



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE
BETTWS LIFE CENTRE ON 18th September 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor H Griffiths (Chair)

Councillors:

Mr R Clatworthy
Ms S Dendy
Mr M Jones
Ms C Lloyd
Ms M Pinches
Mr C Gillard-Sage
Mrs R Stirman
Mrs M Thomas

Apologies were received from:

Councillor G Andrews
Councillor J Davies
PCSO M Rees

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

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A minute's silence was held at the start of the meeting to mark the passing of Councillor Billy Hillier

46/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor	Item	Interest
Ms S Dendy	BCBC Planning Committee	Member
Mrs R Stirman	BCBC Planning Committee	Member

47/18 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

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

48/18 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH WALES POLICE

RESOLVED:

There were no PCSOs in attendance, but the crime figures for July and August had been included with the papers for the meeting. The recent vandalism at Bettws Church was discussed and it was agreed that this was a matter for the police to deal with.

49/18 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2017 ORDINARY MINUTES

RESOLVED:

Newsletter/Residents Handbook

The Clerk has contacted the publishers to see if the option of an electronic version is possible and the associated costs. The decision on a paper version would wait until after the by elections in Bettws and Pontycymmer.

Christmas Decorations/Lighting

The decorations agreed with the Members of the individual wards have now been ordered and all permissions to use lighting columns have been granted and unmetered electricity supply has been requested from Western Power.

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Turning Circle Blaengarw

This land forms part of the land that the Community Council leases from BCBC and is not part of the highway. The Clerk intends to speak to the representative from the building training college about this when she meets with her on 27th September.

Daffodil Planting

16 x 25kg sacks of bulbs have been purchased and delivered to the Warden and will be planted throughout the valley over the next few months.

Community Council School Governor Representatives

Progress has been made in finding out who the Community Council representatives are on all 5 school Board of Governors. The Clerk will report back to the Council when she has more information.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. Councillors Clatworthy and Shaw offered to help with the daffodil planting in Pontycymmer.

50/18 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATE INCLUDING REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR R SHAW, BOROUGH COUNCILLOR FOR PONTYCYMMER

Blaengarw: Councillor Dendy updated Members on the progress made regarding the Wind Farm Community Fund and explained how the Committee had been set up to consider applications. She also reported on an increase in fly tipping in the ward.

Pontycymmer: Councillor Shaw updated Members on the idea of restarting a youth club in the ward, the use of skates/scooters in the area, the recent problems with traffic parking on the bend at Gloucester Buildings, PACT priorities and the recent dog attack. He highlighted a problem with dogs being let off leads and said the dog warden was dealing with the matter. Speeding continues to be an issue through the village and work is continuing in tidying up the village. He discussed the repair of Pantygog Steps and said the estimated repair cost is in the region of £60,000.

Llangeinor: Councillor Stirman thanked the Community Council for their contribution to the summer play schemes. She highlighted an issue with overgrown hedgerows in Llangeinor and said that Lovells were looking into it. Speeding continues to be a problem in the village and the barriers are in need of maintenance. A newsletter had been distributed in Llangeinor; copies were available for Members to read.

Bettws: Councillor Jones said he'd been dealing with a number of confidential matters for residents regarding the NHS. He informed Members that the next Bettws Forum meeting would take place in late October when ideas would be discussed with REACH, then the next step would be to look at funding opportunities. He said that £5,000 had been given to each Borough Councillor for a capital project in their ward and he would be spending his allocation on a project in Bettws. He said the construction of the new schools was progressing well and gave an update on the build.

Resolved: The information was noted.

51/18 AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED

To discuss the Visitor Centre Car Park Lease

It appears that the visitor centre constructed on the car park is on land outside the land demised under the 2010 lease. The Clerk requested authority to meet with the solicitor who handled the lease to discuss this further and report back to the Council at the October meeting.

To receive a report on the Summer Opening of the Visitor Centre

Councillor Sage gave feedback on how successful the opening of the Visitor Centre had been over the school holidays. There were several points for further discussion including the extension of the Black Trail, the provision of a hose pipe to wash down bikes, a review of the walk leaflets, interpretation boards, and the offer to sponsor hanging baskets on the Centre. Following a discussion it was agreed that some of the points needed to be raised as individual agenda items at future meetings.

To discuss the Town and Community Council Fund 2017/18

The total in the fund is £100k for 2017/18 and 2018/19 which will be shared amongst successful applicants. Bids valued from £5,000 to £20,000 which have equal match funding can be submitted for individual projects which will be assessed on their merits.

There is currently no restriction upon the number of bids that can be submitted during the period. Priority will be given to bids linked to a CAT, but other forms of capital expenditure that has available match funding may be considered for projects that will benefit the community i.e. road calming measures.

Originally they were concentrating on 4 Assets for CAT. Bus shelters, but they encountered a lot of issues so have stopped promoting these. Public toilets were another thing they were promoting, although to my knowledge we don't have any in the area, and the CAT priorities shown on the tabled document. The RDP team are working in the Garw on sports hubs and this includes looking at the assets in the area.

Councillor Stirman was asked to contact BCBC as this criteria does not seem to be suitable for councils with small precepts.

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To discuss the idea of a 5 Year Plan

Councillor Stirman suggested a need for a 5 year plan so the Community Council could be more proactive rather than reactive. A discussion followed and it was agreed to include a further discussion on the agenda for the next meeting but to look at a 3 year plan rather than 5 years as it is impossible to know what maintenance plan BCBC will have so far in advance.

To discuss the proposed Community Allotment Gardens Bettws

V2C have offered suitable sites in Bettws and land at the bottom site near Woodland Close seems to be the preferred location. Councillor Jones said that clarity was needed on who's taking the lead on this and the long term obligation potentially for the council. He said that this would sit better on the Bettws Forum rather than the Community Council.

Resolved: The Clerk was given authority to meet with the Solicitor regarding the Visitor Centre Car Park lease. To include the points raised re the Visitor Centre and a 3 year plan on the October agenda, that Councillor Stirman would speak with BCBC re the Town and Community Council Fund and the information regarding the allotment gardens was noted.

52/18 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Clerk be accepted.

The Clerk presented accounts for approval totalling £20,734.90 and it was resolved that the accounts presented were approved. The balance carried forward to October 2017 was £75,291.83. This included income payments of £835.09 which included £0.71 bank interest, £720.25 VAT reclaim for a portion of the end of 2015/16 and the payment of an invoice for Code of Conduct training from St Brides Minor Community Council.

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

The payments submitted for authorisation totalling £20,734.90 were approved.

2.External Audit

The Clerk reported that the External Audit had now been concluded and that there were no matters which came to their attention which required the issuing of a separate additional issues arising report. The Annual Return was presented and was approved and accepted by the Council.

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3.Funding for Llangeinor Playscheme

The Clerk asked Members to reconsider the allocation of funding for the summer playschemes for 2018/19 and to put £4,000 in the budget to cover all schemes. This was agreed.

4.Insurance

The annual insurance renewal due on 1st October 2017, at a cost of £2,676.33, was approved.

5.Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

The Finance Committee had met on 4th July and 5th September 2017. The Chair of Finance was not present but the Clerk read out the recommendations to the full council which were all noted and agreed. They were:

- Training budget is overspent due to New Councillor Training and Code of Conduct training for all Members, following the local elections.
- Election costs had been higher than expected and with the unexpected two by-elections in Bettws and Pontycymmer puts a further strain on the budget.
- Christmas Lighting is showing as over budget due to receiving last year's invoice in this financial year. The Finance Committee recommends going forward that all costs over £1,250 per ward are paid out of ward funds and this was agreed.
- Financial Regulations - these have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and it was recommended that no changes are needed at this time.
- Contingency Fund - it was noted that having contributed £8,000 towards the Flood Lighting at Bettws School most of the contingency budget has been used.
- Insurance - to recommend that the two storage containers, 4 life rings and housings, 4 dog waste bag dispensers and the log splitter are added to the insurance at an additional cost of £23.21 and this was agreed.
- Log Splitter - it was recommended that the Clerk speaks to the Community Warden regarding the potential use of the log splitter.
- Coffee Machine - that the machine is inspected to see if it is in good order to consider selling

Resolved: That the action and information given by the Clerk was noted. That the Receipts and Payments for August/September be authorised and accepted. The Annual Return was presented to the full Council and was approved and accepted. It was noted that in the 2018/19 precept the summer play scheme budget would be increased to £4,000. The Clerk was given authority to pay the annual insurance

renewal at the amount quoted. The actions and recommendations made by the Finance Committee were all noted and agreed.

53/18 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had been invited and accepted invitations to Civic Services, a Civic Blessing and a British Legion Concert within the Borough.

54/18 WARD REPORTS

Matters had been covered along with the Borough Council reports.

Resolved: This was noted.

55/18 CLERK'S REPORT

Wardens Report

Work Undertaken:

- Completed strimming entire MTB trail route & footpaths within Darren Fawr woodland.
- Rights of Way work carried out across all wards, Bettws, Llangeinor, Pontycymer & Blaengarw,
- Parc Calon Lan & events field mowed several times. All hedgerows trimmed.
- Land around Pontycymer lake & adjacent paths, grass cut.
- Hedgerow by community club in Bettws cut back.
- MTB trail maintenance.
- 4 life rings fitted, 2 at Parc Calon Lan & 2 at Pontycymer lake.
- 4 warning signs installed, 2 at Parc Calon Lan & 2 at Pontycymer lake.
- Dog waste bins installed at Llangeinor & Pantygog park.

Community Work

This month the priority will be planting the 16 sacks of daffodils in each of the 4 wards.

Parc Calon Lan Paths

The Clerk is meeting with representative of the Building Training College in Maesteg on 27th September to look at this work and the stonework on the pillars at Bettws which need repair. It was suggested that maybe the monument work could be included and the turning circle at the end of Railway Terrace.

It had been resolved some months ago to remove the monument from Parc Calon Lan, however given that this was now a new council and the work has not yet been carried

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out Councillor Griffiths requested that this decision be reconsidered. A vote was taken and it was agreed that the monument would remain and be repaired.

Dog Death

All promised works have now been carried out. Danger of drowning signs and deep water signs put up around the lake, a risk assessment had been carried out, water safety talk for schools have been organised and the life rings have been replaced

It was brought to the Council's attention that the BCBC lakes in the valley do not have life rings and the Clerk was asked to write to BCBC expressing the Community Council's concern.

Water Safety Talks

Councillor Clatworthy had engaged Andrea Roberts of the Royal Life Saving Society to visit the primary schools in the area to give a 30 minute talk on safety around water. A few dates have been offered in October and the Clerk will liaise with the schools. There is no charge for this, but she has suggested we purchase some resource materials for the schools to reinforce the learning initially.

She suggests the purchase of:

- Murray Matt - an interactive wipe clean mat £37.50 each (excl. vat)
- Activity Sheets - these are free and are colouring sheets the school can download from a link
- Poster sets - flyer re summer water safety which are £4.00 per pack of 50.

Wheelchair Accessible Walks

It has been brought to our attention that access to Parc Calon Lan is not easily accessible for wheelchair users due to the shape of the gates. The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC to see if they are DDA Compliant.

Clerk's Report

Course:

The Clerk requested authority to attend a OVW Health & Safety Course in Bridgend on 17th October and this was agreed.

Clerk's Meeting at BCBC

The quarterly meeting for all Town and Community Council Clerks in the Borough is being held this week and the Clerk will attend and feed back at the next meeting.

Footpath 14

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A kissing gate off Bettws Road which leads onto this footpath is rusty and damaged and the Clerk has requested a new one. RoW have inspected and have agreed to remove the old gate and install a new self closing one, plus put up a new RoW sign. They will also install another gate further down as the path widens into the field to restrict livestock gaining access to the constrained end of the path as they sometimes get stuck and can't turn around.

Pavement Llanberis Terrace, Blaengarw

The Clerk has reported an overgrowth of weeds on this pavement to BCBC as pedestrians are having to walk on the highway.

Pavement Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws

The pavement's condition has been reported to BCBC as it is in need of resurfacing. The area has been inspected and an order has been issued for the work to go ahead as soon as resources permit.

Bin Outside the Odd in Bettws

This has been knocked over and the Clerk has requested a replacement from BCBC.

Life Ring Pontcymmer Lake

The two new life rings had been removed from Pontcymmer Lake and one has been recovered. As it is a condition of our lease that we provide life rings a replacement ring will be purchased at a cost of approximately £150.

Councillor Shaw

Has raised the issue of continuing dog mess problems on the footpath behind the Co-op to the lake in Pontcymmer. The Clerk asked the Members if they'd like to add a dog waste bin in this area, subject to BCBC including it on their collection schedule.

Councillor Shaw has also raised the issue of the tree roots growing under this path and the Clerk has updated him with the work the RoW are planning to carry out to the path.

Resolved: All information was noted. Authority was given to the Clerk to purchase a replacement life ring, the Clerk was asked to write to BCBC regarding the lack of life rings on the other lakes in the valley, to write to BCBC to check the Parc Calon Lan gates are DDA compliant, to arrange the school water safety talks and purchase £400 of learning materials, to arrange to attend a Health and Safety Course, obtain quotations to carry out the necessary repairs and to install a dog waste bin at Pontcymmer Lake.

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56/18 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED:

No.	Sender	Details
1.	BAVO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Lottery Fund • Latest BAVO Training E-bulletin Full of Autumn Courses • Community Facilities Programme - reopened for new applications
2.	Bridgend Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite to the Chair and Consort to attend their Civic Service on 24th September 2017
3.	BCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comic Relief - BAVO Core Strength Grant • Appeals Standing Committee: Cheese & Wine Evening 6th September 2017 • Bridgend Volunteer Achievement Awards 2017 • Appeals Standing Committee: Afternoon Tea 20th August 2017 • Welsh Government Youth Support Grant 2017/18 • Heritage Lottery Funding Surgery at BAVO • Invite to the Chair and Consort to attend the Mayor's Civic Blessing Service on 17th September 2017 • Town & Community Council Fund 2017/18 Letter • Adult Community Learning Booklet • #Talk Valleys - details of meeting 7th September 2017
4.	One Voice Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar: Using alternative delivery models to deliver public services • Latest news and stories from Natural Resources Wales • What's Stopping You From Being an AM? • Public Appointments 11 • Federation of City Farms & Community Garden Events • One Voice Wales August 2017 Bulletin • Environet Cymru Information • Consultation on the proposed Autism (Wales) Bill • Plant a Tree Charter Legacy Tree • Cymraeg 2050 Grant Scheme • Heritage Impact Statement in Wales - Reminder • Digital Potential Research • Environet Cymru E-Newsletter August 2017 • Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens Newsletter • Building a New Economy in Wales • Good Practice Exchange - Calendar of Events & Outputs 2017/18 • #Talk Valleys information and link to the plan 'Our Valleys, Our Future' • The Ombudsman's Casebook - Issue 29

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Council for Wales Annual Review 2016/17 • BS 5709 Gaps Gates & Stiles Revision Open for Comments until 19th September 2017 • One Voice Wales July 2017 Bulletin • Link to summary of responses to the consultation on proposals to ban the use of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products in the UK • Older People's Commissioner for Wales July 2017 Newsletter • Consultation on Electoral Reform - closes 10th October 2017
5.	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clustering: setting up of joint arrangements • National Development Framework for Wales Update
6.	Complaint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs running free in the Garw Valley
7.	Crossroads Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to an Annual Public Meeting 3rd October 2017 in Porthcawl and a Christmas Social on 28th November 2017 at the Hi Tide Inn
8.	NALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of data protection legislation which come into force 25th May 2018
9.	Maesteg Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite to the Chair & Consort to attend Maesteg Civic Service on 6th August 2017
10.	Pencoed Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite to the Chair & Consort to attend Pencoed Civic Service on 1st October 2017
11.	Clerks & Councils Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2017 magazine
12.	Noak's Ark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Newsletter 2017
13.	SLCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk Magazine July 2017 issue
14.	G Sage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you email
15.	M Lewis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email regarding wildflower meadow planting
16.	N Alcock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to live stream the Community Council's meetings
17.	Plant!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails re 10 Year Plant! Anniversary fund
18.	ABM CHC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence re the White Paper Services Fit for the Future
19.	G Jarvis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to use the Visitor's Centre for next year's Parc Calon Lan walk
20.	T Lyons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request re moving lighting column
21.	P Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems experienced

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.	BCBC continued	Appeals Standing Committee: Grand Charity Banquet on 24 th September 2017

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22.	T. Davies	Letter re. Plaque Presentation July 2017 meeting
23.	Western Power	Mynydd yr Aber Connection Project

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.

57/18 PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

Applications/Decisions Received:

Reference	Proposal	Location
Applications:		
P/17/563/OUT	New dwelling affecting footpath 80 Garw Valley	Land off Albany Road Pontycymmer CF32 8HE
P/17/689/FUL	Conservatory on east elevation of dwelling	Blaengarw Farm Mount Pleasant Blaengarw CF32 8AL
P/17/570/LIS	Conversion to 3 dwellings and general repairs	The Vestry Meadow Street Pontycymmer CF32 8HG
P/17/754/FUL	Remove existing domestic stable and erect replacement stables and store; new private garage; new private swimming pool	Mole End Bettws Road Brynmenyn CF32 8UR
Decisions:		
P/17/562/FUL	Ground floor rear extension Decision: Conditional Consent	36 Alexander Road Pontycymmer CF32 8HB
P/17/508/FUL	Construction of two wooden stables and a barn Decision: Conditional Consent	Land off Bettws Road Llangeinor CF32 8PH
Appeals:		

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None to date		
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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

Reference	Proposal	Location
Decisions:		
P/17/447/DOC	Approval of details for conditions 1,2,3,4 and 5 of P/16/1001/FUL Decisions: DOC agree	Braichycymmer Arms Pleasant View Pontyrhyl Pontycymmer CF32 8BJ

Resolved: No objections were raised to any planning applications

58/18 ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 2017 ORDINARY MEETING

RESOLVED:

- Karl Patterson re Summer Playscheme
- #Talk Wales (RS)
- Visitor Centre Car Park (AH)
- To discuss Antisocial Behaviour Oxford Street (RC)
- To discuss Public Transport (MJ)
- To discuss BAVO Funding (SD)
- Plus items highlighted during this meeting.

59/17 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will take place on Monday 16th October 2017 at 7.00 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 8.40 pm.