



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 16th
NOVEMBER 2020 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors:

G Andrews
R Clatworthy
S Dendy
H Griffiths (from 6.50 pm onwards)
M Jones (left the meeting at 8.04 pm)
R Jones
G Lloyd
M Thomas
G Walters

Apologies: Councillor R Stirman

No Apologies: Councillors C Gillard-Sage and M
Trowbridge

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

51/21 Apologies (as above)

52/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

53/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2020 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

54/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2020 MEETINGS

Minute 40/21 Matters Arising from September 2020 Minutes

Minute 28/21:

Pond Weed/Reed Removal Pontycymer Lake: Salix are seeking the permissions to carry out the work in January. They've been advised by NRW that a Flood Risk Activity Permit is not needed and they've received queries from the local Fisheries Officer regarding how much is to be removed as they are concerned that the gravel will be disturbed and disturb the spawning salmon and trout.

Bridges PC Lan: Work will start in the next week, weather permitting.

Garw Valley Rocks: The deadline was extended to the 12th at Blaengarw Primary's request.

Minute 33/21:

Braichycymer: We have now found a solution to placing a tree in this area.

Bettws Tree: the pit will be constructed asap. Both Heads have agreed to the installation.

Remembrance Benches:

Permission received for Bettws and Blaengarw; Bettws is subject to consultation with the adjacent neighbours. Permission received for Pontycymer for summer 2021 subject to the lease renewal of the land. Awaiting permission for Llangeinor.

Christmas Tree Pantygog:

Councillor Walters was asked to confirm that the resident is happy to host a tree again this year.

Stone Bench PC Lan:

The work will be carried out on 24th November weather permitting.

Minute 41/21 Crime Figures May to August 2020

The Clerk informed Members that the high anti-social behaviour numbers in some wards were neighbour disputes, COVID breach calls, off road bike reports and some gatherings of youths.

Minute 47/21 Clerk's Report

Bettws Life Centre Refurbishment:

The contract has been awarded to the company that offered the best combination of price and quality and are a reliable contractor. The price of the works is £2,000 over budget and Awen have agreed to make up this difference, so the Community Council's contribution will remain as previously agreed. A timescale for the works is yet to be agreed but it is expected to be completed by the end of January 2021. The Clerk had provided Awen with a confirmation letter to pass on to the contractor. The colour of the external paint was discussed.

Footpath Repair PC Lan:

This had been delayed due to bad weather and the contractor playing catch up with other jobs before this work. The contractor will give me a start date as soon as the weather forecast shows a few consecutive days of dry weather so as to keep damage to the grass by the machinery to a minimum.

Mountain Bike Trails:

These had been surveyed last week and the recommendations and a quote for consideration in time for precept setting is anticipated.

Counter PC Lan Visitor Centre:

The work will be completed within the next few days.

Training:

The Clerk reminded Members that if you're booked on a training course and cannot attend you must give 24 hours' notice otherwise there will still be a charge.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed that Councillor Walters would check with the Pantygog resident about hosting a tree, and the colour of the exterior of Bettws Life Centre is to replicate Bettws Primary School opposite.

55/21 TO DISCUSS THE CRIME FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

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. Members' disappointment that there was no police presence in the meeting was noted.

56/21 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM JOHN REES, BCBC ON THE LOVE IT, DON'T TRASH IT scheme

The Chair welcomed John to the meeting, he gave a presentation on the scheme. He explained its link to the school environmental remit, on making children aware to pass on the message, when it was launched, how it links to a competition for the schools and the winning design is professionally made into a poster. The scheme would be called Our Valley, Love It Don't Trash It. The cost per school is £330. If the Council agree to work in partnership with the scheme it would be scheduled for roll out from Easter 2021 onwards.

Questions were asked and after the officer left the meeting, the scheme was discussed.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to contribute £1,500 towards the scheme from general funds.

57/21 TO RECEIVE MARK SAMUEL, SW FIRE SERVICE

Unfortunately, Mr Samuel was not able to attend and the Clerk would re-schedule the item for a future meeting.

58/21 TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2021/22

Details of the fund for 2021/22 had been received; a total fund of just over £54,000. Projects should ideally be linked to BCBC's Asset Management Plan and should have a total value in excess of £5,000. The match funding will be limited to £20,000 for each successful bid. Applications to be submitted by 26th February 2021. Ideas were discussed including replacing the mosaics on Pontycymer Square, work to the river banks between the 2 lakes from Garregside down, work to a gully through a property in Llangeinor and the idea previously mentioned for a Pump Park.

Resolved: It was agreed that the work to the gully was something that should be raised with Councillor Stirman as the Borough Member to raise with Highways and that the criteria for the funding did not suit some of the projects mentioned, which would be considered separately.

59/21 PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE 2021/22 PRECEPT BUDGET

Along with the ideas mentioned above, the condition of the monument in Parc Calon Lan was discussed. It was suggested that it should be replaced with a Celtic cross similar to that in Cefn Cribbwr. Councillor Dendy suggested the war memorial in Pontycymer could do with some more substantial work to its base. Remedial works had been carried out this year, but it needed more attention.

Resolved: It was agreed to include a further discussion on this at a future meeting. In the meantime the Clerk would speak to the sculptor and discuss repairs.

60/21 GARW VALLEY NORTH SCHOOLS

Councillor M Jones gave an update on the school modernisation project and some informal discussions which had been had with representatives of the schools in the valley. The information was discussed and it was agreed that the Council would write to BCBC. Concerns were raised about the old school grounds that have been abandoned in the past and have become unsightly.

Resolved: Councillor Jones would work with the Clerk to draft a letter to BCBC to ask for consideration to be made to include the schools in Band C or D of the school modernisation programme.

61/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

1. Payments:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for November totalling £8,417.55.

It was suggested that as the Christmas parade would visit each ward the charge to Bettws for the purchase of the reindeers should be split between the wards.

The Clerk informed the Council that a non-domestic rates demand notice had been received for £385.20 for the Visitor Centre. She had queried the invoice and had been

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informed that the relief period had come to an end and the Council could expect an annual invoice going forward.

2.Income:

There was no income received in the month.

3.External Audit:

No issues have been raised by the External Auditor.

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

62/21 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor M Jones - Bettws Ward: Updates were given on BCBC budgeting process, the youth project, V2C meeting and the Welsh nursery.

Councillor G Lloyd - Llangeinor Ward: Reported on the bluebell planting and littering issues.

Councillor H Griffiths - Pontycymer Ward: Reported arson incidents in the valley, speed problems and the lights in Pantygog slowing up the flow of traffic through the ward.

Councillor S Dendy - Blaengarw Ward: Reported on issues with Kier collections due to the Dwr Cymru works and drainage problems.

Resolved: The information was noted.

Note: Councillor M Jones left the meeting at 8.04 pm

63/21 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair and Vice-Chair had attended the Remembrance wreath laying service in Pontycymer. In addition, the Chair had met for a socially distanced presentation with Sienna Edwards who had brought the Garw Valley Rocks! Idea to the Council. Sienna was presented with a letter from the council and a £25 cheque for her fund raising.

64/21 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.

Community Route Flood:

The Railway Society had informed the Clerk that the flood that had appeared along the Community Path is due to a 'new' spring that has appeared beside the path and is bubbling up and flooding the path. They've identified where it is but cannot do anything about it at the moment as it requires a new ditch to be dug and there aren't enough volunteers available at the moment. The community has been notified via social media.

Tree Audit Request to BCBC:

A response has been circulated to Members.

Miner's Lamp Llangeinor:

The Clerk had been asked to arrange for it to be cleaned.

Issues this Month:

Bus parked on land at the end of The Avenue.

Warden:

The Warden has made a request for new boots and outdoor clothing.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the Lamp to be cleaned and to purchase the work clothing for the Warden, to ensure the jacket was high vis and that all purchased clothing should be branded GVCC and worn at all times to identify the Warden as GVCC staff.

65/21 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including attendance by the Fit for the Future staff to give a presentation on the BCBC budget, the copy notice and plan for the temporary closure of the unnamed lane from Glannant Row Shwt to Bryn Terrace, Llety Brongu and the letter from Cerebral Palsy Cymru.

With the consent of the Chair some additional correspondence from One Voice Wales had been received since the meeting's papers had been distributed and these were also discussed.

Resolved: All correspondence was noted. As the next meeting is a Precept Meeting it was agreed to invite the Fit for the Future staff to the next Finance Committee meeting and anything of importance that is raised can be fed back to full council at its precept meeting. The letter from Cerebral Palsy Cymru was deferred to the March meeting when financial donations would be discussed.

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Note: At 8.23 pm Councillor Dendy did not take part in the planning item and her connection to the virtual meeting was muted.

66/21 PLANNING MATTERS

7 planning requests had been included in the meeting papers, 1 decision and no appeals had been received.

Resolved: No objections were made to the planning applications, however Councillor Griffiths wanted her concerns about P/20/803/FUL noted; the concerns were the narrowness of the road and the lack of parking especially if it were to be an HMO. The Planning Aid correspondence was noted.

67/21 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Resolved: The agenda will be kept open for urgent items to be added in the month, The date for the next meeting will be Monday, 7th December 2020 via Zoom at 6.30 pm. This will be a precept setting meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm