



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

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**JANUARY 2021 AT 6.30 PM**

Present: Councillor C Lloyd (Chair up to 6.37 pm but present throughout)  
Councillor H Griffiths (Chair from 6.37 pm onwards due to the Chair's audio issues)

Councillors:

G Andrews  
S Dendy  
R Jones  
G Lloyd  
M Thomas  
M Trowbridge  
G Walters

Apologies: Councillors R Clatworthy & M Jones (rec. at 6.47 pm)

No Apologies Given: Cllr. Clive Gillard-Sage

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

78/21 Apologies (as above)

**79/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
S Dendy	All Bridgend County Borough Matters incl. Planning	Member
C Lloyd	Planning application P/20/958/FUL	Personal interest
G Lloyd	Planning application P/20/958/FUL	Personal interest

**80/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2020 PRECEPT MEETING**

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

**81/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE DECEMBER 2020 MEETING**

**Minute 7/21:**

**Pontycymer Lake** - the Clerk confirmed that the work had been completed. Unfortunately, the storage facility offered could not be used due to the gradient of the entrance but another had been found. The contractor is now seeking permits to carry out the same at Blaengarw lake in the next financial year.

**Parc Calon Lan** - 3 bridges have now been repaired and new non slip treads laid. The drainage channel outside the Visitor Centre has been replaced and most of the damaged paving around the monument has been replaced; a little finishing off work is yet to be done. The footpath work will be completed as soon as a few successive days of dry weather is forecast.

**Bettws Life Centre** - the Clerk gave an update.

**Minute 74/21:**

**Christmas Provision** - the tree in Pantygog fell over during the Christmas break and the lights snapped. The Pontycymer ward will need to fund new ones for the coming year.

**Resolved:** The information and action of the Clerk were noted. It was agreed to request a meeting with Awen which the Bettws councillors would attend, along with the Clerk.

**82/21 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020**

PCSO Mike Rees had provided answers to some of the concerns that were likely to be raised on these figures and these were read out by the Clerk.

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

**83/21 BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN**

The Clerk reminded Members that the closing date for this consultation is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and that several versions are available. A discussion took place on whether to make one Community Council response or individual responses.

**Resolved:** It was noted that a collective council response had not been requested; the request was for Members to encourage the public to take part in the survey which is a vision of the next ten years of growth, resilience, well-being and identity. It was agreed that Members would respond individually.

**84/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS**

**1. Payments:**

The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for January 2021 totalling £4,981.96.

**2. Income:**

There was no income received in the month.

**3. External Audit:**

This was waiting to be signed off and the conclusion should be received by the council by the end of January 2021.

**4. Precept Request 2021/22:**

The council's precept request has been submitted and an acknowledgement received from BCBC.

**Resolved:** The payments for January 2021 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. Other information was noted.

**85/21 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS**

Borough Councillor R Shaw had sent his apologies.

Borough Councillor R Stirman had sent a written update which the Clerk read out. This included updates on flooding issues, fly tipping, problems with the Old Parish Road, streetlighting in Pontyrhyl, Llangeinor Football Ltd access and concerns re the absence of PACT meetings.

Borough Councillor S Dendy gave an update which included land access issues, car parking issues, problems with residents going about their normal duties just before and after COVID testing and residents from outside the area coming into the valley during lockdown.

A discussion on whether to close the gates to the Visitor Centre car park took place.

**Resolved:** All information was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek clarification on the car park closing guidelines from BCBC and the PCSOs.

**86/21 CHAIR'S REPORT**

Although present at the meeting, the Chair could not give a report due to audio issues.

**87/21 CLERK'S REPORT INCLUDING UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY WARDEN/PARC CALON LAN**

A written report from the Warden had been circulated with the meeting papers.

There had been recent issues with unacceptable amounts of litter being left in the car park overnight and complaints from residents about the noise. Because of this in discussion with the Clerk, Warden and local residents who had offered to assist with the problem, the car park is now being locked every night once the last car leaves and is reopened early each morning.

**Staff Confidential:**

**Bridges Parc Calon Lan:**

The contractor had identified some further work once he'd removed some of the wood to carry out his repairs. These would not have shown on a visual survey. The Clerk had asked him to provide details of the work needed and a quotation. The contractor had

suggested that the work should be carried out in June/July due to protect nesting birds nearby.

**Pontycymer Lake:**

The contractor recommended that to prevent the reeds from spreading the lake gravels/sediment should be removed to the bankside or put into dumpers and moved elsewhere on the park area.

**Chocolate Coins:**

In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair the Clerk had donated the bags of left over chocolate coins from the previous Christmas, which were in date, to the Santa Sleigh organisers in Bettws with a request to distribute fairly amongst the children from all 4 wards with the COVID guidelines.

**Lantern Event/Awen:**

Awen Cultural Trust have approached the council for permission to use the monument area in Parc Calon Lan around the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> February for a community event. They will organise, advertise, insure and clear up litter for the event and it will be run within the COVID guidelines on that date. The lanterns are temporary artwork that reflect the current pandemic and all residents of the 4 wards will be asked to make paper lantern replicas of valley houses and landmarks. It will be either in the format of a physical workshop or a make at home kit, again depending on guidelines at that time. They will be lit up and displayed in the early evening. Awen will take full responsibility for the event.

**REACH:**

The Clerk informed Members that the tender panel had not yet met and this should be progressed soon.

**Issues This Month:**

- Fly tipping on Bridgend Road and The Avenue - reported to Clean up the County
- Concerns re. the availability of COVID vaccines in the valley

**Llangeinor Ward Councillor Vacancy:**

There had been no call for a by-election so the vacancy would now be progressed by co-option. Notices have been published and a decision will be made at the February meeting.

**Reminder:**

The Clerk reminded Members that the 6 month absence rule had been reinstated once virtual meetings started. It is a councillor's responsibility to keep track of their own attendance and ensure that if their absence is approaching 6 months (not 6 meetings)

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they need to write to the full council before the 6 months is up requesting that their absence be approved and that they wish to continue as a councillor.

**Resolved:** The information was noted. Thanks was given to the residents of Blaengarw who were helping with the car park gate locking. The donation of the chocolate coins was approved. The Clerk was asked to give Awen permission to use the park around the monument for their lantern event and to write to the PCSO about the issue staff confidential matter.

### **88/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk drew Members' attention to some of the correspondence received including the additional sheet distributed with the consent of the Chair as the correspondence had been received following the meeting papers being sent out. Of particular note were the following:

- 5 surveys plus the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan survey
- Temporary road closure at Godra Bryn, Bettws
- Complaint about hedge cutting at Bettws Church - referred to BCBC
- Wales Air Ambulance request for a financial donation
- Awen Cultural Trust Lantern Making event
- Audit Wales - details of the new 3 year audit cycle for GVCC
- Resident - request to purchase some of GVCC's leased land - referred to BCBC
- Resident - complaint re activities in the Visitor Centre at night - see Warden's Report
- Resident - request for fence at Church Street to be repaired - Warden has carried out the work
- Councillor R Stirman - resignation from the Community Council
- Garw Valley Railway Society - community path survey
- Acknowledgement of GVCCs letter regarding Garw North School
- RES - Councillor Walters represented the council at the meeting and gave an update

**Resolved:** All correspondence and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed to defer the request for a financial donation to the March meeting. Councillor Stirman's resignation was accepted.

Note: At 7.35 pm Councillors Dendy did not take part in the planning item and her connection to the virtual meeting was muted.

### **89/21 PLANNING MATTERS**

4 planning requests had been included in the meeting papers, 5 decision and no appeals had been received.

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**Resolved:** No objections were made to the planning applications. The Planning Aid correspondence was noted.

### 90/21 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The following would be included on the agenda for the February 2021 meeting:

- Employment Committee Recommendations
- South Wales Fire Service - M Samuels (if available to attend)
- PC Lan Cycling Facilities
- Memorials

**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, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom at 6.30 pm. This will be an ordinary meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm