



# **GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **CYNGOR CYMUNED CWM GARW**

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**Minutes of the Precept Meeting held at the Garw Valley Life Centre  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

***Members Present:-***

Councillor G Davies (Chairman)

***Councillors:*** C G Andrews; D T Griffiths; Mrs D Griffiths; Mrs H Griffiths; W J Hillier; Mrs T M Jenkins; M Jones; J Szeligiewicz ; Mrs M Thomas and G Walters.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and was chaired by Councillor G Davies.

**No.                      Minute**

The Chairman informed the Members that the Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification and the Clerk presented her Certificate to the Council. The Council congratulated the Clerk on her achievement.

**1                      Apologies for Absence**

The Members ***resolved*** to note the apologies received from Cllrs F Hughes and S Maclaren.

**2                      Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs M Jones and Mrs M Thomas – with all matters relating to BCBC

**3                      Planning Application P/14/742/OUT**

***Resolved: the Council has concerns with regards to highways safety at the entrance to this site and the effect that the increased traffic will have on the highways around the site. The Clerk is to inform the Planning Department at BCBC.***

**4                      To approve the payment of 50% of the Warden's Van Insurance**

***Resolved: the Council will meet half of the cost of the Warden's van insurance. The Warden must submit a quarterly log to the Council of all travel undertaken.***

**5                      To approve the Clerk's expenses claim for November 2014**

***Resolved: the Council approved the payment of the Clerk's expenses claim.***

*The following item was discussed in a closed section of the Meeting under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) due to the confidential nature of the items discussed.*

**6                      To discuss and determine the 2015/16 Precept requirement**

The Clerk had provided each Member with detailed budget information a week before the Precept Meeting was held. Following the guidance in the Practitioners' Guide – "Governance

and accountability for local councils in Wales”, if the Council wished to carry on providing the same services as in 2014-15, the precept would have to be set at £90,000.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the setting of the precept. The Council wishes to look inwards to see if it can cut any internal costs before raising the precept. This will be the task of the Finance Committee who is due to first meet in early January 2015. The Finance Committee will report back to the Full Council on any recommendations and the Full Council will have to make the decisions. The Council is aware that they have contractual obligations in relation to their two employees.

A proposal was made and seconded that the precept should be kept at the same level as in 2014-15 at £66,000. A counter proposal was made and seconded that the precept should be increased by an inflationary 2%. The counter proposal was voted on first and five Members voted in favour of this proposal. The original proposal that the precept should be frozen was then considered and five Members voted in favour of this. The Chairman had a casting vote and voted in favour of keeping the Precept at the same level. One Member abstained from the vote.

***Resolved: the Precept is set at £66,000 for the financial year 2015-16.***

The Clerk said that by the Council setting the Precept at £66,000, it has set a negative budget and will not be able to meet all of its costs in 2015-16 based on the budget provided. The Council is going to work with BCBC to establish a balanced budget as soon as is practicable. The Clerk informed the Members that there is a statutory duty to inform BCBC of the precept requirement. BCBC has requested that the precept requirement is confirmed to them by 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (an extension to the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 had been agreed if needed) and the Members gave approval to the Clerk for her to submit this precept request.

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

7 **Date of the next Meeting**

***Resolved: That the Council will next meet at 7pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at the Blaengarw Workmen’s Hall***

With business concluded, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.20pm

***Chairman*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date*** \_\_\_\_\_