



**GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW**

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 2020 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors: R Clatworthy  
S Dendy  
C Gillard-Sage  
G Lloyd  
R Stirman

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews, H Griffiths, M Jones, R Jones, M Thomas & M Trowbridge

No Apologies: Councillor G Walters

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

25/21 Apologies (as above)

**26/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning Community Award	Member Nominee
R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning Llangeinor FC	Member Spouse of Committee Member

**27/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2020 ORDINARY MEETING**

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

**28/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY 2020 ORDINARY MEETING**

**Minute 17/21 Matters Arising from the June 2020 Meeting**

**Grass Fires:** Mark Samuels would be invited to the November 2020 meeting.

**De-silting of the Lakes and Pond Weed/Reed Removal:** NRW have been invited to attend the October 2020 meeting to give an update on the Upper Garw work. The Community Council's enquiries to BCBC regarding who organises the de-silting and requesting confirmation that they will pay the balance of the cost of the works with GVCC paying a £5,000 contribution as per the lease is as yet unanswered so no progress can be made. The Clerk explained the complexities of why the pond weed/reed removal has not yet gone ahead at Pont lake. The Merthyr project mentioned at the last meeting has been delayed due to COVID but a report is expected to be shared with GVCC in a few months.

**Correspondence:** Councillor Shaw had given the Clerk an update regarding the trees in the valley which the Clerk shared with Members. The Clerk had requested that BCBC carry out a tree audit in the valley and the Countryside Manager at BCBC has given the Clerk some background on the assessments completed in 2017 and informed her that there has been no corporate decision to re-assess and that the default now is that trees on BCBC land holdings will be the responsibility of the holding department for a given asset. BCBC are focussing on ash die back and to this end the Highways and Open Spaces

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managers are progressing a commission that will look to develop an ash die back action plan.

It was noted that new yellow lines have been painted on the road at Gloucester Buildings, which appeared to be helping the problems there.

### Minute 18/21 Rights of Way

Councillor Stirman had a list of 15 footpaths that need attention.

### Minute 19/21 REACH Submission

The panel had met the previous week and their recommendations will now be circulated to the Local Action Group who will vote on approval or not. GVCC should be notified of the decision by the end of September.

### Minute 21/21 Clerk's Report

Many of the purchases discussed at the last meeting had been made including a new vacuum cleaner, heavy duty strimmer, powerful blower, new toilet etc. After a conversation with the Warden it was agreed not to advertise the current blower for sale, but to keep it as a back-up.

In addition the wastepaper collection has started and the new bike rack has been manufactured and installed.

3 of the bridges in PCLan have been inspected by a structural engineer and have been confirmed as structurally safe. A quote has been received for various woods and in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair the quote for the oak wood had been accepted and the work will be carried out as specified in the engineer's report. The contractor will order the materials but the Clerk will settle the invoices direct so that VAT can be reclaimed.

The overhanging branches into gardens of the trees at Prospect Place, Pontycymer had been cut back by a contractor.

### Minute 22/21 Correspondence

It had not been possible to arrange a photo opportunity with Sienna Edwards so Councillor Dendy would now post the letter and cheque to Sienna. The Warden had met with Sienna and her Mum to look at the best location for the memorial and Ms Edwards would now contact the school to be involved.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the pond weed and reeds to be cut at Pont Lake in 2020 and that Blaengarw Lake would be cut in 2021. It was agreed that the budget for this year's work would be increased from £8,800 from general reserves to cover the cost of the work and that the same amount would be included in next year's budget for Blaengarw Lake. That the Clerk would continue to pursue BCBC for

a response regarding de-silting. The Clerk will invite Andrew Mason to attend the October 2020 meeting. Feedback was still required from other GVCC members on the footpaths in their wards.

**29/21 TO DISCUSS THE CRIME FIGURES FROM FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2020**

It was noted that the crime figures were high considering that for two of the months the country was in lockdown.

Resolved: It was agreed to discuss these further at the next meeting and to invite the PCSOs to attend.

**30/21 TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Two nominations had been received for the Sports Award and 10 for the general Community Award. All nominations were read out and discussed in some detail.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the Sports Award winner is Travis Huntley and the General Community Award winner is Richard Durston. Councillor S Dendy abstained from the vote on the General Community Award and did not take part in the discussion as she had been nominated and Councillor R Stirman abstained from the general Community Award vote.

It was agreed that all nominees were worthy winners and the Clerk was asked to put a thank you in the GVCC noticeboards to everyone in the valley for all their hard work in volunteering during the COVID pandemic. It was also agreed that the Clerk would write to all nominees to thank them for their hard work.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the winners to inform them, to arrange for the shields to be engraved and gifts purchased and presented.

**31/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

1.The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for August 2020 totalling £6,772.67 and September 2020 totalling £5,142.11

**2.Income:**

There was no income received in the month.

**3.Salary Scale Increase:**

The agreed pay scales for 2020/21 had been received the previous week to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. This is in line with the salary scale agreed as per the Clerk's contract of employment.

**Resolved:** The 2020 payments for August and September were approved and authority was given to make the payments. The Clerk's back pay to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 was accepted and approved as part of the salary payment included in those for authorisation in September 2020.

**33/21 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor R Stirman - Llangeinor:** vandalised picnic bench fixed, hedges cut back, lots of other work in progress despite restrictions.

**Councillor S Dendy - Blaengarw:** Dwr Cymru works are necessary but are limiting Kier vehicles accessing certain streets. Buses are also limited in that they cannot pass further than Blaengarw Square, therefore there is no service to the top of the valley at Carn and this is affecting school children too. Councillor Dendy had carried out some willow weaving in the park and would continue to improve the arch and dome.

**Councillor Gillard-Sage - Pontycymer:** Continuing issues on Bridgend Road with falling trees and branches.

**Councillor R Clatworthy - Pontycymer:** Raised his concerns about the condition of some of the social housing in the valley.

**Bettws Ward:** The 4 councillors and the Clerk had met with Awen Cultural Services some weeks ago to discuss the works and grant funding. The tender is currently live on Sell2Wales with a deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Quite a bit of interest has been received and Awen have met with a number of potential contractors to discuss further.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to write to BCBC regarding their concerns about the falling trees and branches on Bridgend Road and in the valley. The Clerk was asked to remind BCBC of their obligation to check the trees and to ask for the date when they were last checked. The Clerk was asked to write to V2C to ask them to carry out an audit of all their properties to check they are suitable for occupation.

**33/21 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN**

The Clerk had included 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.

**Christmas:** All permissions are in place except for the construction of a new tree pit in the Bettws schools which was in progress. New items have been purchased. There have been complications with land ownership in Braichycymer and an alternative was being sought.

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**Daffodils:** 9 sacks have now been delivered - 4 for Bettws, 4 for Pontycymer and 1 for Blaengarw. Bluebells have been ordered for Blaengarw and Llangeinor but these have not been delivered yet.

**Remembrance Benches:** Production is now back up and running and new orders are being accepted.

**Remembrance Service/Wreaths:** It is unknown whether services can go ahead. As soon as information is received the Clerk will inform members. The Clerk will collect the wreaths this week and distribute. It was noted that Councillor S Dendy had carried out some repair work and weed removal to the war memorial.

### **Matters Still in Progress:**

- Dog waste bin for Heol Dewi Sant - BCBC awaiting supply
- Planter Blaengarw - waiting permission from BCBC
- Planter Pontycymer - licence received waiting for Highways to make arrangements to meet with the gardener
- Planters for signposts - planning permission given, awaiting permission from Highways

**Reported This Month:** Overgrowth on land at High Street affecting adjoining property.

**Website:** A Local Walk page has been added to the website. An updated plug-in has also been added to the Contact Us page, which will automatically update.

**Signage Parc Calon Lan:** The Clerk noted that the Welsh language on the slate signage within the park contains errors.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to provide a tree in Panygog again this year. Members were asked to make arrangements through the Clerk to collect and plant their daffodil bulbs asap. The Clerk would send out the remembrance bench information and prices to individual wards for consideration. It was agreed to accept the walk leaflets offered to the council from a resident. The Clerk has requested assistance from the Bettws and Blaengarw borough councillors to gain responses to correspondence on the pit and planter matters. It was agreed that the Clerk should try and get the slate signs corrected, but if this was not possible that new signs with the correct Welsh should be sourced and erected. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the stone bench to be repaired. It was agreed that there would be no events organised in 2020 including Christmas. The Clerk was asked to request that BCBC empties the play area bins within the valley more frequently during the pandemic.

### **34/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including the request from BCBC's Budget Consultation team for bullet points of work carried out

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by GVCC in the last year, the offer from a resident to volunteer to help maintain the bike trails.

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted. It was noted that the Clerk had submitted the requested BCBC Budget Consultation bullet points by the deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> September prior to the meeting and to thank the resident for the offer of help in maintaining the bike trails but to decline for H&S reasons.

### **35/21 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/20/449/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.

### **23621 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

**Resolved:** The agenda will be kept open for urgent items to be added in the month, however as NRW, Rights of Way and SW Police would be invited to attend, only items that could not wait until November would be included in October. It was agreed to hold future meetings during the COVID pandemic via Zoom. The date for the next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm