



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA TELE-CONFERENCING ON
MONDAY 20TH JULY 2020 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor S Dendy (Chair)

Councillors: G Andrews
R Clatworthy
C Gillard-Sage
H Griffiths
M Jones (left the meeting at 7.38 pm)
C Lloyd
G Lloyd
R Stirman
M Trowbridge
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors R Jones & M Thomas

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO,

14/21 Apologies (as above)

15/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters	Member
R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member

16/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2020 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

17/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JUNE 2020 ORDINARY MEETING

Minute 5/21 School Community Award: Tynyrheol Primary School had not taken part. The awards and gifts had been delivered to the other 4 schools in the valley.

Minute 8/21 Grass Fires: The Clerk had made enquiries from the Fire Service regarding fire beating, but under health and safety law this was no longer allowed. Mark Samuels of Pontycymer Station was due to phone the Clerk to discuss what assistance could be given and to discuss the use of lake water.

Minute 8/21 De-silting of the Lakes and Pond Weed/Reed Removal: The Clerk had distributed a response from NRW on the way forward for the above work to be carried out. Members said it was incredibly involved and they felt guidance and specialist advice was needed.

Minute 10/21 Clerk's Report: The Clerk had written to SW Police regarding the off road bike operation and had received a response from Sgt. Newman, which was explained.

Minute 11/21 Correspondence: The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Cllr R Shaw to submit referrals regarding risk assessing the trees on Bridgend Road and the problems with parking on the bend at Gloucester Buildings. The Clerk had also contacted Cllr Shaw following the second tree fall towards the Halo car park. No feedback has been

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received to date other than confirmation of the referrals being made. Members expressed their concerns about the cars racing up and down the valley.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. The Clerk was asked to request that BCBC carry out a tree audit of all the trees in the valley. It was agreed that NRW's offer of contact with the similar project in Merthyr would be helpful and asked the Clerk to investigate further. The Clerk was asked to invite NRW to the September meeting to update Members on the upper valley work. It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair should try and progress this further over the summer period.

18/21 RIGHTS OF WAY

Access issues ref. some of the rights of way footpaths was discussed, some were now inaccessible due to locked gates being in place. Some members had further information on these issues and these were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to invite the Rights of Way Manager at BCBC to a future meeting. It was agreed that members would consider issues with rights of way in their wards and which footpaths they wish to include of importance in a list/map that Cllr Stirman would collate. Members were asked to send their information direct to Cllr Stirman.

19/21 REACH SUBMISSION

As members were aware the council had been successful in its Expression of Interest to REACH. The Clerk had worked in partnership with the REACH officer to complete a final submission for funding and had distributed copiers to members.

Resolved: Approval of the final documents was accepted and approved and the Clerk was asked to submit them to request funding.

20/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1.The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for July totalling £5,895.55

2.Income:

VAT reclaims totalling £!4,866.44 had been received.

3.External Audit:

The paperwork had been prepared and sent to the external auditor.

4.Councillor Allowances 2019/20:

The return had been completed and sent to the IRPW and has been published on the council's website under the Finance section.

Resolved: The 2020 payments from July were approved and authority was given to make the payments. The information and updates given were noted.

21/21 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN

The Clerk had included a written Clerk's report and a written Warden's report including a list of work undertaken by the Community Warden in the month with the meeting papers. These were discussed.

The Clerk had collated the councillor attendance for 2019/20 and published it on the website on the Councillor page.

The Clerk requested authority to engage the services of Taclus Confidential to collect wastepaper from the council's home office as it could not be recycled with household waste and an audit trail needed to be kept in line with GDPR regulations. She had asked two other community councils to split the costs and they had agreed.

5 of the bridges in PC Lan need attention and the Clerk had obtained estimated costs from BCBC to get them structurally surveyed. 3 were in urgent need of attention.

In addition the Clerk gave updates on the following:

- Purchase and installation of a bike rack near the Visitor Centre
- New toilet system in the Visitor Centre
- Repairs to the drainage channel outside the Visitor Centre
- Construction of a serving counter in the Visitor Centre
- Repair to footpaths around the monument in PC Lan
- Trees to riverbank Prospect Place, Pontycymer

Concerns were raised by members regarding the amount of dog excrement in the park despite the provision of dog waste dispensers and bins. It was agreed that educating future generations on this issue was important and this would be raised when the BCBC officer attends a future meeting to discuss the Love it, Don't trash it scheme.

Members also raised their concerns about rabbit snares being found in the park.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was authorised to purchase a new vacuum cleaner for the Visitor Centre, a replacement secondary heavy duty trimmer and a replacement back-pack type more powerful blower for the Warden to use. These would be purchased using the Visitor Centre and PC Lan Machinery budgets. The Clerk was asked to sell the current blower. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the Warden puts in any requests for equipment throughout the year and any course requests that would aid him in his work. Authority was given to engage

the services of Taclus Confidential and the BCBC surveyor to look at the 3 most urgent bridges and it was agreed that the other bridges would be surveyed in 2021/22. The Clerk was given authority to arrange for any works to be carried out within the budget set for bridge repairs in the 2020/21 budget. The Clerk was given authority to progress the works covered by the updates, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair over the coming months, the tree work for Prospect Place was not included in the budget and the contingency or general reserves would be used. The bike rack would be installed to the side of the Visitor Centre and be the toast rack type. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Warden and PCSO on how to deal with the snares.

22/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including the letter from Renewable Energy Systems Ltd's pre application consultation and the request re Garw Valley Rocks.

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to Sienna Edwards to thank her for all her hard work and the Chair would deliver it to her. It was agreed that the rocks could be a permanent marker near the monument in PC Lan and the Clerk would liaise with the family and the Warden to work in partnership together to install the feature. It was also agreed to donate £25 towards the fund raising. It was agreed that the council did not wish to respond to the RES letter as an organisation, but that if individual councillors wished to respond they should go ahead.

23/21 PLANNING MATTERS

The planning requests had been included in the meeting papers, no decisions or appeals had been received.

Resolved: An objection had been made to P/19/861/FUL by a councillor and this had been submitted in consultation with the Chair as observations were due before the date of the meeting. This was approved.

24/21 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Resolved: The agenda will be kept open for items to be added in the month. The date for the next meeting will be 21st September 2020 via Zoom at 6.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm