also to the Dog bag dispenser at Pont lake. Bins repaired & no permanent damage caused.
- Evidence of air rifle use in the area, signs shot through. Reported to Police.
- No further tampering noted to the new life rings at both lakes.

A request was made for the Community Warden to carry out the usual maintenance tasks in Bettws including weeding along the boundary wall of the Church. The Clerk was asked to contact Natural Resources Wales to check if the Japanese Knotweed on Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws was included in the project to tackle knotweed throughout the whole valley corridor.

#### Clerk's Report

##### Dog Bins

Inspection to see if the two sites at Pont Lake and outside the play area at the top site, Bettws can be included on the collection rota was undertaken last Friday and the Clerk was awaiting the outcome so that the bins can be ordered.

##### Pontycymmer By Election

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The Clerk informed Members that a Notice of Election had been posted in Pontycymmer and on the website, and the by election will be held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

### CCTV Camera Pontycymmer Square

The Clerk had received an update and was asked to query some aspects of it further before a discussion could take place.

### Remembrance Wreath

This had now been collected and given to the Chair in readiness for attendance at the Remembrance Service.

### Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Clerk informed Members that it is a requirement on T&CCs to publish details of all payments made to individual councillors and this is referred to as an annual Statement of Payments. It must be published on the website and provided to the Panel and the Clerk confirmed that this had been done for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### T&CC Meeting at BCBC

The Clerk had attended a meeting of Town and Community Clerks at BCBC. Interesting items to note:

- The Scrutiny Committee meeting which will discuss the refuse and recycling contract with Kier will be webcast on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- A Patrol Along scheme is on offer from South Wales Police. Participants can go out with officers on stop search patrol and SWP is encouraging councillors to do this to understand how the system works and what issues the police face. Further details are on the SWP website.
- ACES Training is also available to T&CCs and a representative of SWPolice are happy to come to a meeting and show a short film and give further information.
- Scrutiny request forms are available to complete and you can ask the scrutiny committee to look into issues of concern.
- Community Action Fund given to Borough Councillors was explained further. Training is being carried out on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October. £5k to spend, lowest bid can be £500, can't buy BCBC services with it i.e. extra grass cutting, can't have a prejudicial or personal interest in what they're funding, Councillors can pool it together and it can cross wards (the maximum pool is 6 councillors), 12 months to spend the £5k from 16<sup>th</sup> October and if it's not spent it's lost.
- Town and Community Council Charter is to be reviewed again.

### Monitoring Officer BCBC

Clerks have been informed that the Monitoring Officer is experiencing a significant increase in incidences of Members going direct to him for advice. In future he proposes to direct all Members to the Clerks, whilst assuring Members that he is available to the Clerks should they wish to discuss the matter with him.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. The Clerk would arrange for the Warden to carry out the work in Bettws, speak to NRW regarding the Japanese Knotweed in Bettws and check the CCTV information update.

70/18 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

No.	Sender	Details
1.	BAVO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autumn 2017 issue of Involve Magazine (print and electronic versions)</li> <li>How to get involved in collecting stories about NHS from members of the public</li> </ul>
2.	Community Furniture Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A request to attend a future meeting to inform Members about their charity.</li> </ul>
3.	BCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Charity Appeals Standing Committee - Information regarding A Grand Charity Banquet being held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017</li> <li>Reminder about the St David Awards</li> </ul>
4.	One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Appointment of Independent Members to a Special Health Authority</li> <li>AGM Motions 2017</li> <li>Consultation document ‘ Taking Forward Wales’ Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</li> <li>Independent Review Panel - Call to Evidence</li> <li>Consultation (ends 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017) Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities</li> <li>SE WALES RET autumn newsletter</li> <li>Larger Council’s Committee - Minutes of last meeting, Agenda for next meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October in Llandrindod Wells and Chair/Vice-Chair Nomination Form</li> </ul>
5.	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter and Report from Jayne Bryant AM re. Loneliness Roundtable</li> <li>Independent Remuneration Panel draft Annual Report 2018/19</li> </ul>
6.	Countryside Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of how to nominate in the Rural Oscars.</li> </ul>
7.	N. Alcock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request re allotment plot, offer to volunteer alongside the Community Warden, offer to cut back foliage</li> </ul>

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8.	Blaengarw Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter re making a short presentation to the November Council meeting</li> </ul>
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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
3. Cont.	BCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of T&amp;CC Charter</li> <li>Agenda for T&amp;CC Forum Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 4.00 pm</li> <li>Notice and plan for proposal to make an order to temporary close an unnamed road off A4063 to Shwt in late October</li> </ul>
4.	One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation: Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill -submissions by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017</li> </ul>
9.	Mole Farm Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter regarding changes to business</li> </ul>
10.	Simarc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter regarding land lying to the south, east of Station Road, Blaengarw. Details of a change to the managing agents</li> </ul>
11.	Clerks & Councils Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 2017 issue</li> </ul>
12.	Anonymous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By-election</li> </ul>
13.	Marie Curie Nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter asking for financial donation for nurses in Bridgend. One shift costs £180.</li> </ul>

**Resolved:** The items of Correspondence were noted, the Clerk drew Members particular attention to the T&CC Charter Review, the consultation document on Taking Forward Wales and the consultations and reviews of T&CCs. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the anonymous letter regarding the by-election in Bettws to Gary Ennis at BCBC and ask Simarc for further information regarding their letter. It was agreed to make a £25 donation to Marie Curie Nurses. It was also agreed to invite Blaengarw Primary School to give a short presentation at the November meeting.

**71/18 PLANNING MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:**

**Applications/Decisions Received:**

Reference	Proposal	Location
<b>Applications:</b>		
P/17/805/FUL	Construction of 4 no. 3-bed storey semi-detached houses with integral garages and gardens	Land at Chapel Street Pontycymmer CF32 8EG
P/17/794/FUL	Two storey rear extension	6 Brynawel Bettws CF32 8SA

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<b>Decisions:</b>		
None to date		
<b>Appeals:</b>		
None to date		

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

Reference	Proposal	Location
<b>Applications:</b>		
P/17/165/FUL	Change of use of shop to self-contained one bedroom flat	65 Oxford Street Pontycymmer CF32 8DD
P/17/166/LAE	Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of shop as one bedroom flat since 2008	63 Oxford Street Pontycymmer CF32 8DD
<b>Decisions:</b>		
P/17/361/OUT	Outline of 3 dwellings <b>Decision: Refused</b>	Land off Convil Road Blaengarw CF32 8BN
P/17/124/OUT	Proposed 3 bedroom dormer bungalow affecting footpath 80 <b>Decision: Refused</b>	Vacant Land above 49 Albany Road Pontycymmer CF32 8HE

**Resolved:** Objections were raised to P/17/165/FUL and P/17/166/LAE turning shops into dwellings and the construction of houses on land at Chapel Street Pontycymmer P/17/805/FUL due to access and parking issues and the proposed construction of 3 storey buildings. The Clerk was asked to make the objections.

**72/18 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2017 ORDINARY MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

- Any items highlighted during this meeting.

**73/18 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS RELATING TO STAFF (PUBLIC TO BE EXCLUDED)**

This discussion was confidential and it was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter on behalf of the Community Council.

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74/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6.30 pm at Bettws Life Centre

With there being no further matters to discuss the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.