



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

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**OCTOBER 2020 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors:

C Gillard-Sage

H Griffiths

M Jones (left the meeting at 7.36 pm)

G Lloyd

R Stirman (left the meeting at 8.00 pm)

M Thomas

G Walters

Apologies: Councillors G Andrews & S Dendy

No Apologies: Councillors R Clatworthy, R Jones  
and M Trowbridge

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

37/21 Apologies (as above)

**38/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
M Jones	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member
R Stirman	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member

**39/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2020 ANNUAL AND ORDINARY MEETINGS**

Both Minutes were presented for approval.

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

**40/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETINGS**

There were no matters arising from the Annual Meeting.

**Minute 28/21**

**Lakes:** The Clerk updated Members on the response from BCBC regarding the de-silting of the lakes.

**Pond Week/Reed Removal Pontycymer Lake:** The contractor is in the process of obtaining permits and hopes to carry out the work in January. The quote was less than our budget set, so there was no need to increase the budget as agreed at last month's meeting.

**REACH Submission:** The Clerk informed Members that the council's REACH submission had been successful and £5,000 of funding would be used to go to tender for a consultant to work on the project. The Clerk had been asked to sit on the tender panel along with 1 councillor.

**Trees Prospect Place:** This work has been carried out. One of the residents had complained that the work carried out was not as expected. I advised her to put her suggestions/request in writing to the full council for consideration. To date nothing has been received.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL - 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

**Bridges Parc Calon Lan:** The work to the bridges will start in 2 weeks' time subject to COVID guidelines.

**Garw Valley Rocks:** All schools have been contacted with the offer of painting some rocks for the memorial; the deadline to deliver the rocks to the Warden is 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### Minute 20/21

**Community Awards:** Both winners have received letters regarding their awards. Both will be contacted once COVID guidelines allow the presentations to go ahead.

### Minute 33/21

**Christmas:** Two of the Blaengarw column motifs were not working and had been returned to the supplier for repair. The cost would be £54.

**Braichycymer:** To date we have looked at all options, but unfortunately at the moment we are unable to see how we can place a tree in this area.

**Bettws:** Following a site visit permission has now been granted by BCBC to construct a proper pit and install a 20 ft tree in the grounds. The work will be carried out sometime in November.

**Daffs/Bluebells:** The Clerk reminded Members to collect their bulbs and plant asap.

**Remembrance Benches:** The Clerk is in the process of obtaining permissions before ordering the items.

**Remembrance Service:** A wreath laying service will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November at the war memorial at 10.45.

**Planters Blaengarw and Pontycymer:** Permission has now been received from BCBC for both planters.

**Slate Signs PCLan:** Both have now been removed to be corrected.

**Stone Bench:** A contractor has been employed to carry out the repair and the Warden would repair the cracked one.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed that Councillor Dendy would be asked to sit on the REACH tender panel with the Clerk. The cost of the motif repair was agreed. The Clerk would continue to try and get a result in Braichycymer ref. a Christmas tree. It was agreed that a tree would be placed in Pantygog again this year subject to the agreement of the resident.

**41/21 TO DISCUSS THE CRIME FIGURES FROM MAY TO AUGUST 2020 AND WELCOME THE SOUTH WALES POLICE**

The PCSOs were unable to attend. The crime figures were noted

**Resolved:** It was agreed that Members would email their questions to the Clerk so that she collates them to forward to the PCSOs for a response.

**42/21 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM NRW ON THE UPPER GARW VALLEY WORK**

The Chair welcomed Leila Thornton from NRW and Rob Jones, BCBC to the meeting and an update on the planned work for the Upper Garw Valley was discussed. Leila offered to circulate a presentation and briefing note on the information given.

**Resolved:** It was unanimously agreed that the priority for the council was not the Upper Garw work, they want assurances that the lakes will remain lakes and the Clerk was asked to write to both parties to ask what their proposals are to prioritise the council's needs. It was suggested that a catch pit could be a method to catch sediment.

**43/21 TO RECEIVE ANDREW MASON, BCBC TO DISCUSS RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Chair welcomed Andrew Mason, Rights of Way Manager, BCBC to the meeting. Several points were raised and answered. Councillor Thomas was concerned about way markers that had disappeared from a footpath. Councillor Stirman had prepared a list of footpaths which need attention, about 20 in all, and had held a prior meeting with the officer to discuss; it would be about a year before these would be considered. Councillor Walters raised concerns about the concrete bridge at Lawrence Park. Councillor Griffiths raised a resident's concerns re a closed forestry gate.

Mr Mason informed Members that he had plans in place to resurface the path behind the Bettws Primary Schools.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the officer would inspect the bridge at Lawrence Park and he confirmed that the resident's concerns were being dealt with and he'd spoken to the resident himself; however the concerns would take some time to resolve.

**44/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

1.The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for October totalling £7,906.21.

2.Income:

There was no income received in the month.

### **3.External Audit:**

No correspondence had been received from the External Auditor to date.

**Resolved:** The 2020 payments for October were approved and authority was given to make the payments. Other information was noted.

### **45/21 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

**Councillor Stirman:** updated Members on issues with drainage, trees, referrals, vehicle issues and fly tipping.

**Councillor M Jones:** updated Members on the number of COVID calls, a possible Christmas parade through the valley where a request had been made for the Council to donate the cost of 2 cardboard reindeers; this was granted.

**Councillor C Gillard-Sage:** raised concerns regarding fly tipping on Bridgend Road.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was asked to purchase the two reindeers.

### **46/21 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair highlighted problems with youth annoyance near shops and a bus shelter in Bettws. A more visual presence from the PCSOs was needed in the valley. She also raised her concerns regarding retail business in the valleys during COVID. She suggested BCBC could visit retail premises to act in an advisory role as they do with the hospitality industry. She noted that there was no signage in the valley regarding COVID, reminding residents of the guidelines.

### **47/21 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.

**Bettws Life Centre External Refurbishment:** 5 tenders had been received and the successful contractor will be selected in the coming week.

**Footpath Repair PC Lan:** A local contractor has been engaged to carry out the work to the footpath, replace the drain channel outside the Visitor Centre and remove the broken terracotta tiles around the circular base of the monument and replace with slabs to match with the others in that location.

**Mountain Bike Trails:** The Clerk informed Members that these now need more repairs that is outside the Warden's scope. She suggested obtaining a survey of the trails and a

quotation for the work from the installation company so that the work could be considered in the precept for 2021/22.

**Counter PC Lan Visitor Centre:** The Clerk had obtained a quote for this work which was more than the budget. She suggested that £500 from the money set aside for a PC Lan anniversary event could be used as the event could not go ahead due to COVID restrictions.

**Permission to Film in PC Lan:** Cardiff Productions had requested permission to film a programme for S4C called Am Dro in the park. They would have a COVID marshall with them to keep them within the guidelines and social distancing measurers would be followed at all times. They would be filming a circular walking route which encompasses all 3 lakes in Blaengarw and part of the park.

**Pump Park:** The Clerk had seen a Pump Park design which could be suitable for the BMX site; it is suitable for bikes and skateboards and for all abilities.

**Training:** Councillors H Griffiths and R Jones had requested attending a OVW finance course at a cost of £30 each.

**Wales Online Feature on PC Lan and the Garw Valley:** The Clerk had been approached by a journalist who wanted to write a piece on the cycling, walks etc. in the valley. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions they had to put the idea on hold for a later date.

**Reported issues this month:** Complaints about overflowing bins in Blaengarw and Pontycymer and 1 broken and 1 cracked stone bench in the park gathered a lot of attention.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. The Clerk was given authority for the footpath work etc. to go ahead and that the remainder of the budget could be used for further footpath repairs. The Clerk was also given authority to arrange for a survey of the bike trails to be carried out and to obtain a quote for any work. It was agreed to increase the budget for the counter by £500. Permission was given for the filming to go ahead within COVID guidelines. The Clerk was asked to obtain further information about the Pump Park for discussion. Authority was given for both councillors to attend the finance course. The Clerk arranged for BCBC to empty the bins and a contractor had already been employed to carry out the repair to the broken bench; the Warden would repair the cracked bench.

#### 48/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including a Vacancy on the Standards Committee, a Notice, Order and Plan for the temporary closure of Shwt Village access from the A4063 and the draft annual report consultation from the IRPW which closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

MEETING OF COUNCIL - 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

**Resolved:** All correspondence was noted.

**49/21 PLANNING MATTERS**

The planning requests had been included in the meeting papers, four decisions and appeals had been received.

**Resolved:** No objections or comments were made. The Planning Aid correspondence was noted.

**50/21 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

- Invite BCBC Officer John Rees to the meeting to speak about the Love It, Don't Trash It scheme.
- Invite Mark Samuel, SW Fire Service to the meeting to discuss concerns around summer fires and the role the council and community can play.

**Resolved:** The agenda will be kept open for urgent items to be added in the month, The date for the next meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm