



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT BLAENGARW WORKMEN'S
HALL ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2020 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor S Dendy (Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews
R Clatworthy
C Gillard-Sage
C Lloyd
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors H Griffiths, M Jones R
Jones, G Lloyd, M Thomas and R
Stirman

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO,
Councillor R Shaw and 3 members of the public

136/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters Green Links	Member Chair

137/20 TO RECEIVE MR JOHN REES FROM THE CLEARER STREETS/STREET SCENE SECTION AT BCBC

Unfortunately Mr Rees had sent his apologies.

138/20 TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GARW SBGC COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ASSET TRANSFER

Mr Peter Higgins was in attendance representing the Committee and asked for help and support in the asset transfer process of sporting facilities. He requested a meeting between the Community Council and the Sports Clubs in the valley.

Resolved: Mr Higgins request was agreed and the Clerk was asked to include this for further discussion at the April meeting with a view to setting up a meeting between the Community Council, the Asset Transfer Officer at BCBC and representatives of the Sports Clubs.

139/20 TO READ, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2020 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval. One addition was requested, to include the resolution made at the February meeting during the Chair's Report (minute 130/20) to submit an Expression of Interest form to work in collaboration with REACH on a future plan for the valley.

Resolved: The addition was agreed and the Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair of the Meeting.

140/20 TO RECEIVE THE SOUTH WALES POLICE/CRIME FIGURES

The crime figures for January 2020 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting. There were no SW Police representatives present so it was agreed that the January figures would be discussed when they were next present.

141/20 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2020 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 128/20 Community Awards 2019

No entries received to date. Closing date is 13th April 2020.

Minute 132/20 Correspondence

The Clerk had responded to the BCBC letter re long term maintenance costs for the work being completed in the upper valley. They've responded to say they are looking to make some revisions to the schemes of work following more detailed designs being put forward. Therefore they'll hold off replying for the time being until they have a better idea of the revisions as they may have implications on maintenance. They'll also look at the long term maintenance which they will try and include in the contract sum for the schemes of work.

Resolved: The information was noted.

142/20 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES AND WARD REPORTS

- Bettws - Councillor M Trowbridge
- Blaengarw - Councillor S Dendy
- Llangeinor - no councillors present
- Pontycymer - Councillor Clive Gillard-Sage and Councillor Rod Shaw

Councillor Trowbridge gave an update about cleaning up Bettws village. Councillor Dendy informed Members that she had organised a volunteer network group to help isolated people during the pandemic, set up a telephone buddy system and had linked in to BAVO. Councillor Gillard-Sage raised his concerns regarding the ongoing problem of fly tipping. Councillor Shaw reported, amongst other things, on the success of the valley youth club which has led to the addition of an older age group youth club, gave a BCBC budget update, discussed the effects the coronavirus may have on the elderly population of the valley and gave CAT updates.

Resolved: All information was noted. The Clerk would add the volunteer information to the Community Council's website.

143/20 PRIVACY POLICY

A draft privacy policy had been sent out to Members for approval and adoption. This would be posted on the council's website.

Resolved: The policy was approved and adopted.

144/20 FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Members had received a list of deferred requests and copies of the correspondence and these were discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed to donate £25.00 to the following:

- Wales Children's Air Ambulance
- West Glamorgan Age Cymru
- Noah's Ark

It was agreed not to donate to the following:

- Llangollen International Eisteddfod

145/20 TO RECEIVE EVENTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Christmas 2020:

Recommend putting the budget and effort into 1 event for the whole of the valley and move it around each year. The first event to be held in the lower valley in Llangeinor and be a bigger event with children's disco, entertainer etc. Numbers would have to be within health and safety limits.

Visitor Centre:

Recommend that the Chair, Clerk and Warden meet with a carpenter to design a plan for the serving bar within the Centre. To earmark the money included for this purpose in the 2019/20 budget.

Easter 2020:

The **Recommendation** was to have a ticketed Easter egg hunt and a small bag would be provided on the handover of each ticket for hunters to fill. The CC would also need to put on a distraction task up by the Centre and at least 6 councillors to volunteer to run this event. It was agreed that given the current pandemic, to cancel any plans for this event.

Walk and Moth Collecting:

Recommend putting this on around June depending on how the current situation evolves. Will be guided by the facilitator as to the best date. A donation to the Wales Wildlife Trust would be requested by the organiser.

Remembrance 2020 and VE 2020:

Recommend inviting Mr Dean to the next Events Committee meeting to work in collaboration with the council.

Recommend putting red, white and blue flowers in all planters, including the one in Llust. Look into putting up flags. Consider benches - decision to be made by each ward.

Calon Lan Event:

Recommend putting on a low key celebration around the memorial, invite a choir to perform 5/6 songs including Calon Lan. Put on teas and coffees, have some cupcakes and maybe a large cake made.

There is £50 in the budget for a Teddy Bear's picnic which is usually rained off so we recommend not including it in this year's programme of events. Also in this year's budget is money for additional signage and a footpath committee which has not been set up. We are requesting to be given an additional £500 from the unused budget towards this event.

Resolved: All recommendations and requests were unanimously agreed.

146/20 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. Payments March 2020:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the £11,744.89 of payments for March 2020 as detailed on the March papers. It was noted that the balance carried forward to the end of March 2020 was £70,286.52.

2. Income:

A refund of £205.20 had been received in payment for dog waste bag refund, charged in error and highlighted in last year's audit.

3. Plant! Trees:

The Clerk had contacted Natural Resources Wales to see if a contribution towards the replacement trees planted in the Plant! site behind the Co-op could be received. She had received confirmation that a contribution of £531.51 would be made.

4. Internal Auditor:

It is now time to engage the internal auditor to carry out the 2019/20 internal audit.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th MARCH 2020

The Clerk had made enquiries of other auditor's fees which were significantly higher than those paid in the past.

5. One Voice Wales Membership Renewal:

This is due for renewal on 1st April 2020 at a cost of £1,169. The amount has been included in the 2020/21 budget.

Resolved: The March 2020 payments were approved and authority given to make the payments. The information and updates given were noted. It was unanimously agreed to engage the same auditor as 2018/19 to carry out the internal audit for 2019/20, due to the vast knowledge and experience of the auditor with the GVCC work, his thoroughness and the low fee charged. It was unanimously agreed to renew the OVW membership.

147/20 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair had attended and enjoyed an event organised by Chris Ellmore MP and Huw Irranca Davies AM on 12th March in Blaengarw to mark the centenary anniversary of the death of Daniel James, composer of Calon Lan.

148/20 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk tabled a list of work undertaken by the Community Warden in the month.

Planters

The one for Pontycymer square will be installed shortly. Blaengarw have also agreed to placing one on the flat area near the bus stop outside Dan y Mynydd, the Clerk has requested a licence from BCBC.

Town & Community Council Fund

The Clerk had met with Councillor M Jones to complete the application to fund the repair and maintenance work at Bettws Life Centre. The total would be made up of £8k from community council, £5k from Awen and match funded with the remaining £13k by the fund if successful.

GDPR Training

The Clerk suggested that training is needed for those councillors who have not received training via BCBC and suggested organising bespoke training and sharing costs with other community councils if there is an appetite.

Salary Arrangements COVID-19

As changes in society are being made due to the pandemic, the Clerk asked what provision would be made for the staff should the country go into lockdown and they are unable to work. This was discussed.

Council Work Arrangements COVID-19

In line with advice from the Welsh Government via OVW the Clerk requested a decision on how the council's work would continue, and decisions made, if the country is locked down and the CC is unable to hold meetings.

Clerk's Meeting

The Clerk had attended a meeting at BCBC the previous week. Agenda items included: Asset Transfer update, replacement T&CC Forum, national recycling campaign launch.

Annual Leave dates

The Clerk informed Members of her annual leave dates before the end of March 2020.

Resolved: The information was noted. It was agreed that in the event of a lockdown the Clerk could continue to work from home and be paid as normal and that if the Warden could not attend work the community council would follow whatever provision BCBC put in place for their staff. Councillor M Trowbridge said she'd inform the Clerk of BCBCs decision should these circumstances occur. It was agreed that GDPR training was needed and to work in partnership with other councils to obtain a reduced price. It was unanimously agreed that if the current pandemic continues and the CC is unable to hold meetings that the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, would have delegated powers to continue the work of the council in line with decisions already made and the budget already set for 2020/21.

149/20 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including the Bridgend Love2Walk Festival 2020, Local Places for Nature Grants, the IRPW Annual Report February 2020 and the T&CC amendment, a request to add a link to the CCs website to find the nearest Job Centre, the update re proposals to enhance the existing Paper Mill facility in Llangynwyd, Bridgend,

Resolved: The Warden would liaise with BCBC regarding the Love2Walk Festival and offer to host a walk, the Clerk was asked to apply for the Local Places for Nature Grants, the IRPW amendment was noted, no comment was made on the Job Centre request, other mail and information was noted.

150/20 PLANNING MATTERS

The planning requests, decisions and 1 appeal had been included in the meeting papers.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 16th MARCH 2020

Resolved: There were no observations made.

151/20 ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 2020 AGENDA

Resolved: The agenda will be kept open for items to be added in the month.

152/20 DATE & VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 20th April 2020 at Blaengarw Workmen's Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm