



GARW VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNEDOL CWM GARW

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 15TH
FEBRUARY 2021 AT 6.30 PM

Present: Councillor C Lloyd

Councillors:

G Andrews
R Clatworthy
S Dendy
C Gillard-Sage
H Griffiths
M Jones (left at 8.02 pm)
R Jones
G Lloyd
M Thomas (left at 8.05 pm)
G Walters

Apologies: Councillor M Trowbridge

Also Present: Mrs A C Harris, Clerk & RFO

91/21 Apologies (as above)

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In light of recent community council news items, the Chair reminded Members of the following Standing Order: 3l - photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent.

92/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

93/21 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2021 ORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes were presented for approval.

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

94/21 TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JANUARY 2021 MEETING

Minute 81/21

Parc Calon Lan Footpath - it is hoped work will commence on Monday 22nd February 2021.

Bettws Life Centre - the project is on schedule to be completed by the end of February. 2 Councillors had attended a meeting with Awen, along with the Clerk, to discuss the project progress and some small issues had been raised.

Minute 85/21

The Clerk had sought guidance on car park closures from BCBC but had not been able to get replies. She had spoken to the PCSO who informed her that they are regularly checking car registration numbers in car parks and had not found there was a big issue at the Visitor Centre. The Warden agreed. In consultation with the Chair it was decided to leave the car park open and monitor the situation.

Minute 87/21

Lantern Event/Awen: Details have been published on social media. A date for the lighting up ceremony had not been set but would be set once new COVID guidelines were

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announced. Awen had requested an agreement in principle to use the field in the coming months for events such as an open air cinema or open air theatre performance.

REACH: There have been issues in the tender process in the run up to the end of the financial year. It is hoped this will be resolved in April and a consultant will be employed.

Staff Confidential: The Clerk had written to the PCSOs.

Minute 90/21

The Clerk will continue to contact Mr Samuels of SW Fire Services to attend a future meeting. He has not responded to recent requests.

Resolved: The information and action of the Clerk were noted and approved. It was agreed in principle that the field could be used for Awen's planned events.

95/21 TO RECEIVE THE CRIME FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 2020

The Clerk had distributed a graph and narrative of the crime figures for December 2020 with the meeting papers. She had also written to Sergeant V Evans to request that PACT meetings be reinstated in some format during the pandemic and that PCSOs attend the Council's virtual meetings.

It was noted that there are daily problems with off-road bikes in the park.

Resolved: The information was noted.

96/21 CO-OPTION LLANGEINOR WARD

One application had been received. The Clerk reminded Members of the Co-option guidelines.

The application was discussed and a show of hands vote was taken which resulted in favour of the candidate.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Deb Davies as a Community Councillor for the Llangeinor Ward. The Clerk would inform BCBC.

97/21 RESPONSE FROM BCBC REF GARW SCHOOLS

As requested at a previous meeting the Chair had written to BCBC about the Welsh Government School Modernisation Programme. A positive response had been received from Council Leader, Councillor Huw David, which had been circulated to Members. The response was discussed and a few councillors raised their concerns about the potential of disused school buildings being left to deteriorate and become eye sores.

Resolved: It was agreed that the correspondence sent/received would be shared with the group of Chair's Vice-Chairs and Head Teachers of the schools and a further meeting arranged. It was also agreed that looking ahead a meeting of all school governors, community councillors and local members should be arranged in the future.

98/21 PARC CALON LAN CYCLING FACILITIES

The following cycling/bike facilities in the park were discussed:

BMX site - a quote had been obtained and discussed at the Precept 2021/22 meeting.

Blue/Black Trails - quotes had been obtained and funds for the mechanical work on the blue trail had been included in the Precept 2021/22 budget.

Bike Trail Accreditation - a resident had raised an enquiry which is noted in the Correspondence item on the agenda.

Resolved: It was agreed to wait for the REACH consultant to be on board and discuss the BMX site with him/her. The Clerk was given authority to go ahead with the work needed to the blue trail in 2021/22 and to include the same funding in the 2022/23 precept budget for the work to be carried out to the black trail in 22/23. The Clerk would make enquiries regarding the accreditation of the bike trails and other information was noted.

99/21 MEMORIALS

The Clerk had spoken to the War Memorials Trust regarding the work needed to the base of the Pontycymer War Memorial and is in the process of obtaining quotes for the work. An update was given.

As noted in the Correspondence item a request has been made to put a memorial tree and plaque in Parc Calon Lan. The Clerk asked for clarity on the provision of memorials in the park.

Parc Calon Lan Monument needs further maintenance, the baby's arm has disintegrated and the monument itself needs pointing. The Warden has advice from Rebecca Buck on how to carry out the maintenance work.

Resolved: The information given by the Clerk was noted. Members clarified the following for the Clerk:

- No further memorial benches or plaques to be installed in Parc Calon Lan monument area or around the lake

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- Benches at Pontycymer Lake will be considered depending on type and location
- No further memorial trees and plaques to be installed in Parc Calon Lan (monument area)
- An area of land off Railway Terrace, to the side of the Visitor Centre would be identified by the Clerk and Warden where trees could be planted as a personal memorial but no agreement would be given to plaques. The trees would need to be indigenous to the area such as rowan, birch etc.

100/21 FINANCE & ACCOUNTS INCLUDING CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

1. Payments:

The Clerk requested authority to pay the payments for February 2021 totalling £25,167.28. The balance carried forward was accepted.

2. Income:

There was no income received in the month.

3. External Audit:

The Conclusion of Audit had been received from the External Auditor, copies of the signed Annual Statement and the report showing one small issue raised was distributed with the meeting papers.

4. Transfer of Funds:

The Clerk requested authority to transfer funds from the Cambridge Building Society to the HSBC account to facilitate payments until the precept for 2021/22 is received in April.

Resolved: The payments for February 2021 were approved and authority was given to make the payments. Other information was noted. The Conclusion of Audit was accepted and approved. The Clerk was given authority to transfer £50,000 in funds from the council's Cambridge Building Society account to the HSBC.

101/21 BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES/WARD REPORTS

Councillor R Shaw had given his apologies that he could not attend the meeting, but had sent an update on COVID and schools, Vaccination, Garw Schools, Active Travel Routes and Barriers to Access, which had been circulated to Members.

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Councillor Dendy gave an update on accessibility to one of the Rights of Way in Blaengarw, the delays in collection from some areas from Keir due to the Dwr Cymru works and recent snowfall.

Councillor M Jones gave an update on BCBC's budget and the likely rise in council tax and an update on the Bettws Life Centre project. He said referrals were increasing in Bettws and reminded Members that the Track and Trace staff have been deployed from other areas of BCBC which meant some departments had less staff.

Councillor Griffiths gave a local ward update including litter issues, concerns ref. people wandering around the area in the night, shed tampering and vehicle vandalism. There had also been issues with some streets inaccessible to larger vehicles to parking near junctions.

Councillor Lloyd commented on the works taking place on the Richard Price Centre and works to the roof of Tynyrheol School. Off-road bikes using the highway was also noted.

Resolved: All information was noted.

102/21 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair said that the Community Council's work was still progressing despite COVID restrictions and vaccine goals were being met and she thanked Councillor Gillard-Sage for the work he's carrying out in the community. She said it was good to hear that Primary Schoolchildren would return after half term.

103/21 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. Members expressed their disappointment on the re-occurring vandalism of gates and stiles in the park and the waste of resources this incurs.

Remembrance Benches:

These are being delivered by the end of the month and installed in the 3 wards asap. The one for Pontycymer will be put into storage until the Council is given the go ahead by the landowner for installation.

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Planters:

The licences for both the Blaengarw and Pontycymer planters have been received and they will be installed asap.

Hanging Baskets:

Permission has been sought from BCBC for hanging flower baskets for a portion of Llangeinor Road.

Bettws Ward:

BCBC has now received its supply of bins and a dog waste bin will be installed on Bettws green within the next week.

The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for a new noticeboard for outside Bettws Life Centre.

Warden's Work Clothing:

The urgent need for the new clothing approved at a previous meeting was discussed. Councillor Griffiths would make enquiries regarding branding.

Note: Councillor M Jones left the meeting at 8.02 pm

Projects 2021/2022:

The Clerk asked for authority to progress the projects identified in the precept for 2021/2022.

Miner's Lamp Llangeinor:

This had recently been cleaned, however the inside of the sheath covering the lamp could not be removed for cleaning as it cannot be moved.

Note: Councillor Thomas left the meeting at 8.05 pm

Community Award:

Due to the COVID restrictions the presentations have not gone ahead but will be done as soon as guidelines allow.

Issues in the Month:

- The condition of the pedestrian path from Pandy to the cycle track at Llangeinor - referred to Rights of Way for guidance.
- Chippings on the highway and footway washed down from Valley View - issue sorted.
- Missing drain cover in the parkland behind the Co-op - temporarily covered by the Warden, Dwr Cymru informed and new cover requested.
- Fly tipping on Bridgend Road several times - Cleaner Streets informed and asked to deal
- Access to the lakes from David Street - Councillor Dendy dealing

Resolved: The information was noted.

104/21 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:

- Active Travel Consultation
- Active Travel Barriers Consultation
- HM Land Registry Survey of Community and Town Councils
- New draft Guidance on Code of Conduct
- Financial Requests from Glamorgan YFC, Hope Rescue and the Porthcawl COVID 19 Strategy Group
- Two resident enquiries - one regarding bike trail accreditation and the other regarding placing a memorial plaque and tree in Parc Calon Lan.

Resolved: All correspondence and action of the Clerk was noted. It was agreed to defer the requests for a financial donation to the March meeting. The Consultations were noted, the Clerk was asked to put the resident enquiring about bike trail accreditation in touch with the REACH consultant when he/she is appointed and find out about the accreditation and to offer the person requesting the tree and plaque the opportunity to place a personal memorial tree in a section of the leased land to the side of the Visitor Centre car park without a plaque.

Note: At 8.18 pm Councillors Dendy did not take part in the planning item and her connection to the virtual meeting was muted.

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105/21 PLANNING MATTERS

2 planning requests had been included in the meeting papers, 2 decisions and no appeals had been received.

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

106/21 UPDATE FROM THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE (STAFF CONFIDENTIAL)

This item was deferred to the March meeting due to the need for further information to enable any feedback.

107/21 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, 15th March 2021 via Zoom at 6.30 pm. This will be an ordinary meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm